



Cabinet

Date **Wednesday 19 March 2014**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Public Question and Answer Session

9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

An opportunity for local people to have a 30 minute informal question and answer session with Cabinet Members.

Cabinet Business

10.00 a.m. onwards

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. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 (Pages 1 - 4)
2. Declarations of interest

Key Decisions:

3. Council Plan and Service Plans 2014-2017 - Report of Assistant Chief Executive [Key Decision: CORP/A/03/14/01] (Pages 5 - 100)
4. School Admission Arrangements Academic Year 2015/2016 - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services [Key Decision: CAS/03/14] (Pages 101 - 142)
5. County Durham Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule: Submission - Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development [Key Decision: R&ED/01/14] (Pages 143 - 378)
6. Homesteading Scheme - Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development [Key Decision: R&ED/03/14] (Pages 379 - 392)
7. Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service - Report of Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services [Key Decision: NS/19/13] [MTFP Ref: NS17] (Pages 393 - 410)

Ordinary Decisions:

8. Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2013/14 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account - Period to 31 December 2013 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 411 - 438)
9. Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 3 - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 439 - 444)
10. Quarter 3 2013/14 Performance Management Report - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 445 - 506)
11. Sustainable Community Strategy - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 507 - 564)
12. The Early Years Strategy - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (Pages 565 - 586)
13. Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (Pages 587 - 642)
14. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
15. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

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

Colette Longbottom

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
11 March 2014

To: **The Members of the Cabinet**

Councillors S Henig and A Napier (Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) together with Councillors J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, M Nicholls, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Contact: Ros Layfield

Tel: 03000 269708

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Spennymoor on **Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Members of Cabinet:

Councillors J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvells, O Johnson, A Napier, M Nicholls, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Other Members:

Councillors J Armstrong, A Batey, P Conway, M Dixon, B Graham and A Surtees

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 22 January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor E Tomlinson declared an interest in item 10, as a Board member of Durham Tees Valley Airport.

3 General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan, 2014/15 to 2016/17 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2014/15
Key Decision: CORP/R/13/02

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided comprehensive financial information in order for Cabinet to agree a 2014/15 balanced revenue budget, an outline Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (4)) for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and a fully funded capital programme for recommendation to the County Council meeting on 26 February 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that the scrutiny committees had considered in depth the budget proposals put forward by Cabinet. He advised of the drop in sessions for members and the meetings which had been held which had been supported by officers, and having considered whether there were any alternative options to propose the members were confident that the policy changes would successfully deliver the reductions,

and congratulated cabinet colleagues on the difficult decisions it needed to make to deliver its reduced budget.

Cabinet members spoke of the continuation of the unprecedented financial reductions being imposed on the Authority, and how further reductions in service were consistently becoming harder to find. Cabinet would continue to lobby the government on the unfair distribution of funds, following the eradication of the equalisation block, and they urged all members to do so too. The consultation exercise which had been undertaken with the public and stakeholders had shaped the recommendations being proposed to full Council.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2016/17 and 2014/15 Budget
Key Decision: CORP/R/13/02

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval of the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and the 2014/15 budget (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014
Key Decision: CAS/06/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided detailed information in relation to the future of Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014, and to consider the views of stakeholders. The report further sought agreement to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014 taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to secure sufficient school places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local areas (for copy see file of minutes).

Representations were made by Mr B Oliver, Chairman of the governing body on behalf of the governors of the College. He advised how the school and governing body had been aware of some difficulties at the school which they were addressing, that the governors were disappointed at the way in which the proposed closure had been handled, that there were inaccuracies in the report, and that there had been no declarations by officers in the meeting of a conflict of interest. He went on to

explain that not only was the education of pupils going to be severely affected, however the college was also a focal point in the community with much and varied activity. He requested on behalf of the pupils, parents, school and governing body that the college be kept open.

Laura Wolfe, a parent of pupils at the school emphasised the impact that the college closure would have on her son and other pupils, many of whom would have to move part the way through their course and the continuation of this elsewhere would be unlikely. She urged Cabinet to keep open the college in order to minimise the impact on the pupils and alleviate any stress on them from such a move.

The Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services acknowledged the impact on those pupils who were mid course and that the authority would work closely with pupils and other schools to minimise this. The academies are also working with the Authority and have already helped the successful transitional to a new school of many pupils. The college had 67% of surplus places which could not be sustained.

Cabinet members spoke of the inspection results over the last three years being only satisfactory, that the pupil numbers at the college had already been falling well before the proposals for closure came forward, that the lower pupil numbers at the college brought less finance and the impact of this no longer supported the delivery of a wider curriculum. Members were of the view that all pupils through the county should have a first class education and this would not be possible at the college.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Seaham New Housing Masterplan
Key Decision: R&ED/08/13**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided detail in relation to the procurement of a dedicated masterplan to guide planning, design and delivery of a number of specific sites, located to the north-west of Seaham town centre. The report further outlined the assessment and principles underlying the delivery of the sites and provided information in relation to the way in which land would be released for development to optimise the potential for capital receipts and the achievement of wider economic and environmental benefits for Seaham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including summaries from the Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also included updates on other key initiatives being carried out across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Welfare Reform Update

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which presented the Authority's current understanding of the impacts of welfare reform and to use this understanding to further enhance the council's support to the affected households in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Evaluation of Selective Licensing at Wembley

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which outlined the background to the Selective Licensing Scheme in Wembley, Easington Colliery, designed to address issues in the Private Rented Housing Sector. It further summarised the evaluation of the Selective Licensing Scheme to determine whether the area should be re-designated at the expiry of the current term in February 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Durham Tees Valley Airport - Deed of Variation of Pensions Admission Agreement

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which informed of a delegated decision by the Corporate Director, Resources, made under urgency provisions to agree the sealing of a Counter Part Deed of Variation of a Pensions Admission Agreement in relation to staff employed at Durham Tees Valley Airport (DTV) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Cabinet

19 March 2014

**Council Plan and Service Plans
2014 – 2017**



Key Decision CORP/A/03/14/01

Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide a draft of the Council Plan for 2014-17 attached for consideration and comment before being submitted for approval by Council on 2 April 2014.

Background

- 2 The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main things that we will do over the forthcoming three years.
- 3 It has been developed at a time when the council is facing unprecedented reductions in public sector finance and also an agenda of significant policy change over all areas of council services. It has been amended this year to cover a three year timeframe in line with the council's Medium- Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and sets out how we will deliver our corporate priorities and the key actions we will take to support of the longer term goals set out in the SCS. The Council Plan for the forthcoming period has been revised alongside the review of our MTFP and SCS.
- 4 The Council Plan is underpinned by a series of service plans at a service grouping level. Service plans provide more detailed information on the actions we are taking to deliver the council's priorities, plus actions required to deliver other service specific priorities. They have been prepared to a standard format and provide more detailed information on service context, details of strategic links, key actions, resources and reference to relevant risk assessments.

Council Plan 2014 – 2017

- 5 This year's council plan rolls forward the 2013-17 plan, updating it to reflect emerging priorities and the results of the latest MTFP consultation and budget plans. Whilst this has resulted in changes to some of the outcomes and action areas there are no fundamental changes at a strategic level. The five key altogether better themes remain unchanged in line with the review of the Altogether Better Durham vision by the County Durham Partnership.
- 6 Both the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan are structured around the five priority themes for Durham which are:
- **Altogether wealthier** – focused on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of what we do;
 - **Altogether better for children and young people** – enabling children and young people to develop and achieve their aspirations and to maximise their potential in line with Every Child Matters;
 - **Altogether healthier** – improving health and wellbeing;
 - **Altogether greener** – ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges;
 - **Altogether safer** – creating a safer and more cohesive community.
- 7 An additional theme of an **Altogether Better Council** has been developed for the Council Plan to capture corporate improvements that the Council has identified that it wants to make in order to enable achievement against the five priority themes.
- 8 Despite the unprecedented reductions in financial support from the Government, the focus of the Council's and partners' ambitions remains the same. This vision and the objectives developed for each of the five Altogether priority themes within the Sustainable Community Strategy still articulate what the Council and partners want to achieve.
- 9 This year's plan is a rolling forward of last year's, but takes on board new policy challenges and developing priorities such as responding to the Care Bill, and ongoing development of our economic regeneration plans.
- 10 The Council Plan details the objectives and outcomes that we aspire to achieve. These priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data. A report on the Medium Term Financial Plan presented to Cabinet on 12th February 2014 sets out how revenue and capital resources have been aligned to the priority themes within the Council Plan and how consultation data has been used to shape these priorities and resourcing decisions.
- 11 The Council Plan also details the strategic actions that we will be engaged in delivering during the next three years in support of these priorities. These

strategic actions are underpinned by a framework of specific actions within our service plans and will be monitored through our quarterly reporting arrangements.

Service Plans

- 12 Each service grouping has developed their own service plan to cover the forthcoming three years. These plans have been prepared to an agreed format, and have been considered collectively to reduce overlap. These plans set out the common priorities for each service grouping. Action plans for each service area contained within the plans are designed to achieve these service priorities which in turn, contribute to corporate priority themes of the Council.

Changes to the Current Council Plan

- 13 A set of draft objectives and outcomes around which the Council Plan is structured was agreed at Cabinet on 20 November 2013. A small number of additional changes brought forward by services and partnerships are detailed in Appendix 2. The main changes have been made to the Altogether Safer priority theme, to align with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. Two objectives were removed from the council plan framework but retained with the Sustainable Community Strategy framework, where it was felt they were more appropriately suited as the improvement actions sit with partners. One objective was also removed from the Altogether Greener theme, but again remains within the partnership framework. Small changes were also made to the frameworks of the Altogether Wealthier and Altogether Healthier priority themes.

Further Work

- 14 Work is underway to review the corporate basket of indicators used to monitor council performance. New targets are also being developed for the forthcoming years which we use to monitor our success in achieving the priorities set out in the Council Plan. This work will be completed by the end of this financial year.

Please note that the service plans are now complete and copies are available on the Council's intranet (see link below under background papers). For the Cabinet meeting, service plans will be made available in the Members' Library. Following the Council Plan being approved by Council, both the Council Plan and service plans will be published on the council's website.

Risk Management

- 15 Any new risks associated with actions contained within service plans are identified as part of the service planning process. Actions contained within the Council Plan are risk managed through the inclusion of the relevant risks within the Plan. These risks are reported on through the Council's risk management processes to the Council's Audit Committee and to Cabinet via performance management reports.

Recommendations and reasons:

16 Cabinet is asked to

- Agree the content of the draft Council Plan and recommend it for approval by full Council on 2 April, subject to any final minor amendments by the Assistant Chief Executive.
- Approve the content of the draft service plans, subject to any final minor amendments by the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder.

Background Papers

Council Plan 2014 -17 (attached)

Service Plans (click on [here](#) to access Service Plans)

Contact: Tom Gorman

Tel: 03000 268027

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 3 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing

The Council's strategies are being 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 management.

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Medium-Term Financial Plan which also underpins the Council Plan. 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.

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

The priorities and actions in the Council Plan are in line with relevant articles of the Human Rights Act, for example, many of the actions support the right to family life.

Consultation

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

Procurement

None.

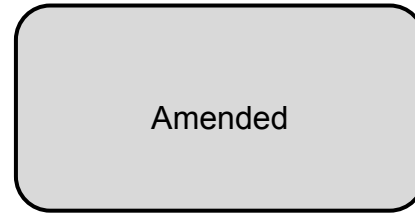
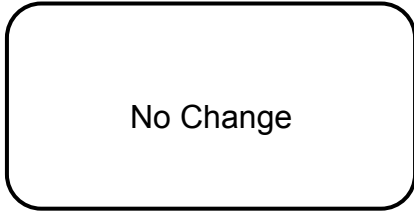
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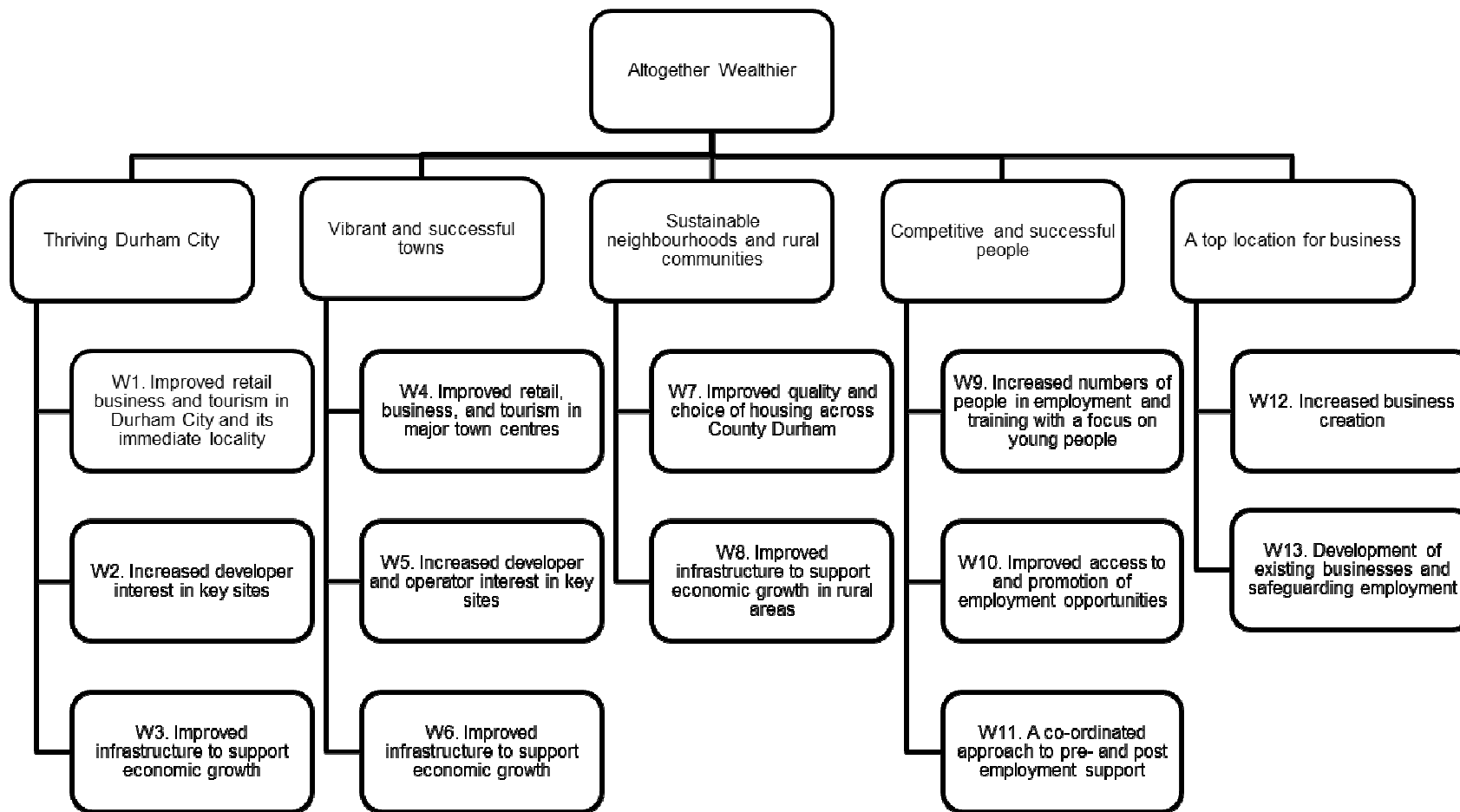
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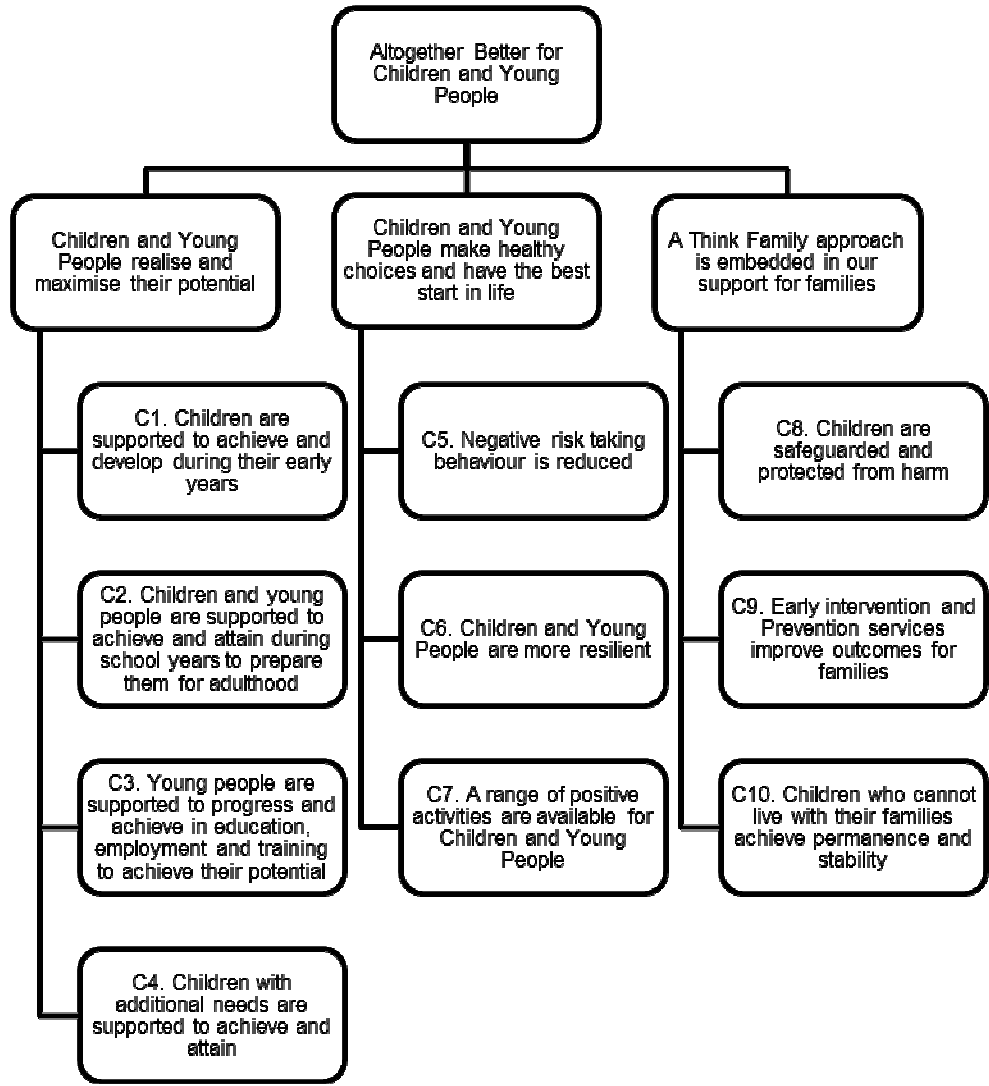
Legal Implications

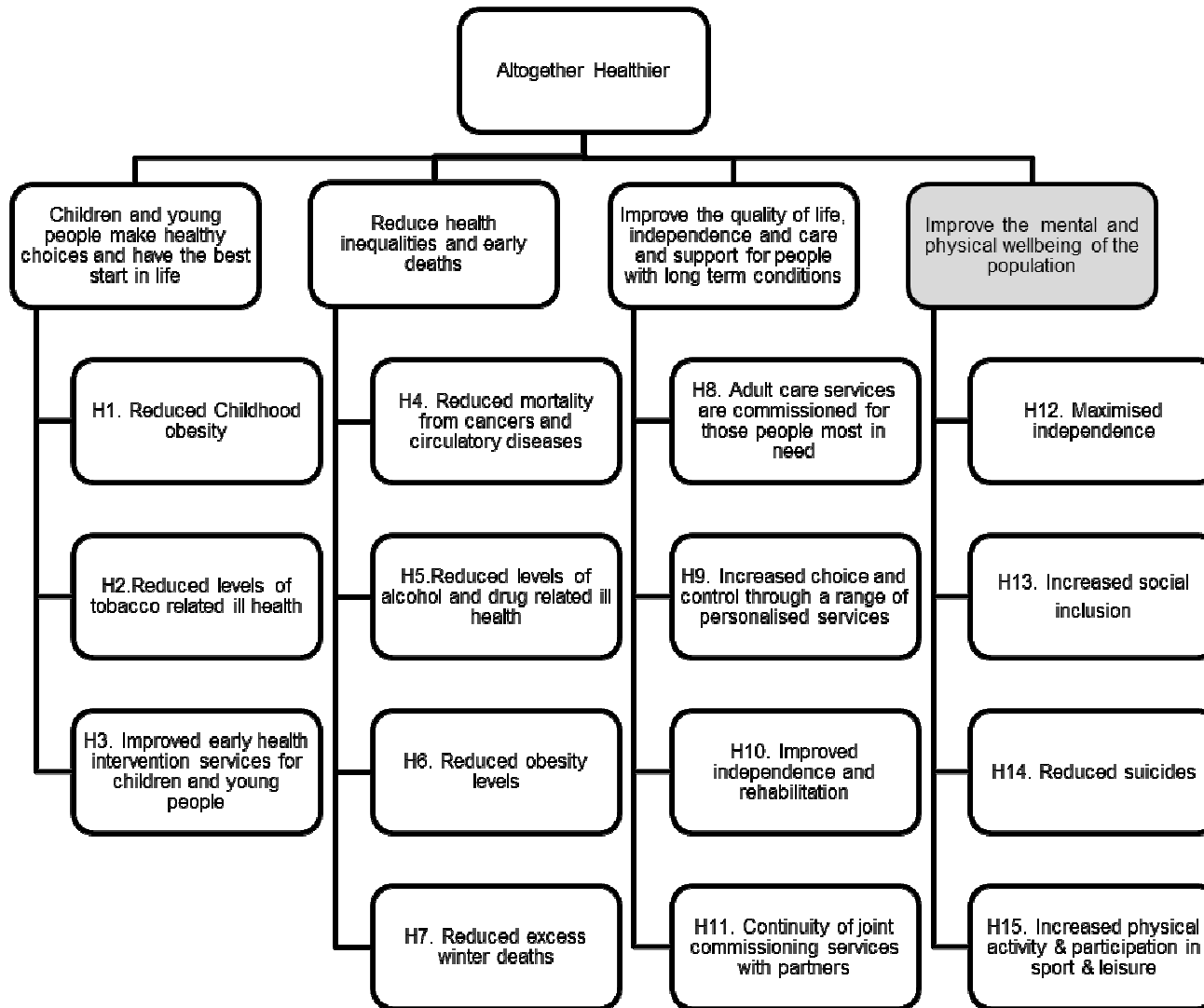
None.

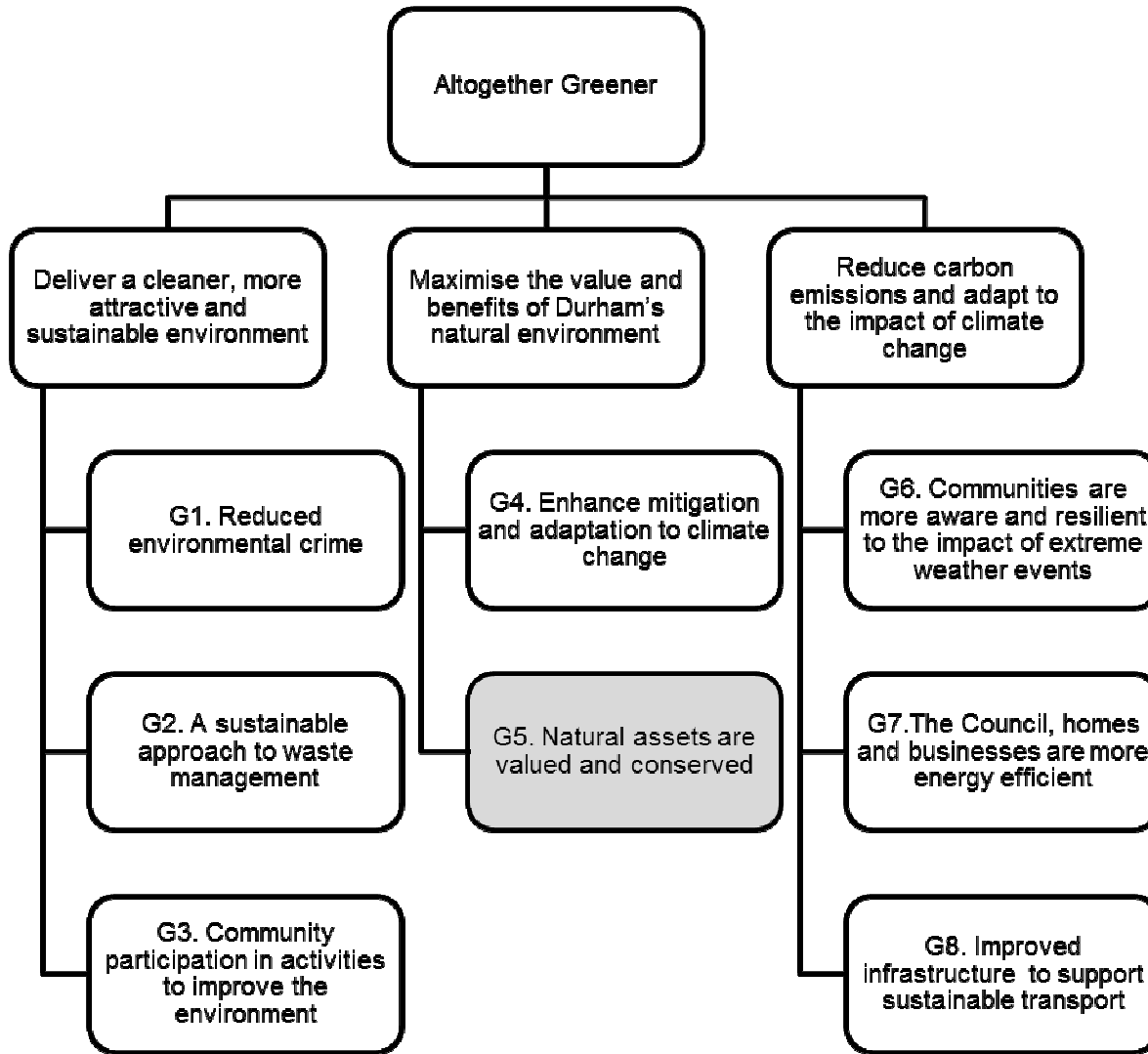
Appendix 2 - Key

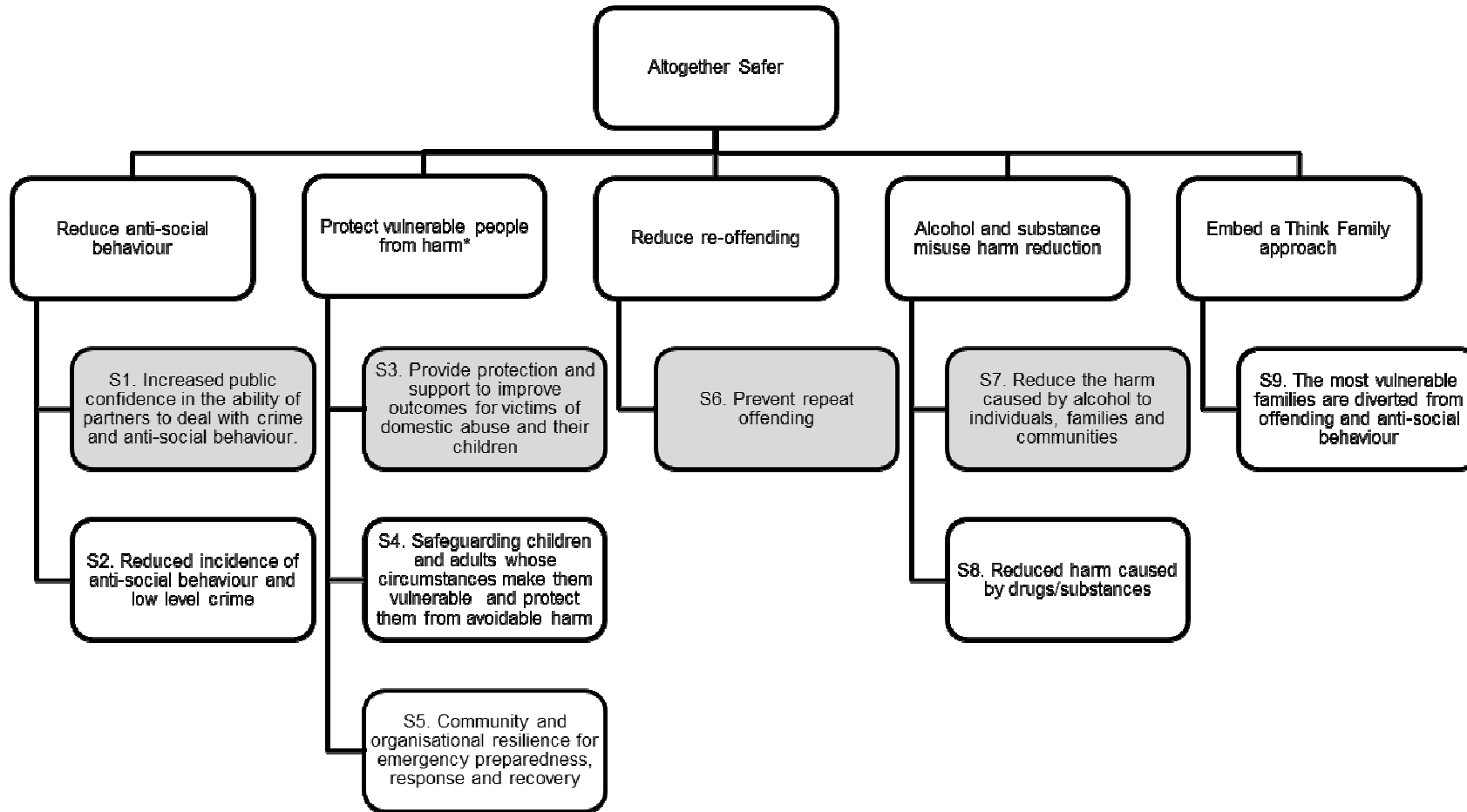


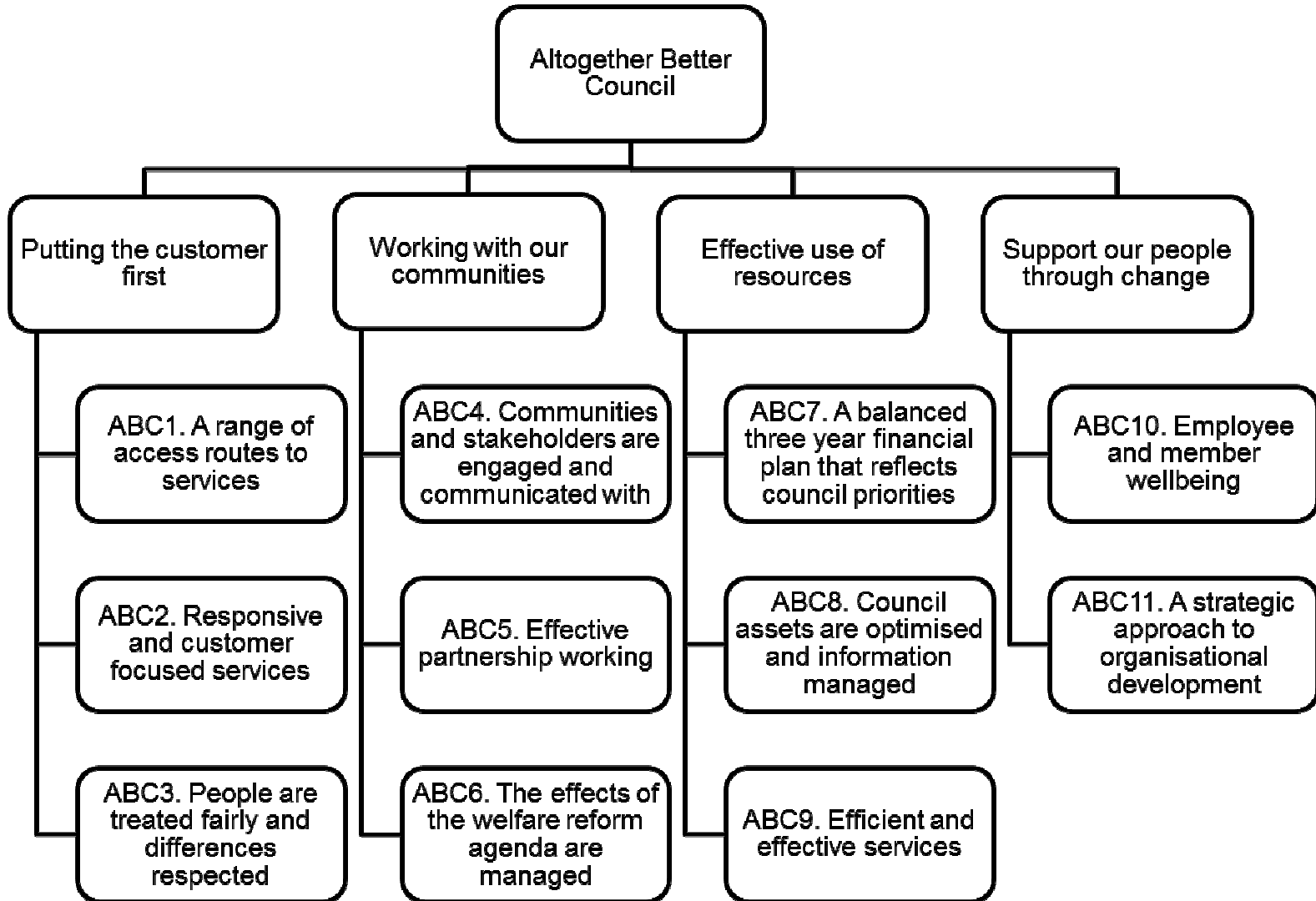












Durham County Council

Council Plan 2014-17

Foreword

This Council Plan sets out what Durham County Council aims to achieve for the people of County Durham over the next three years. Local elections were held in May last year where all 126 seats on the Council were contested. I would like to welcome both new and returning Members to the Council. Our vision is to build an Altogether Better Durham, which is better for local people and provides better places to live and work. We share this vision with other public, private and voluntary sector partners in the county. This plan sets out the council's approach to delivering on its part in this vision.

The council has a clear focus on economic growth and this is recognised as a priority within our plans. 2013 saw us celebrate all that is unique and great about our county in our Year of Culture where we supported a range of arts, cultural and sporting events which helped boost the local visitor economy. During the year we also progressed a growth orientated local plan to one of the most advanced stages in the country. This will shape the future of the county for the next 20 years, helping to develop a thriving economy and promote business, building on successes such as Hitachi Rail UK, Durham Gate, Freeman's Reach and NETPark. We have also sought to work collaboratively with six other local authorities on shared priorities such as the economy, transport and skills and have submitted proposals to the Government to establish a combined authority for the North East.

The progress the council has made and the successes we have achieved are all the more impressive considering that they have been delivered during a challenging period of austerity. Grant funding reductions to the council have meant that we have had to take some difficult decisions about the services that we provide. Our spending reductions have been well managed and have been informed by extensive consultation with our residents. We work closely with our communities and have involved them in making decisions on a range of other issues such as participatory budget funding on local projects and our community buildings programme.

The Government's reductions in public sector spending have not just affected the council. Welfare reforms have resulted in significant cuts in the benefits budget. This has impacted harder in Durham than in other parts of the country. We have delivered a package of measures to help ease the burden including the introduction of a local council tax support scheme to protect those on benefits from national funding reductions in council tax benefit. We have also worked closely with housing providers and the voluntary and community sector to develop welfare assistance policies to help those who are most in need.

Our agenda over the lifetime of this plan is to ensure that local services are effectively managed over a period of significant change. We have already made some notable achievements during difficult times. We face a future that is not without its challenges but I believe that we have the right skills and attitude to overcome these and succeed in our vision to make Durham better for local people and provide better places to live and work

Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

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The Council and the Community

County Durham

County Durham is a place of distinctive character with a strong sense of its own identity. It has a proud and unique history having been settled since ancient times by the Romans, Angles, Saxons and Normans. The city of Durham developed as a centre of Christian worship in the 11th century with the completion of the cathedral which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Bishops of Durham were granted both spiritual and secular powers by William I effectively giving them the status of Kings of the North East, a situation which lasted until the Reformation. Later, County Durham became a centre for the industrial revolution providing the country and developing empire with coal, steel and ships. The area also saw the development of the world's first passenger steam railway in 1825.

Today, Durham is a county of economic, cultural and environmental contrasts. It stretches from the remote rural North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the West to the more densely populated East Durham Heritage Coast. The county covers an area of 223,260 hectares with 223,800 households and 12 major centres of population.

Following local government reorganisation in 2009, Durham County Council, with 514,300 residents¹, is the largest council in the North East region and the sixth largest all-purpose council by population in England.

The economic history of the county has generated a spatially fragmented geography of around 300 settlements including rural villages, small and medium-sized towns and a historic city with World Heritage status.

In common with the rest of the UK, the county's population is ageing with the average age of 41.3 years in 2011 rising to 42.1 years in 2021. Increases in life expectancy and the transition of the 'baby boom' generation from economic activity into retirement means that our older people cohort (aged 65+) is predicted to rise by 25.1% by 2021. Even greater increases are expected in the population of people aged 85 and over which is predicted to rise by 41.9% (nearly 4,600 people). An increase in the birth rate both nationally and locally will stem the decline in the number of people aged under 25, which is expected to remain fairly constant over the next two decades at its current level of approximately 29% of the population².

Black and minority ethnic communities make up 1.8% of the population³. County Durham is ranked as the 62nd most deprived out of 326 authorities nationally. There is a high proportion (45.4%) of the County Durham population living in the 30% most deprived areas⁴. Within these communities, weekly wages and rates of car ownership are low; the health of the population is relatively poor; life expectancy is below the average for the country and there are high levels of disability and long term illness.

¹ Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Mid-2011 and Mid-2012, Office for National Statistics, 2013

² County Durham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2013, Durham County Council and County Durham and Darlington NHS

³ Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

⁴ English Indices of Deprivation 2010, Department of Communities and Local Government.

In September 2013, 13,110 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), which equates to 4.0% of the working age population. This is lower than the regional average of 4.7% but higher than the Great Britain average of 3.2%. In February 2013, 50,660 people were claiming out of work benefits⁵, which equates to 15.3% of the working age population and is a fall from 16% of the working age population in February 2012. The county figure is lower than the regional average of 15.5% but higher than the Great Britain average of 11.7%⁶. The history of heavy industry has left the region with a legacy of greater sickness and disability and dependency on benefit payments. The estimated financial loss in the county per working age adult due to welfare reform is the equivalent of £565 a year compared to £320 in the South East and £470 across Great Britain as a whole⁷.

Durham County Council

Durham County Council was established along with other county councils in England and Wales in 1888. The latest reorganisation of local government in Durham in 2009 saw the abolition of the seven district and borough councils in the county and the creation of Durham County Council as a new single all-purpose authority providing the full range of local government services to the public.

Countywide elections took place on 2nd May 2013 when all 126 seats on Durham County Council were contested. This was the first county council election to be held since Local Government Reorganisation in 2009. The council is made up of 126 Members representing 63 electoral divisions, each represented by either one, two or three members. The Labour Party has a controlling majority. The political makeup of the council is as follows:

Labour	94 Councillors
Independent	19 Councillors
Liberal Democrat	9 Councillors
Conservative	4 Councillors

The council operates a leader and cabinet style model of political governance and the cabinet is made up of ten councillors with the following portfolios:

Councillor	Portfolio
Councillor Simon Henig	Leader of the Council
Councillor Alan Napier	Deputy Leader and Finance
Councillor Morris Nicholls	Adult Services
Councillor Ossie Johnson	Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Jane Brown	Corporate Services
Councillor Neil Foster	Economic Regeneration
Councillor Eddie Tomlinson	Housing and Rural Issues
Councillor Maria Plews	Leisure, Libraries and Lifelong Learning
Councillor Brian Stephens	Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships
Councillor Lucy Hovvels	Safer and Healthier Communities

⁵ Department for Works and Pensions (DWP)'s 'out of work benefits' statistical group includes people claiming JSA, Incapacity Benefit, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) and 'other' income related benefit claimants. In addition, one-parents are also included in this group.

⁶ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, February 2013.

⁷ Hitting the poorest places hardest: The local and regional impact of welfare reform, Sheffield Hallam University, 2013.

The council's overview and scrutiny function is made up of six scrutiny committees with an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board providing an oversight of the work of these committees which is made up of 26 councillors and ten other representatives.

Our council is broadly comparable with a major company in size. We provide a large range of services that include: teaching our young people and caring for our older people; lending the latest best sellers and protecting 900 year old documents; fixing road bridges and creating bridges in our communities; helping children to swim and helping adults to work; planting trees in nature reserves and recycling paper from our homes. In fact, any local service you can think of, Durham County Council will probably have a hand in it somewhere. We have a budget of £1.326 billion⁸, we employ over 7,826 people and our services are delivered to a customer base of over half a million people. To help us manage this undertaking, we employ a Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and four Directors who make up the Corporate Management Team of the council. Each of the four Directors heads up a large service grouping as follows:

Chief Executive	George Garlick	Head of Paid Service
Assistant Chief Executive	Lorraine O'Donnell	Corporate policy, communications, corporate planning and performance, partnerships and community engagement, overview and scrutiny, civil contingencies, emergency planning, County Record Office.
Corporate Director, Resources	Don McLure	Finance, procurement, legal and democratic services (inc. electoral and registration services), human resources and organisational development, information and communications technology, internal audit, risk, insurance and corporate fraud, welfare rights (inc. management of the Citizens' Advice Bureau contract) and revenues and benefits (inc. creditors and debtors)
Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services	Rachael Shimmin	Adults' and children's social care and safeguarding, commissioning, public health, adult learning, fostering and adoption, looked after children, education development services, school admissions, attendance and exclusions, school transport, youth offending service, community safety, early intervention and partnership services.
Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services	Terry Collins	Waste management, parks, customer services, grounds maintenance, street cleaning, civic pride and enforcement, neighbourhood wardens, bereavement services, facilities management, housing maintenance, fleet, environmental health, trading standards, licensing, markets, sport and leisure, countryside management, museums and galleries, cinema and theatres,

⁸ £1,326,033,000 gross expenditure budget for 2013/14, Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2014

libraries, street lighting, coastal protection, road safety, highways, winter maintenance, building design.

Corporate Director,
Regeneration and
Economic Development

Ian Thompson

Physical and economic regeneration, transport, asset management, spatial policy and planning, support for business, tourism, strategic housing, landlord and tenant services, housing solutions, environment and design services, Care Connect, strategy programmes and performance support.

The Council's Vision

The council has a vision and priorities which are shared together with partners and which are based on consultation with local people and Area Action Partnerships. This vision developed by the council reflects the views and aspirations of the community and opportunities for improvement. It focuses around an altogether better Durham and comprises two components; to have an altogether better place which is altogether better for people.

This vision provides a framework which guides all of our detailed plans and programmes which will turn our vision into a reality. This is achieved through organising our improvement actions into a structure comprised of five priority themes:

Altogether Wealthier – focusing on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of all our plans;

Altogether Better for Children and Young People – ensure children and young people are kept safe from harm and that they can 'believe, achieve and succeed';

Altogether Healthier – improving health and wellbeing;

Altogether Safer – creating a safer and more cohesive county;

Altogether Greener – ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges.

This vision is shared with our partners and set out in the county's Sustainable Community Strategy. It is reassuring to note that during the current economic climate with all public sector agencies facing large reductions in government funding, the council and its partners have reaffirmed their commitment to the above vision and the objectives that have previously been developed for each of the above priority themes.

The Council Plan sets out our corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions that the council will take in support of the delivery of the long-term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also identifies the improvements that the council wants to make in how it manages itself. These actions are captured in a sixth priority theme of an **Altogether Better Council**.

Each of the above priority themes is underpinned by detailed objectives and outcomes and a high level action plan for delivery set out in sections ten to fifteen of this Council Plan.

Planning environment

The council has developed its corporate, service and financial plans in a very challenging economic climate and at a time of significant change for local authorities. Unprecedented reductions in grant funding to local government will result in the Council's funding from the Government reducing by about 40% between 2011 and 2017. Reforms to the welfare system and the National Health Service impact both on the council and our communities. All of these changes are challenging. It is through effective planning that we manage these changes and strive to minimise the impact of austerity measures on our residents and service users.

Council resources

The Government's main policy response to the recession has been to embark on a deficit reduction programme to be achieved mainly through cuts to public sector spending. Councils in the North East collectively have the largest percentage reduction in spending⁹. Durham County Council is planning to deliver savings of £224m over the six-year period of 2011/12 to 2016/17. The Local Government Finance Settlement consultation published in December 2013 confirmed a 11.5% cut in Government funding for 2014/15 with an additional 16% in 2015/16. Funding reductions are expected to continue up to 2020.

To achieve the savings required to balance our budget the council has adopted an approach that seeks to minimise the effects on frontline services wherever possible. Significant savings are being achieved through reductions to management costs, and support services. 64% of savings to date have been made from non-frontline services, exceeding our initial aspiration that at least half would be from non-frontline services. However, this will become increasingly difficult to achieve in future years. The council also needs to absorb inflationary pressures at a time of increasing demand for services. These savings requirements have required us to fundamentally challenge each line of the budget for every service and explore more innovative approaches to service delivery. This work will continue to dominate our thinking over the course of this Council Plan. A full list of savings and review work agreed by the council is at Appendix 2.

Welfare reform

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 heralds the biggest change to the welfare state since its creation in the 1940s. The aim of the legislation is to simplify the benefits system, make it fairer and encourage people into work. The act introduces a number of changes to the way in which benefits are administered and which are also designed to deliver large reductions to the Government's welfare budget. The scale of the reforms is significant and involves over 40 changes to the current system. Many of these changes have a larger impact on County Durham because of the demographic profiles which consist of a large number of people on low incomes. Areas with a history of heavy industry also have a larger proportion of the population with a disability and who are dependent on benefits.

The main changes to welfare as a result of the Act include:

- The phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) which is currently being piloted. This single benefit will replace six existing benefits (Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance', Income-related Employment and Support Allowance,

⁹ Local government spending: where is the axe falling? Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2012.

Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit.)
The Government plan to have rolled out the new benefit by 2016;

- The abolition of both Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB), with CTB replaced by a localised council tax support scheme determined by individual local authorities;
- The abolition of the Social Fund administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) from April 2013 which comprises 'last resort' benefits such as Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans, replaced by a non-ring fenced grant paid to local authorities. This funds a local Welfare Assistance Scheme in Durham which is administered by the charity, Five Lamps. That funding will discontinue after 2015/16.
- The Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be replaced for all working age claimants by a Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Durham was a pilot area and new claimants have been applying for the PIP since April last year. Existing DLA claimants will be moved onto the PIP between 2013 and 2017 ;
- The introduction of a cap in 2013 on the total benefits which an individual or a couple is entitled to;
- The introduction of a size criterion last year for payment of housing benefit in the social sector which means that tenants occupying a home with more bedrooms than they need are having their benefits reduced.

The ultimate effect of welfare reforms will largely depend on the strength of the wider economy and the extent to which effects of benefit reductions can be mitigated by being able to help people find work. This will be a challenge in the current economic climate. Employment figures in County Durham have shown recent improvements for the first time in three years. However, the employment rate still remains 7.7 percentage points below the national figure of 10. The North East and County Durham also have higher than average levels of incapacity benefit claimants with proportionately more claimants living in areas with a history of heavy industry.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has analysed the welfare reforms proposed for introduction over the next several years. Their findings are that they will be regressive i.e. they will take more proportionately from lower income groups than from higher income groups except for the very richest income group. A significant proportion of the population of County Durham (45.4%) live in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. County Durham is also the most deprived local authority area in the region in terms of the scale of income deprivation¹¹.

The IFS also estimates that families with children are expected to lose proportionately more of their income across the income distribution compared to pensioner households and households without children. Furthermore, the poorest households with children are estimated to lose the largest proportion of their income as a result of tax and benefit changes. Almost one in four children under the age of 16 live in poverty. For six communities in County Durham, the figure is over half of children living in poverty¹². Whilst the figures in County Durham are better than the average for the North East, the proportion is worse than the England national average.

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics, September 2013.

¹¹ Index of Deprivation, Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010.

¹² Child Poverty, HM Revenue & Customs, 2012

We estimate that around 95,000 households in Durham will eventually be affected by the ongoing reforms to the welfare system. Any reductions to benefit payments to recipients within the county not offset by claimants moving into work will result in less income being available to spend in the local economy.

European Funding

Structural and Cohesion Funds are the European Union's main funding programmes for supporting social and economic restructuring across the EU. These funds are aimed at reducing the geographic and social differences in economic fortunes across EU member states. The EU 2014-2020 programme provides a significant opportunity to provide investment into the economic development of County Durham, at a time of reducing resources. Within the National Programme, a strong role has been given to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), who are to be given a notional allocation of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for the programme period with a spend review period in 2017. The allocation for the North East LEP is €539.6 million for the programme period. Of this amount €157 million is Transition Region Money specifically for County Durham and €383 million for the rest of the LEP area. This equates to circa €305 per head for County Durham and €265 per head for the rest of the LEP area. In addition to this, the European Council has identified youth unemployment as a high priority and has created a Youth Employment Initiative. Durham will be able to access a further €9 million for 2014-2018.

Within the programme there are requirements as to the proportion of ERDF and ESF as well as minimum levels of spend for particular objectives. As a Transition Region there is more flexibility over spend than in those areas classed as More Developed Regions which means that within the North East LEP, County Durham has slightly more freedom to spend monies on local issues than the rest of the LEP area which is to be welcomed. This focuses the strategic leadership role for the County Durham Economic Partnership who has been tasked with leading on developing opportunities for County Durham.

The Future of Our Social Housing Stock (to be updated)

Durham County Council has formally submitted proposals to the government to transfer ownership of its 19,000 homes to a new not-for-profit social housing group. This group will include its existing housing management organisations – Dale and Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes. Before a transfer can take place, council tenants will be asked to vote on whether they think that it should go ahead. This tenant vote is likely to take place in the summer of 2014.

Care and Support Reform

The Care Bill brings together care and support legislation into a new, modern set of laws and builds the system around people's wellbeing, needs and goals. It sets out new rights for carers, emphasises the need to prevent and reduce care and support needs, and introduces a national eligibility threshold for care and support. It introduces a cap on the costs people will have to pay for care and sets out a universal deferred payment scheme, whereby the government states that people will not have to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for residential care.

The Bill places a duty on local authorities to carry out their care and support responsibilities (including carers' support and prevention services) with the aim of joining up services with those provided by the NHS and other health-related services (for example, housing or leisure services).

Better Care Fund

In June 2013, the government announced that it would be allocating £3.8 billion to a pooled budget called the Better Care Fund. In County Durham, joint plans have been developed between the local authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups and £43.735m has been allocated locally on health and social care initiatives through pooled budget arrangements from 2015/16.

The aim for the Better Care Fund is to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham by innovating and transforming services, with a focus on reducing reliance on long term health and social care, providing more preventative services, helping people to stay independent in their own homes, and improving care in community settings.

Tougher Regulatory Regime

The government has done much to reduce the burden of centrally imposed regulation on local authorities whilst retaining inspection in areas where it is necessary to protect vulnerable people and public welfare including health, children's services and adult social care.

The Care Quality Commission which is the body responsible for regulating and inspecting health and adult social care services in England is introducing a tougher regime following recommendations of a number of national inquiries including the Francis Report into the failings at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. This new approach to regulation will include a better registration system for new care services, improvements to how services are inspected, establishing clear standards of care, a new rating system to encourage improvement and help people choose between services and the introduction of a tougher response to poor care.

Ofsted inspects and regulates services which care for children and young people, and those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Ofsted has introduced a number of changes to the way in which it inspects early years provision, schools and local authorities. Early years providers are subject to a tougher early years inspection framework, which will be used to make sure that they are delivering a high quality service.

Ofsted's single inspection framework brings together into one inspection child protection, services for looked after children and care leavers, and local authority fostering and adoption services. Inspectors will make three key judgements in the single inspection, focusing on the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanent homes and families for them; and leadership, management and governance.

The reintroduction of local authority school improvement inspections aims to assist local authorities in their duty to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential in schools and other education and training providers, so that all children and young people benefit from at least a good education.

Durham County Council has a team of subject specialist inspectors so that we can respond to the needs of schools (including primary schools) from a subject perspective. This means that we are very well placed to advise schools about, for instance, the challenges of the new national curriculum at a critical subject-specific level. A number of our officers are trained as additional inspectors working for Ofsted, which gives personnel a critical insight into the inspection process and enables us to advise schools and settings with genuine precision.

Schools in Northumberland, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Darlington and elsewhere buy into County Durham's support services. This level of optional involvement with the local authority is a resounding endorsement of the quality of support currently on offer, especially in a climate where many independent consultants and school support organisations (including large national players) have entered the marketplace.

Whilst Durham has an excellent assessment record, these regulatory changes are about raising the bar in the services that we provide. We will continue to work with partners to ensure that we provide the best possible services to children and adults.

School Funding in 2015-16 and Beyond

The government has plans to review the way in which schools are funded in England. The current funding system is old and based on historic decisions made by previous governments. It means that the amount of funding per pupil differs widely between local authority areas. The review will build upon the pupil premium which was introduced in 2011 and is paid to schools to help support disadvantaged children and young people. The Department for Education will be consulting on options for school funding reform in 2014.

Schools have been protected by spending cuts to date. Local authorities and academies receive Education Services Grant to support essential services provided to schools. The Chancellor has announced that this grant will be reduced by £200 million or 20% in 2015-16 and will target local authorities to make further efficiencies focusing only on the core essential services to schools.

Children and Families Bill and SEN Reform

New legislation to transform the support given to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is currently going through Parliament. Changes are planned to the way in which statements, reviews and services will be provided and publicised. Local authority responsibility will be defined as being for people aged 0-25 years old which will extend rights and protections of young people into further education and training. Joined up education, health and care plans will replace statements of special educational needs. Plans will come with the option of personal budgets.

The Children and Families Bill will also introduce reforms to the systems for adoption, looked after children and family justice. The Bill promotes 'fostering for adoption' so that children are placed sooner with the families that are likely to adopt them. It will also encourage growth in the childcare sector, introduce a new system of shared parental leave and ensure that children in England have a strong advocate for their rights.

Stronger Families Programme

The Stronger Families Programme led by Durham County Council with the involvement of a number of partner agencies was launched in 2012 with the aim of turning around the lives of over 1,300 families within the county that have been identified as experiencing problems ranging from low level crime and anti-social behaviour, children and young people with poor school attendance and young people and/or parents who are not in work. Government funding has been made available to incentivise local authorities and their partners to develop new ways of working with families focusing on lasting change. Local authorities are paid up to £4,000 per family. This is a payment-by-results based funding scheme and will be paid on achievement of pre-determined measurable improvements.

In response to the national programme, Durham County Council and partner agencies have been developing new ways of working over the past year with children, young people and their families facing multiple and complex challenges. The programme involves partnership working to embed a whole-family approach across all of our services, with the collective aims of:

- getting children back into school
- cutting youth crime and anti-social behaviour across the whole family
- getting adults into work
- reducing the costs to the taxpayer of tackling their problems.

Climate Change

Climate change continues to be a major policy driver in County Durham. The council is well placed to drive and influence carbon reductions within the county through the services that we deliver such as waste, transport and the buildings and equipment that we use. We can also use our position as a social landlord, major employer, community leader and through our regulatory and strategic functions such as planning. We can also support the development of a low carbon economy in the region through the targeting of available European funding. We recognise that some climate change is inevitable and mitigating against the effects of this is a key objective for the council. We have a role in preparing for this by adapting to a range of potential climate change impacts across the county as highlighted by recent flooding events in other parts of the country.

Risk Management

An essential part of corporate and service planning is the consideration of risks and actions that the council can take to minimise or eliminate their occurrence or their impact on service delivery. Risk management is integrated within the council's annual planning cycle and risks are kept under regular scrutiny with a formal review of all service and corporate risks being carried out on a quarterly basis by the council's Corporate Risk Management Group. The council's Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the development and operation of risk management and the overall corporate governance of the authority. Risks are assessed at two levels: gross impact and likelihood based on an assessment of the risk without any controls in place; and net impact and likelihood based on the assessment of the current risk after taking into account the existing controls and mitigating actions in place.

Consultation

The council has a good track record of consulting the public on spending decisions. A consultation exercise was carried out in 2010 where public were asked to identify priority services for protection against budget cuts. The results of this exercise were used to inform our budget setting process for 2011 to the present date. The results of a survey carried out in 2012 showed that the public believed that the council had managed spending reductions effectively.

A new programme of budget consultation was carried out in 2013. Attendees at events across 14 Area Action Partnerships were invited to take part in a desktop exercise where participants were asked to make decisions on levels of reductions to make to a range of services to help meet a £100m saving in the council's revenue budget. Almost 1,300 people took part in these exercises. Results from these local events were supplemented by 2,074 individual paper based and 517 online responses. Responses to questionnaires indicated that almost all (97%) of participants enjoyed the exercise, thought that it was easy to understand (98%), easy to use (99%), that their views had been listened to (97%) and that there was sufficient time to complete the exercise (92%).

The services most frequently prioritised for larger savings in the consultation were as follows:

- **Finance, legal, IT and human resources**¹³
- Planning services
- Maintenance of council buildings
- Grass cutting, trees and flower beds
- **Subsidised bus travel**¹³
- **Performance management, policy and communications**¹³
- **Democratic support – decisions and elections**¹³
- Borrowing for new developments
- Support for community projects, centres, partnerships and groups
- Collection, disposal and recycling of waste

The services identified by consultees as requiring a smaller reduction were:

- Job creation
- Social work and protecting vulnerable children and adults
- Support for adults in their homes
- Gritting and snow clearance

¹³ Services highlighted in bold were prioritised for larger savings by focus groups, respondents to paper based and online services

- School support and education services
- Children's centres and support for families

There was support from the focus groups for a council tax rise of up to two percent but very little support for a rise in excess of this level.

These consultation results will be used to inform future decisions on financial planning and budget setting.

Performance and Efficiency

The council has a corporate planning framework which sets out how the performance of its services is managed. Objectives setting out what the council wants to achieve over the next three years are developed together with key measures which are used to determine the extent to which our objectives are being met. Plans setting out the actions that we will take to achieve our objectives and maintain performance are also drawn up. Monitoring reports of the progress against these actions and performance against key measures detailed within this plan are considered by senior managers and councillors on a quarterly basis. A range of actions are taken where services are found to be underperforming including taking remedial action such as carrying out further investigations, allocating additional resources or employing new processes or working with other agencies to bring performance within target.

The council's performance needs to be considered in the context of reducing budgets and staff numbers and also increasing demand for a number of our services including face-to-face contacts at our customer access points, presentations at our Housing Solutions Service, applications for housing benefit and requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Despite the tough financial climate for the council, we have achieved improvements in many areas. Noteworthy achievements last year include:

Altogether Wealthier

- 2013 Durham's Year of Culture has helped to increase visitor numbers, initially estimated to be up by 16 per cent for the county and 146 per cent for Durham City.
- Major planning applications are 50 per cent higher in Q2 2013/14 than the previous year and the percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks is now 67.4 per cent, 10 percentage points above the national average.
- Over 88 per cent of planning applications are determined within statutory guidelines.
- The employment rate is improving and compares favourably to the rest of the North East region with youth unemployment falling quarter on quarter for the last year.
- The number of empty properties brought back into use through local authority intervention continues to improve and exceeds target.

- Performance against the decent homes standard across all council owned stock of 18,500 homes continues to improve and is on course to achieve target.
- The council has been instrumental in attracting top class businesses such as Hitachi Rail UK to the county and in securing major property investments such as Durham Gate, Freeman's Reach and NETPark.
- The council has invested in its own apprenticeship support programme, creating 357 additional places for young people across the county since November 2011.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

- GCSE results in our schools have improved for the eleventh consecutive year and both GCSE and A-level results are higher than regional and national averages.
- Our award winning pre-reprimand disposal system ensures that the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system continues to decline and is significantly lower than regional and national averages.
- The rate of re-offending for young offenders has reduced significantly over the last 18 months.
- The County Durham Think Family Programme has been recognised nationally by Louise Casey and the Troubled Families National Programme as a model of best practice. Our pre-birth intervention work has won national acclaim and awards for early years family support and child protection.
- Our fostering service was rated as outstanding by Ofsted as were our safeguarding services. Durham's inspection judgement was the equal second highest of 151 local authorities inspected in the country.

Altogether Healthier

- Both male and female life expectancy in the county are increasing.
- The teenage conception rate continues to improve and is better than the regional average.
- Key performance indicators demonstrate effective management of care for older people and vulnerable residents whilst maintaining high levels of satisfaction. 88.5 per cent of older people are still at home 91 days after discharge compared to the England average of 81.5 per cent and the percentage of service users reporting that the help and support they receive has made their quality of life better is 94.3 per cent, over six percentage points above the national average.
- A larger proportion of service users required no on-going care following completion of their reablement package and this is exceeding target. The percentage of adults receiving secondary mental health services that were known to be in settled accommodation at the time of their last review exceeds target and provisional national and comparator group averages.
- The percentage of social care users in receipt of community services who have a personal budget continues to improve and exceeds the national average.

Altogether Safer

- Overall crime per 1,000 population was 52.8 in 2011/12 compared to 71.0 nationally, and it fell to 44.9 in 2012/13 compared to 64.3 nationally.
- Police recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour fell from 45,200 in 2010/11 to under 25,500 in 2012/13.
- The numbers of adult social care users reporting that the care and support helps them to feel safe and secure significantly exceeds national figures.

Altogether Greener

- We will continue to build on the previous successful completion of projects such as the smooth transition to the new waste contracts which have provided significant savings
- We have made excellent progress in recycling and composting rates and levels of municipal waste being landfilled, with Durham outperforming the regional and national averages.
- We have already exceeded our ambitious target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the county by 40 per cent by 2020.
- We have invested over £4 million in installing solar PV panels onto council buildings and through our building efficiency retrofit project making improvements to heating and lighting systems.
- Our street lighting efficiency programme will save £2 million whilst reducing our carbon footprint.
- The lighting scheme we designed for Durham Cathedral and Castle has won the international Auroralia Award for exemplary and original sustainable urban lighting. The scheme has also been shortlisted in the national Lighting Design Awards 2014.

Altogether Better Council

- Key corporate health indicators such as council tax and business rates collection rates continue to improve.
- Housing rent arrears across all providers is achieving target, bucking the trend experienced in other parts of the country following welfare reform.
- 100 per cent of the stock owned and managed by the council (Durham City Homes) met the decent homes standard at the end of last year.
- Our income team won 'Most Improved team of the year' at the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) awards.
- Our auditors gave the authority an unqualified value for money conclusion.

Equality and Diversity

Equality is at the heart of our planning processes. Our Council Plan and Service Plans contain actions to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations in line with the Equality Act 2010. The actions support our corporate aims and objectives which are set out in our Corporate Equalities Policy and were based on evidence and consultation, these are:

Aim 1 – Provide high quality accessible services to all by:

- Understanding the needs of County Durham’s diverse communities;
- ensuring equal access to council services, and;
- improving services to meet diverse customer needs.

Aim 2 – Be a diverse organisation by:

- Providing strong leadership in relation to equality and diversity;
- recruiting and retain a diverse workforce, and;
- promote equality and diversity through working practices.

Aim 3 – Work with others to promote equality countywide by:

- Working effectively with underrepresented communities;
- working effectively with partners, and;
- integrating equality and diversity through commissioning and procurement.

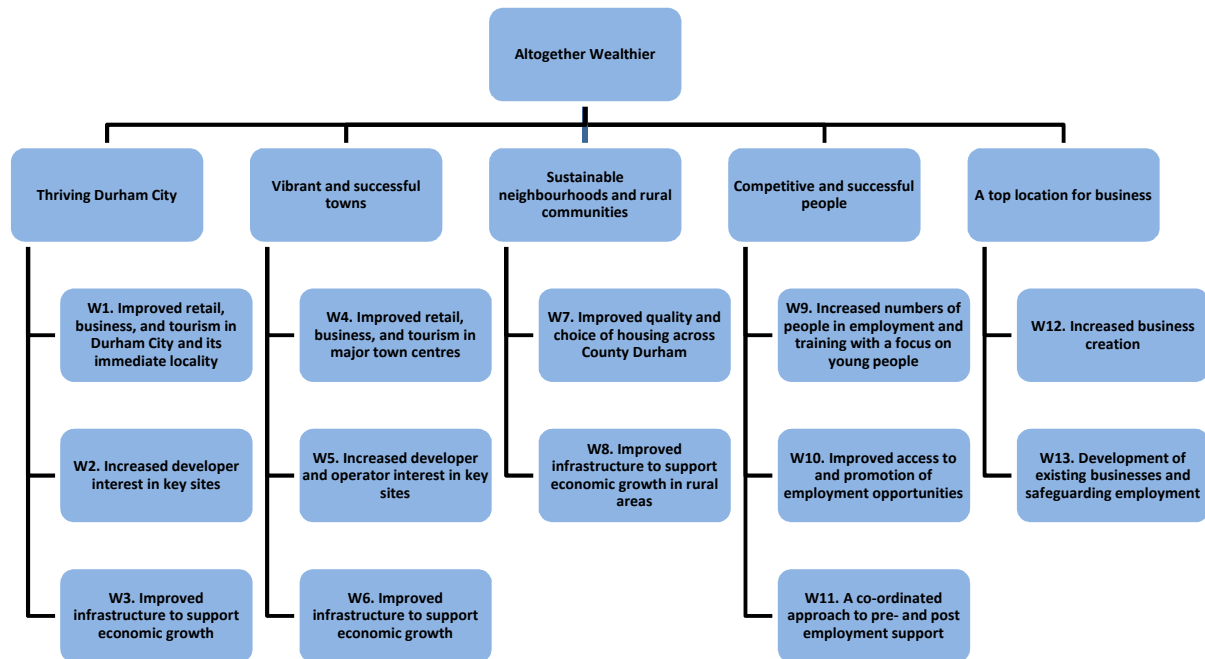
Equality actions from the Council Plan and service plans are monitored and reported to senior managers and councillors as part of our corporate performance management process. In addition, we have an equality impact assessment process to identify actions relating to specific service or policy changes and key decisions including proposals for achieving savings within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Conclusions

Our analysis of national policy imperatives, local needs, current performance and consultation data has helped us to formulate the priorities contained within this plan. The council’s requirement to make substantial savings following government grant reductions to balance our budget remains a priority. It is important that the council continues to effectively programme manage the achievement of these savings so that they are realised in a planned way. Demand for many of the council’s advice, guidance and support services has increased as a result of the economic downturn and reforms to the welfare system. Managing the performance of our services against a background of reducing budgets and increasing demand in some areas is a major challenge for the council.

Our plan is sub-divided into a section on each of our priority themes. Each section details the objectives and outcomes that we have developed following our policy analysis work. It also sets out the narrative of what we are trying to achieve. **Did you know** and **look out for** sections provide further information in relation to each objective for the reader. Through our performance management framework, we have been able to measure and highlight some recent successes in the **going well** sections whilst the **cause for concern** sections show the areas under each objective where we would like to perform better. These issues are addressed in the **high level action plans** designed to deliver our ambitions for each objective. Progress against these action plans together with performance against the measures set out in **Appendix 1** are how we intend to monitor and report on this plan throughout the forthcoming year.

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 at a time of limited resources and significant national policy shifts.

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 extra 30,000 in employment 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 that stands out as a key economic driver for 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. A core business quarter at Aykley Heads, a housing offer that complements economic growth, a visitor offer that encourages visitors to stay longer, together with the associated infrastructure needed to support this growth is therefore central to our approach.

Going well

- The Former Ice Rink site in Durham City has been demolished and construction has started for a mixed use development, including business space and leisure to be known as 'Freemans Reach'.
- There have been 584,243 passenger journeys on the three Durham City Park and Ride sites, which is a 9% increase in usage compared to the same period last year. This could be attributed to the excellent summer weather and events like the Gospels, Streets of Durham and the Brass Festival.
- The bus corridor improvement works at the A167 at Croxdale have been completed.
- A new Police Headquarters at Aykley Heads is due for completion by September 2014.

Cause for concern

- The economic climate continues to make it difficult for the private sector to invest in schemes across the city.
- The level of homes completed in the city remains low.
- Delays to the extension of Sniperley Park and Ride site mean it will not be completed until December 2015.
- Funding for flood mitigation from the government remains challenging but the Council continues to discuss options with partners.

Did you know?

- The 'Lumiere' light festival attracted 175,000 people into the city between the 14th and 17th November 2013.
- 97,208 tickets were sold for the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition (1 July - 30 September 2013).
- Transport modelling for the Western and Northern Relief Roads has been completed, which will inform public consultation on the County Durham Plan.
- The Pearl Izumi Tour Series Cycle Race 2013 in Durham City attracted 12,000 spectators and TV viewing figures of 297,000.
- Durham International BRASS Festival attracted more than 35,000 visitors.
- Durham Book Festival 2013 reached more than 8,000 people.

- The 180th Durham Regatta in 2013 welcomed more than 600 crews from all over the UK to compete on the River Wear.

Look out for:

- A regeneration framework for Durham City is expected to be completed by April 2014.
- Details of the strategy and business case for Aykley Heads will be produced in 2014.
- Development of a new roundabout on the A167 at Sunderland Bridge.
- Completion of housing regeneration works at Esh Winning.
- Development of a new bus station in Durham City expected by December 2015.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Agree the development plan of Elvet waterside	Head of Economic Development & Housing	September 2014
Produce a delivery strategy for Aykley Heads	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015
Construction of a new roundabout at Sunderland Bridge	Head of Transport & Contract Services	March 2015
Agree a delivery plan for Milburngate House	Head of Economic Development & Housing	June 2015
Relocate the bus station on North Road	Head of Transport & Contract Services	December 2015
Obtain planning consent for the Western Relief Road in Durham	Head of Transport & Contract Services	December 2015

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

- Highways works at DurhamGate are now complete.
- Physical improvements to Barnard Castle Town Centre have been completed including landscaping works at the Castle and Scar Top and Amen Corner.
- A Heart of Teesdale website has also been launched.
- The County Durham Plan has been out for consultation and work is ongoing to prepare the “Publication” Draft Plan which is the version which will be submitted to the Secretary of State.
- Construction of the Horden link road project is now complete.
- Co-location of Durham County Council and Cestria Community Housing in a new customer access point in Chester-le-Street town centre.
- Digital Durham - the official launch of the first ‘fibre cabinet’ which can supply fast speed broadband to businesses and residents in the heart of the city, supporting regeneration, economic growth and job opportunities.

Cause for concern

- The number of applications for planning permission, seen as an indication of the buoyancy of the economy has been declining since 2011/12.
- Development of additional car parking at Auckland Castle has been delayed to July 2015
- The St. John Square redevelopment in Seaham has been delayed and will now be completed in September 2014.

Did you know?

- The North Dock Marina at Seaham was opened to the public, with a launch event held in July 2013.
- Durham’s Emirates International Cricket Ground at Chester-le-Street hosted its first Ashes Test Match, the fourth in the series from the 9th to the 13th August 2013.
- Restoration of Witham Hall, Barnard Castle has provided a new venue for creative and cultural industries with a 225 seat auditorium for conference, theatre, events and cinema, created 61 jobs and supported 34 businesses.
- A further new business centre at Consett was completed in November 2013.
- Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Pennines cycle race attracted more than 1,000 cyclists.
- You can see the hygiene ratings for over 3,500 catering and retail businesses operating across County Durham by visiting <http://food.gov.uk>.
- The Council successfully bid for Government funding to get junction 63 on the A1(M) at Chester-le-Street upgraded by March 2015.

Look out for:

- Completion of a new roundabout at Northlands and Perkinsville, Chester-le-Street.

- The Examination in Public of the County Durham Plan.
- Completion of improvements of Heighington Railway Station serving Aycliffe Business Park.
- Improvements to the council's industrial unit property portfolio, including Tanfield Lea Business Park at Stanley and Stella Gill Industrial Estate at Chester-le-Street.
- Delivery of the South Durham Embracing Local-Motion project in Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe. This will provide improvements to travel facilities including rail stations, cycling facilities, bus service enhancements and an expansion of the electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Refurbishment of Spennymoor Cricket Club

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Introduction of a new signal controlled roundabout at Northlands, Chester-le-Street	Head of Transport & Contract Services	August 2014
Complete and share the Tourism visitor market assessment to enable the private and public sector to increase support for the tourism economy	Head of Economic Development & Housing	September 2014
Delivery of the Food and Drink Campaign	Head of Economic Development & Housing	December 2014
Complete road access improvements at Front Street, Stanley	Head of Transport & Contract Services	December 2014
Adoption of the County Durham Plan	Head of Planning & Assets	March 2015
Deliver improvements to Heighington Railway Station to support the Hitachi facility at Merchant Park	Head of Transport & Contract Services	March 2015
Develop and deliver a co-ordinated Events Programme for the county as set out in the Events Strategy	Head of Culture & Sport	March 2015
Deliver new car parking capacity at North Bondgate to support significant increase in tourists visiting Bishop Auckland	Head of Economic Development & Housing	July 2015
Construction of a new railway station at Horden on the Durham Coast Railway Line	Head of Transport & Contract Services	March 2016

Agree the delivery plan for the Seaham Colliery site with the Homes and Communities Agency	Head of Economic Development & Housing	May 2016
Secure a developer for a residential project for the North East Industrial Estate at Peterlee	Head of Economic Development & Housing	December 2016

3. Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities

Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities are places where people can and want to live and are 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 in some communities in County Durham and also across the region as well as nationally. 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 both varying needs and a varying 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

- Dale & Valley Homes and Durham City Homes are on course to achieve their target for all homes to meet the Government's decency standard by March 2014.
- East Durham Homes are well ahead of schedule and have extended their target from 25% to 21% of homes being non-decent by March 2014.
- At the end of Q3 2013/14, 674 private sector properties have been improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention.
- Between April and December 2013, 80 properties were brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention.
- Traveller sites at Tower Road, Stanley and Drum Lane, Birtley are being refurbished.
- The number of affordable homes delivered at the end of Q3 was 314 against a profiled target of 262.

Cause for concern

- Analysis shows there is high demand for one bedroomed properties, and falling demand for three bedroomed properties. Houses let through the council's Durham Key Options scheme have increased but the number of empty properties is also increasing.

Did you know?

- The Government's decision is expected by April 2014 as to whether the council has a place on the transfer programme for the Council owned housing stock.
- Between April and December 2013, 3682 people were re-housed through the Durham Key Options System.
- 23.9 million bus passenger journeys were made on the network in 2012/13. As of September 2013; 11.9 million journeys have been made in 2013/14.

Look out for:

- Completion of housing regeneration works at Easington, Dawdon, Wheatley Hill and Craghead.
- Completion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites at West Rainton and Bishop Auckland.
- The decent homes improvement programme for Durham City Homes worth £3.5m will be completed by April 2015.
- A tenant vote on the future of the council's 18,500 homes in the summer of 2014.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Work with partners to develop a Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Strategy to improve the standards and quality of HMO accommodation within the private rented sector	Head of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection	July 2014
Obtain agreement with landowners to pursue the development of a Crook to Howden Multi-user Route	Head of Transport and Contract Services	March 2015
Implement a new 'in-house' County-wide Home Improvement Agency	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015
Pursue the preferred option for the future of Council housing across County Durham	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015
Bring the following empty homes back into use through a programme of targeted support:	Head of Economic Development & Housing	
South Durham - 55		March 2015
East Durham - 40		March 2015
North Durham - 25		March 2015

Implement a £3.5m decent home improvement programme for Durham City Homes	Head of Direct Services	April 2015
Redevelop the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller permanent sites at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure Lane, West Rainton • Tower Road, Stanley • Drum Lane, Birtley • Green Lane, Bishop Auckland 	Head of Economic Development & Housing/ Head of Direct Services	June 2015
Deliver the first Durham County Council market housing scheme for rent and sale	Head of Economic Development and Housing	June 2016
Digital Durham: Increase availability of technology across the county by developing the Digital Durham programme for next generation broadband delivery to all areas of the county - in partnership with Broadband Development UK (BDUK). Deployment to commence from quarter 1 2014/15	Head of ICT Services	September 2016

4. 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 provide pre and post-employment support and 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

- There have been 109 apprentices who have started through the council's apprenticeship programme as at Q3 2013/14.
- 1036 cases of homelessness were prevented through advice and assistance provided by the council.

Cause for concern

- The proportion of people who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for one year or more has continued to increase and is 36.35% (December 13).

Did you know?

- The merger of the three credit unions in County Durham is now complete.
- The Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 has been published.
- A triage process has been introduced to manage the impact of welfare reform and assist tenants and residents across County Durham.
- The council's bespoke apprenticeship scheme has directly helped 357 residents to start an apprenticeship since the scheme began in November 2011 up to December 2013.

Look out for:

- Development of a real time travel information system across the county.
- A decision will be made on the future management of 19,000 council owned houses in late 2014.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Deliver a programme to support the progression of young people classed as 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Head of Economic Development & Housing	June 2014
Develop and implement a real time travel information system across the county	Head of Transport & Contract Services	September 2014
Prepare and submit a funding bid and develop a programme for the 'Erasmus Project' to enable an international exchange programme for apprentices	Head of Strategy, Programmes & Performance	March 2015
Deliver a County Durham Apprenticeship Programme to support people into work through the provision of wage subsidy to employers	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015

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.

County Durham's business base grew 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, we were harder hit during the economic downturn and we have been slower in regards to employment growth since the UK economy has emerged from the recession. Public sector contraction and government cuts since 2010 have further 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

- The Hitachi supply chain capability mapping is progressing well
- 76.5% of Council owned factories and business support centre floor-space was occupied.
- The 'Viewpoint' Business Centre at Consett was completed in November 2013.

Cause for concern

- Lack of funding to support new business start-ups is restricting the ability of partners to increase our business space.
- Access to finance is still a problem for small businesses in the county.

Did you know?

- The Future Business Magnates Awards ceremony was held in June 2013.
- There have been nearly 3 million recorded visitors to the main attractions in County Durham and almost 400,000 in Durham City alone for the first two quarters of 2013/14.
- The Bishop Auckland Food Festival held in April 2013 was run over two days for the first time and was attended by around 25,000 people.
- NETPark, the North East's science, engineering and technology park at Sedgefield now has 400 staff working there and supports 1,000 indirect jobs.

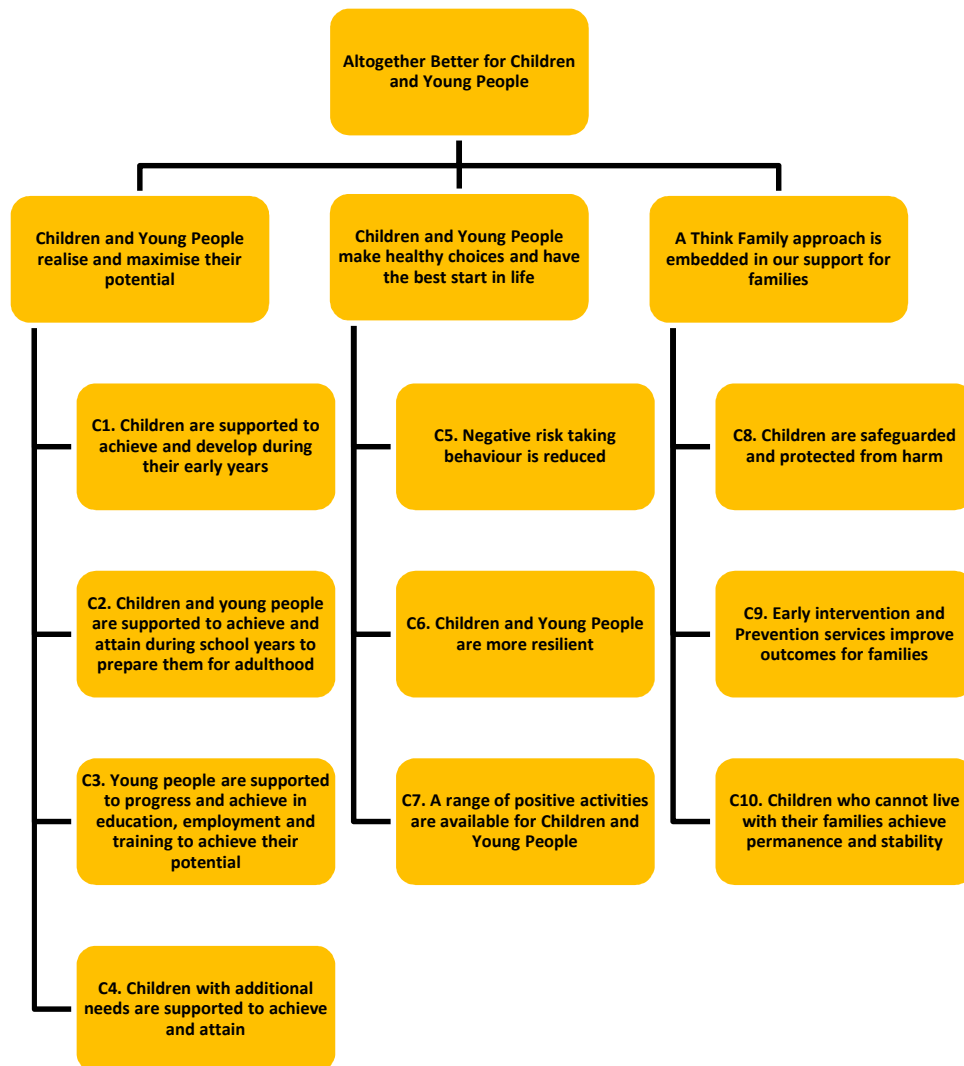
Look out for:

- A new Visitor Pocket Guide will be launched in Spring 2014.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Develop a £12m EU funded programme of activity to deliver access to finance support targeted at County Durham businesses	Head of Economic Development & Housing	December 2014
Develop relationships with businesses to identify and secure business growth and diversification	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015
Deliver enterprise initiatives to stimulate enterprise awareness, actions and networks, including; the Future Business Magnates and the establishment of the Rural Enterprise Hub network	Head of Economic Development & Housing	October 2015
Further develop NETPark and attract more businesses by developing the premises and expanding the product offer to a broader technology community to grow the economic activity of NETPark	Head of Economic Development & Housing	March 2015

Altogether Better for Children and Young People



Children, young people and their families continue to be the focus of partnership working across the county between Durham County Council and the Children and Families Partnership. Our vision is for all children, young people and families in County Durham to be safe and healthy and to be given the opportunity to 'believe, achieve and succeed'.

The number of young people and children aged 0 to 17 has fallen by 6.1% since 2001 from 106,600 to 100,100 and is due to a fall in the number of births after the 2001 Census, following a national trend at that time. This fall in the 0 to 17 group is similar to that seen in the region (6.5% fall) while nationally there was a small increase of 1.5% over the same period. Currently, one in five people (21.6%) in the county are in this age group. This is predicted to fall slightly to 19.5% by 2030, however in numbers this represents a 6.6% rise in number to 106,700 by 2030.

It is important for the future of the county that our children and young people are supported to make the best start in life and able to make the right choices as they grow up.

Providing support to families, and not just individuals, is also important – this is taken forward by having a “Think Family” approach which focuses on the family as a whole rather than just on individual adults and children.

Durham County Council works in partnership to deliver the Stronger Families programme, known nationally as Troubled Families, which aims for lasting change, resulting in families achieving positive outcomes. These include getting children and young people back into school, provision of universal services such as out of school activities, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and getting young people and parents back on the road to employment. This is part of a ‘whole family’ way of thinking, so that support can be provided to those families who need it.

We will continue to listen to and work with children, young people and their families and involve them in all aspects of our work, including overall service planning and review as well as their support plans. It is important that we develop plans and initiatives which are right for our children and young people and will ensure that they are provided with opportunities to realise their ambitions.

1. Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential

We want to ensure that children and young people in County Durham are supported and encouraged to be the best that they can be, no matter what their aspirations are.

We want to ensure that children and young people are able to thrive in the environment in which they live and learn in order to achieve their very best. We will offer support if this environment is not helping them to reach their potential. We believe in supporting achievement, raising aspirations and instilling a belief that children and young people can achieve. This will lead to greater choices throughout childhood, teenage years and on into adulthood and future employment.

We need to ensure that this commitment is sustained for all children and young people, including the most vulnerable, to ensure that they are appropriately supported in relation to their own needs.

Going well

- Continued improvement in GCSE attainment, with 63.1% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English and Maths; this is the 11th year in a row where pass rates in the county have increased.
- 98.7% of pupils in community secondary schools achieved 2 A Levels at grade A*-E (Level 3) or equivalent, which is better than the national performance of 97.3%.
- Three year improvement trend at Key Stage 1 and above national average Key Stage 2 results
- The percentage of children attending a good or better school is higher than the national average and represents a significant improvement over time. Currently 84% of primary children and 88% of secondary children in maintained schools in Durham receive a good or better education.

Cause for concern

- The attainment gap at the Early Years Foundation Stage was greater in County Durham (33.4%) in the 2011/12 academic year than nationally (30.1%).

- The impact of the current economic climate on future opportunities for children, young people and their families such as lifestyle choices and employment.

Did you know?

- 91.4% of County Durham pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at A*-C compared to 82.9% of state educated pupils nationally
- County Durham has achieved a three year improvement trend at Key Stage 1 and is above the national average for Key Stage 2 results

Look out for:

- A 'Start Today' project information booklet, to signpost young people between the ages of 16-19 not in education, employment or training to local training and apprenticeship opportunities in the county
- Education, Health and Care Plans to replace "Statements of Need" and a 'Local Offer' of support services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) under the new SEND reforms, which will be available from September 2014

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Improve education outcomes for children with special educational needs and other vulnerable groups, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and publishing a web-based 'local offer' of education, health and social care services for children with special educational needs 	Head of Education	September 2014
Increase the participation of young people in learning and reduce the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the plan 'Believe, Achieve and Succeed : Increasing the Participation of Young People in Learning 2013- 2015' • Developing data and tracking mechanisms to support early intervention for those who need it 	Head of Education	March 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing careers education, information, advice and guidance to support progression 		
<p>Invest in early years to ensure readiness for school by</p> <p>creating sufficient nursery places for disadvantaged two year olds, based on Department of Education information on eligibility</p>	Head of Education	April 2015
<p>Improve achievement in all phases of education by raising standards and narrowing gaps in performance between pupil groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Key Stage 1, increase Level 2b+ in reading and mathematics and narrow the gender and Free School Meals gap • For Key Stage 2, raise attainment in writing for more able pupils and narrow the gender gap in reading and writing 	Head of Education	August 2017

2. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

Children and young people need the best possible start if they are to be successful and thrive later in life.

We want to provide support and promote healthy living from an early age, providing opportunities and choice for young people to participate in a range of sport, leisure and physical activities, helping to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Having a range of activities available for young people and their families can positively impact on a number of priorities such as maintaining a healthy weight, improving educational attainment, improving emotional wellbeing, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving self-esteem.

Risk-taking is a normal and healthy part of growing up, however, sometimes taking risks involves engaging in behaviour which leads to poorer or negative outcomes. We will encourage children and young people to be able to look after themselves

and others by making positive decisions about their behaviour and decisions they make.

In County Durham, we know that negative risk-taking behaviour can impact on higher teenage conceptions, higher alcohol and drugs use and youth crime. We will continue to provide children and young people with relevant and appropriate information and advice to help them make more informed choices regarding alcohol, drugs and relationships.

We also want children and young people to have resilience and to be able to cope more effectively with difficult situations. Good emotional health and wellbeing is crucial in the development of healthy, resilient children and young people, and being resilient often leads to more positive decision making in a person's life, no matter what their age.

However, some children and young people may experience mental health problems and where this is the case they will be further supported to access emotional wellbeing and mental health services as early as possible, which are appropriate to their needs.

Going well

- The Pre-Birth Intervention Service won 3 awards at the Children and Young People Now Awards. This pioneering service intervenes before children are born, to ensure that they get the best start in life, working with highly vulnerable families which have previously had children taken into care
- Physical activity levels in County Durham (56.7%) are higher than the England average (55.1%).

Cause for concern

- Although evidence suggests that the number of teenagers who drink has decreased in recent years, the amount of alcohol consumed by young people has increased.
- In County Durham, admission rates to hospital due to self-harm for 0-17 year olds in 2011/12 was significantly higher than England.

Did you know?

- In County Durham, vaccination coverage for many childhood diseases is significantly better than England.

Look out for:

- Continuation of a successful breastfeeding support scheme across the county, which has already seen over 100 local mothers trained as peer supporters and 16 baby cafés opened .
- Strategies to target support to the most vulnerable children, young people and families in the county regarding early years, early help and youth support.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Adopt the Council's approach to determining the distribution and range of fixed play equipment across the county	Head of Culture & Sports	October 2014
<p>Develop the wellbeing model to incorporate health and social care commissioning for County Durham, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing phase one of the wellbeing approach, with a provider in place to deliver services from existing access points and community buildings • Having an integrated approach across the council, so that joint planning and delivery enables communities and individuals to optimise their health and life opportunities • Working with primary care and specialised services to embed the wellbeing model in local service provision and reduce health inequalities in the county 	Director of Public Health County Durham	<p>September 2014</p> <p>September 2014</p> <p>March 2016</p>
<p>Work with partners to tackle risk-taking behaviour by young people (e.g. smoking, alcohol use, sexual health), by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Social Norms programme in schools across the county, which highlights behaviours, so that risk-taking by young people is reduced 	Director of Public Health County Durham /Head of Children's Services	March 2015

<p>Implement the Youth Support Strategy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing youth support services to provide a clear focus on delivering targeted support to young people vulnerable to poor outcomes • Working with the voluntary and community sector to provide a comprehensive offer of positive activities to young people in County Durham 	<p>Head of Children's Services</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<p>Continue to further reduce re-offending by children and young people, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implementing the new national youth justice assessment framework (ASSETPlus) which allows an end to end assessment and one record to follow a young person throughout their time in the youth justice system 	<p>Head of Children's Services</p>	<p>March 2017</p>
<p>Improve health, educational and social outcomes for children and young people and enable them to cope better with difficult situations, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing a resilience framework, to be used by professionals working in a range of universal and targeted settings with children and young people aged 0-19 (e.g. schools, children's centres, early years, youth or social care) 	<p>Director of Public Health County Durham</p>	<p>March 2017</p>

3. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families

We want to ensure that children and young people are kept safe from harm and that vulnerable families receive the support they need through the Stronger Families Programme. The 'Stronger Families' programme (known nationally as 'troubled families') provides support to families in the county experiencing problems or difficulties including:

- Those who have children who don't attend school or who are excluded;
- Those who are involved in antisocial behaviour or crime (including Domestic Abuse);
- Those not in work; and
- Those who result in high cost services such as families with children on the child protection list, families affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health problems.

Our vision is one where every child is protected from neglect and grows up in a safe environment, through effective working with our partner agencies.

We want to ensure that children, young people and their families are given the necessary social and emotional support at the earliest possible opportunity in order to reach their full potential. Preventing families from becoming vulnerable and enabling them to maximise their life chances is vitally important.

The complex issues faced by families who are in need of help often cannot be addressed by a single agency but demand a coordinated response, especially for those families who have children with additional needs. An integrated Think Family approach involves using a whole-family approach across all of our services and working with partners to provide early intervention for those families which have problems and cause problems to the community around them. This approach joins up local services, dealing with each family's problems as a whole, and using a range of methods to support families we will work with the most vulnerable families across County Durham to promote positive outcomes.

The implementation of our Early Help Strategy will deliver effective early intervention and prevention services to families in County Durham, whilst continuing to provide additional support to protect those children and young people who need it, by introducing First Contact, a 'single front door' for all referrals and a single assessment framework.

Generally, children in care have poorer outcomes than the wider population – particularly in relation to educational achievement, homelessness and mental health. We will continue to provide support to looked after children and young people in the county, to help them overcome the effects of the abuse and neglect they have suffered and to place them with families where they will achieve stability.

Going well

- County Durham's Stronger Families programme has identified and worked with 964 families as of December 2013, against a target of 1,320 by March 2015
- Durham County Council is in the top 20% of local authorities nationally in relation to the number of families 'turned around' through the Stronger Families programme

Cause for concern

- Safeguarding activity for children and young people continues to increase in County Durham.
- Of the 3,970 children in need as of 31st March 2013, 409 are subject to a child protection plan, a rate of 40.7 per 10,000 population. Although lower than the rate for the North East (51.1), it is still higher than the rate for England (37.9).

Did you know?

- Durham County Council works with the NHS, Clinical Commissioning Groups, schools, colleges, the police and the voluntary sector as part of the Children and Families Partnership, to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- For families needing extra help, a single support plan is agreed for the whole family, which clearly indicates what needs to change and how this will be achieved by everyone involved

Look out for:

- 'First Contact', a new referrals and assessment system for children, young people and families in County Durham, to ensure that families receive coordinated support at the earliest opportunity.
- Further promotion of adoption services within the county, to support the government's reforms to have more children being adopted by loving families with less delay.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Annual review of the Children Young People and Families Plan 2014/17, to inform the priorities of the Children and Families Partnership beyond April 2015	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Meet the requirements of adoption reform, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximising adoption for looked after children who are unable to live within their birth families• Ensuring that all children's cases are managed within the revised court timescales (Family Justice Review 2013)	Head of Children's Services	March 2015

Review the model of pre-birth intervention-led assessment for parents who have had previous children permanently cared for	Head of Children's Services	March 2015
Implement the placement stability action plan to improve fostering services for looked after children in the county	Head of Children's Services	March 2015
<p>Ensure that families receive effective help at the earliest opportunity, if they meet the following Stronger Families criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children who don't attend school or who are excluded • Are involved in anti-social behaviour or crime • Are not in work • Have a range of health issues or are high cost 	Head of Children's Services	April 2015
<p>Transform Children's Services and implement the early help strategy, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting our workforce to assertively identify, help and support children, young people and families to stop their needs developing and enable them to have positive outcomes • Providing a single support plan for the whole family which clearly indicates the objectives of the family and the associated responsibilities of the family and the practitioners • Using a single but proportionate assessment model across all levels of need and assessment 	Head of Children's Services	March 2016

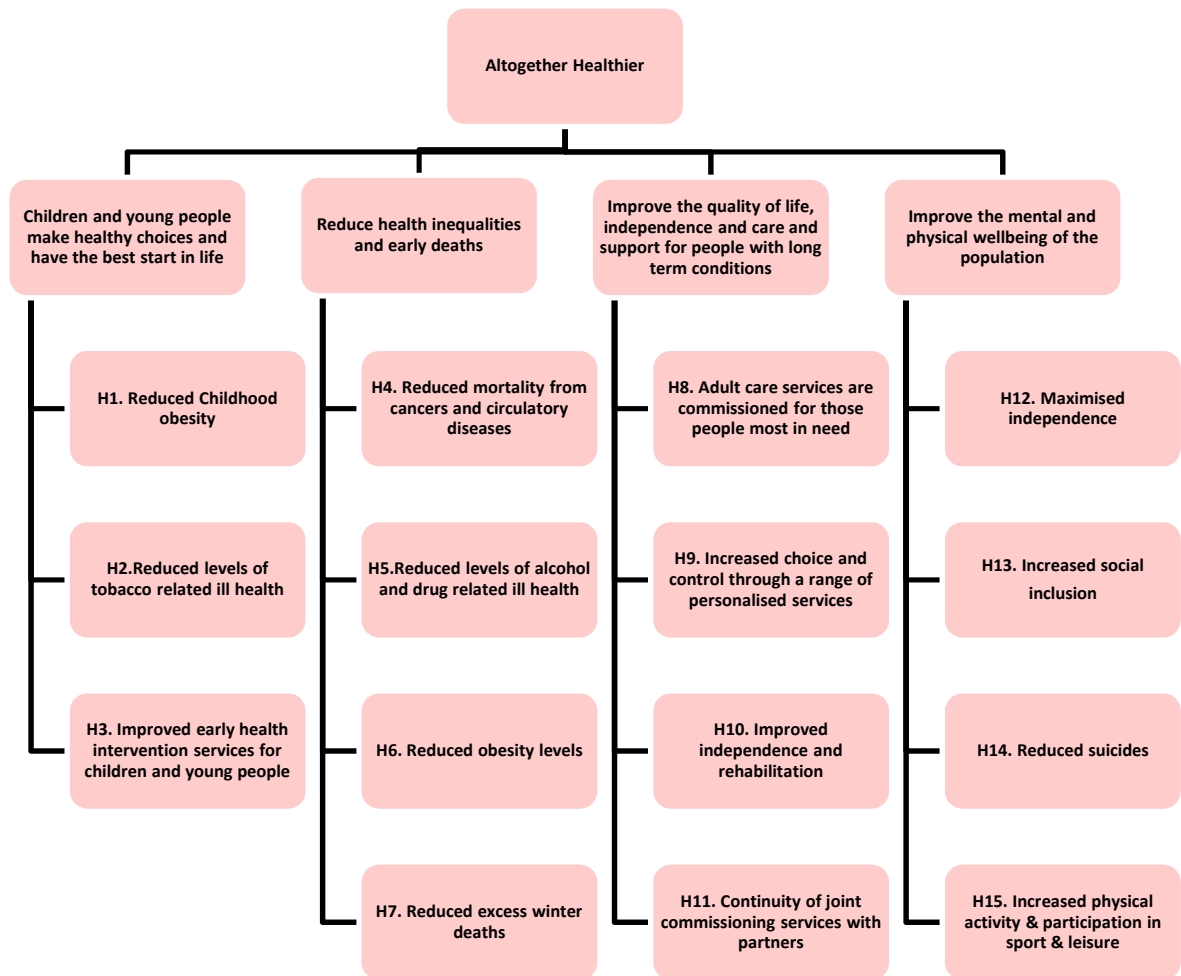
Implement the Looked After Children
Reduction Strategy, to:

Head of Children's Services

March 2017

- Reduce the number of looked after children in the county
- Provide effective alternatives to care and create permanent places for children and young people
- Reduce the number of looked after children reported as missing from care

Altogether Healthier



The Altogether Healthier theme focuses on providing early support to those who need it, joining up services with partners and giving people more choice over the services provided to meet their eligible needs.

Health in County Durham has improved significantly over recent years, but remains below average for England. Health inequalities remain in the County with levels of deprivation being higher than the average for England. Life expectancy is also lower in County Durham than the England average. Like many local authority areas in the country, County Durham has an ageing population which will place additional pressures on health and social care services over the coming years.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 has provided the opportunity through the Health and Wellbeing Board to work together to improve the health of the local population and reduce health inequalities. The Health and Wellbeing Board has refreshed the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for County Durham, which outlines a three year vision and sets priorities for commissioners to purchase health and social care services.

Working closely with Clinical Commissioning Groups, Durham County Council will continue to provide a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for County Durham, which includes the evidence relating to the health and wellbeing of people in the county.

The Care Bill aims to transform the social care system to focus on prevention and the needs and goals of people with eligible care needs. Reforms to social care support will be a significant focus from 2014, as the council works with partners to prepare for the changes required in 2015 and 2016. This includes transforming the way social care is delivered and putting processes in place to implement the cap of £72,000 on care costs.

1. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

What happens to children before they are born and in their early years can affect their health and opportunities later in life, and those who grow up in a safe environment and have a healthy relationship with their parents and peers are more likely to do better as they go through life.

We want to do more to help children who grow up in the most vulnerable families and to support parents to give their children the best possible care. We also want to help children be as healthy as possible, by preventing illness and encouraging healthy behaviours. Working with partners across the county, and through focused consultation with children, young people and their families, we will continue to develop and deliver services which meet their needs and aspirations.

Going well

- County Durham's Pre-Birth Intervention Service won 3 awards at the Children and Young People Now Awards in London on 27th November 2013.
- County Durham has continued to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies from a rate of 54.4 per 1,000 15-17 year olds in 1998 to 31.8 in mid-2012; this is better than the regional average.
- Promotion of school meals uptake and subsidising the cost for school meals; over 50% of all primary school children have school meals in County Durham

Cause for concern

- Obesity prevalence in age 10-11 year olds (21.6%) is higher than the England average (19%).
- Alcohol-related hospital admission rates for children and young people under 18 (116 per 100,000) are higher than the regional and national rate (96.5 and 55.8 per 100,000 population).
- Admission rates to hospital due to self-harm for 0-17 year olds in 2011/12 were (228 per 100,000), higher than England (116 per 100,000 population).

Did you know?

- The rate of children and young people (0-17) in receipt of Disability Living Allowance is higher in County Durham (44.6) than regionally (36.7) and nationally (31.4 per 1,000 population).
- Over 1,500 children, young people and their families were supported through a weight management programme last year, which supports healthy eating and physical activity

Look out for:

- The Children, Young People and Families Plan which has been developed with input from local children, young people and their families.
- Development of a Healthy Weight Strategy for County Durham.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Improve support to families and children to develop healthy weight, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a healthy weight strategy which focuses on evidence to promote physical activity and a healthy diet by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing education and training on food growing clubs/allotments ○ Improving access to physical activity and encourage greater use of the natural environment • Implementing a healthy weight strategy delivery plan 	Director of Public Health County Durham	December 2014 March 2016 March 2016 March 2017
Improve support to women to start and continue to breastfeed their babies, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further developing peer support programmes to provide information and listening support in antenatal and postnatal periods, to increase the number of women who start and continue to breastfeed • Further developing the breastfeeding-friendly venues scheme with businesses, to enable women to breastfeed their babies more easily when outside of the home 	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015

Delivery of the Living Streets Project to promote and increase the numbers of children walking to school in traffic congested areas	Head of Transport and Contract Services	March 2015
Evaluate the 'baby clear' initiative to increase the uptake locally of stop smoking services for pregnant women.	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015
Work with partners to develop a single pathway for early intervention, by: Working with school nurses midwives and health visitors, in line with the Healthy Child Programme which offers immunisations, information and guidance on parenting and healthy choices	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2017

2. Reduce health inequalities and early deaths

Although health in County Durham has improved over recent years and people now live longer lives, the rate of progress has not been equal across the county and health inequalities are still evident.

Health inequalities are affected by a number of complex issues such as lower household income levels, lower educational attainment levels and higher levels of unemployment. County Durham residents have higher rates of benefit claimants suffering from mental health or behavioural disorders.

Lifestyle choices remain a key area of focus to reduce premature deaths and many people in County Durham continue to make poor lifestyle choices when compared to England. Levels of adult obesity in County Durham are worse than the England average, and affect the least well off more. Alcohol is a significant contributor to ill-health across all age groups and all areas of the county. Rates of hospital stays for alcohol related harm remain significantly higher than the England average.

Local priorities for tackling these inequalities include reducing smoking, tackling obesity, promoting positive mental health and reducing early deaths from heart disease and cancer.

Going well

- 81.1% of eligible women were screened for cervical cancer in the 5 years to the end of March 2013; this exceeded the North East average (79.5%) and national target (80%).
- 38% of people in treatment with the community alcohol service between January and December 2012 successfully completed treatment, exceeding national performance of 36%.

Cause for concern

- The percentage of people with long term conditions, for example diabetes, coronary heart disease and stroke is higher than the England average.
- Adult obesity is increasing with 28.6% of the adult population now classed as obese compared to the England average of (24.2%).
- Alcohol specific hospital admission rates for men and women are higher than the England average.

Did you know?

- Since the beginning of the Health Check programme in October 2008, 84,349 people have had a NHS Health Check

Look out for:

- The Warm and Healthy Homes programme which aims to tackle excess winter mortality of people with a long term health condition by installing domestic energy efficiency measures resulting in warmer homes, lower fuel bills and a reduction in cold related illness.
- Further promotion of public health initiatives such as the Change4Life programme, NHS Health Checks, cancer awareness and screening programmes.
- A new wellbeing service to support people who have long term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and those who have had strokes.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Review the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to provide an overview of health and wellbeing needs in County Durham	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Review the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to inform strategic commissioning for health and social care Clinical Commissioning Groups and the local authority	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Develop joint action plans with partners to reduce the number of people who have cancer, heart disease and strokes, by increasing public awareness and early diagnosis	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015
Work with partners to implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for County Durham, to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities by:	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using social marketing techniques to raise awareness about the harms of alcohol Agreeing the best approaches to tackling alcohol related harm in pubs, other venues and places 		
Integrate existing interventions into the Warm and Healthy Homes Programme to address the impact of fuel poverty and target people who have a health condition	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015
Develop a Healthy Weight Alliance for County Durham and bring key elements of an obesity strategy together, by:	Director of Public Health County Durham	April 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a performance and reporting process in order to make relevant data available to all partners 		March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a shared communications plan for partners to provide information on activities-to improve accessibility and maximise opportunities for residents across the county 		March 2016
Work with partners to implement a County Durham Drugs Strategy, to prevent harm, restrict supply and build recovery within communities, by:	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using targeted approaches to raise awareness in County Durham of the harm caused by drugs Providing specific targeted training and education to support individuals, professionals, communities and families to address the harm caused by drugs 		

3. Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions

An increasingly older population will see rising prevalence of mental health conditions, dementia, increased levels of disability and long term conditions and will

significantly increase the number of people we need to provide care for, in both the health and care systems. Long term conditions have a significant impact on reducing the length and quality of a person's life. They also impact on family members who may act as carers.

Through the draft Care Bill, the government is changing the care and support system so that it focuses more clearly and fairly on people's wellbeing, supporting them to live independently for as long as possible. The care and support reforms aim to improve the experience of people needing care and support and also provide better support to carers. The government's Better Care Fund will contribute to local efforts to improve the integration of health and social care services, through the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board.

We continue to work towards mainstreaming self-directed support as the core model for assessment and service delivery for adults in need of social care services. Self-directed support enables people in need of services to have much more control over their assessment and care planning, and have greater choice and control over the services they receive to meet their assessed needs.

The reablement service continues to improve people's confidence and ability to regain their independence to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

We will continue to work with health partners to provide intermediate care services for people, which promote faster recovery from illness, prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and maximise independent living.

Going well

- Reablement services help to get people back on their feet after poor health or a period in hospital; following receipt of the reablement service, 62% of service users did not need any further ongoing care.
- 59.5% of service users have been provided with a personal budget to meet their adult social care needs; this is better than England (55.5%) and North East (52%) averages.

Cause for concern

- Locally, diabetes prevalence has risen from 3.9% in 2006/07 to 6.5% in 2011/12, placing a significant burden on local health care costs.
- Adult obesity is increasing with 28.6% of the adult population now classed as obese compared to the England average of 24.2%

Did you know?

- 94.3% of adult social care service users reported that the care, help and support they receive has made their quality of life better.
- The County Durham Dignity in Care scheme was shortlisted for the Great British Care Awards in May 2013; this is a system where there is zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of adults - treating people as individuals and enabling them to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control over their own lives.

Look out for:

- The government's Care Bill becoming law in 2014, which will change the way in which care and support is provided

- Implementation of 'Deciding Right', a North-East initiative for making care decisions in advance to ensure that they are centred on the person and minimise the likelihood of unnecessary or unwanted treatment

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Work with the NHS to develop an out of hours call handling service for GPs and Emergency Departments to prevent inappropriate hospital admissions	Head of Transport & Contract Services	July 2014
Ensure consistent and effective application of eligibility criteria, through the assessment process, so that adult social care services continue to be provided to those people most in need	Head of Adult Care	March 2015
Develop guidance for frontline staff on outcome-focused models of care which will transform the way social care is delivered to service users	Head of Adult Care	March 2015
Ensure that eligible people have access to the reablement service to provide support to service users to help increase independence through the care management process	Head of Adult Care/ Head of Commissioning	March 2015
Review the Market Position Statement, which provides information to existing and potential service providers on local priorities for all service user groups	Head of Commissioning	March 2015

4. Improve mental and physical wellbeing of the population

In County Durham, improving the mental and physical wellbeing of the population has continued to remain a priority. Maintaining good mental wellbeing is very important to peoples' relationships, education, training, work and to individuals achieving their potential. Maintaining good physical wellbeing has a positive impact on the way a person feels in relation to their mental wellbeing. It is the foundation for wellbeing and the effective functioning of individuals and communities. Mental and physical wellbeing impact on how individuals think, feel, communicate and understand.

People at higher risk of suffering from poor mental health include those with poor educational attainment, the unemployed, older people, those with long term conditions (such as coronary heart disease, diabetes), people with learning disabilities and people living in more deprived communities.

It is recognised that maximising independence for people is an important contributor to positive mental health. It is also widely acknowledged that participation in work is one of the main routes to social inclusion and improving mental health and wellbeing. The financial and emotional burden of unemployment has a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing, and problems such as anxiety and depression impact on significant numbers of people out of work.

Going well

- There are 11 cafes in the county where people with dementia and their carers can meet, as well as talk to professionals for help, support and advice.

Cause for concern

- The number of people assessed with mental health needs in County Durham has increased by 31.3%.
- There are over 4,400 people in County Durham registered with GPs with a diagnosis of mental illness.
- Suicide rates in County Durham (11.5 per 100,000) were significantly higher than England (7.9 per 100,000) between 2009/11.

Did you know?

- Nationally life expectancy is on average 10 years lower for people with mental health problems due to poor physical health.
- At least one in four people will experience a mental health problem at some point in their life.

Look out for:

- Implementation of the Mental Health Employment and Training Strategy, to help increase the number of people progressing into education, training, volunteering and employment.
- A Public Mental Health Strategy for County Durham

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Physical Activity Delivery Plan, providing a greater range of opportunities to increase participation and activity levels in County Durham 	Director of Public Health County Durham	March 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and providing a community core offer for physical activity across the county, with additional targeted opportunities based on geography / health need 		
<p>Work together to support people who have dementia to live in their own home for as long as possible and help them to maintain independence, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the National Dementia Strategy and other national, regional and local dementia initiatives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early diagnosis Support to remain independent End of life care 	Head of Commissioning	March 2015
<p>Develop a culture and sport 'core offer' which defines the nature and scope of the new service area with individual implementation plans to be established, to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local people</p>	Head of Culture and Sport	April 2015
<p>Develop and commission an adult wellbeing service within the 30% most deprived geographies of County Durham, to address the factors which influence health and wellbeing, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in partnership to ensure that the social determinants of health, e.g. housing and employment, are embedded into the service Working in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that the adult wellbeing service is jointly commissioned, to support the population with long term conditions 	Director of Public Health County Durham	April 2016

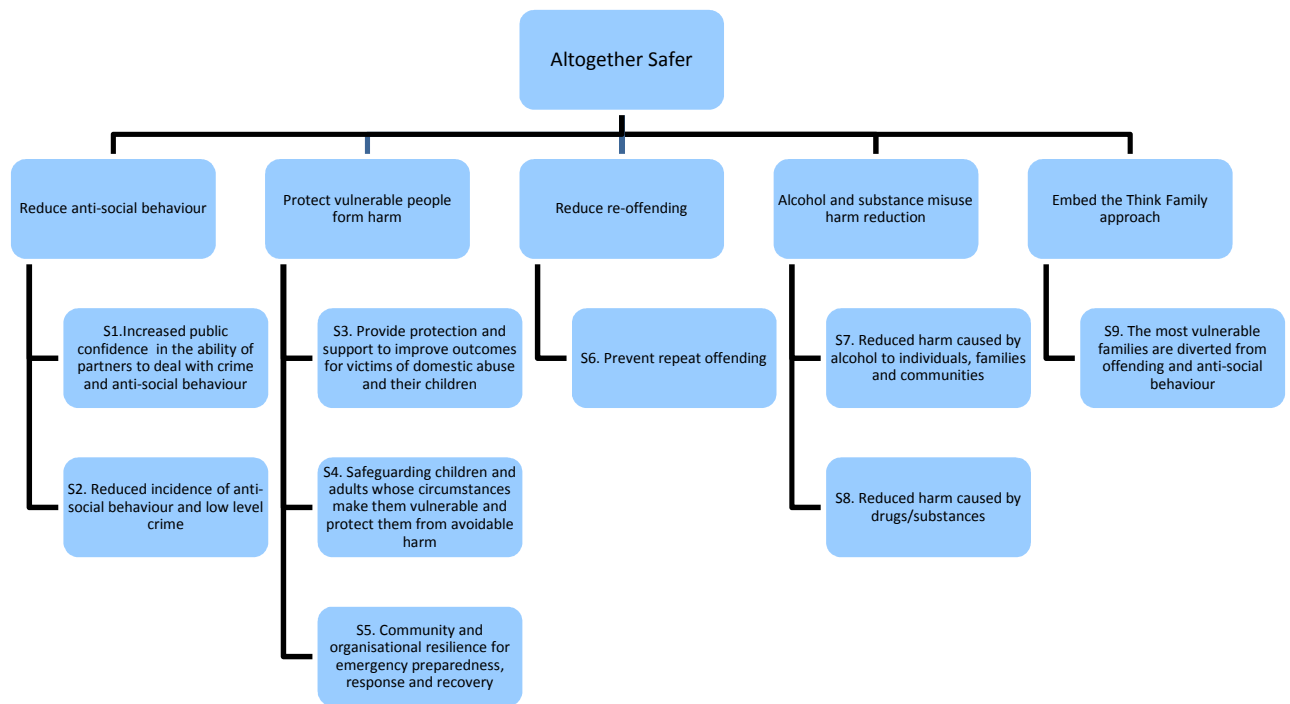
Work with partners to implement a multi-agency Public Mental Health Strategy, including suicide prevention, by:

Director of Public Health
County Durham

March 2017

- Promotion of positive mental health in partnership plans
- Providing early intervention for those who need it
- Helping people recover from episodes of mental ill health

Altogether Safer



The Altogether Safer theme focuses on creating a safer and more cohesive county and the council works with partner organisations, as a key member of the Safe Durham Partnership, to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan outlines progress in reducing anti-social behaviour, improving community safety and increasing public confidence. The council will continue to support the partnership in delivering on our shared priorities, building on achievements and working together to meet the challenges ahead.

Key hotspots around the county are identified as particularly vulnerable in terms of crime and disorder. These areas generally face problems such as unemployment, low educational attainment and ill-health. Evidence shows that there are links between levels of deprivation and levels of domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, re-offending and alcohol and substance misuse.

1. Reduce anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is associated with everyday problems such as noise, abandoned cars, vandalism, litter, intimidation and harassment. ASB can also affect people's happiness and pride in their community as a place to live and deters them from accessing local parks and other community spaces.

Despite progress made in tackling ASB, the public still perceive anti-social behaviour to be a problem. As a result, the council will work with the Safe Durham Partnership to improve the way in which partners capture and record complaints. It will also set out to tackle those specific issues the public have raised. These include: underage drinking; dealing / using drugs; dog fouling; rubbish lying around; and speeding.

Going well

- The number of incidents of ASB recorded by the police continued to reduce during 2012/13.
- 60% of respondents to the Crime Survey agreed that the local council and police are dealing with concerns of ASB and crime.

Cause for concern

- Despite progress made in tackling ASB, the public generally still perceive anti-social behaviour to be a problem.

Did you know?

- During 2012/13, crime in the county fell by 14%, anti-social behaviour fell by 24% and deliberate and not known secondary fires fell by 43%.

Look out for:

- Expansion of the use of Community Speedwatch campaigns across the county.
- Local campaigns to target littering and dog fouling, including the power to issue fixed penalty notices.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Review of key strategic documents, to determine priorities for the council and the Safe Durham Partnership:	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment 2014 to provide the evidence		November 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe Durham Partnership Plan refresh 2015 to provide the priorities and actions		June 2015

Work with responsible authorities to implement the anti-social behaviour and public confidence action plans for 2014/17, to respond to the areas of most concern to the public including underage drinking, dog fouling, litter and rubbish, and vehicle speeding to increase public confidence and to deliver a 'How Can I Get Involved?' publicity campaign	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
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2. Protect vulnerable people from harm

Protecting vulnerable people from harm is a key priority for Durham County Council and partners through the Safe Durham Partnership. The priority includes effectively responding to, and better protecting, those vulnerable individuals and communities at most risk of serious harm, improving the safety of domestic abuse victims and their children, and reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse.

Safeguarding children and adults continues to remain a key priority for Durham County Council and partners and a zero tolerance approach has been adopted through the delivery of comprehensive training and communication strategies, national drivers and media attention linked to the care services industry. This means that all agencies are fully committed to preventing the abuse of children and adults and responding promptly when abuse is suspected.

The County Durham Sexual Violence Strategy brings partners together to tackle sexual violence and the negative impact it has on individuals and families.

Durham County Council has a statutory duty, as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to provide an Emergency Response Service. The council is supported by Durham & Darlington Civil Contingencies Unit and other key voluntary agencies, to ensure that it provides organisational resilience and emergency preparedness, response and recovery arrangements through its Emergency Response Team.

Going well

- During 2012/13, the repeat domestic abuse victim rate was 12.6% against a national target of 25% or less.
- An Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services found that safeguarding partnership work was outstanding in County Durham.

Cause for concern

- In 2012/13, the majority of safeguarding referrals for alleged abuse refer to incidents which occurred in care homes and at the service user's home address.
- Sexual offences are under-reported in the county - the number of reported offences stands at 306 in comparison to the 2011/12 outturn of 333.

Did you know?

- Safeguarding adults' referrals in 2012/13 identify that physical abuse was the main type of adult abuse recorded.
- The numbers of adults accessing outreach support from domestic abuse services have increased year on year, with 1,605 adults accessing support during 2010/11 and 2,373 during 2012/13 – an overall increase of 47.8%.

Look out for:

- Awareness-raising campaigns on hate crime, which will help people to understand how to recognise and report it.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Ensure that the Safeguarding Adults Board implements the requirements of the draft Care Bill, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revising the terms of reference to ensure that they are fit for purpose.• Reviewing the annual reporting and business reporting processes	Head of Adult Care	March 2015
Work with responsible authorities to implement the Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for 2014-17, to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increasing awareness of services and the public• providing training to increase referrals• taking action to reduce the risk of victim and bring perpetrators to justice	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Building Community resilience to Emergencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop approach and methodology for the development of community resilience plans in communities where demand exists	Head of Policy and Communications	October 2014

- Working with local communities develop and ensure Community Resilience plans are in place, including training in relation to activation of plan. April 2017

Building organisational resilience of the Council to business interruptions: Head of Policy and Communications

- Corporate Business Continuity Plan in place. April 2015

3. Reduce re-offending

The government objective for reducing crime and re-offending encourages a focus on society's most prolific and problematic offenders. The Safe Durham Partnership will continue to prioritise the effective management of offenders, who are identified as committing a disproportionate amount of crime and harm in their local communities.

Going well

- During 2012/13, offences committed by young people fell by 18.1% compared to 2011/12 and the number of young people offending fell by 17.3%.
- The Integrated Offender Management programme is well established and continues to achieve significant reductions in adult re-offending, with a current reduction of 58%.
- Support into employment and successful engagement with the Recovery Academy in Durham is helping offenders find work and live a drug-free life.

Cause for concern

- The scope of re-offending work has been increased from reducing prolific offending to reducing all proven offending by adults and juveniles; the Safe Durham Partnership will need to provide a clear profile of all such offending and identify those types which are most prevalent.

Did you know?

- In 2013, the County Durham Youth Offending Service won the 'Youth Justice Award' for the third time in four years with their Intensive Employability Programme, which helps young people with lengthy criminal records to make new lives for themselves.

Look out for:

- Work to further increase victim involvement with young people is to be rolled out across the county.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Refresh the Reducing Re-offending Strategy and develop and implement a new action plan, to include delivering projects aimed at women offenders, restorative approaches, transforming rehabilitation, offender mental health, and health needs of young people who offend	Head of Children's Services	March 2015

4. Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

Alcohol and Substance misuse contributes to a significant proportion of crime and anti-social behaviour, with links to both organised crime and child sexual exploitation. Underage drinking and drugs in the community are in the top three issues which the public in county Durham want tackling.

Despite a rise in alcohol-related violent crime and alcohol-related domestic violence in 2011/12, levels have fallen back below those in 2010/11. During 2012/13, the number of anti-social behaviour incidents related to alcohol remained stable at just over 16%.

During 2011/12 there were 1,738 drug users in effective treatment and 1,758 people in treatment with the community alcohol service. The percentage of all exits from alcohol treatment which are planned discharges stand at 64%. The percentage of drug users in treatment who successfully completed treatment during 2011/12 was 10.8%.

Going well

- 38% of people in treatment with the community alcohol service between January and December 2012 successfully completed their treatment plan; this is better than the national average of 36%.
- Between April and September 2013, the number of women experiencing domestic abuse who were re-referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference is 7.8%; this is significantly better than the England average of 24%.

Cause for concern

- Alcohol misuse is strongly linked to crime and anti-social behaviour and performance data for 2012/13 shows that 32% of violent crimes are alcohol related.
- The public's perception of alcohol and drug-related nuisance remains high and this will be a key focus for the Safe Durham Partnership in 2014.

Did you know?

- As part of a project targeting youth-related alcohol nuisance in parts of the county, 30 licensees received responsible retailer training.
- The number of people completing substance misuse treatment is increasing – criminal justice clients make up 20% of the treatment population and of these 11.7% completed treatment.

Look out for:

- The partnership will focus on young people drinking; this will include public places and standardising the level of alcohol seizures across the county.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Work with responsible authorities to implement the 'prevention and control' element of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Delivery Plan, to reduce the impact of alcohol related disorder in targeted areas across the county by improving data and intelligence, raising awareness of alcohol harm	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Work with responsible authorities to develop and deliver the new County Durham Drug Strategy and action plan for 2014/17 by strengthening restorative approaches as part of recovery and rehabilitation and increasing awareness in order to reduce drug use, reduce drug related incidents and provide public reassurance	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015
Work with partners to deliver a range of intelligence led interventions to reduce the harm caused by alcohol	Head of Environmental Health & Consumer Protection	March 2015

5. Embed a 'Think Family' Approach

'Think Family' is a multi-agency approach which seeks to provide early intervention for those families which have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector.

The Safe Durham Partnership and the council has adopted this approach in order to provide families with the best possible opportunity to avoid involvement in crime and disorder and reduce their impact on our services. Achieving our targets will have financial benefits and will present social benefits for those areas of the county where communities suffer most.

In County Durham, we also use this approach as part of our 'Stronger Families' programme, known nationally as Troubled Families, which provides support to families in the county experiencing problems or difficulties, including those who:

- have children who don't attend school or who are excluded;
- are involved in antisocial behaviour or crime (including Domestic Abuse);

- are not in work; and
- result in high cost services such as families with children on the child protection list, families affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health problems.

The Think Family approach joins up local services, dealing with each family's problems as a whole and using a range of methods to support families and challenge poor behaviour. The approach also builds on the 'High Impact Household' programme adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership and the council in 2011.

Going well

- 312 families have been 'turned around' in the first ten months of 2013; this means 60% less anti-social behaviour and 33% less offending by minors in those families.
- The Safe Durham Partnership and Durham County Council are fully committed to embedding the 'Think Family' approach across local initiatives and problem-solving groups; the anti-social behaviour escalation policy and mental health protocols are examples of how we can intervene early.

Cause for concern

- Maintaining significant and continuous reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour can only be achieved by building on what works and being able to adapt the way we approach problems.

Did you know?

- Our offender management programme will benefit from additional engagement with families of offenders, so that services can be designed around the issues they raise.

Look out for:

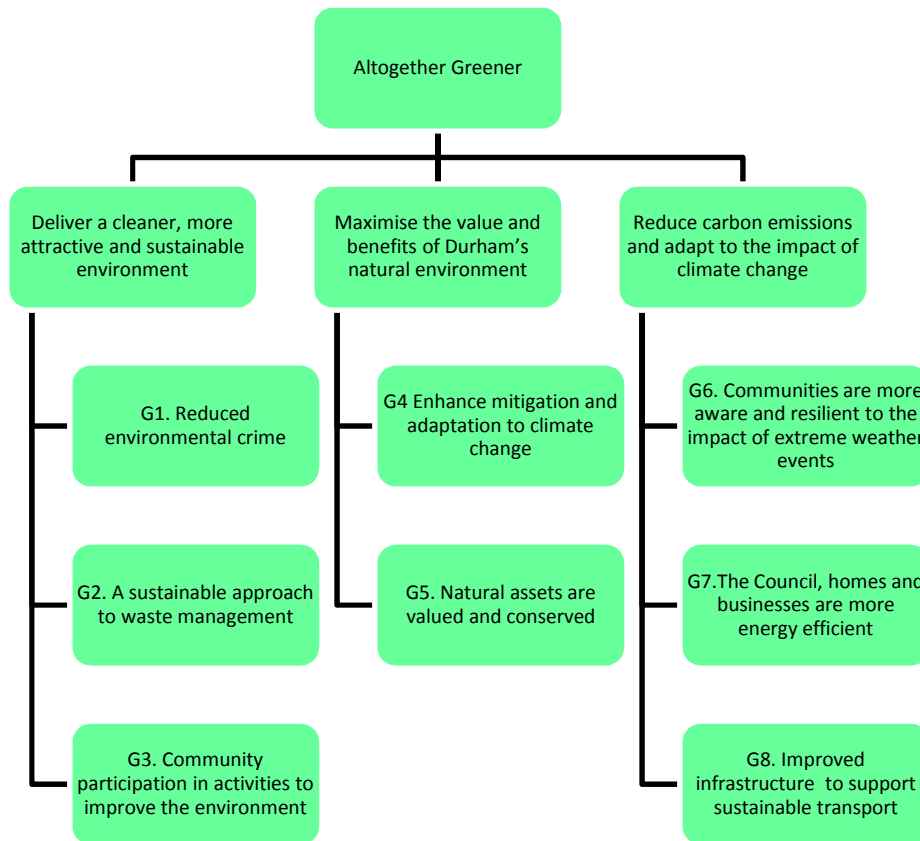
- Improved domestic abuse services, which will be able to draw on additional support networks as part of the 'Think Family' approach.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Embed the Think Family approach, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training staff in restorative approaches for early intervention when working with families • Incorporating 'Think Family' when managing offenders and domestic abuse services by working with the whole family rather than individuals in isolation 	Head of Planning & Service Strategy	March 2015

- Integrating Think Family into Multi Agency Partnership (MAP) processes so all partnerships understand the processes to support the family

Altogether Greener



Each objective is underpinned by a number of outcomes and we recognise there are cross-cutting issues and complex relationships across the theme. We also recognise that the Altogether Greener theme interlinks with other priority altogether themes and contributes to the wider determinants of health.

We accept that to be truly successful in this area, we must harness the contribution that everyone can make and we are committed to supporting and working in partnership with both the community and the voluntary sector, involving all in the decisions that affect them.

1. Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment

The appearance of our local communities plays an important role in many aspects of our daily lives and the quality of our public spaces, both perceived and actual. It is a major influence for residents when determining which areas they intend to use, in what capacity and when. Well maintained streets, free from litter, dog fouling, graffiti and fly-tipping, and attractive, inviting green spaces that are not blighted by dumped rubbish and abandoned vehicles, are consistently ranked as important to our residents.

However, an attractive environment is not solely about the council improving its operations. To be truly effective and sustainable we need to harness the contribution that everyone can make. For this reason, we will continue to both support and work with our communities, partner organisations and the voluntary

sector to ensure our local environment is clean, attractive and shaped around community needs.

The new contracts that we have put in place in deal with the disposal of our waste have resulted in over 70% of waste calculated across the county being diverted away from landfill. We believe sending rubbish to landfill is not sustainable for a number of environmental, financial and practical reasons and we support the principle that it is better to minimise the amount of waste being produced and to recycle materials into new products before resorting to any other treatment method.

We are committed to delivering improved recycling and waste management services tailored to our local circumstances and based on principles of sustainable living. We accept that there will always be materials that can't be recycled and whenever possible we will divert these materials from landfill and instead use to generate energy.

Going well

- Delivery of successful initiatives to tackle environmental issues, including high profile campaigns and 'weeks in action'.
- The percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside and recycled has continued to increase since the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collection.
- Many local environmental improvements have been made by working with our communities including:
 - 14 of our parks and open spaces have been awarded green flag status; the highest of all local authorities in the North East. Eight of these related to our cemeteries and crematoria.
 - Durham City was awarded a gold award and Chester-le-Street a silver award in the 'large town' category of Northumbria in Bloom Awards 2013.
 - Sunderland Bridge was successful in the 'best small village' category and Brandon Village Community Association in 'best group horticultural project' category of Beautiful Durham Awards 2013.

Cause for concern

- An increase in fly-tipping incidents.
- High levels of contamination within household recyclate collected from the kerbside, primarily pet waste, nappies and food waste.
- Waste volumes have decreased year on year, partly due to the economic climate. If economic recovery is accompanied by an increase in the volume of waste then there will be pressure on service delivery.

Did you know?

- We generate enough renewable electricity from the gas produced by old landfills to power more than 2,000 homes each year.
- We have the power to ensure householders keep their gardens and yards tidy: during 2013/14 we cleared 2,500 gardens and yards that were classed as in a 'poor state'.
- We have introduced a 'Litter Awareness Programme': first time enviro-crime offenders (aged 10-17 years) will have the option of attending a 90 minute educational session and litter pick as an alternative to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

- We can introduce a number of measures at hot-spot locations for fly-tipping. This can range from barriers to physically prevent people from entering the location to installing covert CCTV cameras to identify and prosecute offenders.
- During the 2013 Big Spring Clean, 1397 volunteers gave up a combined 2,106 hours to collect 1,086 bags of rubbish at 85 locations.

Look out for:

- The opportunity to participate in Altogether Greener Week 2014, incorporating World Environment Day (June).
- Projects and individuals nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014). Categories include volunteering (under 18, over 18 and group) as well as community participation.
- Environmental campaigns in your area including:
 - Local litter picks
 - Dog fouling campaign (February 2014).
 - Big Spring Clean (April - May 2014)
 - Litter from cars campaign (August 2014)
- The opportunity to run a community allotment, e-mail civicpride@durham.gov.uk for details.
- Your new collection calendar for garden waste which will run between 18 March and 7 November in agreed collection areas.

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Produce a new Waste Management Strategy for County Durham	Head of Projects & Business Services	June 2014
Deliver the Waste Transfer Stations Capital Improvement Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annfield Plain, Stanley • Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe • Stainton Grove, Barnard Castle • Thornley (demolish and rebuild) 	Head of Projects & Business Services	December 2014 December 2014 December 2014 March 2015
Increase community ownership and involvement in the management of allotments	Head of Direct Services	December 2014
Host the 25th Environment Awards.	Head of Planning & Assets	December 2014
Through the Community Action Team (CAT), deliver a programme of targeted interventions around environment, health and consumer protection	Head of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection	March 2015

Reduce incidents of environmental crime through targeted activity delivered jointly with Social Landlords within locality 'hotspots' using high profile campaigns and organised events.	Head of Direct Services	December 2015
Develop a Waste Transfer Station Strategy and action plan to maximise their potential	Head of Projects & Business Services	March 2016
Develop and implement the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision plan	Head of Projects & Business Services	September 2016

2. Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

Not only is there evidence that communities with shared natural areas demonstrate more social interaction and vibrancy but also that well managed green environments can provide significant social benefits, for example, deterring crime and anti-social behaviour (contact with nature has been shown to reduce aggressive behaviour) or aiding the recovery of hospital patients (if the patient has access to views of nature). The natural environment is an ideal place to take exercise and it has been noted that higher levels of physical activity exist within those communities that have access to natural space. For those walking outdoors, exercise becomes a secondary motivation as it is surpassed by the attraction and enjoyment of contact with nature.

By utilising the benefits of the natural environment we can increase the resilience of our communities to extreme weather events. As eco-systems absorb roughly half of all man-made carbon emissions, peatlands, wetlands, soil, forests and water all play a crucial role in adapting to and mitigating against climate change.

Going well

- We created 10 new community woodlands (covering a total area of 350 acres) in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. (in partnership with the Woodland Trust)
- We are proposing to create three new woodlands near Castleside and improve the management of ancient woodlands near Allensford as part of the Heritage Lottery funded 'Land of Oak and Iron' project.
- We will be carrying out major thinning and management works on a number of other woodlands in the coming years, mostly conifer plantations on former colliery reclamation sites, to improve their amenity and wildlife value.
- The number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), under the control of DCC or managed by partners, in positive conservation management

Cause for concern

- Inability to influence those Local Wildlife Sites not under the our control
- Fragmentation and poor condition of parts of our woodland resource.

Did you know?

- Incidents of environmental anti-social behaviour along the coastline can be reported via a hotline.
- Every Tuesday and Wednesday, a group of volunteers (Volunteer Countryside Rangers) contribute to the protection and enhancement of our coast and countryside by picking litter, clearing gorse, keeping footpaths open, managing magnesian limestone and woodland habitats, looking after wetland areas and improving animal habitats. New recruits are always welcome (details are available on the DCC website).
- 'Country Durham', the newsletter of our Countryside Service, is available from the DCC website. It contains details of sites, events, walks and volunteering opportunities throughout the County.
- Viewing platforms have been installed at Crime Rigg, Thrislington, Old Quarrington and Coxhoe (Raisby) quarries. We have also created a fossil hunting bay at Cassop Primary school, where pupils and visitors can hunt for fossil fish in the famous marl slate.

Look out for:

- Wildflower planting on selected verges and open spaces across the county (March and September)
- Poppies along the central verge of the A691 between County Hall and the DLI Museum to commemorate World War 1
- Projects nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014) in the 'Natural Environment' category.
- The Heathland and Open Habitat Mosaics project in Derwentside (winter 2014)
- Our 'Guided Walks Programme' which details more than 130 walks, including specialist walks that incorporate art and photography, and family walks (little legs, big fun) which incorporate scavenger hunts, games and quizzes along the route (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=468>)
- Changes at Wharton Park. The £2.2 million refurbishment will include a visitor centre and extension, play equipment upgrade, trim track, climbing wall and improvements to the amphitheatre.
- Information panels at each quarry viewing platform (see above) and the availability of downloadable information booklets for each site. Once this work has been completed, we will organise school visits and community visits to the sites.

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Establish a carbon reduction baseline and subsequent targets for 2014 onwards in relation to the new Waste Service contracts	Head of Projects and Business Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline		August 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targets		June 2015

3. Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

One consequence of climate change is a likely increase in extreme weather events, e.g. flooding, heatwaves, storms, subsidence and water-shortage. With a changing climate and predictions of wetter winters, warmer summers and greater frequencies of extreme weather, it is important that local communities are able to interpret these headline warnings, understand the likely impacts to themselves and prepare appropriately.

One of the major contributors to climate change is carbon dioxide (CO₂) and there are many ways in which we, our communities and local businesses can reduce the amount of CO₂ produced.

Increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings will not only reduce CO₂ but will also provide a financial saving. Choice of transport is another major factor relevant to reducing CO₂ emissions. Developing and delivering practical, cost-effective initiatives that enable many more people to travel by foot, bike or public transport will positively influence our carbon footprint.

Going well

- The Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme to replace or retrofit 41,000 lamps with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) is underway. The result will be fewer harmful emissions, a reduction of 7,500 tonnes of energy each year and a financial saving of £24 million over the next 25 years.
- We have reduced carbon emissions by 787 tonnes per year by carrying out a number of improvements at four of our most popular and high energy consuming buildings. Crook Civic Centre, Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and Chester-le-Street Leisure Centre have been made more energy efficient through the installation of combined heat and power, lighting upgrades, building management systems, insulation, boiler optimisation and ventilation upgrades.
- County Durham has the highest uptake of energy efficiency installation measures in homes in the North East and between 2008 and 2013, the energy efficiency of more than 54,000 homes was improved.

Cause for concern

- Increase in severe weather events, including prolonged winter snow, heavy rain storms, high winds and the impact of these changes.
- Increased demand on service delivery due to climate changes. For example increased verge/weed maintenance, gully cleansing.

Did you know?

- Leisure centres at Teesdale and Spennymoor have been fitted with solar photovoltaic panels.
- Free energy efficiency heating improvements, including gas boiler replacements, are available to eligible households as part of the Warm Up North scheme.

- An Archimedes Screw hydroelectric power system, capable of generating about 75 per cent of the energy requirements of the 8,000 square metres of office space, is being installed at Freeman’s Reach in Durham City.
- The Oakenshaw Wind Turbine, jointly managed by the landowner and Oakenshaw Community, will result in up to £800,000 being invested in the local community.

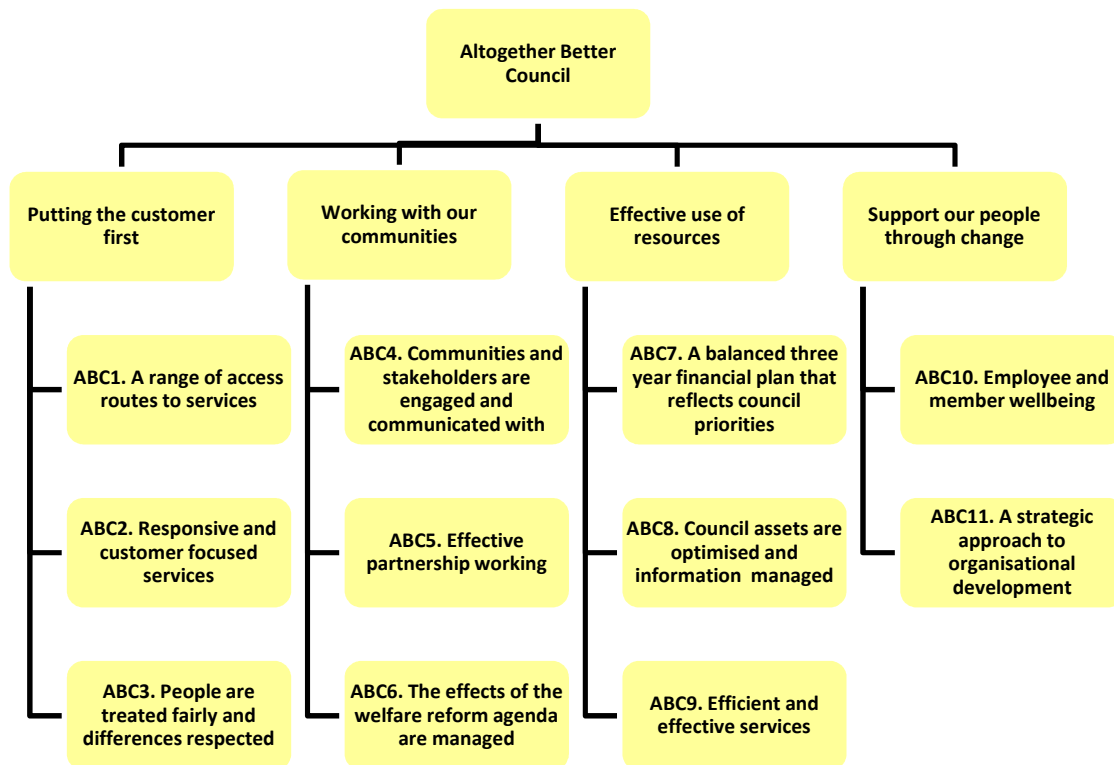
Look out for:

- Projects nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014) in the ‘Climate Change category.
- The ‘Warm Up North’ scheme which will provide grants for households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Deliver the Clean Bus Technology project across Durham City	Head of Transport & Contract Services	September 2014
Deliver the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project over 6 years from 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2019	Head of Technical Services	March 2017
Prepare an Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City and identify a range of required actions to improve air quality and to meet specific air quality objectives	Head of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection	March 2015
Deliver the Warm Up North project across County Durham to improve domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency across County Durham	Head of Planning and Assets	March 2017
Implementation of the Climate Change Strategy to achieve the County Durham carbon reductions of 40% by 2020 and 55% by 2031 – March 2017	Head of Planning and Assets	March 2017

Altogether Better Council



The Altogether Better Council priority theme looks at those things that enable us to effectively manage change and deliver improvement across the other themes within this plan. Our plans in this area are structured round four key objectives of serving our customers effectively, working with our communities, using our resources in an effective manner and supporting both councillors and employees through change. These are important areas and they relate to all services within the council. Achieving these objectives is increasingly important in times of significant change.

1. Putting the customer first

Providing good customer service remains of paramount importance. This is why we have revised our Customer First Strategy to reflect changing needs. Residents and customers pay for the services that we deliver through their taxes and through fees and charges. We need to understand what services our customers want from their local council and ensure that they have a say in the shaping of services delivered to them. Increasingly, people want to do their business with the council at a time and place which is convenient to them. Many people are comfortable with booking tickets for the cinema, paying bills or reporting a fault online either using a computer or through their mobile phone. It is more cost effective for the council and the customer to divert much of the business transacted with customers to online delivery channels. The council's new Customer First Strategy will set out how we intend to further improve how we deliver services to our customers.

Going well ↻

- We have added 25 more venues to the current 1000 buildings in County Durham listed on the DisabledGo website www.disabledgo.com including access information for disabled residents and visitors.

- New Customer Access Point including a library service, at the Witham, Barnard Castle.
- Joint working with Cestria Housing, resulting in a co-located Customer Access Point in Chester-le-Street town centre.

Cause for concern

- Some key council services still cannot be accessed online.
- Increased demand for some services as a result of the economic downturn and changes to the welfare system.

Did you know?

- Each year our Customer Services Team, answer more than one million telephone enquiries and deal with almost 333,000 face to face enquiries.
- You can apply for housing benefit or council tax support online.
- You can report potholes, blocked drains and street lighting issues online through our website.

Look out for:

- Our new Customer First Strategy.
- Ongoing quarterly editions of County Durham News and the annual service guide.
- Web-based search and pay facility for bereavement records (including grave, burial and headstone information).
- E-billing for council tax and business rates bills.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Adoption of new Customer First Strategy	Head of Projects and Business Services	July 2014
Improved customer access to online services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website to improve access to customer information and services 		May 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the way in which we capture data from our customers in order to streamline service delivery and develop better customer insight 		September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase online transactions 		Dec 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easier for customers to contact the council by reducing telephone numbers through an integrated approach 		March 2017

<p>Improve complaints reporting and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Corporate Complaints Pilots to inform revised process • Improved Customer Complaints process 	<p>Head of Policy & Communications</p>	<p>June 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>
<p>Strengthen integration of equality and diversity requirements to support effective decision making by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the process to ensure that equality and diversity implications are considered in all procurement and commissioning contracts • Ensuring that decisions relating to making future financial savings take account of the impact on those groups protected under equality legislation 	<p>Head of Planning and Performance</p>	<p>Sept 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>

2. Working with our communities

Effective engagement with local residents has been a major focus for Durham County Council since local government reorganisation. Our 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) across the county are key to achieving this. To date, just under £21 million has been awarded to local communities through AAPs, attracting an additional £34 million in matched funding. As a council we believe that it is important to involve communities in making major decisions on the future of local services and let people have a say about their local communities. Our nationally recognised work on participatory budgeting through the 'Your Money, Your Choice' events held in 2013 involved nearly 10,700 people, allocating £449,000 to 120 projects. Over 3,300 people participated in our consultation on the council's budget with 1,300 taking part in our financial prioritisation exercise. The public have also played a major part in deciding on the future of a range of services from community buildings to leisure centres.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 heralded some of the largest policy changes introduced by the current government. Areas with a history of heavy industry have a larger proportion of the population with a disability and who are dependent on benefits. The government's welfare reforms have had a significant impact on County Durham. The council has been working in partnership with housing providers and the voluntary and community sector to help residents most affected by the changes to the benefits system.

The government's reductions in public sector spending have meant that we have had to make large spending reductions across our whole range of services. Other public sector organisations have also been affected by the savings requirements. In these times it has been critical to maintain a focus on effective partnership working, in particular working through the County Durham Partnership to ensure continued integrated delivery of public

services across the county. It is also important that we protect insofar as possible vulnerable people. We continue to assess the potential impact of all our spending plans on those people who characteristics are protected by equalities legislation and identify what we can do to reduce these impacts.

Going well 👍

- Our ongoing work with the voluntary sector and local Town and Parish Councils.
- Over 10,000 voted in the 'Your Money, Your Choice' participatory budgeting exercises, allocating £449,000 to 120 community projects.
- Just over 3,300, or about one in three people, also gave us their views on our medium term financial plan including 1,300 who took part in the financial prioritisation game.

Cause for concern 🗨️

- County Durham has a high proportion of low income and benefit dependent families and is therefore more affected than other parts of the country by changes to the welfare system.
- Government spending reductions mean that financial support for voluntary and community groups will have to be continually reviewed like all areas of council spending.

Did you know?

- We have 14 Area Action Partnerships covering the whole county. These are used by the council to engage with residents. Anyone can get involved. More information is available at www.durham.gov.uk
- Any member of the public can take part in our online consultations through our website. Last year we ran consultation exercises on a range of issues including street lighting, garden waste collections, taxis in Durham city, school crossing patrols, provision of play parks and the council's budget.
- We staged 20 'Your Money, Your Choice' consultation events across the county, working with parish councils and the community and voluntary sector through our network of 14 Area Action Partnerships.
- We were short- listed for Council of the Year in Local Government Chronicle Awards 2014

Look out for:

- The new Sustainable Community Strategy 2014 – 2030 setting out the County Durham Partnership and Council's long term vision for the county, to be published in April 2014.
- The new look Durham County Council website which will go live in April 2014.
- World War I Centenary project – interactive map of commemorative sites and information.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Support better use of community buildings and the wider asset transfer approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain agreement for council owned community buildings to asset transfer, close or formally agree alternative individual building strategies with Cabinet 	Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement	December 2014
Improve partnership working with the VCS and Town and Parish Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree a volunteering action plan to improve co-ordination and outcomes for volunteers, clients and host organisations Develop on-the-shelf projects for VCS funding. Promote increased input of Town and Parish Councils in participatory budgeting exercises and Asset transfer programmes for community facilities 	Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement	May 2014 October 2014 March 2015
Increase the level of external funding attracted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a community led local development structure to maximise involvement of AAPs to increase resources for local actions Review current approach to use of AAP resources to maximise degree of matched funding 	Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement	Sept 2014 Sept 2014

Completion and monitoring of all risk and project plans, and compliance with the Electoral Commission's performance standards for the following elections:	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union Elections • Parliamentary Elections 		June 2014 May 2015
Individual Electoral Registration Prepare to implement Individual Electoral Registration in line with government guidance and deadlines	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	December 2014
Work with communities to commemorate the centenary of WWI 2014-2018 by developing a programme of events in partnership with AAP's.	Head of Culture and Sport	March 2015
Review of the Local Council tax Support Scheme for 2015/16: Undertake a review of the LCTSS adopted 01 April 2013 and extended into 2014/15	Head of Finance (Financial Services)	March 2015
Programme manage a series of projects and activities to ensure that the changes identified through the Welfare Reform Act 2012 are fully understood, administered effectively and communicated to residents, stakeholders and other specific groups	Head of Policy and Communications	March 2015

3. Effective use of resources

Like all public services, we have had to plan for and cope with a shrinking public purse since 2010. Against an initial plan to save £125 million over four years, from 2011 we have delivered just under £114 million by 31 March 2014 and are on track to meet our target. In line with our strategy, 64 percent of savings have been made from non-frontline services and 29 percent through rationalising management. Our plans have been informed by extensive public consultation in 2010 and again recently in 2013. Balancing the books has meant taking some tough decisions such as on the restructuring of residential care, waste management, refuse collection, home to school transport, libraries and indoor leisure provision. We have worked with communities to protect them as far as possible from funding reductions. Five leisure facilities have been transferred into community ownership and we are currently at an advanced stage in transferring 120 community buildings too.

Recent government announcements show that it is unlikely that there will be any let-up in funding reductions in the foreseeable future. We will continue to plan for and manage any further changes as required.

Going well

- The council has delivered or is on track to achieve savings identified in our financial plans for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14
- The council continue to develop sub-county information to better understand the local communities and help identify and tackle disadvantage and target resources.
- Our accounting systems continue to be improved to provide more user friendly financial information to allow service managers to manage their own budgets.
- Processing performance in the Benefits Team and in-year recovery rates for council tax, business rates, and sundry debts are all improving.
- The statutory value for money conclusion made by our auditors identified that the council has robust arrangements in place to secure financial resilience.
- The county and Parish elections held in May 2013 were well managed.

Cause for concern

- Evidence has been presented to the government showing that local authorities with greater levels of deprivation have had to face greater funding reductions than more affluent areas. Despite this, the funding formula for local government has not been changed for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial settlements.

Did you know?

- We successfully handled 1,368 requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations over the last year.
- Our ICT Service supports over 30,000 desktops for internal and external customers, over 1000 servers and over 800 buildings.
- The council manages £2bn of investments on behalf of the Durham County Council Pension Fund.
- The council's ICT service brings in £6million worth of income from external customers.
- The council is the largest social landlord in Durham with owning around 40% of all social properties generating £60m rental income.
- There are 236,000 residential properties in County Durham with a gross Council tax liability of £266m and over 80% are in the lowest bands A to C.

Look out for:

- Quarterly corporate performance reports to Cabinet, setting out latest information on the council's performance.
- Digital Durham, an ambitious programme to provide superfast broadband access to all homes, businesses and communities, starts in spring 2014.
- On-line access to Council Tax Accounts, Business Rates Benefits and e-billing, e-reminder functionality from April 2014.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Develop the 2015-2016 -2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 5)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination of Service Grouping proposals for additional MTFP savings and Capital Bidding 	Head of Finance (Corporate Finance) /Head of Policy & Communications/Head of Finance (Financial Services)	October 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse and report upon the impact of Budget announcements and Finance Settlements 	Head of Finance (Corporate Finance)	April 2014 & December 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver robust monitoring of delivery of MTFP savings programme 	Head of Policy & Communications	Quarterly through to March 2017
Improve data protection arrangements regarding customer data sharing:	Head of Planning and Performance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rolling programme of data protection audits, eg, records storage and procurement clauses. 		May 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the use of Privacy Impact Assessments for regular data sharing. 		March 2015
Deliver and complete the current accommodation programme for council buildings	Head of Economic Development & Housing	November 2015

4. Support our people through change

The Authority is continuing to undergo significant change in relation to the workforce over the medium term, due to the challenge we face in having to find savings as a result of reductions in government grant support. The council's original estimate in 2011 of 1,950 reductions in posts by the end of 2014/15 is still expected to be accurate. Further work will be carried out over the forthcoming year to estimate the impact of further reductions on posts up to 2016/17.

Expressions of interest in early retirement, voluntary redundancy and flexible working continue to be invited from all employees from across the council in order to minimise the impact on compulsory redundancies in meeting the significant savings that are required. We will continue to engage with the workforce in helping us to manage and implement the necessary changes, alongside developing strategic workforce development plans that can support the development of skills and capacity in a continually changing workforce, in order to support the future needs of the organisation over this period.

Going well

- An induction programme successfully delivered to all newly elected councillors.
- The Durham Manager programme was successfully launched.
- Introduction of an Attendance Management Framework across the council to effectively manage sickness absence.
- Continued reduction in the number of accidents and health and safety reportable incidents.

Cause for concern

- Reductions in organisational capacity together with increasing levels of demand for many council services.
- Industrial relations in the light of continuing budget reductions.

Did you know?

- Since the launch of the new Mental Health and Wellbeing policy, approximately 50 line managers have accessed the Managers Competency Indicator Tool (MCIT) to assist with management of stress in the workplace.

Look out for:

- Changes to Local Government Pension Scheme affecting 17,000 employees.
- A new Council Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy launched in Feb/Mar 2014.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<p>Workforce Development Planning: Develop a strategic approach towards workforce development planning that ensures adequate support for managers in relation to progressing planned MTFP savings and meeting future business needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernise process for management of starters/leavers and changes 	<p>Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development</p>	<p>Sept 2014</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify critical roles and occupational groupings and put plans in place to ensure that the potential to recruit in these areas is increased 	<p>Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and promote existing policies and initiatives that support effective workforce management i.e. Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy, Establishment Control 	<p>Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<p>Improve the level and quality of appraisals undertaken across the council with a view to increasing individual and organisational performance</p>	<p>Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development</p>	<p>March 2015</p>
<p>Improving Attendance (By reducing sickness absence) Provide support to services and implement actions to improve attendance and the management of sickness absence and associated costs.</p>	<p>Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development</p>	<p>March 2015</p>

Appendix 1 will include a corporate basket of performance indicators that are currently being reviewed and will be incorporated into the plan prior to Full Council.

MTFP BUDGET SAVING 2014/2015

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
ACE3	Management Review within ACE	300,300
ACE9	Review Partnership Support	35,745
ACE14	Review of the Civil Contingencies Unit	4,439
ACE25.1	Use of cash limit	69,992
TOTAL ACE		410,476

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
CAS1	Review of in-house social care provision	890,000
CAS2	Eligibility criteria - consistent and effective use of existing criteria and reablement	1,875,000
CAS3	Review adult social care charging	500,000
CAS4	Savings resulting from purchasing new stairlifts with extended warranties	40,000
CAS5	Management and support services, staffing restructures and service reviews/rationalisation	5,244,826
CAS6	Review of all non-statutory services	1,105,000
CAS7	Music Service to become self financing	91,000
CAS8	Outdoor education to rationalise and become self-financing (or close if not feasible)	60,000
CAS9	Review of Children's Care Services	1,208,439
CAS10	Review home to school / college transport policies	1,300,000
CAS 11	Use of Cash Limit	1,879,000
CAS11	Adjustment for previous years use of cash limit	-1,763,415
TOTAL CAS		12,429,850

NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICE

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
NS1	Review of Sport and Leisure	100,000
NS3	Structural reviews and more efficient ways of working	1,298,572
NS4	Review of Grounds and Countryside Maintenance	195,602
NS5	Waste Collection Savings	103,500
NS6	Waste Disposal Savings	95,200
NS11	Review of Technical Services / School Crossing Patrols / Street Lighting	684,974
NS17	Additional income from review of charges	200,139
NS24	Review of Heritage and Culture	203,500
NS25	Review of Library Service	327,626
MIT	Mitigating savings for delay in Leisure/culture saving	566,374
NS29	Use of Cash Limit	130,000
NS29	Cash limit - Adjustment for previous years use of cash limit	-138,750
TOTAL NEIGHBOURHOODS		3,766,737

REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
RED1	Restructure in RED - this includes all service teams within the Service Grouping	294,630
RED2	Reduction in Supplies and Services - Economic Development (a reduction in all areas of expenditure in line with restructure).	248,625
RED4	Reduction in Supplies and Services - Transport (a reduction in all areas of expenditure in line with restructure)	57,500
RED8	Income Generation - Planning - review existing and new areas of charging	16,000
RED9	Income Generation - Transport - review existing and new areas of charging	50,000
RED13	CCTV (Reduction in costs following review of CCTV provision)	30,000
RED14	Review of supplies, services and income across RED Service Grouping	166,000
RES1	Assets disaggregation (former Estates team)	114,249
RES3	Assets disaggregation (former Planning and Investment team)	115,130
TOTAL RED		1,092,134

RESOURCES

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
RES2	Reduction in supplies and services and other non-staffing budgets through efficiencies – Corporate Procurement	85,405
RES13	Reduction in supplies and services and other non-staffing budgets through efficiencies – Legal and Democratic Services	343,995
RES14	Restructure of HR Service	283,482
RES16	Service rationalisation of ICT Services	826,824
RES19	Restructure of Revenues and Benefits Service	465,000
RES20	Reduction in supplies and services and other non-staffing budgets through efficiencies – Corporate Finance	106,999
RES21	Service rationalisation of Audit and Risk	40,000
RES22	Court Cost Fee Income – Summons and Liability Costs Recovered – Financial Services	383,000
RES24.1	Use of cash limit	358,000
TOTAL RESOURCES		2,892,705

CORPORATE

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
COR5	Members Budgets - Revenue to Capital Switch	840,000
COR6	Procurement Rebates - NEPO Savings	250,000
COR7	Strategic Highways - Switch of function from RED to NS	50,000
COR8	Replacement of Desk Top Printers with MFD	250,000
COR9	Procurement Reviews	536,000
COR9a	Procurement Reserve	104,000
COR10	Unitisation of Health & Safety	50,000
COR11	Office Closure over Christmas	24,000
COR12	Discretionary Rate Relief	330,000
TOTAL CORPORATE		2,434,000

Saving Ref	Description	2014/2015
		£
ACE	TOTAL ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVES SAVINGS	410,476
CAS	TOTAL CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES SAVINGS	12,429,850
NS	TOTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SAVINGS	3,766,737
RED	TOTAL REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SAVINGS	1,092,134
RES	TOTAL RESOURCES SAVINGS	2,892,705
COR	TOTAL CORPORATE SAVINGS	2,434,000
TOTAL SAVINGS		23,025,902

Glossary

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AAPs	Area Action Partnerships	IFS	Institute for Fiscal Studies
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour	JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
AWC	Alternate Weekly Collection	JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
BDUK	Broadband Development UK	IRRV	Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation
CAT	Community Action Team	KS1 and KS2	Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
CDP	County Durham Partnership	LCTSS	Local Council Tax Support Scheme
CTB	Council Tax Benefit	LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
CVD	Cardiovascular disease	LED	Light Emitting Diode
CYP&FP	Children, Young People and Families Plan	Lumiere	A spectacular festival of art and light in Durham in Nov 2011
DCC	Durham County Council	MTFP	Medium Term Financial Plan
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	NETPARK	The science, engineering and technology park at Sedgefield
EHCP	Environmental Health & Consumer Protection	NHS	National Health Service
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	OCU	Opiate or Crack Users
ESF	European Social Fund	Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
ESPA	Education & and Services for people with Autism	ONS	Office for National Statistics
FOI	Freedom of Information	PIP	Personal Independence Payment
FSM	Free School Meals	PV	Photovoltaic
GP	General Practitioner	PVPR	Potentially Violent Persons Register
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	PRD	Pre-Reprimand Disposal
HB	Housing Benefit	SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
HMO	Houses in Multiple Occupation	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
HWRC	Household Waste Recycling Centre	UC	Universal Credit
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector

Cabinet

19 March 2014



**School Admission Arrangements
Academic Year 2015/2016**

KEY DECISION: CAS/03/14

Report of Corporate Management Team

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services

**Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and
Young People's Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. To ask Cabinet to consider the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2015/16 academic year.

Background

2. It is a mandatory requirement of the national School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school (oversubscription). Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. The Local Authority (LA) is the admission authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, while the Governing Body is the admission authority for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools and the relevant Trust for an Academy or Free School.
3. All admission authorities must agree admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements the admission authority must first consult on those arrangements. If there are no changes proposed they only need to be consulted on at least every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 8 weeks and must take place between 1 November and 1 March of the year before those arrangements are to apply. This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about proposed admission arrangements
4. Stakeholders are consulted on:
 - i) the number of pupils to be admitted in each year group (the proposed admission number);

- ii) the application and administrative procedures for admissions, including LA co-ordination with other admission authorities;
- iii) the criteria to be used in the event of over-subscription;

Consultation for admissions for September 2015/16 academic year

- 5. There are no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that required public consultation, other than one school, Witton Le Wear Primary, has requested a reduction in the admission number to 14 (previously 15) for the purposes of efficient and effective curriculum delivery. All Governing Bodies/Trusts have considered the proposed admission number for their school and the co-ordinated admission scheme that will govern the administrative processes for the 2015/16 academic year.
- 6. The proposed admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled School is detailed in Appendix 2 to this report which Cabinet are asked to approve. The admission numbers for Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools, Academies and free schools are included for information.
- 7. The admission arrangements in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, for which no changes were proposed, are included in Appendix 3.

Statutory Requirements and Future Implications

- 8. It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities that admission arrangements for 2015/2016 are determined by 15 April 2014 and these must be published on their website not later than 1 May 2014. The LA must receive a copy of the admission arrangements of other admission authorities, including Academies, before 1 May and provide details on its website of where these can be viewed. Information on how to refer objections to the Schools' Adjudicator (which must be made by 30 June 2014) will also be available on the website.
- 9. The LA must publish online, with hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet, a composite prospectus for parents by 12 September 2014, which contains the admission arrangements for each of the state-funded schools in the LA area to which parents can apply.

Risk Assessment

- 10. A risk assessment has been undertaken on the proposed admission arrangements for 2015/2016. There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the LA if admission arrangements are not determined by 15 April 2014 and published on the Council's website by 1 May 2014.

Recommendations

11. Cabinet is asked to agree the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2015/16:

- That the admission numbers as recommended in Appendix 2, be approved
- That the current admission arrangements, at Appendix 3, be approved

Background Papers

Returns from meetings of Governing Bodies/Trusts.

Returns from consultation exercise.

School Admissions Code/Regulations - DfE

Contact: Caroline O'Neill
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Admissions arrangements can impact on the number of surplus places in schools, the efficient use of resources and value for money.

Staffing

Implications are at school level.

Risk

A risk assessment has been undertaken on the proposed admission arrangements for 2015/2016. There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the Authority if admission arrangements are not determined by 15 April 2014 and published by 1 May 2014. Any parents or others unhappy with the Council's arrangements may object to the Schools Adjudicator who can amend the Council's arrangements.

Equality and Diversity

The School Admissions Code exists to ensure fairness and equity in school admission arrangements. An Impact Assessment of the admission arrangements on specific groups has been undertaken. There is no evidence of discrimination against any groups. A copy of the Impact Assessment is available via the County Council's website or hard copy can be obtained from the County Council's School Admissions Team.

Accommodation

Relates to best overall use of school buildings.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

None.

Consultation

School/Academy/free school Governing Bodies/Trusts, The County Durham Admission Forum, Statutory Public Consultation.

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

See Equality and Diversity, above.

Legal Implications

There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the Authority if Admission Arrangements are not determined by 15 April 2014 and published by 1 May 2014.

PROPOSED ADMISSION NUMBERS 2015/16

Number	Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary School	Proposed Admission Number 2015/16	Recommendation to Cabinet
2000	Ropery Walk Primary	38	Agree
2001	Middlestone Moor Primary	38	Agree
2002	Chilton Primary	54	
2003	North Park Primary	30	Agree
2004	Seascape Primary	51	Agree
2005	Pelton Community Primary	55	Agree
2043	Westlea Primary	37	Agree
2105	Edmondsley Primary	25	Agree
2107	Lumley Junior	49	Agree
2108	Lumley Infant	50	Agree
2114	West Pelton Primary	15	Agree
2116	Nettlesworth Primary	17	Agree
2123	Sacrison Primary	64	Agree
2125	Red Rose Primary	38	Agree
2126	Fence Houses Woodlea Primary	30	Agree
2133	Cestria Primary	60	Agree
2137	Ouston Primary	40	Agree
2138	South Pelaw Infant	60	Agree
2146	Bournmoor Primary	20	Agree
2185	Cotherstone Primary	12	Agree
2205	Beamish Primary	12	Agree
2208	Collierley Primary	21	Agree
2210	Catchgate Primary	38	Agree
2212	Annfield Plain Junior	42	Agree
2213	Annfield Plain Infant	40	Agree
2217	East Stanley Primary	34	Agree
2225	South Stanley Infant	50	Agree
2226	South Stanley Junior	52	Agree
2232	Burnside Primary	30	Agree
2233	Bloemfontein Primary	20	Agree
2234	Burnopfield Primary	55	Agree
2254	Shotley Bridge Junior	60	Agree
2257	Shotley Bridge Infant	55	Agree
2259	Leadgate Junior	30	Agree
2260	Leadgate Infant	30	Agree
2261	Burnhope Primary	16	Agree
2266	Castleside Primary	17	Agree
2269	The Grove Primary	25	Agree
2272	Delves Lane Primary	50	Agree
2276	Moorside Primary	18	Agree
2277	Consett Junior	52	Agree
2278	Consett Infant	42	Agree
2301	Hamsterley Primary	7	Agree
2302	Hunwick Primary	25	Agree
2307	Tow Law Millennium Primary	20	Agree
2308	Crook Primary	58	Agree

2310	Hartside Primary	30	Agree
2311	Peases West Primary	17	Agree
2313	Stanley (Crook) Primary	16	Agree
2316	Sunnybrow Primary	19	Agree
2318	Howden Le Wear Primary	16	Agree
2319	Frosterley Community Primary	12	Agree
2321	Rookhope Primary	6	Agree
2322	St John's Chapel Primary	8	Agree
2324	Wearhead Primary	6	Agree
2326	Willington Primary	30	Agree
2328	Witton-le-Wear Primary	14	Agree
2329	Wolsingham Primary	33	Agree
2330	Oakley Cross Primary	26	Agree
2351	Byers Green Primary	15	Agree
2357	Trimdon Grange Infant and Nursery	29	Agree
2361	Kirk Merrington Primary	17	Agree
2362	Cassop Primary	21	Agree
2368	Ferryhill Station Primary	16	Agree
2370	West Cornforth Primary	30	Agree
2372	Coxhoe Primary	38	Agree
2374	Kelloe Primary	21	Agree
2383	Rosa Street Primary	41	Agree
2385	Dean Bank Primary	34	Agree
2388	Bowburn Junior	56	Agree
2389	Bowburn Infant	56	Agree
2391	Trimdon Village Infant	30	Agree
2394	Ox Close Primary	38	Agree
2397	Cleves Cross Primary	30	Agree
2398	Trimdon Junior	67	Agree
2399	Fishburn Primary	30	Agree
2400	Broom Cottages Primary	45	Agree
2401	Etherley Lane Primary	49	Agree
2409	Ramshaw Primary	11	Agree
2410	Forest-of-Teesdale Primary	5	Agree
2411	Aycliffe Village Primary	25	Agree
2413	Butterknowle Primary	12	Agree
2417	Escomb Primary	30	Agree
2419	St. Helen Auckland Primary	28	Agree
2423	Thornhill Primary	30	Agree
2426	Toft Hill Primary	26	Agree
2428	Woodland Primary	12	Agree
2430	Middleton in Teesdale Primary	25	Agree
2433	Cockton Hill Junior	60	Agree
2434	Cockton Hill Infant	60	Agree
2438	Timothy Hackworth Primary	60	Agree
2440	Cockfield Primary	17	Agree
2442	Montalbo Primary	17	Agree

2453	New Brancepeth Primary	17	Agree
2455	Langley Moor Primary	32	Agree
2462	Witton Gilbert Primary	29	Agree
2470	Pittington Primary	30	Agree
2472	Ludworth Primary	13	Agree
2473	Sherburn Village Primary	32	Agree
2475	West Rainton Primary	24	Agree
2477	Bearpark Primary	17	Agree
2481	Nevilles Cross Primary	38	Agree
2482	Sherburn Hill Primary	12	Agree
2488	Newton Hall Infant	60	Agree
2494	Belmont Infants	Subject to separate consultation	
2497	Esh Winning Primary	38	Agree
2498	Belmont Cheveley Park Primary	30	Agree
2499	Laurel Avenue Primary	16	Agree
2509	Hesleden Primary	19	Agree
2516	Deaf Hill Primary	23	Agree
2523	Thornley Primary	28	Agree
2526	Wheatley Hill Community Primary	30	Agree
2528	Wingate Junior	51	Agree
2531	Wingate Infant	51	Agree
2532	Cotsford Junior	41	Agree
2534	Cotsford Infant	40	Agree
2536	Shotton Primary	58	Agree
2540	Acre Rigg Infant	64	Agree
2563	Sedgefield Primary	34	Agree
2593	Hardwick Primary	30	Agree
2704	Copeland Road Primary	25	Agree
2705	St Andrew's Primary	25	Agree
2706	Byerley Park Primary	30	Agree
2708	Horndale Infant	50	Agree
2729	Langley Park Primary	42	Agree
2730	Shield Row Primary	30	Agree
2731	South Hetton Primary	35	Agree
2733	Yohden Primary	30	Agree
2734	Howletch Lane Primary	57	Agree
2736	Dene House Primary	50	Agree
2737	Blackhall Colliery Primary	43	Agree
2742	Vane Road Primary	60	Agree
2743	Sugar Hill Primary	60	Agree
2744	Roseberry Primary	30	Agree
2745	Bullion Lane Primary	48	Agree
2746	Easington Colliery Primary	81	Agree
2747	Gilesgate Primary	30	Agree
2748	Finchale Primary	30	Agree
2749	Benfieldside Primary	42	Agree
2750	King Street Primary	35	Agree

2751	Framwellgate Moor Primary	30	Agree
2943	Newker Primary	60	Agree
3031	Chester Le St CE Junior	60	Agree
3063	Ebchester CE Primary	15	Agree
3085	St Stephen's CE Primary	30	Agree
3087	Stanhope Barrington CE Primary	21	Agree
3111	Startforth Morritt Memorial C.E. Primary	16	Agree
3121	Green Lane C.E. Primary	38	Agree
3123	St Anne's CE Primary	30	Agree
3130	Evenwood CE Primary	17	Agree
3131	Gainford CE Primary	16	Agree
3134	Ingleton C.E. Primary	12	Agree
3141	Staindrop CE Primary	30	Agree
3161	Belmont C.E. Junior	Subject to separate consultation	
3167	Shincliffe C.E. (Controlled) Primary	30	Agree
3168	Durham St Margaret's CE Primary	60 Reception and 15 Year 3	Agree
3182	Easington CE Primary	17	Agree
3183	Hutton Henry CE Primary	10	Agree
3213	Lanchester EP Primary	45	Agree
3516	Prince Bishops Community Primary	30	Agree
3518	Woodham Burn Community Primary	47	Agree
3519	Silver Tree Primary	30	Agree
3520	Seaview Primary	39	Agree
3522	Tanfield Lea Community Primary	45	Agree
3523	Woodhouse Community Primary	30	Agree
3524	Trinity Primary School	60	Agree
3525	Brandon Primary	60	Agree
3526	Greenland Community Primary	51	Agree
3527	Shotton Hall Primary	50	Agree

Number	Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary School	Proposed Admission Number 2015/16	Recommendation to Cabinet
4019	Seaham School of Technology	240	Agree
4099	Tanfield School Specialist College of Science + Engineering	138	Agree

4139	Wolsingham School & Community College	150	Agree
4139	Wolsingham School & Community College 6th Form	30*	Agree
4150	Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College	152	Agree
4162	Bishop Barrington School	158	Agree
4185	Belmont Community School	175	
4191	Gilesgate Sports College & 6th Form Centre	610*	Agree
4200	Durham Johnston Comprehensive	232	Agree
4200	Durham Johnston Comprehensive 6th Form	50	Agree
4214	Dene Community School of Technology	150	Agree
4218	Wellfield Community School – Specialist Maths + Computing College	180	Agree
4231	Sedgefield Community College	195	

* Relates to admission limit for external students to Year 12 only. NB this need not be set if the school only receives ad hoc applications.

Number	Aided / Foundation School / Academy / Free School	Admission Number 2015/16 Advised by Governing Body/Trust
2008	Acre Rigg Academy	67
2009	Victoria Lane Academy, Coundon	30
2010	Stephenson Way Community Primary	
2011	Tudhoe Colliery Primary	22
2023	New Seaham Primary	
2459	Browney Primary	17
3165	St Oswald's CE, Durham	15
3300	St Cuthbert's RC Primary, New Seaham	30
3301	St Mary Magdalen RC Primary, Seaham	38
3303	Bowes Hutchinson CE Primary	10
3343	St Cuthbert's RC Primary, Chester-le- Street	30
3344	St Bede's RC Primary, Sacriston	14
3346	St Benet's RC Primary, Ouston	30
3381	St Joseph's RC Primary, Stanley	30
3382	St Patrick's RC Primary, Dipton	25
3384	St Mary's RC Primary, South Moor	21
3401	St Mary's RC Primary, Blackhill	30
3403	St Pius X RC Primary, Consett	15
3404	St Patrick's RC Primary, Consett	53
3406	Esh CE (Aided) Primary	12
3407	St Michael's RC Primary, Esh	25

3409	Our Lady + St Joseph's, Brooms, RC Primary	17
3411	Bishop Ian Ramsey Medomsley CE Primary	30
3413	All Saint's RCVA Primary, Lanchester	22
3421	St Cuthbert's RC Primary, Crook	30
3425	Our Lady&St.Thomas RC Primary, Willington	17
3441	St. Michael's C.E. (Aided) Primary (Bishop Middleham)	17
3442	St William's RC Primary, Trimdon	20
3444	St Charles' RC Primary, Tudhoe	30
3461	St Mary's RC Primary, Barnard Castle	15
3462	St Wilfrid's RC Primary	30
3465	St Chad's RC Primary	14
3469	St Joseph's RC Primary, Coundon	20
3470	St Mary's RC Primary, Newton Aycliffe	30
3471	St Joseph's RC Primary, Newton Aycliffe	25
3472	St Francis CE (Aided) Junior	41
3481	St Patrick's RC Primary, Langley Moor	15
3483	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RC Primary, Newhouse	12
3485	St Hild's CE (Aided) Primary, Durham	30
3486	St Godric's RC Primary, Durham	30
3488	St Joseph's RC Primary, Ushaw Moor	14
3489	St Joseph's RC Primary, Gilesgate	22
3491	Blue Coat C.E. (Aided) Junior	
3492	St Thomas More RC Primary, Belmont	17
3501	St Joseph's RC Primary, Murton	21
3502	St Godric's RC Primary, Thornley	15
3504	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary, Shotton	18
3505	St Mary's RC Primary, Wingate	12
3506	St Joseph's RC Primary, Blackhall	13
3507	Our Lady Star of Sea RC Primary, Horden	17
3510	Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary, Peterlee	45
3511	Blessed John Duckett RC Primary	12
3513	St John's CE Primary, Shildon	30
3517	The Ribbon Academy, Murton	
4000	North Durham Academy	
4000	North Durham Academy – 6 th Form	
4001	Consett Academy	300
4001	Consett Academy – 6 th Form	100
4047	Park View School	
4047	Park View School 6th Form	
4052	Fyndoune Community College	90
4054	The Hermitage Academy	165
4054	The Hermitage Academy 6th Form	*Not set
4128	Parkside Sports College	180
4171	Staindrop School	135
4174	Teesdale School and Sixth Form Centre	156
4174	Teesdale School and Sixth Form Centre (6th Form)	*Not set

4175	Woodham Academy	221
4176	Greenfield School	
4178	King James 1 Academy	161
4178	King James 1 Academy 6th Form	50
4180	Sunnydale Community College for Maths and Computing	
4190	Framwellgate School Durham	
4190	Framwellgate School Durham 6th Form	
4192	Durham Community Business College and Studio School (year 7)	90
4192	Durham Community Business College, Studio School (year 12)	
4215	The Academy at Shotton Hall	230
4280	Easington Academy	
4681	St John's School and Sixth Form College, a Catholic Academy,	
4681	St John's School and Sixth Form College, a Catholic Academy,	
4691	St Leonard's RC Comprehensive	
4691	St Leonard's RC Comprehensive 6th Form	
4693	St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive, Peterlee	150
4693	St Bede's Catholic School and Comprehensive, Peterlee 6th Form	*Not set
4694	St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester	210
4694	St Bede's Catholic School and 6th Form College, Lanchester (6 th form)	100
4998	Whitworth Park School and 6 th Form College	270
4998	Whitworth Park School and 6 th Form College	200
	Durham Free School	90

* Relates to admission limit for external students to Year 12 only. NB this need not be set if the school only receives ad hoc applications.

CURRENT ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION TO ALL SCHOOLS

For all schools, parents/carers must be invited to express at least 3 preferences on a common application form, in the rank order they wish their child to receive an offer of a place, and invite parents to give their reasons for each preference. This form is obtainable from the LA and may be paper based or via an e-form accessible through the on-line admissions application system accessed via the County Council website. Applications should be submitted to the LA by the published closing date. Places at any school are offered on the basis of equal preference rank order and where an offer is made it is for the highest ranked school at which the LA is able to offer a place.

The LA must inform other admission authorities of any application made for their schools and pass on any relevant supporting information, excluding parental preference of rank order information. Each preference must be considered by the admission authority of the school concerned where appropriate. The school should then provide the LA with a list of all children who have applied for a place, ranked in order of priority under the school's admission arrangements.

Parents/carers who are resident in one LA but who wish to apply for a place at a school maintained by another LA apply for a place through the maintaining LA's common application form. Neighbouring LAs must inform each other of applications received in respect of children from their LA area who wish to obtain a school place in another LA area.

The LA will then compare the lists for all schools in its area. When a child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child. Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked. Where the LA cannot offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the offer of a place will be made at the nearest school to the parental address that has places available.

If an application is unsuccessful, a child's name may be placed on a waiting list which is kept for the full academic year. The position on the waiting list is determined in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria with no reference to length of time on the waiting list. If a place subsequently becomes available, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list. Parents/carers are also offered the right of appeal if they are not satisfied with the offer of a place.

The LA will accept applications which are received late only when there is evidence of a good reason for lateness and only if the application is received before offers of places are made. These will then be treated in the same way as all other applications. In the event of a late application not being accepted or receipt is after the offer of places has been made, then places will be offered at the nearest school with places available.

All applications for school places during the normal admission round must be co-ordinated by the maintaining LA. LAs must develop a co-ordinated admission scheme by 1 January 2014 and implement the scheme on 1 September 2014.

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME - PRIMARY

This scheme is made by Durham County Council under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and the Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and applies to all maintained primary schools and Academies/Free Schools in County Durham.

The proposed Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for Durham Local Authority is set out below and complies with the School Admissions Code. The dates relating to the admissions process for the school year 2015/16 are attached at Annex 1.

A separate scheme exists in relation to secondary schools.

Interpretation

1. In this scheme -

“The LA” means Durham County Council acting in its capacity as local education authority.

“The LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local education authority.

“The school/s” means all Community, Voluntary Controlled or Voluntary Aided primary schools which are maintained by the LA and Academies/Free Schools.

“Admission Authority” means the LA in respect of any of the schools which is a Community or Voluntary Controlled school, and the Governing Body of the school in respect of a Voluntary Aided School and the relevant Trust for Academies/Free Schools.

“Parent” means any person who holds parental responsibility for a child and with whom the child normally lives.

“Suitable school” means the nearest available school which offers an efficient full-time programme of education appropriate to the individual child’s age, ability and any special educational needs, in the view of the Authority.

The Co-ordinated Admission Scheme will apply for the admission arrangements for the school year commencing September 2015.

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the 2015/16 school year the provisions set out in the Schedule to this scheme.

The Governing Body of each Voluntary Aided School and the relevant Trust for an Academy/Free School will include in its admission arrangements for the 2015/16 school year the provisions set out in the Schedule to this scheme, so far as relevant to that school/Academy/Free School.

The scheme shall apply to every primary school/Academy/Free School in the LA area (except special schools).

PART 1 - THE SCHEME

1. There will be a common application form supplied by the LA for the purpose of enabling parents living in County Durham to express up to three preferences for their child to be admitted to a primary, infant and, where appropriate junior school, Voluntary Aided primary school or Academy/Free School in County Durham or to a school or schools in another LA area for the academic year 2015/16.
2. The common application form must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by parents resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child:
 - a. to be admitted to a maintained primary school and Academy/Free School within the LA area (including Voluntary Aided Schools).
 - b. to be admitted to a maintained primary school and Academy/Free School located in another LA's area (including Voluntary Aided Schools).
3. The common application form will invite the parent to express up to three preferences including where relevant any schools outside the LA's area, in the rank order in which they wish their child to receive an offer of a place, and invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.
4. The common application form will explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place. Furthermore, that places at any oversubscribed school will be offered on the basis of equal preference rank order and that where an offer is made it would be for the highest ranked school at which the LA as the admission authority or on behalf of the admission authority of a Voluntary Aided School or an Academy/Free School, was able to offer a place. Annex 2 lists those Governing Bodies/Trusts who are the Admission Authority for schools/Academies/Free Schools to which this scheme applies.
5. The common application form will explain that where the LA could not offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the offer of a place will be made at the nearest school to the parental address that has a place available.
6. The common application form will specify a closing date and where it must be returned. Governing Bodies of Aided Schools or the relevant Trust for Academies/Free Schools, as the Admission Authority, must notify the relevant LA of any application made direct to them in error whether or not the parent lives in County Durham.
7. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that a common application form is available on request from the LA and from all primary schools in County Durham. The facility to apply on-line will also be made available via the LA's website.
8. The common application form will include a supplementary section to be completed by parents who express a preference for a Voluntary Aided School to enable them to provide relevant additional information.

Processing of Common Application Forms

9. Completed common application forms should be returned to the LA by 15 January 2015.
10. Completed common application forms which are received for good reason after the closing date will be accepted and treated as on time applications provided they are received before 13 March 2015, the date the allocation procedures begin. Examples of good reason include: when a single parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a County Durham property as the main property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered and each case decided on its own merits. Parents however must provide clear evidence for the LA to consider as to why they could not submit an application during the preference period. The determination of the LA will be final.

Determining offers in response to the common application form

11. The LA will make the offer of a school place to the parent of every child living in County Durham commencing primary education in September 2015 who applies for a place at a maintained school/Academy.
12. The LA will determine the offer of a potential place for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in County Durham in its capacity as the Admission Authority **having no regard to order of preferences**. For Voluntary Aided Schools, Academies/Free Schools or schools in another Local Authority, the relevant Admission Authority will inform the LA of the potential offer of a place*. Durham LA will then be responsible for making the offer of a place in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 15 of this Scheme.
13. By 6 February 2015, the LA will provide the Admission Authority for each of the schools indicated on the common application form with a copy of the common application form, **excluding parental preference information***.
14. By 6 March 2015, the Admission Authority for each school will provide the LA with a list, in rank order, in accordance with their admission criteria, of all pupils who applied for a place at the school, indicating those who can be offered a place and those (if any) who cannot*. The LA will then match this ranked list against the ranked list of the other schools nominated.
15. By 13 March 2015, the LA will match the provisional offers of places against each parent's ranking and proceed as follows:
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked.
 - Where none of the preferences can be met, the child will be offered a place at the nearest suitable school with a place available.

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

16. No later than 13 March 2015 the LA will inform other LAs of places in County Durham schools/Academies/Free Schools to be offered to their residents and on 9 March 2014 the LA will inform its schools/Academies/Free Schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools/Academies/Free Schools.
17. On 16 April 2015, the LA will write to all parents in County Durham to whom the offer of a place can be made, notifying them of the offer of a place at:
 - a. one of the preferences on the common application form; or
 - b. the nearest suitable school with places available.
18. The LA's letter will ask parents to confirm their acceptance of the place and inform them that if they are not satisfied with the offer of a place they have the right of appeal if they so wish. The letter will include contact details for the LA and those nominated Voluntary Aided schools or Academies where they could not be offered a place, so that they can if they wish lodge an appeal with the Governing Body or Academy/Free School Trust. The letter will also give parents the opportunity of having their child's name placed on the waiting list for a place at the preferred school(s). The letter will also state, where relevant, why a place could not be offered at a higher ranked school.
19. Parents will be sent a reminder letter 2 weeks after the offer date (16 April 2015) allowing a further 7 days to respond to the request that they confirm their acceptance of the place.
20. On 8 May 2015 the LA will reallocate any places that may have become available since 16 April 2015, strictly in accordance with the relevant published oversubscription criteria and in the following order of priority:
 1. those who have been offered a school place but who ranked the school at which a place has now become available higher on the common application form than the school at which they were offered a place on 16 April 2015 and who have confirmed that they still wish to be offered a place at the higher ranked school,
 2. those who have not been offered any school place because their applications were received late i.e. after 13 March 2015 (see paragraph 23) and those who have been offered a school place but who now wish to apply for a place at an alternative school,

Waiting Lists

21. From 9 May 2015, parents may ask for their child's name to be kept on a waiting list for an oversubscribed school to be offered places if they become available after that date. The waiting lists for all schools/Academies/Free Schools will be maintained by the relevant admission authority* and any places which become available will be offered strictly in accordance with the published admission criteria of the appropriate admission authority. Waiting lists will be maintained throughout the school year.

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

PART 2 - LATE APPLICATIONS

22. Applications received after the closing date of 15 January 2015 and prior to 13 March 2015 will be considered and, as far as possible, offered a school place on 16 April

2015. Completed common application forms which are received for good reason after the closing date will be accepted and treated as on time applications provided they are received before 13 March 2015, the date the allocation procedures begin (see paragraph 10).

23. For applications received between 14 March 2015 and 6 May 2014 the LA will, on the 8 May 2015, the re-allocation day, offer a place in accordance with parental preference, where possible, and if not possible, at the nearest school with places available.
24. For applications received between 16 April 2015 and 31 August 2015 inclusive, offer/refusal letters will be sent out within 14 days of the LA receiving the application form and a reminder issued after 7 days. Any parent approaching a school direct must be referred to the LA. The LA will enter the details on to its central database, issue a copy of the application form to the relevant admission authority*, and, after discussion and agreement with the relevant admission authority, offer a place at the school highest in the parent's order of rank that has a place available, or if this is not possible, at the nearest suitable school that has a place available.

PART 3 - IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

25. Applications received on or after 1 September 2015, and for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry to any infant, junior or primary school, will be treated as in-year admissions.
26. The LA will, upon request, provide information about the places still available in all maintained schools within the area and a suitable form for parents to complete when applying for a place for their child at any school. All relevant admission authorities will consider any application that is made (making reference to any waiting lists that are in operation) whether via an application form or through a parent's direct approach to any school, and then notify the LA, if appropriate, of the outcome*. Parents whose applications are refused will be offered a right of appeal.
27. The LA will monitor in-year applications and intervene as appropriate to ensure that applicants are placed in a school without undue delay.
28. Parents may ask for their child's name to be kept on a waiting list, to be offered places if they become available at any school to which they have expressed a preference. The waiting list for all schools will be maintained by the relevant admission authority* and any places which become available will be offered strictly in accordance with published admission criteria of the appropriate admissions authority. Waiting lists will be maintained throughout the school year. Any offer of a school place will always be made by the LA.

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

**Timetable for Admissions to Primary Schools/Academies/Free Schools –
September 2015**

By 12 September 2014	Parents Guide to School Admissions and Common Application Form are made available to parents.
15 January 2015	Closing date for return of forms to the LA.
6 February 2015	LA sends copies of Application Forms to Voluntary Aided Schools, Academies/Free Schools * and neighbouring LAs.
6 March 2015	Voluntary Aided Schools, Academies/Free Schools * and the relevant Admission Authority for neighbouring LA schools provide the LA with ranked list of applicants.
	(Ongoing exchange of information between admission authorities)
13 March 2015	LA allocates places in accordance with relevant admission/oversubscription criteria and informs other LAs of places in County Durham to be offered to their residents.
16 April 2015	LA makes offers to parents and informs its schools/Academies/Free Schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.
30 April 2015	Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place.
8 May 2015	Any places that become available since 16 April are reallocated to parents.
9 May 2015	Waiting lists are established and begin to operate

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

ANNEX 2

The Governing Bodies of the Voluntary Aided Schools listed below are Admission Authorities to which this scheme applies:

<p>All Saints' Catholic VA Primary Bishop Ian Ramsey CE Primary Blessed John Duckett RCVA Primary Blue Coat CE Junior Bowes Hutchinson CE Primary Esh CE Primary Our Lady & St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Brooms Our Lady & St Thomas RCVA Primary Our Lady of Lourdes RCVA Primary Our Lady of the Rosary RCVA Primary Our Lady Queen of Martyr's RCVA Primary Our Lady Star of the Sea RCVA Primary St Bede's RCVA Primary St Benet's RCVA Primary St Chad's RCVA Primary St Charles' RCVA Primary St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary, New Seaham St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary, Chester-le-Street St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary, Crook St Francis CE Aided Junior St Godric's RCVA Primary, Durham St Godric's RCVA Primary, Thornley St Hild's College CE Aided</p>	<p>St John's CE Aided Primary St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Stanley St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Coundon St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Newton Aycliffe St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Ushaw Moor St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Gilesgate St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Murton St Joseph's RCVA Primary, Blackhall St Mary Magdalen RCVA Primary St Mary's RCVA Primary, South Moor St Mary's RCVA Primary, Blackhill St Mary's RCVA Primary, Barnard Castle St Mary's RCVA Primary, Newton Aycliffe St Mary's RCVA Primary, Wingate St Michael's RCVA Primary St Michael's CE Primary St Oswald's C.E. (Aided) St Patrick's RCVA Primary, Dipton St Patrick's RCVA Primary, Consett St Patrick's RCVA Primary, Langley Moor St Pius X RCVA Primary St Thomas More RCVA Primary St Wilfrid's RCVA Primary St William's RCVA Primary</p>
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The Trusts of the Academies/Free Schools listed below are Admission Authorities to which this scheme applies:

<p>New Seaham The Ribbon, Murton Victoria Lane, Coundon Cleves Cross</p>	<p>Acre Rigg, Peterlee Tudhoe Colliery Stephenson Way</p>
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CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME - SECONDARY

This scheme is made by Durham County Council under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and the Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and applies to all maintained secondary schools and Academies/Free Schools in County Durham.

The proposed Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for Durham Local Authority is set out below and complies with the School Admissions Code. The dates relating to the admissions process for the school year 2015/16 are attached at Annex 1.

A separate scheme exists in relation to primary schools.

Interpretation

1. In this scheme -

“The LA” means Durham County Council acting in its capacity as local education authority.

“The LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local education authority.

“The school/s” means all Community and Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided or Foundation Secondary schools which are maintained by the LA and Academies/Free Schools.

“Admission Authority” means the LA in respect of any of the schools which is a Community or Voluntary Controlled school, the Governing Body of the school in respect of a Voluntary Aided or Foundation School and the relevant Trust for Academies/Free Schools.

“Parent” means any person who holds parental responsibility for a child and with whom the child normally lives.

“Suitable school” means the nearest available school which offers an efficient full-time programme of education appropriate to the individual child’s age, ability and any special educational needs, in the view of the Authority.

The Co-ordinated Admission Scheme will apply for the admission arrangements for the school year commencing September 2015.

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the 2015/16 school year the provisions set out in the Schedule to this scheme.

The Governing Body of each Voluntary Aided or Foundation School and the relevant Trust for an Academy/Free School will include in its admission arrangements for the 2015/16 school year the provisions set out in the Schedule to this scheme, so far as relevant to that school/Academy/Free School.

The scheme shall apply to every secondary school/Academy/Free School in the LA area (except special schools).

PART 1 - THE SCHEME

1. There will be a common application form supplied by the LA for the purpose of enabling parents living in County Durham to express up to three preferences for their child to be admitted to a Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary school, Voluntary Aided secondary school, Foundation school or Academy/Free School in County Durham or to a school or schools in another LA area for the academic year 2015/2016.
2. The common application form must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by parents resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child:
 - (a) to be admitted to a maintained secondary school and Academy/Free School within the LA area (including Voluntary Aided schools and Foundation schools);
 - (b) to be admitted to a maintained secondary school and Academy/Free School located in another LA's area (including Voluntary Aided schools and Foundation schools).
3. The common application form will invite the parent to express up to three preferences including where relevant any schools outside the LA's area, in the rank order in which they wish their child to receive an offer of a place, and invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.
4. The common application form will explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place. Furthermore, that places at any oversubscribed school will be offered on the basis of equal preference rank order and that where an offer is made it would be for the highest ranked school at which the LA as the admission authority, or on behalf of the admission authority of a Voluntary Aided school, Foundation School, or Academy/Free School, was able to offer a place. Annex 2 lists those Governing Bodies/Trusts who are the Admission Authority for schools/Academies/Free Schools to which this scheme applies.
5. The common application form will explain that where the LA could not offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the offer of a place will be made at the nearest school to the parental address that has a place available.
6. The common application form will specify a closing date and where it must be returned. Governing Bodies of Aided or Foundation Schools and the relevant Trust for Academies/Free Schools, as the Admission Authority, must notify the relevant LA of any application made direct to them in error whether or not the parent lives in County Durham.
7. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that a common application form is available on request from the LA and from all Secondary schools in County Durham. The facility to apply on line will also be made available via the LA's website.
8. The common application form will include a supplementary section to be completed by parents who express a preference for a Voluntary Aided School to enable them to provide relevant additional information.

Processing of Application Forms

9. Completed common application forms should be returned to the LA by 31 October 2014.
10. Completed common application forms which are received for good reason after the closing date will be accepted and treated as an on time application provided they are received before 6 February 2015, the date the allocation procedures begin. Examples of good reason include: when a single parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a County Durham property as the main property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered and each case decided on its own merits. Parents however must provide clear evidence for the LA to consider as to why they could not submit an application during the preference period. The determination of the LA will be final.

Determining offers in response to the application form

11. The LA will make the offer of a school place to the parent of every child living in County Durham transferring to secondary education in September 2015 who applies for a place at a maintained school/Academy/Free School.
12. The LA will determine the potential offer of a place for Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary schools in County Durham in its capacity as the Admission Authority **having no regard to order of preferences**. For Voluntary Aided schools, Foundation schools or Academies/Free Schools, or schools in another Local Authority, the relevant Admission Authority will inform Durham LA of the potential offer of a place*. Durham LA will then be responsible for making the offer of a place in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 15 of this Scheme.
13. By 21 November 2014, the LA will provide the Admission Authority for each of the schools indicated on the common application form with a copy of the application form, **excluding parental preference information***.
14. By 12 January 2015, the Admission Authority for each school will provide the LA with a list, in rank order, in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school, indicating those who can be offered a place and those (if any) who cannot*. The LA will then match this ranked list against the ranked lists of the other schools nominated.

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

15. By 6 February 2015, the LA will match the provisional offers of places against each parent's ranking and proceed as follows:
- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked.
 - Where none of the preferences can be met, the child will be offered a place at the nearest suitable school with a place available.
16. No later than 6 February 2015 the LA will inform other LAs of places in County Durham schools/Academies/Free Schools to be offered to their residents and on 1 March 2015 the LA will inform its secondary/Academies schools/Free Schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools/Academies/Free Schools.
17. On 1 March 2015, the LA will write to all parents in County Durham to whom the offer of a place can be made, notifying them of the offer of a place at:
- (a) one of the preferences on the common application form; or
 - (b) the nearest suitable school with places available
18. The LA's letter will ask parents to confirm their acceptance of the place and inform them that if they are not satisfied with the offer of a place they have the right of appeal if they so wish. The letter will include contact details for the LA and those nominated Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools and Academies/Free Schools where they could not be offered a place, so that they can if they wish lodge an appeal with the Governing Body or Trust*. The letter will also give parents the opportunity of having their child's name placed on the waiting list for a place at the preferred school(s). The letter will also state, where relevant, why a place could not be offered at a higher ranked school.
19. Parents will be sent a reminder letter 2 weeks after the offer date (1 March 2014) allowing a further 7 days to respond to the request that they confirm their acceptance of the place.
20. On 23 March 2015 the LA will reallocate any places that may have become available since 1 March 2015 strictly in accordance with the relevant published oversubscription criteria and in the following order of priority:
- 1. those who have been offered a school place but who ranked the school at which a place has now become available higher on the common application form than the school at which they were offered a place on 1 March 2015 and who have confirmed that they still wish to be offered a place at the higher ranked school,
 - 2. those who have not been offered any school place because their applications were received late i.e. after 6 February 2015 (see paragraph 23) and those who have been offered a school place but who now wish to apply for a place at an alternative school.

Waiting Lists

21. From 23 March 2015, parents may ask for their child's name to be kept on a waiting list for an over subscribed school to be offered places if they become available after that date. The waiting lists for all schools/Academies/Free Schools will be maintained by the relevant admission authority* and any places which become available will be offered

strictly in accordance with the published admission criteria of the appropriate admission authority. Waiting lists will be maintained throughout the school year.

PART 2 - LATE APPLICATIONS

22. Applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2014 and prior to 6 February 2015, will be considered and, as far as possible, will be offered a school place on 1 March 2015. Completed common application forms which are received for good reason after the closing date will be accepted and treated as an on time application provided they are received before 6 February 2015, the date the allocation procedures begin (see paragraph 10).
23. For applications received between 7 February 2015 and 22 March 2015 the LA will, on the 23 March 2015, the re-allocation day, offer a place in accordance with parental preference, where possible, and if not possible, at the nearest school with places available.
24. For applications received between 23 March 2015 (the re-allocation day) and 31 August 2015 inclusive, offer/refusal letters will be sent out within 14 days of the LA receiving the application form and a reminder issued after 7 days. Any parent approaching a school direct must be referred to the LA. The LA will enter the details on to its central database, issue a copy of the application form to the relevant admission authority* and, after discussion and agreement with the relevant admission authority, offer a place at the school highest in the parent's order of rank that has a place available, or if this is not possible, at the nearest suitable school that has a place available.

PART 3 - IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

25. Applications received on or after 1 September 2015, and for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry to school, will be treated as in-year admissions.
26. For the period 1 September 2015 until 13 September 2015 inclusive, transfers from one school to another of pupils who were offered a school place in the normal admissions round will be processed upon receipt of a request to transfer, without reference to the procedures outlined in paragraphs 27, 28, 29, 30 and 33 of this Scheme. Specifically, the LA will, upon request, provide information about the places still available in all maintained schools within the area. All relevant admission authorities will consider any request that is made (making reference to any waiting lists that are in operation) and then notify the LA, if appropriate, of the outcome*. Parents whose applications are refused will be offered a right of appeal.
27. The common in-year application form will request details from the current school and parent including reason for transfer and will specify where it must be returned. Governing Bodies of Aided and Foundation Schools and Academies/Free Schools, as the Admissions Authority, must notify the relevant LA of any application made to them in error whether or not the parent lives in County Durham.
28. For parents of children who live in another Local Authority area who have applied for an in-year place in a County Durham School – the Home Authority (LA) must contact the Maintaining Authority (Durham) to ascertain the availability of a place. The Home

Authority (LA) would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to the Maintaining Authority (Durham).

29. The LA will make an offer of a place in respect of completed in year application forms for children living in County Durham. For parents of children who have applied for an in year school place in another LA area – the Home Authority (Durham) must contact the Maintaining Authority (Other LA) to confirm the availability of a place. The Home Authority (Durham) would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to the Maintaining Authority (Other LA).
30. Secondary In-Year Admissions will be administered by the Pupil Casework Team, Children and Adults Services, who will advise parents of availability of places, send out in-year application forms and confirm an offer of a place to parents (if resident in County Durham), school and, if appropriate, other Local Authority.
31. The LA will inform parents who have not been offered a place into the school of their choice that they have the right to appeal if they so wish. The letter will include contact details for the LA and those Voluntary Aided or Foundation schools or Academies, where they could not be offered a place, so they can if they wish lodge an appeal. Appeals for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools or Academies/Free Schools (where appropriate) must be submitted to the relevant Governing Body/Trust*.
32. Parents may ask for their child's name to be kept on a waiting list, to be offered places if they become available at any school to which they have expressed a preference on the in-year Application Form. The waiting lists for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools will be maintained by the LA (and by the School in the case of Aided schools and Foundation schools and the relevant Trust for Academies/Free Schools *) and any places which become available will be offered strictly in accordance with the published admission criteria of the appropriate admission authority. Waiting lists will be maintained throughout the school year. Any offer of a school place will always be made by the Local Authority.
33. The in-year Admission protocols must be followed (ANNEX 3 and 4).

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

**Timetable for Admissions to Secondary Schools/Academies/Free Schools
September 2015**

By 12 September 2014	Parents Guide to School Admissions and Common Application Form are made available to parents
31 October 2014	Closing date for return of forms to the LA
21 November 2014	LA sends copies of Application Forms to Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools, Academies/Free Schools* and neighbouring LAs.
12 January 2015	Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools or Academies/Free Schools* and the relevant Admission Authority for neighbouring LA schools provide the LA with ranked list of applicants.
	(On-going exchange of information between admission authorities)
6 February 2015	LA allocates places in accordance with relevant admission/oversubscription criteria and informs other LAs of places in County Durham to be offered to their residents.
1 March 2015	LA makes offer to parents and informs schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.
16 March 2015	Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place.
23 March 2015	Any places that become available since 1 March are reallocated to parents
24 March 2015	Waiting lists are established and begin to operate

* Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority.

The Governing Bodies of the Voluntary Aided Schools listed below are Admission Authorities to which this scheme applies:

St Bede's RCVA Comprehensive, Peterlee
St Leonard's RC Comprehensive

The Governing Bodies of the Foundation Schools listed below are the Admissions Authorities to which this scheme applies:

Sunnydale Community College
Greenfield School Community College
Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College

The Trusts of the Academies/Free Schools listed below are the Admissions Authorities to which this scheme applies:

North Durham Academy
The Academy at Shotton Hall
The Hermitage Academy
Park View School
Teesdale School
King James 1 Academy
Consett Academy
Staindrop School, an Academy
St John's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, a Catholic Academy
Framwellgate School, Durham
St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre, Lanchester
Woodham Academy
Easington Community Science College
Parkside Academy
The Durham Free School

IN YEAR TRANSFERS BETWEEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The LA and Durham secondary schools have had an agreed protocol regarding in year transfer of pupils since September 2002. This is to ensure best advice is given to parents, careful consideration of the issues is given and effective management of the process is undertaken.

The protocol requires that a LA/Head Teacher/Parent conference will be convened at the current school for such pupils by any party. This will be held within 15 working days of the concern arising. The purpose is to provide the parent with “Best Advice” including consideration of what added value there would be in effecting a transfer and focusing on resolving any underlying issues.

A leaflet for parents “Why Change Schools?” available from the Pupil Casework Team, Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ is designed to assist the parent in considering the best interests of the pupil and it sets out requirements about school attendance during the process of decision-making.

This In year transfer Protocol does not apply to children with Statements of Special Educational Needs as the statutory SEN process and requirements apply.

In Year Secondary School Transfers - Funding

The LA arranges for the transfer of funding (AWPU), for the remainder of the year, from the previous school to the receiving school, on a pro rata basis.

**Transfer between Local Secondary Schools
LA/School Protocol agreed 2002**

1. Clarity regarding availability of places:
 - Head Teachers must always inform the LA about any potential student movement i.e. admissions or transfers both in and out-County. This will ensure the LA has accurate data regarding the availability of places.
 - The LA advises about admissions in accordance with admission criteria.
2. More detail is requested by the LA on the Transfer form from the current school and parent for example.
 - Behaviour
 - Exclusions
 - Attendance
 - PSPs
 - Other agency involvement (tick list)
 - Court order/Bail arrangements
 - Courses currently being followed by pupils and relevant exam boards if applicable
 - Assessment data.
3. Parents who request a place in a County Durham School as a result of a house move will receive notification of an offer of a place and confirmation of the offer will also be sent to the school.
4. Only the LA will issue transfer request forms to parents.
5. A “Why Change Schools?” information leaflet for parents has been produced by the LA and held in schools to be given to parents making enquiries. This includes:
 - Issues regarding the best interest of the child.
 - Confirmation that until the transfer is completed the pupil remains on the roll of the donor school and should be attending that school.
6. A LA/Head Teacher/Parent Conference will be convened at the current school for such pupils if requested by any party. This will be held within 15 working days of any concern arising. The purpose is to provide the parent with “Best Advice”, including consideration of what added value there would be in effecting a transfer and the conference will focus on resolving any underlying issues.
7. In cases of continued difficulty the LA/schools will discuss whether or not any further action might be appropriate.

**ADMISSION POLICIES / OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY SCHOOLS AND UNITS

Places are allocated according to the oversubscription criteria listed below:

▪ Children In Need

The Children Act 1989 defines a child 'in need' as:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.
- b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.
- c) He/she is disabled. In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

A maximum of two part-time nursery places are retained until the end of the Autumn half term in order to accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined in the requirements of the Children Act, 1989.

▪ Children Transferring from One Nursery Setting to Another

Once a child has begun attending a particular nursery school/unit, it is usually in the child's best interest to remain at that nursery school/unit until transfer to the next phase of their education. However, where parents move house, for example, it may be impractical to remain at the same setting.

There may also be other exceptional reasons as to why a transfer from one Maintained Nursery School or Unit to another would be appropriate, but this would be rare and subject to the agreement of the school following guidance from the Local Authority. Where possible nursery schools/units will aim to provide for children who have already started Early Years Provision.

▪ The Two Year Old Free Entitlement

Where a child has been accessing the free entitlement for 2 year olds in daycare that is directly associated with a maintained nursery school or unit, for a minimum of 15 hours per week for two terms immediately prior to the child becoming eligible for free entitlement, they shall receive priority for admission to that maintained nursery school or unit in order to preserve continuity, providing that they also live within County Durham's administrative area.

▪ Age

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. Normally, the earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is at the age of 3, although some 2 year olds can access the free entitlement. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

- **Children Living in Other Authorities**

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within County Durham's administrative area. Only when all children living within the boundary of County Durham have been allocated a place, may a child living in a neighbouring area be offered a place.

ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Oversubscription Criteria:

If more children want a place than there are places available, we will offer places according to the following criteria, strictly in order of priority:

- i. **Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order***. A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- ii. **Medical Reasons**
Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.
- iii. **Sibling Links**
Pupils who have a sibling** already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.
- iv. **Distance**
Pupils who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route***. This will be based on the parents' address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e. twins, triplets or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children.

* An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

** Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admissions Brochure.

*** In assessing home to school distance the LA measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point of the pupil's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point of the building, to the nearest school entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network and Urban Paths Network, which are national recognised datasets. The routes include all man-made paths, i.e. those that are metalled or surfaced.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

When there are more requests for places than those available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places strictly in order of priority:

1. **Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order***. A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
2. **Medical Reasons**
Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement
3. **Sibling Links**
Pupils who have a sibling** already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.
4. **Applicants to their nearest School**
Those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route***
5. **All other applicants**

Tie-breaker

Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tiebreakers will be applied:

- (a) For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address (category 4), priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school¹
- (b) For other children (category 5), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for

In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 or 3 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

Footnote¹: 'School' means any maintained secondary school or a DFE maintained Academy in County Durham. Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route. Those parents who live in County Durham and have children in year 6 in primary schools maintained by Durham County Council will be provided with information for them to find out which school is nearest to their home address according to the official measuring system. The same information will be provided for any other applicant on request.

* An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

** Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner.

*** In assessing home to school distance the LA measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point of the pupil's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point of the building, to the nearest school entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network and Urban Paths Network, which are national recognised datasets. The routes include all man-made paths, i.e. those that are metalled or surfaced.

SIXTH FORMS – COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Applications for Year 12

Some County Durham secondary schools offer sixth form of study for students. The majority of the sixth form students transfer from Year 11, but places are available for external students.

The entry requirements for sixth forms are largely dependent on the course of study that a student wishes to access. They are the same for internal and external students. Details of specific entry requirements and courses available may be obtained from the school. The availability of courses is dependent upon the number of applicants and the financial sustainability of the course and the Governing Body of the school determines this.

Entry requirements and oversubscription criteria:

Priority will be given to:

1. Students who have attended the school in the previous academic year (during Year 11) and who satisfy the school's entry requirements* for the course available and then,
2. All other students of the relevant age who satisfy the school's entry requirements* for the course available.

Where the school is oversubscribed within category (1) the following will be applied, strictly in order of priority:

- a) Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order**. A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- b) Students who will have a sibling*** at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
- c) All other students.
- d) Distance from home to school measured by the shortest walking route****, with those living nearest the school receiving priority.

Where the school is oversubscribed within category (2) the above criteria will be applied, strictly in order of priority with the exception that, after b), the following will apply: all other students who previously attended in Year 11, a maintained school or academy with 11-16 provision only.

Applicants refused admission to a sixth form are entitled to an appeal to an independent appeals panel.

*The entry requirements are:

- To study 4 or more AS optional subjects in Year 12 the student must have achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade C or above (including Maths and/or English as appropriate) and achieve the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirements.
- To study fewer than 4 AS subjects and/or level 3 vocational courses the student must have achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade C or above and achieve the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirement
- To study a Level 2 vocational course the student must have achieved at least 4 GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade D or above and meet the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirement.

** An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

*** Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner.

**** In assessing home to school distance the LA measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point of the pupil's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point of the building, to the nearest school entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network and Urban Paths Network, which are national recognised datasets. The routes include all man-made paths, i.e. those that are metalled or surfaced.

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Cabinet

19 March 2014



County Durham Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule: Submission

Key Decision R&ED/01/14

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development
Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report advises Cabinet on the comments received following the final statutory consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft version of the County Durham Plan (the Plan) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule. It proposes that Cabinet recommends that Full Council approves both documents for Submission. The Full Council meeting is being held on the 2nd of April. The Plan and the CIL Charging Schedule (including Regulation 123 list) will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination by the end of April.
2. A separate report on the financial implications to the Council of the County Durham Plan has also been prepared.

Background

3. All Local Planning Authorities have a statutory requirement to prepare and maintain an up to date development plan for their area. The County Durham Plan has been prepared during a time of significant change, the Localism Act has introduced a number of important reforms to the planning system and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a streamlined framework replacing the previous national planning policy guidance, which local plans must be in conformity with. The NPPF also encourages the timely development of local plans and contains a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
4. The Pre-Submission Draft was the fifth and final stage of plan preparation. An extensive round of consultation, including nearly 100 events, was undertaken on the Pre-Submission Draft from the 16th October until the 9th of December 2013.

5. An Adopted Local Plan provides the confidence and direction to allow the Council's economic ambitions to be delivered. If the Council did not have an up-to-date Plan, planning applications would then be assessed in accordance with the NPPF. This would increase the likelihood of new developments being assessed and decided in an unplanned way and reduce the Planning Authority's ability to resist inappropriate development.
6. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (as amended) came into force on the 6th April 2010 and give local authorities the option of charging a levy on new development. The CIL ensures that most new development makes a proportionate and reasonable financial contribution to delivering the infrastructure identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). The IDP identifies existing and future infrastructure deficiencies that need to be addressed if the County Durham Plan's vision for growth is to be achieved. It also shows how, when and where the Council and its partners will address these deficiencies. It was agreed by Members in 2012 but is continually being updated as more up to date information is obtained.
7. It should be noted that the CIL is not a direct replacement for Section 106 Agreements. Section 106 will continue to be used for site specific infrastructure, such as access roads or education provision and also for securing affordable housing. Due to low land values in some parts of County Durham it is important that CIL and Section 106 contributions are set at a level that does not prevent development happening.
8. There is one additional document, the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Document, which will be prepared to complement the minerals and waste policies of the Local Plan. It will contain detailed development management policies and any non-strategic minerals and waste allocations which are considered necessary to meet the future needs of County Durham. Work on the document will commence once the Local Plan has been adopted.

Content of the Submission Draft County Durham Plan

9. The County Durham Plan seeks to guide the future development of County Durham to improve the lives of its existing and future residents. It is therefore a Plan that seeks to meet the differing needs of our communities. The Plan sets the policy framework up to 2030 to support the development of a thriving economy in County Durham while at the same time protecting those things that are important to us all. With improved economic performance central to the Plan, it identifies a number of sites for new employment, new housing, new shopping and new infrastructure to accommodate the growth needed to achieve these ambitions. It also provides the basis for appreciating and enhancing the environment in which we live.
10. The ambition of improving the County's economy is based on increasing the economic performance of the County by enabling a step change in the role and function of the main towns and Durham City to act as economic

drivers, whilst ensuring the rest of the County shares in the benefits of economic prosperity. The Plan seeks to create the conditions, including a better environment for business and the necessary infrastructure, that are needed to enable an increased proportion of the working age population in employment, with all the benefits to residents health, wellbeing and prosperity that follow as a result.

Quantity of New Development

11. In order to meet the needs of present and future residents of County Durham and to deliver the Plan's Objectives, the Submission Draft proposes the following levels of development up to 2030:
- **Housing:** At least 31,400 new homes of mixed type, size and tenure;
 - **Employment Land:** 399 hectares of general employment land for office, industrial and warehousing and 100 hectares of specific use sites
 - **Retail:** 9,500 sqm (gross) of new retail floorspace.

Spatial Approach

12. Sustainable development and maximising opportunities for delivery are the core principles of the Spatial Approach. Therefore the preferred approach is for development to be delivered in accordance with the following:
- The Main Towns will be the principal focus for significant retail, housing, office and employment providing better transport and service provision with Durham City as the sub-regional centre;
 - The Smaller Towns and Larger Villages will function as the primary local employment and service centres and will continue to meet the needs of dispersed local communities across County Durham, supporting levels of growth commensurate with their sustainability, physical constraints, land supply and attractiveness to the market;
 - Other settlements, not covered by criteria a and b, will deliver smaller but significant levels of development commensurate with their size to meet their social and economic needs and contribute to regeneration;
 - To allow smaller communities to become more sustainable and resilient and to encourage social and economic vitality, development that delivers community benefits, social cohesion and sustainability will be permitted, particularly if it benefits nearby communities that individually lack facilities; and
 - In rural areas, development that meets the needs of the local community, for instance affordable housing and economic diversification, including appropriate tourist development, will be permitted providing the countryside is protected from wider development pressures and widespread new building.

13. An important aspect of the Plan is its deliverability. Previous approaches to new development relied heavily on public sector funding to ensure the viability of sites in areas of deprivation, focusing all efforts on these communities. This scale of funding is no longer available and is unlikely to be for some time to come. Therefore to secure new development we have established a better understanding of the market. As a result new development is directed to locations that are attractive to the development industry but that will still deliver regeneration and economic growth across the County. Furthermore to enable the provision of affordable housing during times of depressed market conditions, then development must be allowed in those areas where there is sufficient land values to fund them. Concentrating development in places with a proven track record of delivery is therefore essential, but this must not be to the exclusion of other areas which will be allowed to meet local needs and continue to regenerate. The distribution and allocation of housing, employment and retail sites reflect the Plan's Spatial Approach.

CIL Draft Charging Schedule and Regulation 123 List

14. The viability evidence indicates that there is enough additional profit to justify a CIL charge. Due to different land values and market conditions across the County the viability evidence indicates that different levels of CIL can be charged in different areas. The four zones that have been identified are one for the Durham City and Chester-le-Street area, one for West Durham, one for the housing market renewal areas and one for the rest of the County. The different charging rates for each type of development in each zone are shown in the table below.

Type of Development	Durham and Chester-le-Street	West Durham	Rest of County Durham	Housing Market Renewal Areas
Residential Development	£60/m ²	£30/m ²	£15/m ²	£0
Large retail – 1,000 m ² or above	£150/m ²	£150/m ²	£150/m ²	£0
All other A class development (shops and similar establishments; financial and professional services; food and drink (classes A3-5))	£0	£0	£0	£0
All B class development (business, industry, storage and distribution)	£0	£0	£0	£0
Student Accommodation	£150/m ²	£150/m ²	£150/m ²	£0
Extra Care	£0	£0	£0	£0

15. The CIL will be used to fund items of infrastructure that are important for the delivery of the proposals in the County Durham Plan and be set out in what is known as a 'Regulation 123' list. A number of suggestions were put forward during the consultation period (see Appendix 5, available in the Member's Resource Centre) but it considered that the most appropriate projects are those that were included for consultation namely:
 - The Northern Relief Road;
 - Horden Rail Station; and
 - The Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle Multi User Route.
16. The mechanisms for how CIL is to be collected and spent will need to be agreed before the Charging Schedule is finally adopted.

Consultation

17. During the final consultation, 116 organisations and 1271 individuals submitted a total of 3993 representations. Three petitions were also submitted regarding the Praxis Site, Ferryhill (506 names), Bevan Crescent, Wheatley Hill (187 names) and Save our Fields, Trimdon Station (373 names). A petition with 1192 names was also re-submitted by the Durham City Green Belt campaign.
18. All representations made have been reviewed and carefully considered and it has been concluded that, subject to minor text and formatting changes which need to be made, there are no matters arising from the representations that call into question the soundness of the Plan or the legality of its preparation that would prevent it being submitted to the Secretary of State in its current form. A Consultation Feedback Report is included at Appendices 6a and 6b (available in the Member's Resource Centre) which sets out how we consulted on the Plan and a summary of the key issues raised and our response. A Schedule of Minor (Additional) Modifications is also included at Appendix 2 (attached to this report) which sets out the changes to the Plan that are required either in response to representations made or those identified by officers on further examination of the Plan.
19. Key areas of challenge have predominantly been to housing allocations at Bevan Crescent, Wheatley Hill, East of Mill Lane, Sherburn Village, and the Green Belt sites around Durham City including Sniperley Park, North of Arnison and Durham Northern Quarter. Policies receiving most representations included:
 - 3 – Quantity of Development;
 - 6 – Durham City;
 - 8 – Durham City Strategic Sites;
 - 9 – Western Relief Road;
 - 10 – Northern Relief Road;
 - 14 – Green Belt; and
 - 32 – HMOs and Student accommodation.

20. Having carefully considered all of the concerns and challenges raised in the representations it is considered that it is not appropriate to substantially change the Submission Draft version of the Plan. It is therefore not necessary to carry out any further consultation before submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. Therefore any outstanding issues will be resolved at the Examination in Public.
21. During the consultation on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, 16 organisations and 8 individuals submitted a total of 50 representations. It should be noted that many of the representations referring to the CIL were submitted against Policy 5 of the Plan.
22. Again all representations made have been reviewed and carefully considered and it has been concluded that there are no matters arising from the representations that call into question the reasonableness of the Charging Schedule or the legality of its preparation that would prevent it being submitted to the Secretary of State in its current form. A Consultation Feedback Report is included at Appendix 7 (available in the Member's Resource Centre). A Schedule of Changes is also included at Appendix 3 (attached to this report).

Supplementary Planning Documents

23. A number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) also accompany the Plan and give more detail on the strategic allocations that enable the delivery of the Spatial Approach. These were approved by Members in September 2013 and were consulted on alongside the Plan. A Schedule of Changes is attached at Appendix 8 (available in the Member's Resource Centre). Although these will be sent to the Secretary of State accompanying the Plan it should be noted that they will not be examined separately by the Inspector but rather form part of the evidence base for the Examination. They will be adopted by the Council at the same time as the Plan and will reflect any relevant changes to the Plan made by the Inspector.
24. In order to clarify the form of development envisaged and to address the concerns of residents an SPD for the Durham Northern Quarter is also to be prepared. This will be submitted at the same time as the Plan but given the timescales will only be subjected to targeted consultation during its preparation. It will therefore only carry limited weight but will aid the Inspector in his considerations. Full consultation on the SPD will take place after the Examination in Public.
25. There will be other draft SPDs prepared following Examination in Public which will cover the following topics:
 - Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing;
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation;
 - Built Environment;
 - Historic Environment; and
 - Natural Environment.

Evidence

26. A robust and credible evidence base is integral to preparing a sound Local Plan. Members have previously agreed many of the documents that form the evidence base for the Plan and the CIL including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), the Employment Land Review and the Affordable Housing and CIL Development Viability Study amongst many others. Updating and strengthening of the documents which form the evidence base has been undertaken prior to Submission. However as this exercise has been mainly about expanding on the justification of individual policies rather than any new full studies which will also be referred to when considering planning applications, such as the SHMA, it is not necessary to obtain Cabinet approval.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Directive

27. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory process integrated into the preparation of all aspects of the Plan. The process measures the potential impacts of the Plan on a range of economic, social and environmental considerations, and includes the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹.
28. The SA concluded that the Plan contributes positively towards a range of key issues. Where negative effects were identified the mitigation proposed by the SA will be embedded within the development and delivery processes of policies and sites.
29. Representations to the SA came from three sources. The Environment Agency, who had no concerns; The City of Durham Trust, who had concerns regarding the SA being presented in a 'balanced format' and on 'residual impacts'; and 194 responses from individuals and community groups that questioned the objectivity of the SA.
30. The Council is confident that the combined SA and SEA process undertaken in support of the Plan, from Issues and Options to Pre-Submission Draft, was legally and procedurally compliant with regards to the relevant European and UK legislation and guidance, including its impartiality.
31. Natural England raised no issues with regard to the soundness or legal compliance of the Plan with the Habitat Directive². In fact they have recommended the Council's proactive approach to avoiding adverse impacts on European designated sites and our commitment to encouraging the provision of suitable green infrastructure with new housing, to other local authorities as an example of best practice.

¹ And legislation transposing this Directive into UK law.

² And legislation transposing this Directive into UK law.

Soundness of the Plan

32. The focus of the recent consultation was on soundness and legal compliance with the statutory procedures that must be followed when preparing the Plan.
33. Considering carefully the representations received, and following legal advice, it is considered that the Plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with the duty to co-operate and all legal and procedural requirements. It is considered that no significant changes to the Plan are necessary prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Independent Examination.
34. Minor (additional) modifications to the Plan can be made without further consultation. These modifications will not alter the meaning of the Plan and are considered to be minor. Notwithstanding this position and in the interest of good practice it is proposed that officers continue to discuss issues raised during the consultation period with stakeholders in the run up to the Examination to further minimise their areas of concern. It is proposed that authority is given to the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration to continue discussions, prepare and present evidence and suggest to the Inspector any edits and consequential changes necessary to the Plan.
35. The Inspector, in examining the Plan and in light of representations made, may conclude that 'modifications' are required to make it sound and capable of adoption. Any 'main modifications' made in relation to soundness will in almost all cases need to be the subject of further consultation. It is accordingly proposed that Council authorises the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to ask the Inspector under section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to recommend modifications to the Plan, to ensure that modification, if required, can be made to make it both compliant with requirements of subsection (5)(a) and sound.

Duty to Co-operate

36. The Localism Act introduced the Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities when preparing plans. County Durham borders a number of County, District and Unitary Councils and a National Park Planning Authority and we have greater interaction with some more than others. The Council has taken its responsibility very seriously on this matter and has created protocols with appropriate groups of authorities to ensure that the correct liaison takes place. To reflect the close relationship the County has with Tyne and Wear and particularly those local authorities south of the Tyne namely, Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared. The MoU sets out how the authorities will comply with the duty to co-operate and clarifies the responsibilities of the partners both individually and collectively and

establishes guidelines for joint working in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in the MoU. The Council has been operating to the guidelines within the MoU since the Duty was introduced in 2011 but ahead of the Examination it was thought helpful to have the MoU formally agreed. A full copy of the MoU is attached at Appendix 4 (attached to this report).

Timescale and Next Steps

37. Subject to Full Council approval on the 2nd April 2014 the Plan and CIL Draft Charging Schedule will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by the end of April 2014 for independent examination. The Pre Hearing Meeting is likely to be held at the beginning of June and the Examination in Public (EIP) in middle to late July 2014. Immediately following the EIP into the Plan, a similar EIP is to be held in respect of the draft CIL Charging Schedule. After examination and following consultation on any modifications proposed by the Inspector, the Council will be asked to adopt the Plan and CIL Charging Schedule. This should take place early in 2015. However the timescale for adoption of the Plan and CIL Charging Schedule is dependent on the issues and matters to be identified by the Inspector following Submission, the length of the EIPs and any modifications proposed.
38. It should also be noted that as the Plan progresses towards adoption, greater weight can be attached to the emerging policies for Development Management purposes.

Recommendation

39. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Full Council that:
 - 1) The following documents are approved
 - i. The Consultation Feedback Reports in Appendices 6a, 6b and 7;
 - ii. The amendments identified in the 'Schedule of Minor (Additional) Modifications' to the Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule and the SPDs in Appendices 2, 3 and 8 and the Regulation 123 List set out in Paragraph 15 of this Report;
 - iii. The Memorandum of Understanding attached at Appendix 4; and
 - 2) Authorisation is given for formal submission of the County Durham Plan and the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, Regulation 123 List and associated submission documentation to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and Section 212 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 19 of the CIL Regulations (as amended) 2010; and
 - 3) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration to:

- a. approve the submission of the documents required to be submitted alongside the Plan to the Secretary of State as required by Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for consideration at public examination;
 - b. continue discussions with key parties and suggest to the Inspector any edits and consequential changes necessary following Council approval up to and during the Examination; and
- 4) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to ask the Inspector appointed to hold the Examination in Public to recommend modifications to the County Durham Plan Submission Document under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required to make it compliant with Section 20(5A) of the Act and sound.

Background Papers:

County Durham Local Plan –Submission Draft (2014)
 County Durham Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft (2013)
 County Durham Local Plan – Preferred Options (2012)
 County Durham Local Plan – Policy Directions (2011)
 County Durham Local Plan – Issues and Options (2010)
 County Durham Local Plan – Issues Paper (2009)
 National Planning Policy Framework (CLG, March 2012)
 County Durham Local Development Scheme (June 2012)
 County Durham Statement of Community Involvement (June 2012)
 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan (2013);
 Habitat Regulations Assessment (2013);
 Rural Proofing Baseline Report (2012);
 Defining Economic Growth in the County Durham Plan (2012);
 Retail and Town Centre Uses Study (2010 and 2013);
 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2010);
 Playing Pitch Study (2011);
 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010);
 The Economic Case for the County Durham Plan (2012);
 County Durham Settlement Study (2012);
 County Durham Employment Land Review (2012);
 Transport Modelling for County Durham Plan (2011/12 and 2013);
 AECOM Durham Relief Road Studies: Western and Northern Route (2011);
 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2013);
 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013);
 Strategic Employment Sites Study (2012);
 County Durham Green Infrastructure Strategy (2012); and
 Durham City Green Belt Assessment Phases 1, 2 and 3;

Contact: Mike Allum Tel: 03000261906

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

The Regeneration Statement and the County Durham Plan outline the approach for investment which includes Durham County's council's capital programme.

The Examination in Public will could cost up to £400000, including the costs of the Planning Inspector, legal advice and the employment of a Programme Officer and possibly an assistant. Provision has been made in the Planning and Asset reserve to cover this cost.

Staffing –

The Spatial Policy Team's work programme will reflect the requirements of the CDP Project Plan.

Risk –

A risk assessment has been completed and three reportable risks has been identified, details of which are attached in Appendix 9.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –

Equality and Diversity has been an integral part of policy development in the County Durham Plan. The vision as outlined in the Regeneration Statement is to *shape a County Durham where people want to live, work, invest and visit and enable our residents and businesses to achieve and maximise their potential* – this will have a positive effect on all residents, employees and visitors. Detailed Equality Impact Assessments have been and will be carried out for individual strategies or projects.

Accommodation –

None.

Crime and Disorder –

None.

Human Rights –

None.

Consultation –

Further consultation is not required before Submission of the Plan however there may be a further round following the Examination in Public to consult on any Modifications made by the Inspector.

Procurement –

None.

Disability Issues –

None.

Legal Implications –

Legal opinion has been sought from the Council's in-house legal team and all the policies in the plan. Advice has also been received from external legal specialists on particularly complex topics, such as the funding of the relief roads. A barrister has also been appointed to assist the Council through the Examination in Public.

APPENDIX 9
Reportable Risks

Risks associated with agreeing the decision.			
Risk Description	Potential Impact	Measures to mitigate the risk (if not already in place state implantation date)	Risk Owner
Public dissatisfaction to the proposed strategic plans being centred mainly around Durham City.	Reputational damage.	Ongoing consultation with the public in all areas of the County communicating the full County Plan not just focussing on the area itself. Modifications to the plan have been made in response to public opinion. Formally responded to every representation made.	Ian Thompson
Opposition to the alterations to the Green Belt.	Reputational damage. Legal challenges. Increased costs. If opposition successful CDP would have to be re-written.	Ongoing consultation with the public providing in depth information about the proposals for altering the green belt. Studies completed to identify the most sensitive areas. Complete transparency of proposals has been maintained. Considered alternative approaches.	Ian Thompson
Risks associated with not agreeing the decision.			
Delay in the social, economic and environmental regeneration	1. Inability to attract inward investment, employment; housing development etc. 2. Local economy will suffer. 3. Social inequalities may increase. 4. Public dissatisfaction. 5. Reputational damage.		Ian Thompson

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1 Introduction

Supporting Documents and Evidence Base

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.26	Three different rates of GIL are proposed across the County reflecting the different land values and local markets. The Charging Schedule reflects the difficult market conditions in the UK at this time, but as market conditions change, the Charging Schedule will be reviewed to reflect the changing viability of development.	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
2	1.27	A number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) also accompany the Plan and give more detail on most of the strategic allocations that will deliver the Spatial Approach. There are also a number of topic based SPDs. These are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aykley Heads; ● Sniperley Park; ● North of Arnison; ● Sherburn Road; ● Low Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe; 	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>North East Industrial Estate, Peterlee;</i> ● <i>West High Road, Crook;</i> ● <i>Woodhouses Farm, Bishop Auckland;</i> ● <i>Lambton Park Estate; and</i> <p><i>These documents are available for you to view or make comments on the County Durham Plan</i></p>		
3	1.28	<p><i>These documents are available for you to view or make comments on the County Durham Plan Consultation Pages at:</i></p> <p>http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/.</p>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
4	1.29	<p><i>In addition a number of other SPDs will be prepared in the future, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Auckland Castle;</i> ● <i>Built Environment;</i> ● <i>Historic Environment;</i> ● <i>Natural Environment;</i> ● <i>Developers Contributions and Affordable</i> 	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p><i>Housing; and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation.⁴</i> 		
	1.30	<p>There are also a number of other supporting documents and evidence papers that have contributed to the preparation of the Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan (2013) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (2013) are legally required to be published for consultation alongside the Plan. and are also available for you to view or make comments on the County Durham Plan Consultation Pages. Other supporting documents although not specifically out for consultation can, of course, be commented on as part of any response to the relevant part of the Plan. All can be found on the Evidence Base page of the Council's website⁽ⁱ⁾.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rural Proofing Baseline Report (2012);</i> <i>Defining Economic Growth in the County Durham Plan (2013);</i> <i>Retail and Town Centre Uses Study (2013);</i> 	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

i The Council's evidence base web page can be accessed here: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8233>.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Retail Site Search Evidence Paper (2012);</i> ● <i>Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2010);</i> ● <i>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010);</i> ● <i>Green Belt Report Scoping Report (2010); Stage 2 (2011) and Stage 3 (2012);</i> ● <i>Non-Strategic Green Belt Modification evidence paper (2013);</i> ● <i>County Durham Settlement Study (2012);</i> ● <i>Executive Housing Study (2013);</i> ● <i>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2013);</i> ● <i>Joint Local Aggregate Assessment for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear (2013);</i> ● <i>Production and Disposal of Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW & VLLW) in the North East of England (2013);</i> 		

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Model of Waste Arising and Waste Management Capacity for the North East of England Waste Planning Authorities (2013);</i> ● <i>County Durham Employment Land Review (2012);</i> ● <i>Playing Pitch Strategy (2011);</i> ● <i>TfL Transport Modelling (2006/7);</i> ● <i>Transport Modelling for County Durham Plan (2013);</i> ● <i>AEGOM Durham Relief Road Study: Western Route (2011);</i> ● <i>AEGOM Durham Relief Road Study: Northern Route (2011);</i> ● <i>Water Cycle Study (2012);</i> ● <i>Traveler Needs Assessment (2013);</i> ● <i>Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013);</i> 		

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strategic Employment Sites Study (2012); and</i> • <i>Employment Land Review (2012).³</i> 		

Census 2011

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.33	These changes have been given full consideration in the context of developing population, household and employment forecasts, for the Submission Draft of the Plan and more detail is given in Policy 3 (Quantity of Development) and the evidence paper Population, Household and Employment Projections for County Durham 2011-2030.	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Sustainability Appraisal

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.36	<i>The Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan (2013) is legally required to be published for consultation alongside the Plan. The report includes the outcomes and recommendations of the SA at each stage of Plan development, previous stages of which have been consulted upon. We are seeking your view and comments upon the SA of significant changes following on from the Local Plan Preferred Options. The SA report is available for you to view or make comments on the County Durham Plan Consultation Pages at: http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/</i>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.39	<i>The Habitat Regulations Assessment (2013) of the Plan is legally required to be published for consultation alongside the Plan and is available for</i>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<i>you to view or make comments on the County Durham Plan Consultation Pages at: http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/</i>		
2	1.40	Previous HRA reports relating to prior stages of Plan development are also available on the Council's website.	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Rural Proofing

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.41	We have incorporated rural proofing at earlier all stages of plan preparation and carried out a high level exercise for the Preferred Options Document , which considered the likely impact of policies and proposals on the rural parts of the County.	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
2	1.42	During the preparation of the Pre-Submission Draft the recommendations of the Rural Proofing Baseline Report of the Preferred Options have been considered. Each policy in the Plan has then been assessed against the criteria set out and included	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		in an updated version of the Rural Proofing Base Line Report ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ .		

Stages of Plan Preparation and Next Steps

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.51	We have subsequently published four ^{five} consultation documents and undertaken extensive public engagement:	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
2	1.51	The Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft (October 2013), which built on the Preferred Options consultation and was updated to reflect the latest evidence.	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
3	1.52	We have also been keen to practise continuous engagement throughout the plan preparation process and have continued to attend public meetings and receive comments outside of formal consultation periods where appropriate. The	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

ii The Rural Proofing Base Line report can be downloaded here: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8233/>

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<i>Preferred Options Document was subject to a formal period of consultation during September and October 2012, with over 110At each stage of plan preparation numerous events were held, including public exhibitions in many communities,</i>		
4	1.53	All of the comments we have received have been used to inform each subsequent stage of the Plan; <i>including the Pre-Submission Draft. As part of the currentAt each stage of consultation a Local Plan Preferred-Options Statement of Consultation Document has been published. This summarises all responses received to the Preferred Options and sets out a Council Response to each. Once the consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft is complete the comments received will again be assessed as set out below.</i>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	
5	1.54	Next Steps <i>The Publication of the Pre-Submission Draft for consultation is an advanced stage in the preparation of the Local Plan and the document represents what the Council would consider to be the final Plan. However, following consideration of the consultation responses and the making of any appropriate minor modifications (major changes could require further rounds of consultation), the Plan will be formally</i>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
6	1.55	<p><i>submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in the Spring of 2014.</i></p> <p><i>The Examination in Public will then follow in the Summer of 2014.</i></p> <p><i>The Examination in Public will be chaired by an independent Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate and will examine matters where objections to the Plan remain. Following the Examination the Inspector will present a report to the Council, which will then have to consider any recommendations proposed by the Inspector. Once these have been addressed Adoption of the Plan will follow in late 2014.</i></p>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

How do you Get Involved

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	How Do You Get Involved Section	<i>The Council's Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council will undertake consultation</i>	Updated to reflect the stage of plan preparation	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p><i>on the County Durham Plan to ensure it reflects the views of stakeholders and the community.</i></p> <p><i>The publication of the Pre-Submission Draft for consultation is the fifth significant stage for involvement in the development of the Plan. The Plan has been refined as a consequence of feedback received at each previous consultation stage. Our response to every individual comment at the Preferred Options stage is available in the Statement of Consultation on our website⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾.</i></p> <p><i>This is the final, formal stage of consultation. It will differ from previous rounds of consultation and will be using a different process this time in order to follow government guidelines. This is an important stage as it is the last opportunity for people to make comments on the Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a planning inspector.</i></p> <p><i>This round of consultation provides the opportunity to comment on the Plan itself in its whole form. These comments need to formally support or object to the Plan in terms of its legal compliance and compliance with national policy, known as</i></p>		

iii *The Preferred Options Statement of Consultation can be downloaded from our website here: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8754>.*

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p><i>'soundness tests': Comments made on the Plan at this stage will go forward to an independent inspector when the Plan is submitted, who will examine the 'soundness' of the Plan and who will invite interested individuals and groups who objected to the Plan to attend public hearings to test the Plan. This will involve the inspector considering whether the Plan is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positively prepared— Does the Plan meet development and infrastructure requirements and will it achieve sustainable development? Is the plan the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives? Is it based on balanced evidence? ● Justified— Is the Plan the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives, based on appropriate evidence? ● Effective— Can the Plan be delivered during the period set out? Is it based on effective joint working between neighbouring local authorities to make sure we meet regional strategic priorities? ● Consistent— Is the Plan consistent with national policy? Will it enable sustainable 		

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p>development in accordance with the policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework?</p> <p>You can send your responses in a number of ways, but we would like to encourage you to submit your views online, via the County Durham Plan consultation pages at: http://durhamcc-consult.linthouse.co.uk/portal/planning/</p> <p>This method should save you time and it will allow us to process and consider your comments more quickly. We hope that you will find the website quick and easy to use and will use it as your preferred way to access and comment on documents in the future. Once your comments have been submitted they will be checked and added to the interactive website where you will also be able to see what comments have been made by others. To protect your privacy, all other information you provide when registering with us will not be open to public view.</p> <p>You can also send us your comments by e-mail to: GDPconsultation@durham.gov.uk</p> <p>Alternatively you can send us your comments to our special freepost address (all you need to do is write</p>		

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p><i>this one line on an envelope -- no other address details are needed):</i></p> <p>FREEPOST Spatial Policy</p> <p><i>As well as being available on our website this document is also available to view at all local libraries and Customer Access Points across County Durham. Paper copies of the document and response forms are available on request using the contact details below.</i></p> <p><i>For enquiries and to request copies of the document, including in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, audio cassette or an alternative language, please call:</i></p> <p>0300 026 0000</p> <p><i>You can also learn more about the County Durham Plan from our main website:</i></p> <p>http://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp</p> <p><i>All comments and completed response forms should be received by:</i></p> <p>Friday 6th December 2013.</p>		

2 The Vision for County Durham

Vision

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Minerals	County Durham will remain a regionally important source nationally and locally important source of minerals. Its quarries will continue to produce the steady and adequate supply of minerals, as required. New or extended mineral workings will be guided to the most environmentally acceptable locations and carried out to the highest high environmental standards.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	UK Coal
2	South Durham	Amazon Merchant Park will have been successfully developed. Hitachi will be the home of train manufacturing in the UK and, alongside a local and successful supply chain, will employ significant numbers of South Durham residents.	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	

Objectives

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Objective 3	Economic Performance - Improve the vitality, viability and economic performance of the main towns <i>and surrounding towns and villages</i> by directing the majority of development to these centres as part of a whole town approach.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Objective 10	Low Carbon - To reduce the causes of climate change and support the transition to a low carbon economy by encouraging and enabling the use of low and zero carbon technologies and <i>sustainable and active</i> transport.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Objective 12	Minerals - To ensure a steady and adequate supply of energy and non energy minerals, in the most appropriate and sensitive way, whilst protecting <i>conserving</i> existing facilities from incompatible development.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 1 - Sustainable Development

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 1	the Council will grant permission for sustainable development ¹ without delay unless material considerations indicate otherwise	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Policy 1	taking into account whether unless ²	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

3 Core Policies

Policy 2 - Spatial Approach

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.4	The chosen approach reflects the key role of the main towns as drivers of growth and also recognises the important contribution other areas of the County can make, including an emphasis on settlements outside of the Main Towns including the Smaller Towns and Larger Villages.	Typographical correction	
2	4.6	The 223 Smaller Towns and Larger Villages are Annfield Plain, Blackhall/Blackhall Rocks, Brandon/ Langley Moor/Meadowfield, Bowburn, Chilton, Coxhoe, Easington/Easington Colliery, Ferryhill, Great Lumley , Horden, Langley Park, Middleton in Teesdale, Murton, Pelton/Newfield, Sedgefield, Sacriston, Shotton/Shotton Colliery, Sherburn, Stanhope, Ushaw Moor, Willington, Wingate and Wolsingham.	Amendment to reflect that Great Lumley is not considered to be a Smaller Town or Larger Village by the 2012 Settlement Study	
3	4.7	This scale of funding is no longer available and is unlikely to be for some time to come.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	4.9	Paragraph 4.9 'The Matthew Taylor Review of the Rural Economy and Affordable Housing recommends that local authorities do more to ensure that those who work in the countryside can also live there. Criteria d and e of the spatial approach policy will allow the sustainable growth of smaller settlements, including those in rural areas, thereby reflecting Matthew Taylor's recommendations.' moved from Policy Context section to after paragraph 4.7	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This paragraph is not related to Policy.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
5	4.9	The Matthew Taylor Review of the Rural Economy and Affordable Housing recommends that local authorities do more to ensure that those who work in the countryside can also live there. Criteria d and e of the spatial approach policy will allow the sustainable growth of smaller settlements, and groups of settlements, including those in rural areas, thereby reflecting Matthew Taylor's recommendations.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Mr Keith Butler (Comment ID: 798, 785)

Policy 3 - Quantity of Development

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 3, Criterion (b)	At least 399 hectares of general and specific use employment land for office, industrial and warehousing purposes.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Mr Joe Ridgeon (Comment ID: 4007, 3886, 3606, 3735, 1546, 1495)
2	New Para 4.33	The Council have taken this approach to housing commitments to reflect the NPPF which states that 'sites with planning permission should be considered deliverable, unless there is clear evidence that schemes will not be implemented in 5 years'. The Council does not have the resources to undertake a detailed assessment of every site with planning permission in order to	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity - Moved from after Paragraph 7.5, Policy 29	

20 Schedule of Minor (Additional) Modifications

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		assemble this 'clear evidence'. We have therefore taken the pragmatic step of assuming all such sites will be delivered. We accept that this is not likely to happen in reality, however we were unwilling to assume a certain percentage of sites would come forward as this would be difficult to evidence. In producing the housing trajectory we have not assumed that all of these sites will be delivered in the short term, but that they will be delivered sometime during the lifetime of the Plan either using a current planning permission or following a future renewal.		
3	4.36	The principal reason for this is the employment sites at Amazon Merchant ³ Park, Newton Park and Drum which seek to take advantage of specific economic opportunities based on Hitachi coming to Newton Aycliffe and the popularity of Drum Industrial Estate.	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	
4	Indicator 1	Net Employment Land approved and completed	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 4 - Distribution of Development

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.38	In order to deliver the Spatial Approach of the County	Amendment to improve the	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Durham Plan we need to distribute new development so that it can maximise benefit to the County's economy and also meet the housing, employment and shopping needs of existing and future residents.	Plan's clarity	
2	4.39	Evidence gathered for the preparation of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013) identifies the need for market, executive and affordable housing. <i>It also shows a close alignment between the Plan's Delivery Areas and actual Housing Market Areas (HMAs).</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	4.39	<i>However, because of the logistical and practical difficulties of having housing numbers cross administrative boundaries, for the purposes of the County Durham Plan, they have been allocated to the Delivery Areas/HMAs only within County Durham.</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	Table 9	Employment Land Distribution by Functional Economic Market Area	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	4.45	The size of these centres is now unsustainable: Some centres also have difficulties with access and car parking. As a result of these issues the size of many of our town and local centres is now unsustainable and they face the need to update and improve. The size and extent of some of our town and local centres (as identified by Policy 26 (Retail Hierarchy and Development in Town Centre)) have been reduced to reflect this position.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
6	4.51	The Smaller Towns and Larger Villages within Central Durham such as Brandon, Langley Moor and Meadowfield	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		(considered as one settlement for the purposes of the Plan), Langley Park or Coxhoe or Saeristofton , have been the focus for successful regeneration initiatives including the renewal of their housing stock.		
7	4.60	Newton Aycliffe is home to Aycliffe Business Park which is an employment site of regional importance. Following the announcement that the Government is to proceed with the Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi, a major train manufacturing firm, have confirmed that their preferred site for train manufacture and assembly plant is Amazon Merchant Park.	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	
8	4.60	Since then Hitachi has secured a further major contract to build trains for Cross-link in London and additional opportunities in Europe are ⁸ being explored.	Grammatical correction	
9	4.60	This is a major boost to the town's confidence and will secure 500 highly skilled jobs on the site, with the expectation of a significant number of further jobs as the supply chain develops. Sites are available to accommodate these jobs within the existing business park and at new allocations at Amazon Merchant Park and Newton Park.	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	

Policy 5 - Developer Contributions

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	5 (Community Infrastructure Levy)	The infrastructure priorities required to support the delivery of the Plan are set out in the Council's list published pursuant to Regulation 123 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended).	To improve the clarity of the Plan.	
2	5	Where a scheme is agreed to be unviable or marginal, we will review the policy requirements offor the site development and the timing or phasing of payments to assist the financial viability of the scheme.	Grammatical error.	
3	5	In order to provide certainty to the development industry, we will produce a Developers Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document which will set out a consistent and accountable approach to negotiating and securing developer contributions.	Typographical error.	
4	4.78	All infrastructure improvements, where appropriate, will be in accordance with Policy 1 (Sustainable Development) to ensure that potential adverse impacts are maximised mitigated whilst accepting the realities of economic viability .	To improve the clarity of the Plan.	Eldon Estate (comment ID 2599), Viscount Encombe (comment ID 1799), Barton Wilmore (comment ID 4363)
5	4.79	At the same time the Government is encouraging the use of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to make the process of developer's contributions quicker, fairer and more transparent for both developers and the general public.	Grammatical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
6	4.79	The CIL will ensure that infrastructure that supporting a number of development sites is not just paid for by an individual developer but rather shared proportionately by several.	Grammatical error.	
7	4.82	The different CIL rates are set out in the CIL Rationale and Charging Schedule. The CIL rates have been set at an appropriate level to reflect the commercial economic viability of development to ensure any charge does not deter development as set out in the Local Plan and CIL Viability Study 2013.	Grammatical error.	
8	Footnote six	In both instances This is subject to a cap of £100 per household in the Parish Council area per year where no neighbourhood plan is in place	To improve the clarity of the Plan.	
5	4.84	Contributions to for affordable housing and other policy requirements will also be negotiated on a site by site basis and subject to viability.	Grammatical error.	

Policy 6 - Durham City

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.89	Durham City offers major opportunities to leverage in private sector investment and support the growth in employment	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		numbers needed, complemented by growth in the County's other economic market areas.		
2	4.90	A new business quarter would be a pre-eminent office location and able to attract both national and international occupiers as well as having a positive impact on the vitality of the city centre retail offer.	Grammatical correction	
3	4.93	Following an assessment of the landscape capacity which forms part of the Green Belt Site Assessment; and given the evolution of the City and the housing and economic potential of the area we are proposing the development of 5200 homes.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	4.94	The aim is to rationalise their estate and to provide opportunities to dispose of, or significantly improve inefficient buildings whilst ensuring it makes maximum use of its retained buildings.	Typographical correction	
5	4.94	The University does have modest growth plans (iv) to increase its student numbers from 15300 to 17100 by 2020 but it also intends to increase the percentage residing in purpose built student accommodation (controlled by the University) from 43% to 50%.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Ms Ros Ward (Comment ID: 657)
6	4.96	The provision of a Western Relief Road will provide an alternative route from the A690 and the A691 on the west of Durham and relieve the congested A167 whilst also providing relief to the junction at Neville's Cross which currently encounters significant delay in the peak hour periods. The	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		provision of a Northern Relief Road will provide an alternative route from the A1 corridor to the north and west of the City Centre, and a measure of relief to the already congested section of the A690 crossing the River Wear at Milburngate. It will also improve links between North West County Durham and the A1. The provision of a Western Relief Road will provide an alternative route from the A690 and the A697 on the west of Durham and relieve the congested A167 whilst also providing relief to the junction at Neville's Cross which currently encounters significant delay in the peak hour periods.		
7	4.96	It must be noted that we see the roads as only part of the solution and they will be developed in conjunction with significant investment in public transport, park and ride, cycleways and pedestrian links ^(v) .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
8	4.97	The route of the Leamside Line will be is safeguarded by Policy 49 (Provision of Transport Infrastructure).	Grammatical correction	
9	4.98	The County Durham visitor economy draws upon these assets however there is capacity to build on them to attract more visitors to spend more time and stay in our the areas and to boost the profile of our cultural offer across the County .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
10	4.98	Fulfilling the City's potential as a destination of national and international significance will encourage visitors to spend more time in the City and the County, increase the economic impact of the visitor economy in our area and almost double the number of jobs currently supported. It is recognised that	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

v The Durham City Integrated Transport Approach (DITA) can be found on the Council's website at: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8233>

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Durham City can have a diverse visitor offer, including supporting conferencing and meetings as well as leisure tourism, including gardens and outdoor activities, in the rural areas.		
11	4.99	One example of how we can do this is an the exhibition of some of Britain's most significant manuscripts and books alongside stunningly beautiful artifacts from Anglo-Saxon England including specifically the Lindisfarne Gospels. The Gospels are were on loan from the British Library in the summer of 2013 and will be were ¹¹ displayed on Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site attracting thousands of visitors into Durham City.	Amendment to reflect that Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition has now finished	

Policy 7 - Aykley Heads

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 7, Criterion (d)	A fresh water drainage management plan, incorporating SuDS, will be required.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	CPRE (Comment ID: 1691)
2	Policy 7, Criterion (k)	This parkland will allow the site to retain its openness, and will be provided with the DL museum creating a gateway, with and the parkland extending up to Newton Hall. The area will provide an enhanced network of surfaces ; multi-user routes, tree planting and habitat	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		creation together with a new open-air space for public events		
3	4.101	Detailed work on the development capacity of the Aykley Heads site is included in the Aykley Heads Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that accompanies the Plan and shows that the site has the potential to accommodate 6000 jobs and re-balance the nature of the existing jobs on the site ^(vi) , increasing the percentage that are private rather than public sector.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

vi There are currently 2700 people working on Aykley Heads, the vast majority at the Police HQ and Durham County Council. This is likely to decrease significantly over time due to job cuts and relocations.

Policy 8 - Durham City Strategic Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	8	In order to meet the development needs of Durham City and to encourage economic growth in County Durham, land at Sniperley Park, to the North of the Arnison Centre and at Sherburn Road, as shown on the proposals map, are allocated for development.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
2	8(f)	There is an opportunity for Sniperley Park and the North of Arnison site to consider a joint surface and foul water drainage management plan incorporating SuDS and wider opportunities for improvement of local water quality in line with the Water Framework Directive including water quality on the Blacketene Burn and of the tributaries into the Red House Gill.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Louise Tait, Environment Agency (Comment ID: 3642)
3	8(f)	There is a further opportunity for Sherburn Road to consider a combined SuDS attenuation scheme in order to manage surface water drainage of into the Old Durham Beck which will deal with surface water from the development as well as exploring the potential to deal with drainage from the A1(M) with the Highways Agency.	Grammatical correction.	
4	8(m)	The build out of Sniperley Park, North of Arnison (including the retail proposal) and the housing allocation at Merryoaks is reliant on the delivery of the Western Relief Road and can only happen as a result of this additional highway capacity ⁴ .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	4.107	Traffic modelling undertaken to accompany the Plan clearly shows that the complete ⁵ build out of the Sniperley	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Park and the North of Arnison sites can only happen as a result of the additional capacity introduced into the highway network by the Western Relief Road.		
5	4.110	The site will be an exemplar of design quality and sustainable development and include a strong landscape framework and green infrastructure network <u>that</u> ⁵ will be provided to capitalise on the site's natural features and ensure integration with the surrounding landscape.	Grammatical correction.	
6	Footnote xxiii	The Council will publish a series of Playing Pitch Actions Plans, including one for Durham City AAP area, <u>early</u> ⁶ in 2014	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
7	4.117	The development will specifically meet identified convenience shopping needs <u>identified within the Retail and Town Centre Needs Assessment 2013</u> , both existing and as a consequence of the development of this and other sites, whilst maintaining the vitality and viability of established centres.	Grammatical correction.	
8	4.118	This road serves as a significant artery for the City accessing the eastern villages and beyond to the Tees Valley and the A19. Although the A1(M) forms the eastern boundary of the site it is not directly accessible, the nearest point of access being Junction 632 ^o some 2km to the north.	Typographical correction.	Mr Patrick Conway (Comment ID: 2255)

Western and Northern Relief Roads

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.131	The modelling was updated in 2013 to reflect changes in the pPlan ¹ as well as testing some new alternative demand scenarios.	Typographical correction.	
2	4.133	All demand scenario's ² were modelled around a future modelled year of 2030 and an intermediary year of 2021.	Grammatical correction.	
3	4.134	This scenario distributed the development of the Strategic Housing Sites ³ proposed for Durham City around the surrounding settlements.	Grammatical correction.	

Policy 9 - Western Relief Road

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy	In order to facilitate the development of the Strategic Sites at Sniperley Park and North of Arnison and the Merryoaks housing allocation, land, as shown on the proposals map, is allocated for the construction of the Western Relief Road in Durham City located to the west of the A167	Typographical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2 and 3	4.142	<p>which will connect the A691 at Sniperley Park and Ride roundabout at its northern end with the B6302 Broom Lane at its southern end.</p> <p>The 2013 traffic modelling identifies a clear need for the WRR in order to enable the delivery of the new development proposed in the north <u>and</u> west of the City. <u>It</u> also models multi modal transport demand up to 2030 taking into account the allocated housing and employment within this Plan.</p>	Typographical correction.	
4	4.146	<p>This work seeks to minimise the impacts of the roads on ecology, archaeology, heritage, landscape and to assess issues of noise, flooding and air pollution amongst others.</p>	Typographical correction.	
5	4.146	<p>This work also provides options for the design of the roads⁵ and an estimate of the costs involved.</p>	Typographical correction.	
6	4.147	<p>The proposed route of the Western Relief Road is shown on the <u>P</u>proposals <u>M</u>map.</p>	Typographical correction.	

Policy 10 - Northern Relief Road

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy	In order to improve traffic flows through and around Durham City, land, as shown on the proposals map, is allocated for the construction of the Northern Relief Road in Durham City to connect the Red House roundabout at its W western end with the A690 ast its eastern end near Junction 62 of the A1M	Typographical errors.	
2	4.149	The updated modelling (vii) work has demonstrated that the justification for the NRR is that it improves traffic flows through and around the e City, reducing traffic in the city centre, particularly Milburngate Bridge, principally because it opens up an alternative crossing of the River Wear but also by enabling east-west movements through the City that do not intend to stop to re-route.	Typographical error.	
3 and 4	4.149	The evidence indicates that both relief roads in combination have <u>ave</u> a greater positive impact than the sum <u>of</u> either road in isolation in terms of reducing congestion, delay and journey times.	Grammatical errors.	
5	4.152	This work seeks to minimise the impacts of the roads on ecology, archaeology, heritage, landscape and to assess issues of noise, flooding and air pollution amongst others.	Typographical error.	
6	4.152	This work also provides options for the design of the roads and an estimate of the costs involved.	Typographical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
7	4.153	The route is proposed to run from Red House Roundabout under the East Coast Mainline swinging south past Low Newton Farm, crossing the River Wear over a new bridge linking to a new roundabout junction on the east side of the A690.	Typographical error.	
8	4.153	The proposed route of the Northern Relief Road can be viewed on the Proposals Map .	Grammatical error.	

Durham City Delivery

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.158	For infrastructure that is directly related to the delivery of individual sites such as schools, play areas or community facilities, we will use Section 106 and Section 4278 ¹ agreements.	Typographical error.	
2	4.161	The alternative approach is to mitigate certain areas of the eCity ² , on a site by site basis, which would allow a phased development not dependant on the significant costs required for the citywide solution.	Typographical errors.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	4.162	As discussed previously the traffic modelling identifies a need for two relief roads during the Plan period to solve existing problems of congestion and to enable the delivery of new development in the City and particularly the strategic sites at Sniperley Park and North of Arnison and the housing allocation at Merryoaks.	Typographical error and amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
4	4.163	Given the direct link between the WRR with the delivery of Sniperley Park, North of Arnison strategic housing sites and Merryoaks housing allocation they will be expected required ⁴ to fund it through the use of S106.	Grammatical error.	
5	4.174	However, demonstrating securing tyef repayment and the timing of this remains the key consideration.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 11 - Other Strategic Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	ai.	600 houses on 24.45 hectares at Woodhouses Farm, Bishop Auckland	Typographical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	aiii.	950 houses on 49.5-93.4 hectares at Low Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
3	1iv.	390 houses on 48.1-19.3 hectares at North East Industrial Estate, Peterlee	Typographical error.	
4	b1.	At Low Copelaw this will include at least a primary school and beat convenience retail/service provision, including no more than 360sqm (gross) of A1 convenience retail floorspace.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	Services	The proposed local centres should also make allowances for <u>community facilities</u> . ⁵ A2, A3, and A5 where viable and in accordance with other Plan policies.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
6	d	The sites will deliver attractive, high quality design incorporating sustainable development principles and adopting sustainable construction methods and using appropriate densities across the sites in accordance with Policy 1 (Sustainable Development) and Policy 16 (Sustainable Design in the Built Environment); and	Typographical error.	
7	f	A <u>Transport Management Assessment and Travel Plan</u> for each site will also be required to ensure that reliance on the private car is reduced and to mitigate the impact of increased traffic in accordance with Policy 48 (Delivering Sustainable Travel).	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	j	In order to sufficiently screen High West Road significant landscape planting will be required to the north and west	Grammatical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
9	4.175	of the site, the landscape screening will also be required at Low Copelaw around the perimeter of the site.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
10	4.176	In order to assist in the delivery of Policy 4 (Distribution of Development) the approach of the Plan is to allocate strategic sites in instances where they are considered critical to the delivery of the Plan's distribution strategy.	Grammatical error.	
11	4.177	High West Road, Crook has been allocated a sustainable urban extension accommodating 88600 homes up to 2030 and the identification of a strategic housing allocation is crucial to delivering this figure.	Grammatical error.	
12	4.177	A sustainable urban extension to the north west of Crook is therefore earmarked to deliver 600 new homes:	Grammatical error.	
13	4.179	One ¹³ site has been allocated in Peterlee, without which the housing target for the town cannot be met.	Grammatical error.	
14	4.179	The nearby committed site at Low Hills that now benefits from planning consent for residential development and is providing an amount of money to aid affordable housing and regeneration in the area which could include on NEIE ¹⁴	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
15	4.179	Further, the Low Hills site is to provide a substantial sum (£1.5 million) towards <u>off-site</u> affordable housing/regeneration activity <u>off the Low Hills site but</u> within the local housing market area ¹⁵	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
16	b	New local centres including community facilities where <u>appropriate</u> ¹⁶ will be provided as part of the comprehensive development of the sites as follows:	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Executive Housing

Policy 12 - Executive Housing Allocation

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	12	In order to meet a need <u>make a provision</u> ¹ for executive housing and to encourage economic growth in County Durham, 72.4 hectares of land at Lambton Park Estate, Chester-le-Street, as shown on the proposals map, is allocated for the development of approximately 400 executive houses.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 13 - Other Executive Housing Proposals

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	4.185	Due to the high energy use traditionally associated with executive housing, it is envisaged that a All such development delivered across the County, will be encouraged to incorporate high levels of sustainability by exploring opportunities to go beyond minimum building regulations levels, meeting zero carbon standards and including a high level of renewable/low carbon energy technologies. This would help to address the high electrical and heating demand associated with such dwellings.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Trustees of Lord Durham's 1989 Voluntary Settlement (Comment ID 3728).
2	4.186	To meet the need provide ² for executive housing Policy 12 allocates a single site at Lambton Park Estate.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
3	4.186	It is considered that this provides an opportunity to develop a tourist destination, potentially of regional importance.	Typographical error.	
4	4.187	The site is situated within the Green Belt, however given the identified need aspiration for executive housing, the heritage significance of the Estate and the clear need for intervention to establish a sustainable future and the public benefit that can be delivered through enhanced public access, there are exceptional circumstances that justify development within the Estate	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	4.187	The site provides a prestige and unique location and this coupled with the heritage and community benefits the	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		development of the site could offer, provides the justification for its allocation removal from the Green Belt		
6	4.192	Despite the emphasis of the Plan being on the delivery of allocating land for executive housing at Lambton we acknowledge that there will be other proposals that will come forward over the Plan period	To improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 14 - Green Belt

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	14	Within the Green Belt, as shown on the Pproposals Mmap, the construction of new buildings will be regarded as inappropriate and will not be permitted.	Grammatical error.	
2	14b	Essential Provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, and outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, and for other uses of land which as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it;	To improve the Plan's clarity.	UK Coal Mining (Comment ID 3483).
3	14d	Replacement of an existing building, providing it is for the same use and of a size that is not materially larger than the one it replaces;	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Mr Keith Butler (787).
4	14e	Limited infilling or redevelopment of existing major developed sites, as shown on the Pproposals Mmap, providing the proposal has no greater impact on openness,	Grammatical error.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		does not lead to a major increase in the developed proportion of the site and does not exceed the height of existing buildings; and		
5	14h	Waste development;	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
6	14j	Local Transport Infrastructure which can demonstrate a requirement for a Green Belt location;	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Council for the Protection of Rural England (comment ID: 1710).
7	14 (final paragraph)	Large scale renewable energy projects will only be permitted where very special circumstances are demonstrated. Micro Renewable technologies will be considered in-line with Policy 21 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy). In all cases applicants will be expected to demonstrate that there are no discernible impacts on the Green Belt.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	4.193	There remains a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt, unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated, in order to prevent urban sprawl and keeping land permanently open.	Grammatical error.	
9	4.193	The Green Belt's essential characteristic is its permanence openness and its long term protection and certainty from unsuitable inappropriate development.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
10	4.193	Unsuitable inappropriate¹⁰ development can include the sprawl of built up areas caused by inappropriate development on the edge of settlements.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
11	4.195	However representations to the consultation have shown some support, including from neighbouring authority Gateshead Borough Council as part of the Duty to Cooperate, for the designation of the North West Durham Green Belt in order to	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Gateshead Borough Council (comment ID 2529).

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		relieve commuter development pressure in the Derwent Valley area due to its proximity to Newcastle and Gateshead but also its attractive location		
12	4.197	Whilst the Green Belt designation was appropriate at the time and in the context that the City of Durham Local Plan was operating, the the new unitary authority established in 2009 was able to have a fresh perspective on the needs of the County and able to view the area as a whole.	Grammatical error.	
13	4.198	The remaining g Green b Belt will continue to ensure that the setting and special character of Durham City is preserved.	Grammatical error.	
14	4.199	The areas which have been identified for will no longer be defined as Strategic Green Belt release are those locations in the vicinity of Durham where development would have the least environmental impacts, where development is practically feasible, and where development would be most likely to lead to the creation of sustainable communities.	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
15	4.200	The Spatial Strategy Approach does still direct development to settlements in need of regeneration but the current economic situation is such that these will be less favourable and therefore slower to be delivered.	Typographical error.	
16	4.201	Durham City is an asset for the County, however, the limited scale and offer of the e City as an employment and population centre prevents it from playing a much bigger role in the County's economy.	Grammatical error.	
17 and 18	4.201	The e City needs a critical mass of employment, population and visitors to build on its strengths and become a e City of regional, national and international significance.	Grammatical error.	
19	4.202	A full assessment of brownfield sites within Durham City and the County has been undertaken within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment as part of the preparation of the Plan, suitable and achievable sites have been allocated	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Mr Chris Plummer (comment ID 4056), Mr John Ashby (comment ID 847), Durham Green

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		wherever possible. However a deliverable and viable supply of such sites is limited and insufficient to meet the housing requirement.		Belt Group (comment ID 2856), Miss Kirsty Thomas (comment ID 1141).
20	Sub-Heading	Strategic Green Belt Alterations	Typographical error.	
21	4.204	Most of the Green Belt as defined in the City of Durham Plan (2004) will continue to be protected as such. However, in this Plan, Green Belt boundaries have been changed in selected locations around the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street .	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
22	Bullet Point List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sniperley Park, Durham (Strategic Site); ● North of Arnison, Durham (Strategic Site); ● Sherburn Road, Durham (Strategic Site);²¹ 	To improve the Plan's clarity.	Council for the Protection of Rural England (comment ID: 2056).
23	Final Bullet Point	Land East of Onslow Terrace, Langley Moor (the site is under construction has planning permission).	To improve the Plan's clarity.	
24	4.209	The footprint of the Major Developed Sites indicated on the P roposals M map represents the limits of existing and foreseeable developments, excluding temporary/insubstantial buildings, peripheral car parking and peripheral housing development.	Grammatical error.	

4 General Development Principles

Policy 15 - Development on Unallocated Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Title	Development on Unallocated Sites in Built Up Areas	To improve clarity of the Plan.	UK Coal Mining Ltd (comment ID 3517)
2	15	All development on sites in built up areas ² that are not allocated in the County Durham Plan or in a Neighbourhood Plan, will be permitted provided the development:	To improve clarity of the Plan.	UK Coal Mining Ltd (comment ID 3517)
3	b	Does not result in the loss of a settlement's last community building or facility (of the type which is the subject of the proposal) unless it can be demonstrated that it is no longer viable or has not been purchased by the community following the procedures set out in the Community Right to Bid; and	Grammatical error.	
4	c	Is compatible with and does not prejudice any intended use of adjacent sites and land uses; and	Grammatical error.	
5	d	Would not involve development in the countryside that does not meet the criteria defined in Policy 35 (Development in the Countryside):	To improve clarity of the Plan.	Mr G.S Harrison (comment ID 3272), Keith Butler (comment ID 7881), Beavertail Ltd (comment ID 4011), Northumbrian Water Ltd (comment ID 4026), Mr S Gregson (comment ID 3896), Mr & Mrs Tinkler (comment ID 3763), Durham Diocese Board of Finance (comment ID 3474), Mr J D Vipond (comment ID 3311), Mr Palin

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
				(comment ID 2671), Hallam Land Management (Mr D Butters) (comment ID 2335), Mr J Seymour (comment ID 2224), Bellway Homes Ltd (Caroline Strugnall) (comment ID 1549), Mr B Metcalfe (comment ID 1506).
6	5.2	If not then either sites that are phased later in the Plan period will be brought forward or the allocations in the Plan will be reviewed.	To improve clarity of the Plan.	

Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy criteria 'e'	Deliver places and spaces that promote health and wellbeing for existing and future users ¹ .	Grammatical correction	
2	Policy criteria 'f'	Contribute positively to an area's character, identity, townscape and landscape features ¹ ; helping to create and reinforcing locally distinctive and sustainable communities ² ;	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	Policy criteria 'i'	Minimise the use of non-renewable and unsustainable resources, including energy and materials, during both construction and use; encourage ³ waste reduction and appropriate reuse and recycling of materials, and prioritise the use of local materials, finishes and landscaping including for the provision of street furniture and public art where appropriate;	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	Policy criteria 'p'	Create buildings and spaces that are adaptable to changing social, technological, economic and environmental conditions ⁴ ;	Grammatical correction	
5	5.11	The Government are currently consulting on changes to sustainability compliance standards for residential development as part of the Housing Standards Review. The current Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) standard is likely to be revoked in late-2013 ⁵ as part of this process. The review proposes to retain some of the aims of the CSH (i.e. improving fabric energy efficiency, and limiting carbon dioxide emissions) however these will be covered by Building Regulations. Other standards currently within the CSH (i.e. promoting energy efficient appliances, reduced energy means of drying clothes, and promoting working from home) are highlighted for removal as they are deemed to be no longer relevant. Consequently the Council cannot confidently stipulate the need for a CSH (or equivalent) assessment given these intended changes. In the unlikely event that a replacement scheme for domestic development is agreed this will trigger a review of this Policy to incorporate the necessary changes.	Amendment to reflect that the review is ongoing	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
6	5.18	Careful consideration of the site's topography can enhance the design of a new development in a number of ways. These including the creating of or enhancement of views into or within a site, creating attractive skylines through the use of building heights, and, ensuring appropriate drainage arrangements; The retention of established planting and trees which can visually enhance a development and, as can ensuring an appropriate relationship with the wider landscape, both visually and in terms of activity and through the creation of wildlife corridors. ⁶	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	5.19	Creating an accessible and permeable (i.e. places that connect with each other and are easy to move through) public realm, connecting places and spaces, will help to ensure that many daily needs can be met within walking and cycling distance. The layout, form and mix of development should support walking, cycling and public transport provision. Opportunities should be taken to create or reinforce a logical and legible (i.e. places that are easy to find your way around and understand) hierarchy of routes, intersections and public spaces, the design of which will vary dependent upon movement, activities and uses supported. Built form should be used to assist in this regard, with the inclusion of focal buildings and features where appropriate to act as visual points of reference. ⁷	Explanatory text moved to glossary to improve the Plan's clarity	
8	5.20	A high quality built environment should consider the amenity of both existing and future development. Consideration should be given to matters of privacy,	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		outlook, natural lighting, ventilation, as well as local climatic conditions. Indoor and outdoor space, including private and communal gardens, should be provided as appropriate and in accordance with Policy 20 (Green Infrastructure), to support a reduction in health inequalities and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Street furniture and materials within the public realm should be robust and hard wearing to ensure their longevity. Wherever possible materials and equipment should be selected from standard palettes to ensure cost effectiveness and ease of replacement and maintenance. ⁷		
9	Indicator/Target 4	Percentage of major applications accompanied by a Sustainability Statement ⁸	Amendment to reflect that this is now a validation requirement	Persimmon (Comment ID: 439830) Dyson Group Ltd (Comment ID: 548585)

Policy 17 - Exception Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Criteria a, Policy 17	The development provides affordable housing, there is evidence of need identified in an appropriate housing needs assessment, the tenure split between social rented, affordable rented, and intermediate rented reflects this	Gives clarity to the intent of this criteria	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (Comment ID: 2068)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		need, and wherever possible, the housing is allocated to those who are in local housing need;		

Policy 18 - Local Amenity

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Paragraph 5.34	Planning has an important role to play in making sure that new development does not have, and is not at risk from, adverse environmental effects (deletion of commas and replacement with hyphens).	Grammatical correction	
2	Paragraph 5.34	New and existing development should not contribute to, or be put at risk from, pollution or other sources of nuisance or intrusion which could adversely affect amenity (deletion of commas and replacement with hyphens).	Grammatical correction	

Policy 19 - Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	5.42	There are other towns across the County where the Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide may be exceeded and these are currently being assessed periodically monitored .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	5.42	An Where pollution levels are a concern, an ² Action Plan will be produced with the aim of reducing pollution levels and improving the standard of air quality, setting out measures to improve the standard of air quality through a variety of means including land use planning. The designation of particular parts of the County as AQMAs indicates the severity of air pollution in these areas.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 20 - Green Infrastructure

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	20, 4th para	Development will be expected to maintain or improve the permeability of the built environment and access to the countryside for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Proposals that would result in the loss of, or deterioration in the quality of, existing Public Rights of Way (PROWs) will not be permitted unless equivalent alternative provision	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	UK Coal (Comment ID: 3509)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		is made. Where diversions are required, new routes should be direct, convenient and attractive, and should not have an detrimental unacceptable adverse impact on environmental or heritage assets.		
2	5.55	Developers may provide green infrastructure within new development by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing the required amount of new green infrastructure on the development site; or,² Providing some green infrastructure on the site, and making up the requirement by providing new or improving existing, green infrastructure near to the site through planning obligations. 	Grammatical correction	Dyson Group (Comment ID: 3846)
3	5.57	Future work to be undertaken by the Council will identify existing open space provision across the County by settlement and specify which allocated sites should contribute towards the improvement of existing open space in preference to providing it on site.	Typographical correction	

Policy 22 - Wind Turbine Development

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 22	'Significant' changed to 'unacceptable' in criteria a, d, e and g.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Mr Nigel Moore (ID: 461899) , TNEI Services Ltd Ms Gillian Gibson (ID: 365574), CPRE
2	Policy 22	'or' removed from all criteria except h.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Policy 22	Small scale wind development within the AONB will be permitted provided that its impacts on the environment are acceptable and its installed capacity is commensurate with the needs of the property or business. Development outside of the AONB which has a substantial impact on inter views within the AONB, or important views of the AONB, will not be permitted. Development affecting the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be subject to the same considerations.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	Paragraph 5.79	In the Tees Plain, three further schemes (15 turbines) have been approved (all in Hartlepool, Stockton or Darlington), taking the approved number of turbines up to the capacity identified in the landscape capacity study for that area.	Typographical correction	Mr Nigel Juggins (ID: 703347), Mordon Parish Meeting Mr Joe Hall (ID: 710535), The Isles communities turbine action campaign (TICTAC)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
5	Paragraph 5.80	The distribution of operational and approved wind energy development in the County together with potential technical and environmental constraints, and in particular those for larger scale commercial turbines, are mapped on Map 35.	Typographical correction	Mrs Susan Fox (ID: 798856), Wind Farm Working Party Mr Joe Hall (ID: 710535), The Isles communities turbine action campaign (TIC:TAC) Mr Nigel Juggins (ID: 703347), Mordon Parish Meeting
6	Paragraph 5.81	A number of issues influence the location of wind turbine developments and the acceptability of planning application proposals. Key issues to be considered include: residential amenity in respect of visual impact, noise, and shadow flicker; biodiversity, ecology and ornithology; highways; heritage; aviation; Public Rights of Way; landscape and visual impacts; and impacts on designated Landscapes such as the North Pennines AONB; and impacts upon TV reception and telecommunications links.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	Paragraph 5.82	Due to their operation wind turbines create noise. Government guidance is clear on the methodology to be used to assess wind turbine development (Footnote: 'Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy' (DCLG, July 2013) paragraph 30 states that 'The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Windfarms' (ETSU-R-97) should be used, and that the Institute of Acoustics good practice guidance on noise assessment is recognised as a supplement to ETSU-R-97 and is industry good practice.). The Council take seriously the	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		potential for noise impacts from all forms of new development on local communities and those working in the vicinity.		
8	Paragraph 5.88	Early consultation should be sought with the Office of Communications, who hold a central register of all civil radio communications operators in the UK and acts as a central point of contact for identifying specific consultees relevant to a site.	Typographical correction	
9	Paragraph 5.89	Map 95 also shows existing and emerging areas of wind farm landscape.	Typographical correction	Mr Stewart Provan (ID: 371906), Banks Developments
10	Paragraph 5.89	While additional development in the form of carefully considered extensions to, or re-powering of, existing wind farms could, in some cases, be done without significant additional effects, the development of new turbines that are not closely related to existing ones in respect of their scale, character, rotation speed or colour is likely to lead to an unacceptable degree of visual clutter and a straggling or congested pattern of development that lacks coherence (deletion of commas and replacement with hyphens).	Grammatical correction	
11	Policy 22, How will the Policy be monitored?	Renewable energy capacity of permitted approved and completed schemes	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

5 A Prosperous Economy

Policy 23 - Employment Land

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	23	Amazon Merchant Park, Newton Aycliffe	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	
2	Table note 1	Please note this list does not include Aykley Heads as set out in Policy 7 or the Prestige Sites. ²	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
3	Foot note xliii	Development for non employment uses is uses other than ³ Business (B1), General Industrial Use (B2) or Storage and Distribution (B8) unless specifically stated	Grammatical correction	
4	23 bullet a	a. The land or building is no longer physically suitable for employment uses and there is no realistic prospect of re-use or redevelopment for such uses and	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	23 bullet b	b. There is documented evidence of unsuccessful active marketing for employment use with at least one recognised commercial agent at local market rent levels, over a continuous period of at least 18 months; and	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
6	23 bullet c	c. The non-employment use cannot be accommodated on an alternative site within the market area;	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Home Builders Federation (Comment ID: 1463)
7	23	Any new development for non-employment purposes on employment allocations or existing protected employment sites must comply with the criteria set out in Policy 1	Typographical correction	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		(Sustainable Development), Policy 18 (Local Amenity) and other relevant policies within the Plan and any existing jobs located on the site must be suitably relocated.		
8	23	Any new development for non-employment purposes on employment allocations or existing protected employment sites must comply with the criteria set out in Policy 1 (Sustainable Development), Policy 18 (Local Amenity) and other relevant policies within the Plan and any existing jobs located on the site must be suitably relocated.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
9	23	For those existing employment sites not identified within Table 11, planning permission will be granted for non-employment uses where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that redevelopment of the site would be consistent with other relevant policies in the Plan and any existing jobs located on the site are suitably relocated.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
10	6.14	As with other Green Belt releases an exceptional case will need to fully clarified and justified for has been made to justify its release from the Green Belt. This exceptional case is outlined in Policy 14 (Green Belt). The Council have produced the Non Strategic Green Belt Modifications Paper that highlights the limited role of the Green Belt within this area of the County. The employment site will come forward alongside a housing site, it is highlighted that land to the south of Drum has the potential to offer the town a sustainable urban extension whilst helping to stimulate the necessary infrastructure required to	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		incentivise employment in this location. The site is considered deliverable with the potential to provide exceptional benefits to the area.		
11	Table 11	Aykley Heads (Durham City) (B1-uses-only) ¹²	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
12	Table 11	NETPark (Sedgefield) (B1 uses in Research and Development only)	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 24 - Specific Use Employment Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 24/Title	Allocating and Safeguarding Specific Use Employment Sites	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
2	Policy 24	four ² Specific Use Employment Sites have been identified in the following locations, as shown on the proposals map, for the following uses:	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	Policy 24/New sub title	Allocated Specific Use Employment Sites	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
4	Policy 24	In addition an area of 25 hectares to the north of the NetPark allocation is safeguarded for future expansion land beyond the end of the Plan period.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	Policy 24	Tursdale, Bowburn A site of 122.7 hectares of land at Tursdale, Bowburn is safeguarded for uses within use classes B1, B2 and B8 and which are associated with the development of a rail freight facility and related activity. ⁴	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
6	Policy 24/New sub title	Safeguarded Specific Use Employment Sites⁵	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
7	Policy 24	Tursdale, Bowburn A site of 122.7 hectares of land at Tursdale, Bowburn is safeguarded for uses within use classes B1, B2 and B8 and which are associated with the development of a rail freight facility and related activity. ⁶	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	Policy 24	NetPark, Sedgefield An area of 25 hectares to the north of the NetPark allocation is safeguarded for future expansion land beyond the end of the Plan period. ⁷	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
9	6.23	<p>Land at Tursdale offers an opportunity to develop a major rail freight interchange in County Durham, which would provide a facility of sub regional or possibly regional significance. A large area was previously reserved for such a use and it is necessary to retain 122.72 hectares of land for rail freight activity to allow any potential proposals to come forward. In total there is 150.29 hectares of land available at Tursdale, the remaining 27.57 hectares south of Bowburn Industrial Estate is allocated for general employment use by Policy 23 (Employment Land). Due to the current economic climate, there is too much uncertainty over whether the proposal is viable and can be delivered. The land will therefore be safeguarded rather than allocated. We will however, support a rail freight development on this site should a proposal be forthcoming. Although the site has some flood risk issues, it has been subject to the sequential and exceptions test and it is considered that the economic benefits, in terms of job creation, that the development will bring, outweighs the flood risk concerns. Any future planning application will need to include a flood risk assessment.⁸</p>	<p>Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.</p>	
10	6.23	<p>Land at Tursdale offers an opportunity to develop a major rail freight interchange in County Durham, which would provide a facility of sub regional or possibly regional significance. A large area was previously reserved for such a use and it is necessary to retain 122.72 hectares of land for rail freight activity to allow any potential proposals to come forward. In total there is 150.29 hectares of land available at Tursdale, the remaining</p>	<p>Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.</p>	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		27.57 hectares south of Bowburn Industrial Estate is allocated for general employment use by Policy 23 (Employment Land). Due to the current economic climate, there is too much uncertainty over whether the proposal is viable and can be delivered. The land will therefore be safeguarded rather than allocated. We will however, support a rail freight development on this site should a proposal be forthcoming. Although the site has some flood risk issues, it has been subject to the sequential and exceptions test and it is considered that the economic benefits, in terms of job creation, that the development will bring, outweighs the flood risk concerns. Any future planning application will need to include a flood risk assessment. ⁹		
11	Monitoring indicator 2	The amount of approved specific use employment land lost to other uses	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 25 - Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	25	The following three areas are identified as Town Centre Regeneration Areas, as shown on the proposals map. These are areas where retail led regeneration will be	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		supported along with a mix of other uses appropriate for town centres other main town centre uses		
2	25	As part of the regeneration of Claypath, retail, and other uses appropriate to the City Centre main town centre uses, including, tourist attractions will be supported.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
3	25	Proposed retail development at edge of centre or out of centre locations in Spennymoor will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed scheme would not harm the delivery of the redevelopment of Festival Walk.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
4	6.29	Following consideration of alternative sites, land at North of Arnison was chosen as the preferred location. The Arnison Centre is identified as a District Centre in Policy 26 (Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Town Centres) and provides retail facilities to the north of the City, a Sainsbury's store exists alongside a number of high street comparison retailers.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
5	6.30	The site is the most suitable location to meet the identified convenience retail need (2,500sqm gross) in Crook. The site offers the opportunity for linked trips to the town centre and will also help improve its appearance.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
6	6.35	Locating within these areas could have the potential to create an unsustainable development and a one that would detrimentally impact on the existing town centre.	Grammatical correction	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
7	Monitoring Indicator 1	The following Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas completed by 2030:	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	Monitoring Target 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Road ● North of Arnison ● Queen Street ● North Road ● Festival Walk ● Claypath ● Festival Walk 	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Policy 26 - Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	26 (Title)	Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Town Centres	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	26 (Sub Section b)	Within these centres, any quantitative expansion of new provision should be matched with qualitative improvements. Additional leisure development and proposals that will enhance the evening economy will be supported given the relatively limited current provision.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
3	26 (Sub Section e)	New retail provision within these centres should be local in nature and not perform a wider retail function or become a retail destination in its own right.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
4	26 (Sub title)	Commercial Town Centre Boundaries	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
5	26	Proposals for main town centre uses, as defined within National Policy, not located within a defined centre in Sub Regional centres or a centre which is sequentially preferable in the retail hierarchy, will be required to provide a robust sequential assessment.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148) CBREi (Comment ID: 3044)
6	26	Proposals for main town centre uses, as defined within National Policy, in excess of 300sqm (net) floorspace, not located within defined commercial centre boundaries or a centre which is sequentially preferable within the retail hierarchy	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
7	26	and that could impact on a Sub Regional, or Main Town Centre or District Centre will be required to provide a robust impact assessment.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	26	Proposals for main town centre uses, as defined within National Policy, in excess of 200sqm (net) floorspace,	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		not located within defined commercial centre boundaries or a centre which is sequentially preferable within the retail hierarchy and that could impact on Small Town or Local Centres will be required to provide a robust impact assessment.		
9	26	Within the primary retail frontages, as shown on the proposal map, A1 (retail) uses will be supported as the predominant use. A2 (financial and professional services), A3 (restaurants and cafes), A4 (drinking establishments) and A5 (hot foot takeaways) uses will only be permitted provided that they contribute to preserve the vitality and viability of the primary frontage.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
10	26	Within the secondary retail frontages, as shown on the proposals map, a greater mix of uses will be supported. Uses A1, A2, A3, A4 will be permitted provided that the balance mix of uses within an area is maintained. Other uses (non A1, A2, A3, A4, A5) will be permitted where they provide a service to shoppers or tourists and they do not harm the predominantly retail character of the centre, either individually or taken together with other non retail development.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
11	26	Within Sub Regional, Main Town and Small Town Centres, and in order to minimise the potential detrimental impacts of hot food takeaways, planning applications for A5 uses will be approved where the proposal would not result in more than 5% of the premises within the Commercial Town Centre being in A5 use.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
12	26	In order to promote healthy lifestyles in young people, proposals for A5 uses outside of defined Commercial Town Centres but within 400m of a school or college building will not be permitted.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
13	6.45	Commercial Town Centres	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
14	6.46	Applicants proposing retail and town centre uses outside of the Sub-Regional defined centre for a sequentially preferable centre, i.e. within a lower order centre, edge-of-centre or out-of-centre will be required to carry out a sequential assessment.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148) CBREi (Comment ID: 3044)
15	6.46	In addition where schemes are proposing developments outside of a defined centre with a floorspace greater than 300sqm net and could impact on...	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
16	6.46	impact on a Sub Regional, and/or Main Town Centre and/or District Centre	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
17	6.46	This threshold will be 200sqm floorspace net where the proposal is outside of a defined centre and could impact on a small town or local centre.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Project Genesis Ltd (Comment ID: 3148)
18	6.47	The policy does not specify an impact threshold for District Centres. Both District Centres are located in Durham City and have large convenience food stores alongside higher order comparison units similar to that of the City Centre. With both of these located in Durham City any development proposed outside of these and with the	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
19	6.53	<p>potential to impact on these, would inevitably also impact on the City Centre. Therefore the 300sqm threshold would be applicable.</p> <p>It is considered that a threshold of 5% is appropriate to ensure the a diverse mix of uses with our centres. If a proposal would exceed this threshold it will not be permitted. ThreeFive centres (Consett, Ferryhill, Crook, Seaham and Shildon) already have more than 5% of units as hot food takeaways therefore no further A5 uses would be permitted in these centres.</p>	<p>Amendments to reflect more up to date data on the level of A5 uses within defined centres.</p>	
20	Monitoring Indicator 2	Percentage of units within Commercial Town ²⁰ Centres in use as A5 (hot food takeaways)	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Visitor Economy

Policy 27 - Visitor Attractions

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy sub-heading	Replace word 'rural' with countryside.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Criterion H	Replace criterion with following: "be in accordance with Policy 35 (Development in the Countryside)".	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Para 6.63	Definition of tranquility added to Glossary of Terms.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Mr Craig Morgan (Comment ID: 2583)

Policy 28 - Visitor Accommodation

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Criterion C	Replace criterion with following: "It is not used for permanent residential occupation".	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Mr Keith Butler (Comment ID: 794)
2	Policy - general	Insert the following: "In addition to criteria A-C above"	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Criterion D	Replace word 'rural' with countryside.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
4	Criterion G	Replace criterion with the following: "It is in accordance with Policy 35 (Development in the Countryside)".	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	Criterion G	Remove word 'and' and replace with 'or'.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Northumbria Water (Comment ID: 3385)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
6	Policy general & Criteria I-L	<p>Amend to read as follows:</p> <p>In addition to criteria A to C above, proposals for new, and extensions to existing, sites for chalets, camping and caravanning (both static and touring) along with associated storage will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. They provide a specific Flood Risk Warning and Evacuation Plan in accordance with Table 2 in the NPPF Technical Guidance; and j. They are not prominent in the landscape from either long or short range views by ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequate screening through existing topography, vegetation or other features which are compatible with the landscape; • layout out would not adversely affect the character of the area; and • materials and colour of chalets or static caravans, site services and infrastructure are designed to blend with the surroundings of the site and limited in scale to the needs of the site residents only. 	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	Criterion K	Insert word 'static' in front of caravan.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
8	Policy general & Criterion N	In relation to amendments made under table note 6, delete the following: Touring caravan storage will be supported providing that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● m. The caravans are not prominent in the landscape from either long or short range views; and ● n. Year round screening, compatible with the landscape, is provided. 	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
9	Policy - general	Insert word 'be' before supported so policy reads: "...caravaning (both static and touring) along with associated storage will be supported where:"	Typographical correction	
10	Para 6.69	Inserted full stop at end of para 6.69	Grammatical correction	
11	Policy - general	In relation to deletions under table note 8, insert the following so policy reads: "...caravaning (both static and touring) along with associated storage will be supported where:"	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

6 Housing

Policy 29 - Existing Housing Commitments

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	7.4	A list of those Commitments over 0.4 hectares are shown on the proposals map. is available on the Council's website (viii) .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	7.6	<i>The Council have taken this approach to housing commitments to reflect the NPPF which states that sites with planning permission should be considered deliverable, unless there is clear evidence that schemes will not be implemented in 5 years. The Council does not have the resources to undertake a detailed assessment of every site with planning permission in order to assemble this 'clear evidence'. We have therefore taken the pragmatic step of assuming all such sites will be delivered. We accept that this is not likely to happen in reality, however we were unwilling to assume a certain percentage of sites would come forward as this would be difficult to evidence. In producing the housing trajectory we have not assumed that all of these sites will be delivered in the short term, but that they will be delivered sometime during the lifetime of the Plan either using a current planning permission or following a future renewal.</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity - Paragraph moved to after Paragraph 4.31, Policy 3	

viii Information on housing commitments can be found on the County Durham Plan evidence base web page: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8233>

Policy 30 - Housing Land Allocations

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Table 12 H45	Retain existing recreation area within the site boundary. Retain existing recreation area/former playing field if required by future Playing Fields Action Plan ¹	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Sport England
2	Table 12 H60	Reinforce existing planting on its eastern boundary. Retain existing recreation area/former playing field if required by future Playing Pitch Action Plan ²	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Sport England
3	7.9	31st December 2014 March 2013 ³	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 31 - Addressing Housing Need

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 31, Criterie d.	It can be demonstrated that there is an existing oversupply of affordable housing provision within the settlement where the proposal is located.	Drafting error in preparation of Submission Draft.	
2	Para 7.21	Realistic requirements for affordable housing, that can be expected as part of housing schemes, have therefore	Deletion of phrase which repeats paragraph 7.20	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	Para 7.24	<p>been defined by looking at levels which can be supported without undermining the viability of housing development across the County. The targets for affordable housing are therefore justified by an assessment of economic viability in the CIL and Local Plan Viability Study. Whilst these targets are ambitious, they will be subject to negotiation and viability considerations, giving flexibility and certainty for developers, in line with the NPPF. The target levels also reflect past delivery of affordable housing. The requirements will be subject to review every three years in recognition of changing market conditions.</p> <p>Affordable housing includes housing for social and affordable, owned by the Council or a Registered Provider. It also includes 'intermediate housing' for sale or rent, provided at a cost above social rent but below market levels. Types of intermediate housing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared ownership between a buyer and a social housing provider; ● Homes where purchasers can move from full rental to buying. 	Deletion of drafting error made in preparation of Submission Draft.	

Policy 32 - Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 32	Removal of full stop	Grammatical correction	
2	7.42	Insertion of comma	Grammatical correction	

Policy 33 - Sites for Travellers

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 33 Last Paragraph	Temporary- transit stop over sites related to common travelling routes will be permitted where there is evidence of need and where their impact is reasonable when weighed against short term use.	Amendment to improve the Plans clarity	Mrs G Mills (Comment ID: 3034)

Policy 34 - Type and Mix of Housing

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	7.57	The Council will monitor housing completions -; by dwelling type and number of bedrooms;- by delivery area as part of the County Durham Plan Monitoring Framework. This process will serve to update key indicators in the SHMA and will provide the evidence to support the delivery of an appropriate type and mix of housing by delivery area over the plan period. ¹	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

7 Natural and Historic Environment

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	8.1	These considerations are therefore intrinsic to all the policy areas addressed in the Local Plan.	Typographical correction.	
2	8.1	The Plan's approach to the B uilt E nvironment including and the design of new built development is set out in Section 5, General Development Principles.	Grammatical correction.	
3	8.2	Over 30% of the County's ³ area is covered by some form of statutory designation, compared to the national average of 8%	Grammatical correction.	

Policy 35 - Development in the Countryside

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	35a.	The land is developed in accordance with Policy 35.1 an allocation in the County Durham Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan;	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	35c.	The proposal demonstrates that it will directly support the enhancement of local services, community facilities and infrastructure such as through the modernisation or diversification of existing practises;	Grammatical correction.	
3	8.6	This policy does sets out a new and more objective approach to assessing the sustainability of new development, based on the performance of proposals against identified criteria and which does not rely on settlement boundaries.	Grammatical correction.	

Policy 36 - Equestrian Development

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	36	Applications for commercial scale equestrian establishments must be supported by a business plan setting out the financial and locational requirements for the proposal in addition to demonstrating how their requirements <u>obligations</u> under the Water Framework Directive will be met.	Grammatical correction.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	8.13	To avoid a proliferation of new buildings in the countryside <u>which are</u> unrelated to existing buildings and to demonstrate that the enterprise is genuine and adequately resourced <u>such enterprises commercial establishments</u> will only be permitted where there is existing residential accommodation which will allow proper supervision of horses at all times.	To improve the clarity of the Plan.	
3	8.15	The <u>County Durham</u> Plan ³ addresses priorities for the conservation and improvement of the County's diverse landscapes within the context of meeting development needs.	Grammatical correction.	

Policy 37 - North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	2nd para	Footnote added to clarify what is meant by Major developments. (ix) will only be permitted in the AONB in exceptional circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated to	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

ix Categories of development defined as major are: (1) the erection of 10 or more dwellings, or, if this is not known, where the site area is 0.5 hectares or more; (2) in other cases, where the floorspace to be created is 1,000 square metres or more, or the site area is 1 hectare or more; (3) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral working deposits; (4) all waste developments, meaning any development designed to be used wholly or mainly for the purposes of treating, storing, processing or disposing of refuse or waste materials (see GPDO (2006, as amended)).

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		be in the public interest and where the following have been fully considered:		

Policy 38 - Durham Coast and Heritage Coast

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Para. 2, criterion B.	Added in 'unacceptable' before 'adverse impacts..'	To ensure consistency with National planning guidance. To improve the Plan's clarity	UK Coal Plc. Comment ID: 3524
2	Para. 3	Amended 'th e' to 'the'	Grammatical correction	
3	Para.6	Amended 'Proposals' to 'proposals'	Grammatical correction	
4	Para.6	Amended 'Map' to 'map'	Grammatical correction	
5	Para.6	Amended 'otherwise' to 'other'	Grammatical correction	
6	Para.9	Removed 'as'	To improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
7	Para.9	Amended 'NPPFParagraph' to 'NPPF Paragraph'	Grammatical correction	
8	Para.9	Deleted full-stop after 'Similarly in line with the NPPF paragraph 179 and associated footnote on marine areas'	Grammatical correction	
9	Para.10	Removed 'Shoreline Management Plan'	Grammatical correction	

Policy 40 - Trees, Woodlands and Hedges

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	8.36	Thereby helping This helps to regulate local temperatures and climate change impacts. Woodland ecosystems are a key component of the County's biodiversity providing habitats for both rare and common species.	Grammatical correction	
2	8.40	This policy recognises the need to conserve and enhance the County's environment while meeting its development needs, reflecting Strategic Objectives 1 and 14. Detail of the process and levels of compensation to be required will be included in the Natural Environment SPD.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 41 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Indicators	Removal of indicator related to SSSI's	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Durham Wildlife Trust (Comment ID 3804)
2	Indicators	Removal of indicator related to ecological management plans	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 42 - Internationally Designated Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 42	either individually or in combination with other plans and/or projects, will need to be screened in the first instance	Grammatical correction	
2	Policy 42	to determine whether significant effects on the site are likely and, if so, the likely effects and will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment where necessary	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Policy 42	Development will be refused where it cannot be ascertained, following Appropriate Assessment, that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the site	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
4	Policy 42	unless the proposal is able to pass the further statutory tests of 'no alternatives' and 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'	Grammatical correction	
5	Policy 42	as set out in Regulation 62 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).	Incorrect reference	Natural England (Comment ID 4097)
6	Policy 42	Where the Green Infrastructure Strategy, Natural Environment SPD and/or relevant management plans identify effective mitigation opportunities appropriate to the impact of development this may be utilised as an alternative	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	Policy 42	Land identified and/or managed as part of any mitigation or compensation measure will receive the same level of protection as the internationally-designated site (or sites) that it is required to protect. Should be maintained in perpetuity. Development proposals which have an adverse impact on mitigation or compensation measures will not be allowed.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. Incorrect reference	RSPB (Comment ID 4070)
8	8.48	The Habitats Directive was originally transposed into UK law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 which have now been replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012. The Directive is given domestic effect by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	CPRE (Comment ID 2164)
9	8.52	In applying this policy the Council has identified a buffer zone that extends 0.4km from the perimeter of the SPA/SAC/Ramsar (measured as the crow flies) within which	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
10	8.53	development may have an adverse urbanising impact is likely to have significant effects on the site Where it can be shown that proposals to mitigate the effects of development would avoid or overcome an adverse impact on the integrity of the site in question, or its qualifying features, planning permission will be granted and the mitigation proposals conditioned secured by planning condition or section 106 agreement	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
11	8.54	therefore any development that will increase visitor pressure within this buffer is unlikely to be screened out and will be subject to Appropriate Assessment to demonstrate that the proposal can be implemented without causing adverse effects to the integrity of one or more internationally designated coastal site(s). included in the screening process to determine if there are any likely adverse effects. Where appropriate developers may be required to Alternatively, developers of such proposals can provide, or contribute towards, mitigation measures as outlined in relevant plans and strategies.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
12	8.54	These will include the Natural Environment SPD, Heritage Coast Management Plan and the GI Strategy which will include measures to minimise impacts on the Heritage Coast by existing users and those from the new developments, including the naturalisation and enhancement of underused green spaces	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
13	8.54	That there are 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'. In the case where the site hosts a priority natural habitat or species (as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive and listed in Annexes I and II), only reasons relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment, can be considered, unless the competent authority has sought and had regard to an opinion from the European Commission. For less-sensitive European sites For European sites that do not host an Annex I or II priority habitat or species it would also be possible to consider projects which provide long term, large scale economic benefits.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. Incorrect reference	Natural England (Comment ID 4097)
14	8.52	Please refer to the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the County Durham Plan for the reasoning behind the establishment of these zones: http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8762	Grammatical correction.	

Policy 43 - Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	8.59	This policy seeks to ensure protection and enhancement of these sites and features, and is necessary to help halt and reverse current negative trends and meet new challenges particularly arising from climate change adaptation and pressures associated with the an increasing population.	Grammatical correction	
2	8.60	It is vital that all stages of sustainable development are informed by relevant ecological information, from site selection and design to planning decisions and long-term management.	Grammatical correction	
3	8.65	Sustainable Development also provides opportunities to enhance the natural environment for wildlife and Durham's communities, particularly through landscaping, public open space, Sustainable Drainage Systems and features of the built environment e.g. bird and bat boxes.	Grammatical correction	
4	Policy 43	...will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the benefits of development in that location would	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 44 - Historic Environment

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy - para 3	<p>Development will not be permitted that would entail the loss, in whole or in part, of a heritage asset (designated or non-designated) unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will be implemented after the loss has occurred.¹</p> <p>All Heritage Assets</p> <p>For both designated and non-designated heritage assets development will not be permitted that would entail the loss, in whole or in part, of the heritage asset unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed development is viable and deliverable.¹</p>	Paragraph amended and moved to the end of the policy section to improve the Plan's clarity	<p>Belinda Burke (Comment ID: 801078)</p> <p>Craig Morgan (Comment ID: 715714)</p>
2	Policy - para 5	<p>Development that would lead to less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset will only be permitted where that harm is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal.</p> <p>When considering the balance of considerations great weight will be given to the conservation of the asset.¹</p>	Paragraph return inserted to improve the Plan's clarity	Northumberland Water Ltd (Comment ID: 365726)
3	Policy - para 6	The effect of development proposals on the significance of non-designated heritage assets will be taken into account in determining applications. In assessing	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	NLP (Comment ID: 807267)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		proposals that affect non-designated heritage assets, either directly or indirectly, having regard to the significance of the heritage asset and the scale of any harm or loss. ³		
4	8.68	All of these assets are recorded on the County's Historic Environment Record (HER); The HER is a publicly accessible computerised inventory of our historic environment which includes known heritage assets, sites without statutory protection, and the find-spots of archaeological objects. As part of the planning process the local authority can identify additional non-designated heritage assets that are not currently statutorily protected. Impact on a non-designated heritage asset is in itself a material consideration for planning decisions. ⁴	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	8.69	The Council is committed to achieving a high standard of curation and greater public access to the county archaeology collections and the HER as a means of broadening and improving understanding of the cultural heritage of the county and informing decision-making. This complements greater availability and use of the HER and other heritage resources to aid development planning. ⁵	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
6	8.72	Heritage assets, designated and non-designated, are irreplaceable, so any harm or loss will require clear and convincing justification. This policy aims to ensure that Durham's listed buildings, monuments, archaeological sites, landscapes and areas of historic and built heritage significance are preserved and enhanced so that they	Grammatical correction	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		can continue to make an important contribution to the environment, economy, quality of life and lifelong learning for this and future generations. ⁶		
7	8.76	For planning applications that affect a heritage asset applicants should describe and assess (in an appropriate Heritage Statement in accordance with the Council's validation criteria) the significance of the heritage asset/s affected, including any contribution made by their setting. In the case of sites which include, or have the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest this will may also involve pre-determination field evaluation culminating in the formulation of a mitigation strategy requiring approval by the Council (the requirement to assess significance also falls to the local planning authority). ⁷	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Belinda Burke (Comment ID: 801078) Craig Morgan (Comment ID: 715714)
8	8.80	Applicants are expected to account and adequately reference and clearly take respond to adopted Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Proposals and other guidance produced at a national and local level. ⁸	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
9	8.82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing proposals for external bidding including the submission of an Heritage Lottery Funding bid; and⁹ 	Typographical correction	
10	8.83	We will also be developing N atural, H istoric and B uilt Environment S upplementary P lanning D ocuments to support the County Durham Plan. ¹⁰	Grammatical correction	

Policy 45 - Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy - para 1	The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site (WHS) will be protected by requiring development proposals to demonstrate that consideration has been given to their impacts. Proposals will also need to demonstrate that the development will cause no harm to the significance of the WHS (including cumulative or consequential harm) either including through impacts on its appearance, fabric, character or setting. ¹	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Belinda Burke (Comment ID: 801078) Craig Morgan (Comment ID: 715714)
2	8.88	Development proposals which fall within the WHS boundary, or potentially impact upon its setting, should assess the impacts principally within the Design and Access and Heritage Statements related to the proposal. More detail will be provided, including a definition of the setting of the WHS, in the future Built Environment and Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Documents. Proposals should also reference the Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Management Plan. ²	Grammatical correction	

Policy 46 - Water Management

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 46 - Flood risk paragraph 1	All development proposals will be required to consider the effect affect of the proposed development on flood risk, both on-site and off-site, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development.	Typographical correction	
2	Policy 46 - water quality paragraph 1	Development which would adversely effect affect the quality or quantity of surface or groundwater, flow of groundwater or ability to abstract water will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that no significant adverse impact would occur or mitigation can be put in place to minimise this impact.	Grammatical correction and amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	8.96	The majority of SWRAs are in the east of the County or around urban conurbations. Critical Drainage Areas have also been identified and development in these areas will need careful consideration. The majority of SWRAs are in the east of the County or around urban conurbations.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	8.101	It is important also to consider the protection of water resources from pollution.	Grammatical correction	
5	8.102	NWL is the supplier of water and sewerage services for the County, looking after around 70 sewage treatment works plants.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
6	Policy 46 - Flood risk criteria e	Part of the development site is set aside for surface water management and uses other measures to contribute to flood risk management in the wider area. and These measures will supplement green infrastructure networks,	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		thereby contributing to mitigation of climate change, water quality and flooding as an alternative to, or complementary to, hard engineering;		
7	Policy 46 - Water Quality paragraph 2	(x)	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
8	8.95	It will also be necessary to take into account updated Environment Agency flood maps which include changes to flood zones 2 and 3, which have occurred since the SFRA was completed. ⁸	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 47 - Contaminated and Unstable Land

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	Title of Appendix E:	The overall title of Appendix E - Mineral Assessments" will be changed to "Risk Assessments and Mineral Assessments" .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Mark Harrison (ID: 169659) , The Coal Authority.

x Major development is defined as comprising 10 or more dwellings or 1000m² of employment floorspace (see GPDO (2006, as amended)). Categories of development defined as major are: (1) the erection of 10 or more dwellings, or, if this is not known, where the site area is 0.5 hectares or more; (2) in other cases, where the floorspace to be created is 1,000 square metres or more, or the site area is 1 hectare or more; (3) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral working deposits; (4) all waste developments, meaning any development designed to be used wholly or mainly for the purposes of treating, storing, processing or disposing of refuse or waste materials (see GPDO (2006, as amended)).

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	Proposals Map.	An Ordnance survey base will be introduced to the printed map showing High Risk and Low Risk Areas (Page 70 of the Proposals Map document). The legend of the printed Proposals Map will be amended by inserting "Notes: The spatial extent of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (Policy 60) and High and Low Risk Areas (Policy 47) are shown on page 69 and 70 of the Printed Proposals Map".	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council amendment.

8 Transport and Infrastructure

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	9.3	The County Durham Plan seeks to minimise the distance and length of the journey, make best use of existing public transport and the highways network while delivering sustainable transport choices.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.
2	9.7	The Local Plan in conjunction with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will play a key role in securing private sector involvement in infrastructure delivery, and in aligning the programmes of the various providers.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.

Policy 48 - Delivering Sustainable Travel

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	48(c)	Ensuring that any vehicular traffic generated by new development following the implementation of sustainable transport measures can be safely accommodated on the local and strategic highway network without causing unacceptable additional congestion, or can be made safe or unacceptable congestion overcome by appropriate transport improvements.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
2	9.12	Delete paragraph 9.12. if further guidance and thresholds regarding when Transport Assessments and Travel Plans are required they can be found in the Department for Transport's Website ^(xii) .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.
3	9.23	All new developments must provide parking as part of new development	Amendment to improve Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.
4	9.23	The previous national policy guidance in PPG13 ^(xii) advocated restricting parking supply at origin and destination.	Amendment to improve Plan's clarity.	Durham County Council.

Policy 50 - Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Monitoring framework	Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new rail station at Horden (Peterlee) to serve the Durham Coast Line 	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

xi <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100409053417/http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobe/pdf/165237/202657/guidanceontapdf>

xii Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport, CLG, January 2011.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p>Indicator</p> <p>1. Transport infrastructure safeguarded The following Retail Allocations completed by 2030:</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cycling Super Routes and Secondary Cycle Routes within and between the 12 main towns ● The Leamside Line and associated infrastructure ● Bowburn Relief Road ● East Durham Link Road (Phase 2 to Murton) ● Sherburn Road Retail Link Road ● A new bus station at North Road, Durham City 		

Policy 51 - Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 51, Criterion A	It can be demonstrated that the scheme will not not cause significant adverse impacts and or its benefits outweigh any adverse negative effects; or	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	9.48	The Council will need to work in close partnership with energy providers to ensure minimum disruption to existing networks as well as enabling the phasing and delivery of appropriate utility infrastructure to support proposed development.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	9.57	In addition to this a new Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England (2013) has been drawn up in partnership between Arqiva, English Heritage, the Mobile Operators Association, National Parks England, DCLG, DCMS, DEFRA and the Planning Officers Society	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	9.57	The Code applies to all forms of wireless development, but very obviously is most relevant to proposals for new masts or base stations and significant additions or extensions to existing sites.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	9.58	The most recent consultation proposes that for 5 years, as a result broadband street cabinets, and new poles and lines can be installed under permitted development rights in any location other than a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) without the need for prior approval from local planning authorities, as long as the development is completed on or before 30th May 2018. At the time of writing the outcome of this consultation has not been	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		published however if permitted development rights are extended to broadband-street cabinets and new poles whilst such rights apply then they will be exempt from this policy		

9 Minerals and Waste

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	10.1	<p>We intend to fulfil this requirement through the preparation of this Local Plan and a separate Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document. The role of these two documents are different. This Local Plan document will set out strategic policies for minerals and waste in County Durham over the Plan period and will:</p> <p>Allocate Strategic Sites ^(xiii) for new minerals and waste development, where considered necessary</p>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	10.2	<p>The Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document^(xiv) will complement the minerals and waste policies of this Local Plan. It will set out specific policies for a number of minerals not addressed by this Local Plan e.g. Underground Coal Gasification and Shale Gas Extraction; will contain detailed development management policies for minerals and waste; and in addition, if necessary, will allocate any non strategic mineral or waste sites which are required to meet the longer term need. Following the adoption of this Local Plan and in the interim until the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document is adopted, planning applications for new</p>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

xiii Strategic Sites are those sites which are considered fundamental to the delivery of the ~~Local~~ Plan.

xiv Further details of the role and scope of the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document are set out in Appendix C.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		mineral working and waste development will be determined in accordance with the policies in this section of the Local Plan and other relevant policies and saved policies of the County Durham Minerals Local Plan (December 2000) and the County Durham Waste Local Plan (April 2005). Once adopted the policies and provisions of the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document will replace any remaining saved policies of the County Durham Minerals Local Plan and the County Durham Waste Local Plan.		
3	10.3	They contribute to the local and national economy through both direct and indirect employment and as essential raw materials including power generation, without which it would be impossible for the building and construction industry to deliver the new development and infrastructure which is required through the County Durham Plan.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	10.4	The production of aggregates ^(xv) for use in the building and construction sector is the <u>largest in terms of output volume in County Durham</u> most important mineral extraction activity today.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	UK Coal Plc (ID: 372327) , UK Coal Mining Ltd.

xv Aggregates are normally defined as being hard granular, materials which are suitable for use either on their own or with the addition of cement lime or a bituminous binder in construction. In Britain it is common practice to distinguish between primary aggregates and alternative sources such as secondary aggregates. Primary aggregates are produced from naturally occurring mineral deposits, extracted for use as aggregate and used for the first time. Secondary aggregates are usually defined as (a) aggregates obtained as a by product of other quarrying and mining operations such as colliery spoil or (b) aggregates obtained as a byproduct of industrial processes such as power station ash.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
5	10.8	As part of the effort to encourage sustainable development and respond to climate change, the County Durham Plan needs to ensure that the use of resources is put onto a more sustainable footing.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
6	10.9	The minerals and waste policies of the Local Plan have been prepared against a backdrop of planning reform including the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East and the replacement of the existing suite of national planning policy and minerals planning guidance notes and statements with the new National Planning Policy Framework.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	10.10	The minerals and waste policies of the Local Plan are founded on a robust and credible evidence base; set out <i>in Minerals and Waste Technical Papers</i> . A single minerals and waste background paper will be <i>has been</i> prepared to support the submission version of the Local Plan	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 52 - Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 52, criterion a.	Managing waste in line with the Waste Hierarchy and encouraging the prevention, recycling or use of waste as a resource. Where it can be demonstrated that waste cannot be reused or recycled, other recovery options including energy from waste (including anaerobic digestion) should be considered in line with other plan policies, before landfill. Landfilling of waste or landraising will only be permitted in line with Policy 65 3 .	Typographical correction	
2	Policy 52, criterion d and criterion e.	and the overall proposal remains acceptable and does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on both either the environment and/or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Paragraph 10.14	Landfilling of waste or landraising will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that waste cannot be reused or recycled or where landfill would provide the most sustainable option or would provide clear overall environmental benefits such as the remediation of sites.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 53 - Safeguarding Minerals Related Infrastructure and Waste Management Sites

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	53	Important minerals related infrastructure including mineral sites , mineral processing infrastructure, secondary aggregates recycling facilities, concreting plants, mineral transportation infrastructure and waste management sites, as shown on the Proposals Map ^(xvi) , shall be safeguarded and protected from all non mineral and non waste related development.	Amendment to improve plans clarity	
2	53	That would result in the loss of established minerals related infrastructure and waste management sites unless: 1. An alternative site within an acceptable distance can be provided, which is at least as appropriate for the use as the safeguarded site; and ^{or}	Amendment to improve plans clarity	
3	10.19	County Durham contains an established network of minerals ^(xvii) ; and waste ^(xviii) ; related management infrastructure.	Typographical correction	

xvi These facilities are listed in Appendix D 'Safeguarded Minerals and Waste Sites'.

xvii Important mineral processing facilities include brick works, coated road stone plants and the kilns for the production of calcined material at Thrislington Quarry, secondary aggregate recycling facilities and concrete plants.

xviii Important waste management infrastructure in County Durham includes household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), recycling and treatment facilities, waste transfer stations and landfill sites.

Policy 54 - Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	54a	The site is allocated as a strategic site within the Local Plan or as a non-strategic site in the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document; or	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	54b	it contributes to meeting the need identified in this Local Plan for further carboniferous limestone working which cannot be met by allocations within the Local Plan or by non-strategic allocations within the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	54b	and provided that the proposal would accord with the spatial/locational approach to the working of carboniferous limestone as set out in this policy and does not add significantly to the total landbank of permitted reserves in the County;	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4 and 5	54c	The Local Aggregate Assessment identifies a need for further working that cannot be met either by existing planning permissions, by a strategic allocation within this Local Plan or non-strategic allocations within the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document and provided that the proposal would accord with the spatial/locational approach to the working of the aggregate mineral and does not add significantly to the total landbank of permitted reserves in the County; or	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
6	54d	Working would prevent the sterilisation of mineral resources and mineral extraction in advance of other development which	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		either has planning permission or is allocated in the County Durham Plan; or		
7	54f and 54j.	It can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable adverse impacts on both either the environment and/or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
8	54h	The proposal accords with the spatial locational approach to the working of the aggregate mineral concerned as set out in this policy; and	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
9	54	Carboniferous Limestone - In order to meet the identified need for further carboniferous limestone working, priority will be given to proposals for major new sites and major extensions to existing sites should be located in locations outside of and should not , and which do not adversely impact upon, the North Pennines AONB, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
10	54	Unless allocated within the Local Plan or Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document, major new sites or major extensions to existing sites within or adjacent to the North Pennines AONB will be subject to the most rigorous examination and will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
11	10.23	Through this Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document we will seek to maintain a steady and adequate supply of primary aggregates over the plan period and beyond	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
12	10.29	However, where the landbank is adequate and sufficient to meet longer term needs, unless explicit provision is recognised as being needed in this Local Plan or identified within the Joint LAA, applicants seeking planning permission for new aggregate workings will always need to provide robust reasons as to why further working is necessary and demonstrate that the planning benefits of the proposal outweigh other planning objections.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
13	10.29	Applicants will also have to demonstrate that the proposal accords with the spatial approach to the working of the aggregate mineral concerned, that it does not add significantly to the total landbank of permitted reserves in the County and that there will be no unacceptable adverse impacts on either the environment and or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
14	10.30	Similarly, we will always consider the full range of planning objections which may include any direct and cumulative unacceptable adverse impacts upon either the County's environment or upon on the amenity of local residents communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
15	10.32	Nevertheless, in order to accord with Government guidance, through this Local Plan we must ensure that competition can be maintained.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
16	10.33	In order to ensure that competition is maintained over the Plan period it is considered reasonable for the Local Plan to adopt a permissive approach.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Proposals to extend existing magnesian limestone sites containing significant quantities of permitted reserves or proposals for wholly new magnesian limestone sites cannot be justified on the basis of competition and will not be permitted through either this Local Plan or the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.		
17	10.34	Carboniferous Limestone - Through the provisions of this Local Plan we have identified a need for further carboniferous limestone workings over the Plan period, subject to environmentally acceptable proposals being brought forward	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
18	Policy 54	Sand and Gravel - If further working is necessary towards the end of the Plan period, in order to meet any identified future need as set out in the Joint Local Aggregate Assessment, allocations proposals for further basal permian sand extraction from beneath the floor of existing magnesian limestone quarries will be prioritised, followed by extensions to other sand and gravel quarries outside of environmentally important areas.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 55 - High Grade Dolomite

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 55b	there There will be no unacceptable adverse impacts	Typographical correction	
2	Policy 55b	There will be no unacceptable adverse impacts on either the environment or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	55	The area of high grade dolomite east of Thrislington Quarry, as shown on the Proposals Map, will be protected from all mineral working unless there is a need for high grade material which cannot be met through the use of lower grade material or higher grade material from existing environmentally acceptable planning permissions.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	10.55	Accordingly, it is not anticipated that any further permissions to work this material are likely to be required over the life of the County Durham Plan	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 56 - Brick Making Raw Materials

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 56, criterion b.	There will be no unacceptable adverse impacts either on the environment or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Policy 56	The provision of reserves from dedicated on-site pits will be	Amendment to improve the	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		preferred. Accordingly, proposals for new standalone sites will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that provision can not be met from dedicated on-site pits. Where planning permission is granted, conditions or agreements will be used to restrict the use of the brick making raw material to the associated brickworks.	Plan's clarity	
3	Policy 56, criterion d	It can be demonstrated that production cannot be maintained to the same quality or efficiency from a sequentially preferable site closer to the brickworks; and	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	10.58	Correct footnote CV to refer to Policy 57 and not Policy M56.	Typographical correction	UK Coal Plc (ID: 372327) , UK Coal Mining Ltd.
5	10.63	Given that it is generally desirable that brick making raw materials should be extracted as close as practicable to the brickworks that it supplies, to reduce costs and the environmental and social impacts of transportation of clay from the pit(s) to the works, proposals must demonstrate that no closer sequentially preferable sites of the same quality or efficiency exist closer to the intended brickworks where the material is to be used.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 57 - Surface Mined Coal and Fireclay

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 57, criterion a.	They do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the either the environment and/or upon the amenity of local communities, or can be made acceptable by planning conditions or obligations; or if not	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Policy 57	The local and community benefits generated by the proposal including those that can be provided to the economic and social well being of local communities;	Typographical correction	
3	10.66	In locational terms, we will seek to provide a measure of certainty to both operators and the public through the Local Plan process as to which areas may be acceptable for future surface mined coal extraction by considering the sites that have been proposed by a number of operators as potential surface mined coal allocations through our work to prepare the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document. In addition the Proposals Map which accompanies the County Durham Plan will also identify the extent of the exposed coalfield and the key environmental constraints across the County.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
4	10.66	Proposals Map amendment - Add boundary of exposed coalfield to Proposals Map tiles and legend	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	10.68	Within the exposed coalfield there are large areas which have in the past been recognised for their landscape value and previously designated as Areas of High Landscape Value (AHLVs). While the County Durham Plan does not intend to retain these local designations,	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		the landscape value of many of these areas has been confirmed through the County Durham Landscape Character Assessment and the County Durham Landscape Strategy.		
6	10.69	In these instances outweighing local or community benefits will not apply.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
7	10.70	In instances where proposals for new working are considered to have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the environment or upon the amenity of local communities and can not be made acceptable by planning conditions or obligations we will always consider whether there are any outweighing national, local or community benefits.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
8	10.73	Where previously unforeseen circumstances, for example unexpected geological faulting, lead to an application for an extension, any such proposal will be considered under Policy 57 (Surface Mined Coal and Fireclay Policy).	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
9	Monitoring Framework	Quantity of new permitted reserves of coal and fireclay		

Policy 58 - Natural Building and Roofing Stone

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 58	Planning permission will be granted for proposals for new and extensions to existing quarries where it can be demonstrated that it will help maintain a steady, adequate and diverse supply of natural building and roofing stone and provided that there will be no unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment or upon the and amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 59 - Reopening of Natural Building and Roofing Stone Quarries for Heritage Projects

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 59	Records indicate the quarry was the original source of stone used in the construction of a historic building or monument or the stone is technically compatible with material in the structure to be repaired; and	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Policy 59, criterion c	The stone can be worked and the site restored, taking into account the need to protect designated sites and without other unacceptable adverse impacts upon the environment and or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
3	Policy 59	List corrected. Changed from i, ii to a, b and c. Cannot be shown as a track change.	Typographical correction	
4	10.83	In considering proposals to reopen relic natural building and roofing stone ⁴ quarries identified by English Heritage through their Strategic Stone study it will also be necessary to consider the scale of harm to or loss of the assets significance and this should be weighed in relation to the wider public benefit of the proposed reopening and working of the site.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Policy 60 - Safeguarding Minerals Resources

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 60	The mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the non-minerals development taking place without unacceptable adverse impacts on either the environment or upon the amenity of local communities and within a reasonable timescale; or	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
3	Policy 60	It constitutes 'exempt development'. Exempt development which would not be viewed as sterilising development within a Mineral Safeguarding Area includes all development within	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		urban areas under 1 hectare ^(xix) in extent and all applications for:		
4	10.84	The County Durham Plan will safeguard deposits of minerals and relic natural building and roofing stone sites that are, or may potentially become of economic importance within the foreseeable future, from unnecessary sterilisation by surface development through the designation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). MSAs are a new type of planning designation.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
5	10.85	The MSAs cover extensive areas of the County and will ensure that the safeguarding of mineral resources are effectively considered through the County Durham Plan and in the consideration of planning applications.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
	Mineral Safeguarding Map (Page 69) of the Proposals Map document.	Add sites identified by English Heritages Strategic Stone Study	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
	Mineral Safeguarding Map (Page 69) of the Proposals Map document.	An Ordnance survey base will be introduced to the printed Mineral Safeguarding Map (Page 69 of the Proposals Map document).	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Mineral Products Association.
	Mineral Safeguarding Map (Page 69) of the Proposals Map document.	The legend of the printed Proposals Map will be amended by inserting "Notes: The spatial extent of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (Policy 60) and High and Low Risk Areas (Policy 47) are shown on page 69 and 70 of the Printed	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	Durham County Council amendment.

xix The 1 hectare threshold approach for the exemption for a mineral assessment has been agreed with the Coal Authority. It will require prior extraction to be considered for the majority of the allocated sites within the Local Plan the majority of which are over 1ha in size. In addition it will require that prior extraction is considered for any unallocated sites which come forward which are not allocated within the Local Plan.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Proposals Map". In order to correct a drafting error with the printed Mineral Safeguarding Map (Page 69 of the Proposals Map document) the layers showing different minerals on the Mineral Safeguarding Area Map have been reordered.		

Providing for Waste Management Capacity

Policy 63 - Waste Management Provision

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 63, criterion e.	Can be proven not to cause unacceptable adverse impacts on either the environment and/or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

The Spatial Strategy for Waste

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	10.119	In North Durham, the approach will be based upon its role as a major centre of population and industry. It will therefore be a focus for new waste development.	Typographical error	

Policy 64 - Location of New Waste Facilities

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 64, criterion d.	Would not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts either on the environment or upon the amenity of local communities;	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Table 22 Employment Sites Not Appropriate for Waste Development	Amazon Park Merchant Park (Newton Aycliffe)	Amendment to reflect the new name of the Business Park (as changed by the developers)	

Policy 65 - Landfill and Landraising

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Policy 65	And for all proposals there would be no unacceptable adverse impacts either on the environment or upon the amenity of local communities.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Approach to Allocating Sites in the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	10.137	Sites should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on either the environment or upon the amenity of local communities will need to be environmentally acceptable and in accordance with all relevant environmental policies in the County Durham Plan.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	10.137	For allocations the Council will not consider whether there may be any national, local or community benefits which could outweigh unacceptable adverse impacts	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

A County Durham Plan Strategic Policies

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	A.1	This appendix details which policies of the Local Plan Pre-submission document are viewed as strategic in nature. These are policies which are fundamental to the delivery of the County Durham Plan and with which Neighbourhood Plans will need to comply be in general conformity .	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

B Local Historical Parks & Gardens (policy 44)

C The Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Development Plan Document (See Chapter 10 of the Local Plan Preferred Options document)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Table 24 Saved Mineral Local Plan Policies which will remain extant until the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document is prepared	Protecting Local Amenity Stand off Distances Saved Policy M37 and M43 Minimising Traffic Impacts Saved Policy M43	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. Policies split out and correctly titled to reflect the saved policies.	
2	Table 24 Saved Mineral Local Plan Policies which will remain extant until the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document is prepared	Table 24 Saved Mineral Local Plan Policies which will remain extant until the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document is prepared	Typographical correction.	
3	Table 25 Saved Waste Local Plan Policies which will remain extant until the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document is prepared	Agricultural Land Saved Policy W25	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
4	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<p>Environmental Impact of Road Traffic and Planning Obligations for controlling environmental impact of road traffic</p> <p>Saved Policy W31 and W32</p> <p>Planning Obligations for controlling environmental impact of road traffic</p> <p>Saved Policy W324</p>	<p>Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.</p> <p>Policies split out and correctly titled to reflect the saved policies.</p>	
5	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<p>Household Waste Recycling Centres</p> <p>Saved Policy W36</p>	<p>Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.</p>	

D Safeguarded Minerals and Waste Sites (Policy 53)

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	All references to Premier Waste Management changed to Durham County Council for Transfers; Durham County Council for Joint Stocks; and H.W Martin for HWRCs.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
2	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Seoby-Seatur Landfill Site, Cobey's Carr Lane, Premier Waste Management Composting</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has now expired.	
3	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Tursdale Industrial Estate Premier Waste Management Digesters</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has now expired.	
4	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Brooms-Dene, Leadgate Premier Waste Management Household-Waste-Recycling-Centre</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has now expired.	
5	Table 27 Waste Management	<i>Cragswood</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
	Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Premier Waste Management Household Waste Recycling Centre</i>	permission has now expired.	
6	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Tarmac Northern Ltd-Lafarge Tarmac</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
7	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>R & H Tomlinson International Waste Metals Ltd</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
8	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Kimmondwood Quarry, Bowes Gemex UK Materials Ltd Recycling</i>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has now expired.	
9	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	<i>Thornley Transfer Station, Unit 54U, Thornley-Station Industrial Estate 1st Skip Hire-G. O'Brien & Sons (Nationwide Demolition Contractors) Ltd</i>		

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
10	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	Old Thom Factory Site, Merrington Lane Ind Est Recycling Aggregates (NE) Ltd Recycling	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has now expired.	
11	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	PBU (Uk), Hutton House, Sedgefield	Typographical correction	
12	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	Sedgefield Borough Council Durham County Council	Typographical correction	
13	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	DGC (Former Durham City Council) Durham County Council	Typographical correction	
14	Table 27 Waste Management Sites to be safeguarded	Tonks Lumsden & Carroll	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
15	Table 27 Waste Management	Shildon Transfer Station & The Recycling Centre, Hackworth Industrial Park, Shildon	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
	Sites to be safeguarded	The Recycling Centre Waste Stream International		
16	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Sherburn Stone Co Ltd	Typographical corrections	
17	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Farmac-Northern Ltd Lafarge Tarmac	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
18	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Farmac-Northern Ltd Hope Construction Materials	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
19	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Hathope Head Quarry Harthope Head Quarry	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
20	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Natural Stone Quarries Ltd Border Stone Quarries	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
21	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Ennstone Building Products Stainton Quarry Ltd	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
22	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Gemex Uk Materials Ltd Kearnton Farms Ltd	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
23	Table 28 Safeguarded Mineral Sites	Newlandside Quarry Premier Waste Management Indigo Pacific	Amendments to improve the Plan's clarity.	
24	Table 29 Safeguarded Mineral Transportation Infrastructure	The proposed rail transshipment facility at Tursdale – We believe that the proposed Tursdale rail freight facility should be safeguarded with the proviso that safeguarding will not prejudice the use of the site for transshipment of other goods:	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This site is safeguarded under Policy 24 Specific Use Sites.	
25	Table 30 Safeguarded Mineral Processing Infrastructure	Site name, Location, Operator Eldon Brickworks, Eldon, Wienerberger Todhills Brickworks, Todhills, Wienerberger Coated road stone – Asphalt Plant at Force Garth Quarry ; Force Garth Quarry, Cemex Uk Materials Ltd Coated road stone – Asphalt Plant at Heights Quarry ; Heights Quarry, Aggregate Industries Ltd Coated road stone – Asphalt Plant at Hulands Quarry Hulands Quarry, Aggregate Industries Ltd	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Coated road stone – Asphalt Plant at Coxhoe Quarry Coxhoe Quarry, Lafarge Tarmac Kilns for production of calcined material, Concrete Plant and Sand recovery plant at Thrislington Quarry Thrislington Quarry Lafarge Tarmac		
26	Table 31 Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate Recycling Facilities - table title.	Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate ⁽¹⁾ and Aggregate Recycling Facilities	Typographical amendment to align with wording in NPPF.	
27	Table 31 Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate Recycling Facilities	Site Name, Location, Operator Joint Stocks, Coxhoe, Durham County Council Constantine Farm, Crook, W Marley Fenks Lumsden & Carroll Fanfield Old Brickworks, Tanfield, Ken Thomas Aycliffe East Quarry, Aycliffe, Stonegrave Aggregates Ltd	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		Old Quarrington Quarry, Bowburn, Lafarge Tarmac Secondary aggregates recycling at Kilmendwood Quarry Thrislington Quarry, Cornforth, Lafarge Tarmac Bishop Middleham Quarry, Bishop Middleham, W & M Thompson		
28	Table 31 Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate Recycling Facilities	R & H Tomlinsons The Recycling Centre	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
29	Table 31 Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate Recycling Facilities	Tanks Lumsden & Carroll	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	
30	Table 31 Safeguarded Secondary Aggregate	Secondary aggregates recycling at Kilmendwood Quarry	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity. This permission has expired.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
	Recycling Facilities			
	Map Safeguarded Minerals Infrastructure	Safeguarded Minerals Infrastructure Map replaced	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

1. There are currently no secondary aggregate producers in County Durham

E Risk Assessments and Mineral Assessments

F Saved and Superseded Policies

32 Chester-le-Street Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
<p>NE2 Development beyond Settlement Boundaries</p>	<p>Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.</p>
<p>NE3 Implementation of the North Durham Green Belt</p>	<p>Policy 14, Green Belt</p>
<p>NE4 Appropriate Development in the Green Belt</p>	<p>Policy 14 Green Belt</p>
<p>NE5 New Dwellings in the Green Belt</p>	<p>Policy 14, Green Belt</p>
<p>NE6 Development Affecting Visual Amenity of the Green Belt</p>	<p>Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built 93 Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character</p>
<p>NE8 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Local Nature Reserves</p>	<p>Policy 43 - Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites</p>
<p>NE11 Tree Preservation and Planting</p>	<p>Policy 40 - Trees, Woodlands and Hedges</p>
<p>NE15 Areas of High Landscape Value</p>	<p>Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Reference to AHLVs lapsed</p>
<p>BE2 Public Art</p>	<p>Lapsed; not superseded</p>
<p>BE4 Development in Conservation Area</p>	<p>Policy 44 - Historic Environment</p>
<p>BE 5 Demolition in Conservation Area</p>	<p>Policy 44 - Historic Environment</p>
<p>BE 8 Advertisements in Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Policy 44 - Historic Environment</p>
<p>BE9 Historic Parks and Gardens</p>	<p>Policy 44 - Historic Environment</p>

Policy	Superseded by
BE10 SchSaved and Superseded Policieseduled Ancient Monuments	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
BE22 Planning Obligations	Policy 5 - Developer Contributions
HP4 Land Allocated for Residential Development	Policy 30 - Housing Land Allocations.
HP6 Residential Development within Settlement Boundaries	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Restriction of development to PDL lapsed
HP7 Boundary Changes and Limited Infill Development within Settlement Boundaries	Lapsed; not relevant within new Plan
HP8 Limited Infill Development within Settlement Boundaries	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites
HP9 Residential Design Criteria - General	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
HP10 Backland Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to backland sites lapsed.
HP11 Residential Extensions	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment Specific reference to private space lapsed.
HP12 Residential Subdivisions to Flats or Bedsits	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to
HP13 Affordable Housing	Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need
HP15 Community Provision	Policy 5, Developer Contributions, Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
HP16 The Enclosure of Open Land in Residential Areas	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment; policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
HP17 Residential Institutions and Hotels	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment; policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Specific Requirement for amenity open space within the site and for all residential institutions to be in a sustainable location have lapsed.
HP18 Gypsy Sites	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated

Policy	Superseded by
	Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
R1 Major Retail Development and Other Key Town Centre Functions	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
R2 Major Retail Development and Key Town Centre Functions Beyond to Town Centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
R3 Retail Warehouses and Bulky Goods Retailing	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
R6 Non Retail Uses in Primary Shopping Frontages	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. The absolute bar on non-retail in primary frontage is lapsed.
R7 Non Retail Uses in Secondary Shopping Frontages	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
R11 Shop Front Design: General	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment
R15 Retailing in Local Centres	Policy 26 Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
R16 Retailing Beyond Local Centres	Policy 26 Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Requirement for shops outside centres to be under 100m2 has lapsed; new policy requires a sequential assessment.
R17 Residential Development and Local Retail Needs	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 16 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
R18 Retention of Existing Local Shops	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
R19 Food and Drink	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
R20 Motor Vehicle Sales and Petrol Filling Stations	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on filling stations.

Policy	Superseded by
R21 Retailing from Industrial Premises	Policy 26 Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific mention of retail from industrial premises.
IN1 New Development Opportunities	Policy 23, Employment Land. Allocation of Daisy Hill and Lumley Brickworks is lapsed.
IN2 Long Term Employment Needs	Policy 23, Employment Land. Extension to Stella Gill is lapsed.
IN3 Prestige Industrial Estate	Policy 23, Employment Land.
IN4 General Industrial Estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. Allocation of Daisy Hill and Lumley Brickworks is lapsed
IN5 Local Industrial Estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. Allocation of Sacriston Colliery, Pelton Fell North, Kimblesworth and Lumley Brickworks is lapsed.
IN8 Industrial Development Beyond Defined Industrial Estates	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites
IN10 Extensions to Existing Industrial and Employment Uses in the Open Countryside	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside
IN11 Existing Employment Sites / Buildings in the Open Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
IN11 Existing Employment Sites in the Open Countryside	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific resistance to conversion away from employment use in the countryside is lapsed.
IN12 Working from Home	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 18, Local Amenity
RL1 Sport & Leisure Opportunities: General	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL2 Indoor Sports Facilities	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
RL3 Protection of Outdoor Recreational and Sporting Facilities	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.

Policy	Superseded by
RL5 Outdoor Sport & Recreation Provision in New Residential Development	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Requirements have changed to accord with the OSNA.
RL6 Maintenance of New Outdoor Sport & Recreation Facilities	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL8 Riverside Cultural & Leisure Facilities	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
RL9 Recreation & Outdoor Sports in the Open Countryside	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
RL10 Recreation & Outdoor Sports in the Green Belt	Policy 14, Green Belt
RL11 Equestrian Facilities	Policy 36, Equestrian Development
RL15 Community Facilities	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
TM1 Beamish Open Air Museum	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
TM2 Great North Forest	Lapsed
TM3 New Tourist Accommodation	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TM4 Camping, Caravaning & Holiday Chalets	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. Reference to AHLVs is lapsed.
TM7 Short Term Occupancy Conditions	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. This policy permits occupation for nine rather than six months.
TM12 Environmental Improvements	Lapsed
AG 3 Agricultural Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
AG 4 Farm Diversification	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T6 Provision for Public Transport: General	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport

Policy	Superseded by
	Infrastructure
T8 Car Parking Provision	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
T12 Cycling	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T13 Cycle Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T14 Private Garages	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific requirements relating to garages are lapsed.
T15 Access and Safety Considerations in Design	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
T17 General Policy	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
PU6 Telecommunications Development	Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure

Table 33 Derwentside Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
GDP1 General Development Principles	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenities, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites. Policy 46 - Water Management
EN1 Protecting the Countryside	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
EN2 Preventing Urban Sprawl	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
EN3 Extensions to Buildings in Rural Areas	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
EN4 Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restrictions on use class of converted

Policy	Superseded by
	buildings are lapsed.
EN5 Development within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Policy 37, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN6 Development within Areas of High Landscape Value	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 39, Landscape Character. Specific reference to AHLVs lapsed.
EN7 Protection of historic parkland	Policy 39, Landscape Character. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
EN9 Work to trees covered by Preservation Orders	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges. Specific reference to TPOs is lapsed.
EN10 Protection of Ancient Woodlands	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges. . .
EN11 Trees and Development	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure, Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
EN12 Development within the GNF	Lapsed
EN14 Demolition in Conservation Areas	Policy 44, Historic Environment.
EN17 Alterations and Extensions to Listed Buildings	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
EN19 Protection of Sites and Settings of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Features	Policy 44, Historic Environment. Specific requirements with regard to excavation and recording are set out in supporting text rather than policy.
EN21 Protection of the National Nature Reserves and Sites of Specific Scientific Interest	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
EN22 Protection of sites of Nature Conservation Importance	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
EN23 Wildlife Corridors	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 41, Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy defining specific wildlife corridors has lapsed.
EN24 Proposals for the reclamation and Re-Use of Derelict Sites	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 13, Other Executive Housing Proposals, provides for brownfield sites to be

Policy	Superseded by
	developed where greenfield sites would not be, under certain circumstances.
EN25 Development Affected by Pollution	Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land Policy 18, Local Amenity.
EN26 Control of Development causing pollution	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 46, Water Management
EN27 Development on or close to Landfill and Contaminated Sites	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land control development on sites likely to be affected by pollution or nuisance. Specific buffer zones are not mentioned in current policy
HO5 Development on Small Sites	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Specific restriction to sites below 0.4 ha is lapsed.
HO7 Development Limit for Lanchester & Burnhope	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy relating to specific development limits is lapsed.
HO8 Low Cost Housing Provision	Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need
HO10 Affordable Housing in Rural Areas	Policy 17, Exception Sites. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
HD13 Accommodation for Travellers	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
HO17 Sub Division and Adaption of Existing Buildings to Residential Use	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to subdivision has lapsed.
HO19 Extensions & Alterations to Existing Dwellings	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy relating to specific design requirements has lapsed.
HO20 Satellite Dishes	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
HO22 Recreational Public Open Space within Housing Sites	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.

Policy	Superseded by
CF8 Development of Wind Farms	Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.
CF10 Development of Telecommunication Equipment	Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
IN1 Location of New Industrial Development	Policy 23, Employment Land.
IN2 Development within Business Parks	Policy 23, Employment Land (upholds restriction in use class)
IN3 Development within Prestige Industrial Parks	Policy 23, Employment Land. Also see: Policy 1, Sustainable Development, Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity.
IN4 Development within General Industrial Estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. Note that in accordance with the ELR, Carr House, Derwentdale, Malton and Spiracon Workshops are no longer allocated for industrial use.
IN5 Development Involving Less Attractive Uses	Policy 1, Sustainable Development, Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution
TO1 Sites for the Development of New Tourist Attractions	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Specific locations are not listed in policy but are mentioned in supporting text.
TO3 Development of Recreational Paths	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
TO4 Development Opportunity Sites Suitable for Tourism	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Specific locations are not listed in policy but are mentioned in supporting text.
TO6 Visitor Accommodation within the Countryside	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. Occupancy by one person or group is restricted to 9 months of the year.
TO7 Camping, Caravan & Chalet Development	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TO8 Occupancy conditions for Caravans and Chalets	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. Occupancy by one person or group is limited to 9 months of the year.
TO9 Winter Storage of Caravans	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.

Policy	Superseded by
AG1 Better quality agricultural land	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside and Policy 1, Sustainable Development
AG2 Diversification of Agricultural Enterprises	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
AG3 Agricultural Development	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Note that much of this will be dealt with as PD
RE4 Protection of Rights of Way and Recreational Paths	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
RE9 Development Opportunity Sites Suitable for Leisure & Recreation	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy relating to specific sites has lapsed.
CO5 Retailing from Industrial Premises	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific mention of retail from industrial premises.
CO9 New Shop Fronts	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to shop fronts has lapsed.
CO10 Roller Shutters	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to roller shutters has lapsed..
CO11 Private Hire Offices	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
CO12 Hot Food Take-aways and Cafes	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Absolute bar on hot food uses either in parking-controlled areas or residential areas has lapsed.
CO13 Poster Hoarding Sites	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Absolute bar on large hoardings in residential areas has lapsed.
CO14 Advertisements on Business Premises	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
CO15 Advertisements for Tourist Accommodation and Facilities	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific restrictions on number and type of advertisements have lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
TR1 Proposed Schemes	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
TR2 Development and Highway Safety	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
TR3 Cycling	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
LI1	Lapsed
SM14 Safeguarding a Site for Educational Use	Lapsed
SM15 Re-development of School Site	Lapsed
SM18 Development Limit at Quaking Houses	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.
B11 Development Limit for Burnhope	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.

Table 34 City of Durham Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
E1 Durham City Green Belt	Policy 14, Green Belt
E2 Major Developed Sites in Green Belt	Policy 14, Green Belt. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
E3 World Heritage Site - Protection	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
E4 World Heritage Site - Extension	Lapsed
E5 Protecting Open Spaces within Durham City	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy relating to specific sites has lapsed.
E5a Open Spaces within Settlement Boundaries	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure

Policy	Superseded by
E6 Durham (City Centre) Conservation Area	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy setting out specific design requirements has lapsed.
E7 Development Outside of Settlement Limits	Lapsed; policy repeats other policies.
E8 Change of Use	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific resistance to change of use has lapsed.
E10 Areas of Landscape Value	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Reference to AHLV's lapsed
E14 Existing Trees and Hedgerows	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges
E15 New Trees and Hedgerows	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
E16 Nature Conservation	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E17 Sites of Specific Scientific Interest	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E18 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E19 Wildlife Corridors	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy defining specific wildlife corridors has lapsed.
E20 Local Nature Reserves	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E21 Historic Environment	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
E22 Conservation Areas	Policy 44 - Historic Environment

Policy	Superseded by
E23 Listed Buildings	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
E24 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains	Policy 44 - Historic Environment . Specific requirements with regard to excavation and recording are set out in supporting text rather than policy.
E25 Nevilles Cross Battlefield	Policy 44 - Historic Environment. Battlefield is listed in supporting text as one of the designated heritage assets which the policy protects.
E26 Historic Parks and Gardens	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
H1 New Housing Development - Allocated Sites	Lapsed
H2 New Housing Development within Durham City	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Restriction of development to PDL within settlement boundaries has lapsed
H3 New Housing Development within the Villages	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction of development to PDL within settlement boundaries has lapsed
H4 Ribbon / Sporadic Development and Villages with no Settlement Boundaries	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific restriction to infilling has lapsed but the effect of new policy will be to resist ribbon and sporadic development.
H5 New Housing in the Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
H6 Replacement Dwellings outside the Settlement Boundaries	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific restrictions on replacement dwellings have lapsed, though the subject is discussed within supporting text to policy 15.
H7 City Centre Housing	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites
H8 Residential use of upper floors	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to residential use of upper floors has lapsed but subdivision is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
H9 Multiple Occupation/Student Households	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites Policy 32, Houses in Multiple

Policy	Superseded by
	Occupation and Student Accommodation
H10 Backland and Tandem Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to backland sites lapsed.
H12 Affordable Housing	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to subdivision lapsed.
H12a Type and Size of Housing	Policy 34, Type and Mix of Housing, Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need
H13 Residential Areas - Impact upon Character & Amenity	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H14 Residential Areas - Improvements to Housing Stock and Environment	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H15 Sites for Travellers	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers
H16 Residential Institutions / Student Halls of Residence	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 32, Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation. A forthcoming SPD will discuss this issue in more detail
H17 Renewal of Planning Permission for Housing	Lapsed
EMP2 Durham Science Park	Policy 23, Employment Land
EMP3 Mount Oswald	Lapsed
EMP4 Business Parks	Policy 7, Aykley Heads. This establishes a different masterplan for the redevelopment of the Aykley Heads area.
EMP5 Prestige Industrial Sites - General	Policy 23, Employment Land. Restriction to B1/ B2 has lapsed.
EMP6 Prestige Industrial Development at Belmont	Policy 23, Employment Land
EMP7 Prestige Industrial Development / Rail Freight Terminal, Tursdale	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 24, Specific Use Employment Sites
EMP8 General Industrial Sites	Policy 23, Employment Land.

Policy	Superseded by
EMP 9 Local Industrial Sites	Policy 23, Employment Land. Following ELR, the allocation of Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill industrial estates has lapsed.
EMP10 Bad Neighbour Activities	Policy 1, Sustainable Development, Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution
EMP11 Employment Outside Designated Sites	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
EMP12 Office Development - General	Policy 6, Durham City. Policy 7 Aykley Heads. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
EMP13 Office Development - Sites outside City Centre	Policy 6, Durham City. Policy 7 Aykley Heads. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Specific reference to these sites has lapsed.
EMP14 Office Development - Outside Designated Areas	Policy 6, Durham City. Policy 7 Aykley Heads. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
EMP15 Taxi booking offices	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
EMP16 Employment in the Countryside	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific resistance to conversion away from employment use in the countryside is lapsed.
EMP17 Farm Diversification	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
EMP17a Agriculture and Forestry Development	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
EMP18 Home Based Business	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
EMP19 Notifiable Installations - New Proposals	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 46, Water Management. Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land.
EMP20 Notifiable Installations - Development in Close Proximity Thereto	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and

Policy	Superseded by
	Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land control development on sites likely to be affected by pollution or nuisance
T1 Traffic Generation - General	Policy 48 Delivering Sustainable Transport.
T2 Road Proposals - Justification	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T3 Road Proposals - Corridors of Interest	Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T4 Road Proposals - Design and Route	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T5 Public Transport	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T6 Transport Interchange at Carrville	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Specific mention of Carrville has lapsed
	Lapsed as scheme has been provided
T8 Traffic Management	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T9 Movement of Freight	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities. Policy 24, Specific Use Employment Sites
T10 Parking - General Provision	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T11 City Centre Parking - Overall Strategy	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
T12 City Centre Parking - Management of Off Street Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
T13 City Centre Parking - New Sites	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in

Policy	Superseded by
	Commercial Centres.
T17 Storage of Caravans	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
T18 Taxi Ranks	Policy 18, Local Amenities. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Specific mention of taxi ranks has lapsed.
T19 Cycling - Development of Cycle Routes	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T20 Cycling - Provision of Cycle Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T21 Safeguarding the Needs of Walkers	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
S1A Retail Hierarchy	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S2A A2 & A3 uses within the Primary Retail Area	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. This policy sets out different permissible proportions of non-retail uses in town centres.
S2B A2 & A3 uses within the Secondary Retail Area	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. This policy sets out different permissible proportions of non-retail uses in town centres.
S3 Elvet Bridge	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. This policy sets out different permissible proportions of non-retail uses in town centres.
S4 Sherburn Road / Dragon Lane District Centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy 18, Local Amenities. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
S5 Local Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy 18, Local Amenities. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
S6 Village Shops	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Size limits for shops outside centres has lapsed; new policy requires a sequential assessment.
S7 Individual Shops	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Size limits for shops outside centres has lapsed; new policy requires a sequential assessment.

Policy	Superseded by
S8 Retail Warehouse Outlets	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. A site at Sherburn Road District Centre is allocated for bulky goods.
S9A Arnison / Mercia District Centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S9B Major Out of Centre Proposals	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S10 Food and Drink	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S11 Miscellaneous Sites	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy is silent on retail from industrial estates. Sequential and impact tests will apply.
S12 Occasional Markets	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Specific policy relating to markets has lapsed.
S13 Factory and Farm Shops	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy is silent on farm shops in particular and does not institute size limits for shops outside retail areas. Sequential and impact tests may apply.
S14 Amusement Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Specific policy regarding amusement centres has lapsed.
S15 Garden Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.. Specific policy regarding garden centres has lapsed.
S16 Petrol Filling Stations	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. No specific policy in the CDP on filling stations.
R1 Provision of Open Space - Overall Standards	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
R2 Provision of Open Space - New Residential Development	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
R3 Protection of Outdoor Recreation Facilities	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
R4 Land Surplus to Education Requirements	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 15,

Policy	Superseded by
	Development on Unallocated Sites.
R5 Protection of Allotments	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy specifically relating to allotments has lapsed.
R6 District Sports and Leisure	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity
R7 Swimming pool	Lapsed; pool has now been built.
R8 New Recreation Facilities	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity
R9 Public Parks and Recreation Grounds	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
R10 New development for recreation and leisure	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
R11 Public Rights of Way	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
R12 River Wear	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy specifically relating to attractions on the Wear has lapsed.
R13 River Wear Walkway	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy specifically relating to this walkway has lapsed.
R14 The Browney Valley	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy specifically relating to attractions in this location has lapsed.
R15 Picnic Sites	Lapsed
R16 Equestrian Centres	Policy 36, Equestrian Development
R17 Stables	Policy 36, Equestrian Development
R18 Golf Courses and Driving Ranges	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy specifically relating to golf courses has lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
R19 Off Road Motorsports	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy specifically relating to off-road motorsports has lapsed.
V1 Tourist Facilities and Attractions	Lapsed; area has been redeveloped
V2 Specific Sites for the Development of new Tourist Attractions	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
V3 Tourist Facilities and Attractions within Settlement Boundaries	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Restriction to within settlement boundaries has lapsed.
V4 Tourist Facilities and Attractions outside Settlement Boundaries	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Also see . Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
V6 Visitor Accommodation within Settlement Boundaries	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation
V7 Visitor Accommodation outside Settlement Boundaries	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. This policy permits occupation for nine months rather than twelve weeks.
V8 Caravans, Camping and Chalets	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
V9 Occupation of Static Caravans and Chalets	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. This policy permits occupation for nine months rather than twenty-six weeks.
C1 Redevelopment of Dryburn Hospital	Lapsed: development has been carried out.
C2 Health Centres, Surgeries and Clinics	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
C3 University of Durham	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 6 Durham City. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
C5 New College Durham - Nevilles Cross Site	Lapsed

Policy	Superseded by
C6 Durham Johnson Comprehensive School - Crossgate Moor Site	Lapsed; development has been carried out
C7 Durham Johnson Comprehensive School - Whinney Hill Site	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations
C8 Community Facilities - Provision of New	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
C9 Community Facilities - Protection of Existing	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
CC1 Vitality and Viability	Policy 6, Durham City. Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
CC2 Development Opportunities - Specific uses	Lapsed – sites developed
CC3 Development Opportunities - Range of Uses	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policies relating to specific uses at Providence Row, the swimming baths, Back Silver St and South Street Library have lapsed. Policy relating to Lower Claypath is reinstated in policy 25.
Q1 General Principles	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
Q2 General Principles	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
Q3 External Parking Areas	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
Q4 Pedestrian Areas	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
Q5 Landscaping	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
Q6 Landscaping	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.

Policy	Superseded by
Q7 Layout and Design - Industrial and Business Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
Q8 Layout and Design - Residential Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
Q9 Alterations and Extensions to Residential Property	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy setting out specific design requirements has lapsed.
Q10 Dormer Windows	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy setting out specific design requirements has lapsed.
Q11 Shopfronts - Provision of New	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Specific requirements relating to shop fronts have lapsed.
Q12 Shopfronts - Retention of Existing	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Specific requirements relating to shop fronts have lapsed.
Q13 Satalite Dishes	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
Q14 Security Shutters	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific policy relating to security shutters has lapsed.
Q15 Art in Design	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy specifically relating to art has lapsed.
Q16 Advertisements	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44 - Historic Environment
Q17 Advertisements - Hoardings and Panels	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44 - Historic Environment. Policy detailing specific locational restrictions has lapsed.
U1 Telecommunications - General	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
U2 Telecommunications - Impact on the World Heritage Site	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure. Policy 44, Historic Environment.

Policy	Superseded by
U3 Transmission lines	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
U4 Undergrounding of services	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific requirement for ducting has lapsed.
U5 Pollution Prevention - General	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 46, Water Management.
U6 Pollution Prevention - Anti-Pollution Development	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution . Policy 46, Water Management Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land
U7 Pollution Prevention - Development Sensitive to Pollution	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land control development on sites likely to be affected by pollution or nuisance.
U8 Sewage Treatment Works	Policy 46, Water Management
U8a Disposal of Foul and Surface Water	Policy 46, Water Management
U8b Sewage Treatment Works in the Green Belt	Policy 14, Green Belt. Policy 46, Water Management
U9 Watercourses	Policy 46, Water Management
U10 Natural Flood Plains	Policy 46, Water Management
U11 Development on Contaminated Land	Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land
U12 Development near Contaminated Land	Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land
U13 Development on Unstable Land	Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land
U14 Energy Conservation - General	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
U15 Energy Conservation - Renewable Resources	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 21, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.

Policy	Superseded by
U17 Recycling	Policy 52, Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management

Table 35 Easington Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
1 General Principles of Development	Lapsed; all policies within it are cross-referenced elsewhere.
3 Protection of the Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.
4 Green Belt Extension in County Durham	Policy 14, Green Belt
6 Strategic Gap between Easington Village and Peterlee	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific reference to this green wedge has lapsed.
7 Protection of Areas of High Landscape Values	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Reference to AHLVs lapsed
9 Protection of the Coastal Zone	Policy 38, Durham Coast and Heritage Coast Policy 42, Internationally Designated Sites. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
14 Protection of Special Areas of Conservation	Policy 42, Internationally Designated Sites.
15 Protection of Sites of Specific Scientific Interests and Natural Nature Reserves	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
16 Protection of Sites of Natural Conservation Importance, Local Nature Reserves and Ancient Woodlands	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
17 Identification and Protection of Wildlife Corridors	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 41, Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy defining specific wildlife corridors has lapsed.
18 Species and Habitat Protection	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites.
19 Management of Area of Nature Conservation Interest	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites.
22 Preservation & enhancement of Conservation Areas	Policy 44 - Historic Environment

Policy	Superseded by
24 Protection of Listed Buildings	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
29 Sites for Recycling	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 52, Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management. Specific reference to public recycling sites has lapsed.
35 Design and layout of Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure,
36 Design and layout of Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
37 Design for parking	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
38 Designing out crime	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
39 Design for art	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to artistic elements has lapsed.
40 Control of Advertisements	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
44 Development on or near landfill sites	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land control development on sites likely to be affected by pollution or nuisance
45 Development on or near colliery sites	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land control development on sites likely to be affected by pollution or nuisance
47 Control of unauthorised development	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
48 Proper maintenance of land and buildings	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
49 Strategic Reserve Industrial Site	Policy 24, Specific Use Employment Sites. Site is allocated in the CDP, but for a different purpose; therefore, the specific requirements outlined in policy 49 have

Policy	Superseded by
	lapsed.
51 Development of small industrial estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. Dalton Flatts has been deallocated following the recent Employment Land Review and the North East Industrial Estate, Peterlee has been allocated for housing. Therefore, policy relating to these sites has lapsed.
52 Prestige industrial sites	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
53 Existing general industrial estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. The North East Industrial Estate, Peterlee has been allocated for housing. Therefore, policy relating to this sites has lapsed.
54 Existing small industrial estates	Policy 23, Employment Land. Following the recent Employment Land Review, George Street, South Hetton and Wheatley Hill Workshops have been deallocated. Therefore, policy relating to this sites has lapsed.
62 Working from Home	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 18, Local Amenity.
63 Control of Taxi Businesses	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific restrictions on taxi booking offices have lapsed.
66 Provision of outdoor playspace	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
67 Windfall housing sites	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Restriction of development to PDL lapsed
71 Rest homes, nursing homes, & sheltered accommodation	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
72 Control of sites for travellers	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Policy 14, Green Belt. Policy 38, Durham Coast and Heritage Coast.
73 Extensions and / or alterations to dwelling houses	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to off-street parking spaces has lapsed.
74 Footpaths and PROWs	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.

Policy	Superseded by
75 Provision for Cyclists	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
77 Public transport services	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
79 Access into the A19(T)	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Specific reference to access onto the A19 has lapsed; safety considerations will be covered.
80 A19 Service Station	Lapsed
81 Movement of Freight	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Measures relating to the management of freight transport have lapsed.
84 Coastal Zone	Policy 38, Durham Coast and Heritage Coast..
85 Crimdon	Lapsed; policy provides no guidance not provided by other policies.
88 Swimming Pool	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific controls on swimming pool development have lapsed.
89 Development of new or improved leisure and community buildings	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific controls on leisure and community facility development have lapsed.
90 Protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
91 Protection of Children's Play Space	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
92 Protection of amenity open space	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
93 Facilities for the arts	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific controls on leisure and community facility development have lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
94 Provision of new or improved education facilities on existing sites	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
95 Provision of health facilities	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
96, Protection of community facilities	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
101 Protection and promotion of Town Centres	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
102 Local and neighbourhood shopping centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
104 Major out-of-centre retail development	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
105 Retailing on industrial estates	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific mention of retail from industrial premises.
106 Garden centres	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on garden centres.
108 Petrol filling stations	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on filling stations.
109 Shop front design	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to shop fronts has lapsed.
110 Security shutters and roller grilles	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to roller shutters has lapsed.
111 Hot food takeaway	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in

Policy	Superseded by
113 Markets	Commercial Centres. The specific restrictions listed in policy 111 have lapsed.
B3 Blackhall Ind Est	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Specific policy relating to markets has lapsed.
B8 Rail facilities	Lapsed, since, following Employment Land Review, this site will no longer be allocated as employment land.
B11 Local shopping centre	Lapsed. The location which is currently favoured for a new coastal station is at Horden. This is protected in Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
C1 Control of development	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
C2 Changes of use	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
E4 Uses for the Easington Colliery site	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
E8 Land to the west of the Council offices	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
E11 Uses for former Easington Colliery Junior and Infant School	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Site is now allocated as part of a larger site.
E13 Rail Halt	Lapsed; policy provides no guidance not provided by other policies.
E16 Local shopping centre	Lapsed. The location which is currently favoured for a new coastal station is at Horden. This is protected in Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
HA3 Land south of Durham Lane, Haswell Plough	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
H05 Extension of Sea View Industrial Estate	Lapsed; site no longer allocated. Housing sites are allocated in Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
	Policy 23, Employment Land.

Policy	Superseded by
HO6 Use of land S of former coll	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Allocation of this site has lapsed. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
HO7 Rail Halt	Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
HO11 Local Shopping Centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
M7 West of the Avenue	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
M12 Local shopping centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
P6 Former Thorpe Hospital Site	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Site is now within larger Low Hills site
P7 Former Eden Lane County School Site	Lapsed; site now developed.
P9 Land south of Yoden Way	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Site is now part of a larger allocated site
P14 Community facilities, Eden Way	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Allocation of this site for this use has lapsed.
P15 Peterlee Town Centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S7 Land at Lawnside	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need. Specific restriction to older people's housing on this site has lapsed.
S9 Seaham Colliery Site	Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
S16 Seaham Railway Station	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
S17 Cycle ways	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities. Specific mention of some of these routes has lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
S28 North Dock Area	Policy 38, Durham Coast and Heritage Coast Policy 1, Sustainable Development
S31 Town Centre Expansion	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
S32 Main shopping centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S33 Environmental improvements initiative in Town Centre	Lapsed; policy does not relate to development proposals.
SH3 North of Victoria Street	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
SH4 East of Windsor Place	Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
SH5 West of Dene Terrace	Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
SH6 North of Dene Terrace	Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
SH7 Alternative uses for Council Depot, Shotton Lane	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
SH8 Land west of Brackenhill Avenue	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
SH12 Local shopping centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
SO5 North of Fallowfield Terrace	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Allocation of this site has lapsed.
SO7 East of Windermere Road	Lapsed; site has been redeveloped.
TH4 South of Hartlepool Street	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Allocation of this site has lapsed.
TH5 North of Hartlepool Street	Policy 30, Housing Allocations.
WH4 Former numbered street	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Allocation of this site has lapsed.
WH11 Local shopping centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
WH 12 Improvement scheme at eastern end of Front Street	Lapsed; policy does not relate to development proposals.
WH 13 Uses permitted in area covered by Policy Wh12	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Specific mention of conversion in this location has lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
WI5 North of Rodridge St	Policy 30, Housing Allocations. Site is now part of a larger allocated site
WI11 Wingate Cummings Square Play area	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure,
WI14 Local shopping centre	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres

Table 36 Sedgefield Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
E1 Landscape Character	Policy 39, Landscape Character.
E2 Historic Parklands	Policy 44 - Historic Environment
E3 Historic Landscape	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Reference to these specific area is lapsed.
E4 Green Wedges	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific designation of green wedges has lapsed.
E11 Safeguarding Sites of Nature Conservation Interest	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E15 Safeguarding of Woodlands, Trees and Hedges	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges. 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
E18 Preservation and Enhancement of Conservation Areas	Policy 44, Historic Environment
E22 Reuse of Buildings forming part of the Borough's Heritage	Policy 44, Historic Environment
E23 Env improvements	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific attention to listed areas has lapsed.
IB1 Types of Industrial and Business Areas	Policy 1, Sustainable Development . Policy 23, Employment Land.
IB2 Designation of Type of Industrial Estates	Policy 23, Employment Land.
IB3 Proposals for the Development of new Industrial and Business Areas	Policy 23, Employment Land.

Policy	Superseded by
IB4 Large, single-user industrial or business	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity.
IB5 Acceptable Uses in Prestige Business Areas	Policy 23, Employment Land.
IB6 General Industrial Estates	Policy 23, Employment Land.
IB7 Acceptable Uses in Local Industrial Areas	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 18, Local Amenity
IB8 Acceptable uses in business areas	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment,
IB 12 Operation of a Small Business from Home	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 18, Local Amenity.
IB13 Extension to Industrial and Business Premises	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
IB14 Improvements to General and Local Industrial Areas	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Some elements of policy do not relate to development proposals and have lapsed.
IB18 Notifiable hazardous installations	Policy 18, Local Amenity and Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution and Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land. Policy 46 Water Management
H2 Major Housing Sites in above Four Towns	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations
H4 Development in Whitworth Park Area, Spenny Moor	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations. Some of this land has already been developed.
H8 Residential Frameworks for Larger Villages	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.
H9 Housing Sites in Larger Villages	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations
H10 Housing Development in Smaller Villages	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.

Policy	Superseded by
H11 Development in Ribbons and Groups of Houses in the Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside
H14 Maintenance and Improvement of the Housing Stock	Policy 1, Sustainable Development.
H15 Extensions to Dwellings	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H16 Extension to the Front of Dwellings	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific requirements listed in policy H16 have lapsed.
H17 Backland and Infill Housing Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H18 Acceptable Uses within Housing Areas	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
H19 Provision of a Range of House Types and Sizes including Affordable Housing	Policy 31 - Addressing Housing Need
H20 Provision of Special Needs Housing	Policy 31 - Addressing Housing Need
H21 Conversion of Buildings to Flats and Bedders	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity.. Specific restriction on building size has lapsed.
H22 Sheltered Accommodation, Residential Care and Nursing Homes	Policy 31 - Addressing Housing Need. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H23 Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
T1 Footpaths and Cycleways in Towns and Villages	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
T2 Improvements in Public Transport Services	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure.
T3 Safeguarding Railway Lines	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and

Policy	Superseded by
	Facilities.
T5 Movement of Freight	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Measures relating to the management of freight transport have lapsed.
T8 Safeguarding Land for New Roads	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
T11 Location of Petrol Filling Station	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on filling stations.
T13 Roadside Facilities at Motorway Interchanges	Lapsed
S1 Town Centre	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S2 Town Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S3 Criteria for New Development in Town Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
S6 Acceptable Uses within Local Centres	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres
S8 Proposals for Local Centres at Cobblers Hall, Newton Aycliffe and Byerley Road, Shildon	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Allocation of Byerley Road has lapsed.
S9 Small Shops outside Town and Local Centres but within Towns and Villages	Policy 26 Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres Requirement for shops outside centres to be under 100m2 has lapsed; new policy requires a sequential assessment.
S10 Environmental Improvements in Town and Local Centres	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S15 Occasional Markets	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Specific

Policy	Superseded by
	policy relating to markets has lapsed.
S16 Development of Farm Shops in Countryside	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy is silent on farm shops in particular and does not institute size limits for shops outside retail areas. Sequential and impact tests may apply.
L1 Provision of Open Space, including Standards	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
L2 Provision of Open Space in New Housing Development	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
L4 Extensions to Cemeteries	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 39, Landscape Character
L5 Safeguarding of Areas of Open Space	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
L8 Development of country parks	policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
L9 Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways in the Countryside	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
L10 Recreation Routes	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50, Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities.
L11 Development of New or Improved Leisure and Community Buildings	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
L12 Change of Use or Redevelopment from Leisure & Community Uses	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
L15 Winterton Hospital Estate	Lapsed. Winterton Hospital site now redeveloped
L16 Health Centres and Surgeries	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
L17 Cultural Venues	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific controls on leisure and community facility development have lapsed.
L18 Timothy Hackworth Museum Site, Shildon	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions

Policy	Superseded by
L19 Sedgefield Racecourse	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
L20 Hotels and Visitors Accommodation	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
L21 Caravan, Chalet and Camp Sites	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
L22 Storage of Caravans	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
D1 General principles	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
D2 Design for People	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
D3 Design for Access	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
D4 Layout and Design of New Industrial and Business Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
D5 Layout of New Housing Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Some specific restrictions have lapsed.
D6 Layout and Design of Pedestrian Areas and Public Spaces	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
D7 Structural landscaping around major devts	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
D8 Servicing and Community Requirements of New Development	Policy 5 - Developer Contributions
D9 Art in the Environment	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy specifically relating to art has lapsed.

Table 37 Teesdale Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
GD1 General Development Principles	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment Policy 20, Green Infrastructure, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character.
GD1 General Development Principles	Policy 41, Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites. Policy 44 - Historic Environment
GD1 General Development Principles	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 46, Water Management. Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land.
GD1 General Development Principles	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
ENV1 Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
ENV2 Development within or adjacent to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Policy 37, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ENV3 Development within of adjacent to an area of High Landscape Value	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment, Policy 18, Local Amenity, and Policy 39, Landscape Character. Reference to AHLVs lapsed
ENV4 Historic Parks and Gardens	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment
ENV5 International sites	Policy 42, Internationally Designated Sites
ENV6 Safeguarding of sites of Specific Scientific Interest and Natural Nature Reserves	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
ENV7 Local sites	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
ENV8 Protected Species	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
ENV9 Development Affecting Ancient Woodland	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites

Policy	Superseded by
ENV10 Development Affecting Trees Or Hedgerows	Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges
ENV11 Tree Preservation Orders	Policy 40 - Trees, Woodlands and Hedges
ENV12 Protection Of Agricultural Land	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside and Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Specific restrictions on best and most versatile land have lapsed.
ENV13 Reclamation Of Derelict Land	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 13, Other Executive Housing Proposals, provides for brownfield sites to be developed where greenfield sites would not be, under certain circumstances.
ENV14 Protection of Water Quality	Policy 46, Water Management
ENV15 Development Affecting Flood Risk	Policy 46, Water Management
ENV16 Development Affecting Rivers Or Streams And Their Corridors	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 41, Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
ENV17 Sewerage Infrastructure and Sewage Disposal	Policy 46, Water Management
BENV1 Alterations, Extensions and Change of Use to Listed Buildings	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BENV2 Demolition of a Listed Building	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BENV3 Development Adversely Affecting the Character of a Listed Building	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment
BENV4 Development within and / or adjoining Conservation Areas	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BENV7 Settlements for Article 4 Directions	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
BENV8 Shopfronts	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to shop fronts has lapsed.
BENV 9 Advertisements and signs in CA	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment

Policy	Superseded by
BENV 11 Archaeological Interest	Policy 44, Historic Environment
, 12 Archaeological Safeguarded area	Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to Barnard Castle has lapsed.
BENV13 Change of use in the countryside	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restrictions on use class of converted buildings have lapsed.
BENV14 Change of use to residential	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restrictions on use class of converted buildings have lapsed.
H1 Specific sites allocated for residential development	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations.
H1a Open space within developments	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
H3 Housing on sites of more than 0.4 hectare	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to PDL below 1.4 ha has lapsed.
H4 Infill Development on sites of less than 0.4 hectare	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Restriction to PDL below 1.4 ha has lapsed.
H4a Infill Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Specific policy relating to Mickleton has lapsed.
H6New housing in open countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 17, Exception Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
H8 Removal of agricultural occupancy conditions	Lapsed. No specific policy relating to agricultural occupancy conditions.
H9 Rebuilding of existing dwelling	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific restrictions on replacement dwellings have lapsed, though the subject is discussed within supporting text to policy 15.
H10 Conversions of buildings to residential use	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites.
H11 Extensions	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in

Policy	Superseded by
	the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity
H12 Design	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
H13 Low cost local needs housing	Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need. Policy 17, Exception Sites.
H14 Provision Of Affordable Housing Within Residential Developments	Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need.
H15 Caravans / Mobile Homes	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
H16 Gypsy Sites	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
ECON1 Availability of Industrial Land	Policy 23, Employment Land
ECON2 Extensions to Industrial Estates	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside
ECON3 Conversion of Buildings and Land Currently in Employment Use	Policy 23, Employment Land
ECON4 Business Uses Within Residential Areas	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport.
ECON5 Industry in the Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
SC1 Major New Retail and Leisure Development	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
SC2 Major Retail and Leisure Development Beyond the Town Centre.	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
SC3 Primary Shopping Area	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
SC4 Small Local Shops	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
SC5 Change of Use of Retail Premises	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.

Policy	Superseded by
SC6 Retail Development in the Countryside	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Requires sequential and impact tests.
SC7 Garden Centres	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on garden centres.
SC8 Petrol Filling Stations	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. No specific policy in the CDP on filling stations.
SC11 Hot Food Take-Aways	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Restrictions on hot food takeaways have changed; those listed in policy SC11 have lapsed.
SC12 Retail Development on Industrial Estates	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy is silent on retail from industrial estates. Sequential and impact tests will apply.
SC13 Town Centre of Barnard Castle	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to shop fronts has lapsed.
SC14 Major Office Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
SC15 Changes of Use – Barnard Castle Town Centre	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. CDP is silent on the use of first floors in retail centres.
SC16 Private Hire Offices – Town Centre and Industrial Areas	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
SC17 Private Hire Offices – Residential Areas	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
TR1 New Visitor Accommodation	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.

Policy	Superseded by
TR2 New Visitor Accommodation	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TR3 Camping and Caravanning Sites	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TR4 Static Caravans and Chalets	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. This policy permits occupation for nine rather than six months.
TR5 Storage of Touring Caravans	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TR6 Development Affecting Open Space Provision	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
TR7 Outdoor Recreational Development	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment; policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
TR8 Provision Of Formal Recreation Areas	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
TR9 Recreation Sites At Butterknowle And Gainford	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Specific allocation of these sites has lapsed.
TR10 Development affecting Public Rights of Way	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
TR10A Recreational Routes	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
TR11 Maintenance of Major Recreational Routes	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T1 Highway Proposals	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T2 Traffic Management And Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T3 Traffic Management And Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T4 Traffic Management And Parking	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport

Policy	Superseded by
T5 Public Parking In Towns And Villages	Lapsed
T6 Public Parking In Towns And Villages	Lapsed; policy does not “provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal”
T7 Public Transport	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T8 Encourage Cycling	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
T9 Secure Cycle Parking Provision within Barnard Castle	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure
C1 Schools, Health Centres and Community Facilities	Policy 1, Sustainable Development
C2 Public House Change of Use	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
C3 Disabled Access Provision	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment.
C4 Sewage Treatment Works	Policy 46 - Water Management
C5 Wind Farms within the AONB	Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.
C5b Wind Farms outside the AONB	Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.
C6 Other Forms of Renewable Energy	Policy 21, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.
C7 Telecommunications Development	Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
C8 Satellite Dish Erection	Policy 51, Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure.
C9 Cemetery Extensions	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 46, Water Management
C10 Cemeteries within Barnard Castle	Lapsed

Table 38 Wear Valley Local Plan

Policy	Superseded by
GD1 General Development Criteria: Design and setting	Policy 16 - Sustainable Design in the Built Environment,
GD1 : Landscape and environmental impact	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 40, Trees, Woodlands and Hedges Policy 41, Biodiversity and Geodiversity.. Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites. Policy 46, Water Management
GD1: Highways and transport	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
ENV1 Protection of Countryside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
ENV2 North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Policy 37, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ENV3 Area of Landscape Value	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 39, Landscape Character. Specific reference to AHLVs lapsed.
ENV4 Historic Parklands	Policy 39, Landscape Character. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
ENV5 Landscape Action Areas	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
ENV6 Reclamation	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
ENV10 Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
ENV11 Sites of Nature conservation importance and Local Nature Reserves	Policy 43, Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
ENV16 Community Forests	Lapsed
BE1 Protection of Historic Heritage	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BE4 Setting of a Listed Building	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic

Policy	Superseded by
	Environment
BE5 Conservation areas	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BE6 New Development and Alterations in Conservation Areas	Policy 44, Historic Environment
BE8 Setting of a Conservation Area	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment.
BE10 Roller Shutters within Conservation Areas	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to roller shutters has lapsed.
BE14 Open Space within built-up areas	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
BE15 Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Policy 44, Historic Environment.
BE16 Education and Archaeology	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
BE17 Areas of Archaeological Interest	Policy 44, Historic Environment. Specific requirements with regard to excavation and recording are set out in supporting text rather than policy
BE19 New Agricultural Buildings	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Note that much of this will be dealt with as PD
BE20 Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Specific resistance to change of use to residential has lapsed.
BE21 Farm Diversification	Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
BE22 Environmental improvements	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
BE23 Provision of Public Art	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy specifically relating to art has lapsed.
H3 Distribution of Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites, and policy 35, Development in the

Policy	Superseded by
	Countryside. Restriction to within settlement boundaries lapsed.
H5 Allocated Sites in the Main Towns	Policy 30, Housing Land Allocations. Sequential allocation of sites has lapsed.
H12 Removal of Occupancy Condition	Lapsed. No specific policy relating to agricultural occupancy conditions.
H15 Affordable Housing	Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need.
H16 Exceptions Policy	Policy 17, Exception Sites
H17 Housing for the Elderly, Handicapped and Disabled	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 31, Addressing Housing Need. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Specific requirements relating to outlook, location and open space have lapsed.
H18 Sub-Division of Premises	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to subdivision lapsed.
H19 Living over the Shop	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. CDP is silent on the use of first floors in retail centres
H20 Alternative Uses within Residential Areas	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Specific size restrictions have lapsed.
H21 Open space within residential areas	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
H22 Community Benefit	Policy 5 - Developer Contributions. Policy 20, Green Infrastructure
H23 Taxi Businesses within Residential Areas	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
H24 Residential Design Criteria	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Some specific requirements and restrictions have lapsed.
H25 Residential Extensions	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy setting out specific design requirements has lapsed.

Policy	Superseded by
H26 Backland Development	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites and Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific reference to backland sites lapsed
H27 Residential caravans	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. policy 35, Development in the Countryside
H28 Gypsy Sites	Policy 33, Sites for Travellers. Also see: Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites; Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
I1 Availability of land for industry	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
I2 New Industrial Allocations	Policy 23, Employment Land
I3 Business/ office sites	Policy 23, Employment Land
I4 Prestige Industrial Sites	Policy 23, Employment Land
I5 General Industrial Sites	Policy 23, Employment Land
I6 Local industrial sites	Policy 23, Employment Land
I7 Office/workshops in Crook	Lapsed; site no longer reserved for this use.
I8 Bulky Goods Retailing	Lapsed. Supporting text to Policy 23 explains that Tindale Crescent is not considered to be within the retail hierarchy.
I9 Service Industrial Sites	Policy 23, Employment Land. Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific allocation of sites for "bad neighbour" uses has lapsed.
I10 Commercial sector	Policy 23, Employment Land.
I13 Extensions to industrial premises in cside	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 35, Development in the Countryside.
TM1 Criteria for Tourist Proposals	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 18, Local Amenity. policy 35, Development in the Countryside. Policy 48, Delivering

Policy	Superseded by
	Sustainable Transport.
TM2 Tourism within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions. Policy 37, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
TM3 New Tourist Facilities	Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
TM4 Hotel Allocation	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. Specific allocation has lapsed.
TM6 Caravan parks	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation.
TM7 Caravan parks	Policy 28, Visitor Accommodation. Specific locational restriction has lapsed.
S1 Town Centres	Policy 25, Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S2 Newgate Street North Shopping Area	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S6 Retailing in Crook	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S7 Growth Areas	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S8 Local Shopping Areas	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres.
S9 Cockton Hill Local Shopping Area, Bishop Auckland	Lapsed; this centre is no longer allocated
S11 Hot Food Takeaways	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Restrictions on takeaways have changed; the specific restrictions listed in policy S11 have lapsed.
S12 Retailing from Industrial Estates	Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Policy is silent on retail from industrial estates. Sequential and impact tests will apply.
S13 Shops in countryside	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Resistance to loss of local facilities is discussed in supporting text to policy 15.
S14 Petrol Filling Stations, Garden Centres and Car Showrooms	Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 16, Sustainable Design in

Policy	Superseded by
	the Built Environment. Policy 26, Retail Hierarchy and Development in Commercial Centres. Covered by general requirements for sequential and impact tests for retail outside centres; no specific policy on filling stations.
S15 Shop Fronts	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Policy 44, Historic Environment. Policy specifically relating to shop fronts has lapsed.
S16 Expansion of Existing Retail Properties	Lapsed; this is covered within building regulations
RL1 New Provision	Policy 1, Sustainable Development. Policy 15, Development on Unallocated Sites. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions.
RL2 Protection of Existing Provision	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL5 Sport and Recreation Target	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL6 Recreation Allocations	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Specific allocations for open space have lapsed.
RL7 Dual Use of Existing Recreational Areas	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL8 Improvement to Existing Open Spaces	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Some elements of policy have lapsed as they don't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
RL9 Allotments	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
RL11 Recreation in the countryside	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 27, Visitor Attractions
RL13 New Recreational Routes	Policy 20, Green Infrastructure. Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
C2 Health Centres	Policy 1, Sustainable Development
C3 St Cuthberts School, Crook	This specific allocation has lapsed

Policy	Superseded by
T1 General Policy	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport. Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T4 Land Safeguarded for Road Proposals	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T5 Road Haulage	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution.
T6 Land Safeguarded for Railway Purposes	Policy 49, Provision of Transport Infrastructure. Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities
T7 Taxi Ranks	Policy 18, Local Amenity. Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Specific reference to taxi booking offices has lapsed.
T8 Development of Car Parks	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T9 New Parking Provision	These specific allocations have lapsed.
T12 Non-operational Parking Provision in Bishop Auckland and Crook	Policy 48, Delivering Sustainable Transport
T13 Parking Opportunities in the Commercial Sector, Bishop Auckland	Lapsed: policy doesn't "provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal" as NPPF requires
T 15 Garages	Policy 16, Sustainable Design in the Built Environment. Specific requirements for garages have lapsed.
MW2 Development on Landfill Sites	Policy 18, Local Amenity, Policy 19, Air Quality, Light and Noise Pollution. Policy 47, Contaminated and Unstable Land. Policy 46 Water Management.
MW4 Renewable Energy Allocation	Policy 21, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Policy 22, Wind Turbine Development.

Table 39 County Durham Minerals Local Plan

Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
M1 – Maintenance of landbanks	Expired	Policy 54 Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates; Policy 55 High Grade Dolomite; Policy 56 Brick Making Raw Materials
M3 – Extensions to mineral workings	Expired	Policy 54 Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates; Policy 55 High Grade Dolomite; Policy 56 Brick Making Raw Materials.
M4 – Waste and recycled materials	Expired	Policy 52 Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management
M5 – Construction / demolition waste recycling facilities	Expired	Policy 52 Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management
M6 – Areas of search for sand and gravel	Expired	Policy 54 - Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates
M7 – Opencast Coal and Fireclay	Expired	Policy 57 Surface Mined Coal and Fireclay.
M8 – Piecemeal working	Expired	Policy 57 Surface Mined Coal and Fireclay.
M9 – Drift Mines	Expired	Lapsed
M10 – Preferred Areas	Expired	Lapsed. The Local Plan allocates a strategic site allocation west of Heights Quarry under Policy 61 and a strategic area of search to the south of Todhills Brickworks. Further allocations will be considered and allocated within the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
M11 – Todhills brickworks	Expired	Policy 62 Strategic Area of Search to the South of Todhills Brickworks
M12 – Proposals outside identified areas	Expired	Policy 54 Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates; Policy 55 High Grade Dolomite; Policy 56 Brick Making Raw Materials; Policy 58 Natural Building and

Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
		Roofing Stone; Policy 59 Reopening of Natural Building and Roofing Stone Quarries for Heritage Projects.
M13 – Borrow Pits	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M14 – Preventing sterilisation	Expired	Policy 60 Safeguarding Mineral Resources
M15 – Extraction in advance of other development	Expired	Policy 60 Safeguarding Mineral Resources
M16 – Mineral exploration	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M17 – Exploration outside site boundaries	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M18 – Conservation of high grade resources	Expired	Policy M55 High Grade Dolomite
M19 – Concurrent working of minerals	Expired	Policy 52 Sustainable Minerals and Waste Resource Management
M22 – Area of outstanding natural beauty	Expired	Policy 37 North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
M23 - Areas of High Landscape Value	Expired	Local landscape designations have lapsed. Policy 39 Landscape Character; Policy 44 Historic Environment
M24 – Local landscapes	Expired	Policy 39 Landscape Character
M27 – Locally important nature conservation sites	Expired	Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
M28 Wildlife corridors	Expired	Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites

Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
M29 Conservation of nature conservation value.	Expired	Policy 40 Trees, Woodlands and Hedges; Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
M30 Listed Buildings/ conservation areas	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment
M31 Archaeological field evaluations	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment
M32 Archaeological field remains	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment
M33 Recording of archaeological remains.	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment
M34 Agricultural land	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M35 Recreation	Expired	Policy 20 Green Infrastructure
M36 – Local amenity	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M37 – Stand off distances	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M38 – Water resources	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M39 –Protection of rail routes	Saved	Policy 53 Safeguarding Minerals Related Infrastructure and Waste Management Sites
M40 – Scope for rail use in planning applications	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M41 – Mineral disposal points	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M42 – Road Traffic	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document

Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
M43 - Minimising traffic impacts		To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M45 – Cumulative impact	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M46 - Restoration conditions	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M47 After-uses	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M50 – On site processing	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M51 Storage	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M52 – Site management	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document
M54 – Magnesian Limestone Escarpment	Expired	Policy 54 Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregates
M55 –Southern extension to Thrislington Quarry	Expired	Lapsed
M56 –Eastern extension to Thrislington Quarry	Expired	Lapsed

Table 40 County Durham Waste Local Plan

Local Plan Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
W2 - Need	Expired	Policy 63 Waste Management Provision.
W3 – Environmental Protection	Expired	Policy 63 Waste Management Provision. Policy 64 Location of New Waste Management Facilities. Policy 65 Landfill and Landraising.

Local Plan Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
W4 – Location of Waste Management Facilities	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities
W5 – Safeguarding Sites	Expired	Policy 53 Safeguarding Minerals Related Infrastructure and Waste Management Sites.
W6 - Design	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W7 - Landscape	Expired	Policy 39 Landscape Character.
W8 – North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Expired	Policy 37 North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
W9 – Area of High Landscape Value and Heritage Coast	Expired	Local Landscape designations have lapsed. Policy 39 Landscape Character. Policy 38 Durham Coast and Heritage Coast.
W10 – Green Belt (Waste Development)	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W13 – Nature Conservation (Local Designations)	Expired	Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites.
W14 - Nature Conservation (Wildlife Corridors)	Expired	Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites
W16 – Nature Conservation (Ancient Woodland)	Expired	Policy 40 Trees Woodland and Hedges.
W17 – Nature conservation (Minimisation of adverse impact)	Expired	Policy 40 Trees Woodland and Hedges. Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Policy 43 Protected Species and Nationally and Locally Protected Sites.
W18 – Listed Buildings	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment.
W19 – Conservation Areas	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment.

Local Plan Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
W20 – Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site, Historic Battlefields and Historic Parks and Gardens.	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment. Policy 45 Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site.
W21 - Archaeology	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment.
W22- Archaeology	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment.
W23- Archaeology	Expired	Policy 44 Historic Environment.
W24- Rights of Way	Expired	Policy 20 Green Infrastructure.
W25 – Agricultural Land	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W26 – Water Resources	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W27 – Landfill/Landraise and groundwater vulnerability	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W28 – Flood Risk	Expired	Policy 46 Water Management.
W29 – Modes of Transport	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W30 – Modes of Transport	Expired	Policy 50 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities. Policy 53 Safeguarding Minerals Related Infrastructure and Waste Management Sites.
W31 – Environmental impact of Road Traffic	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W32 – Planning Obligations for Road Traffic	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W33 – Protecting Local Amenity	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.

Local Plan Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
		and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W34 – Site Management	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W35 – Cumulative Impact	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W36 – Household Waste Recycling Facilities (HWRC's)	Saved	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W37 – Waste Recovery Facilities	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W38 – Waste Transfer Stations	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W39 – Waste Recycling	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W40 – End of Life Vehicles	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W41 – Indoor Composting	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W42 – Outdoor Composting	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W43 – Aerobic and Anaerobic Digestion	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W44 Small Scale Aerobic and Anaerobic Digestion	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W45 – Energy From Waste	Expired	Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W46 – Landfill and Landraise	Expired	Policy 65 Landfill and Landraising. Groundwater protection elements covered by Saved policy W27 until replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W47 – Agricultural Land	Expired	Policy 65 Landfill and Landraising.
W48 – Energy from Landfill Gas	Expired	Policy 21 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.

Local Plan Policy	Expired or saved	Superseded by
W49 – Incineration without energy recovery	Expired	Policy 1 Sustainable Development. Policy 64 The Location of New Waste Facilities.
W50– Mining of Waste	Expired	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W51 – Clinical Waste	Expired	Policy 63 Waste Management Provision. Policy 64 Location of New Waste Management facilities. Policy 65 Landfill and Landraising.
W52 – Sewage Treatment Works	Expired	Policy 46 Water Management.
W53 – Incineration of Animal Carcasses	Expired	Lapsed.
W54 – Reclamation Conditions	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W55 – After-use	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W56 – Legal Agreements	Saved	To be replaced by a policy in the forthcoming Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.
W58 – Thrislington Quarry	Expired	Lapsed. Further allocations will be considered through work to prepare the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document.

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	New Appendix F:	New Appendix F created. Tables on Saved and Expired Local Plan policies added.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity.	

G Glossary of Terms

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	Glossary	<p>Built up area: The built up area is land contained within the main body of existing built development of a settlement identified in the Settlement Study. This can include open land within a settlement but this does not mean that all open space within the built up area is suitable for development. Land on the edge of a settlement can be considered to be part of the built up area where it is physically very well contained by existing built development and its development would not result in coalescence with neighbouring settlements or encroachment into the countryside such that it would cause significant adverse landscape or townscape impact. In the case of smaller linear settlements it could also include small gaps in a built up frontage that have no recreational, historical or amenity value. Not all areas on the edge of a settlement that could be considered well contained or to be part of the settlement in a historical or community sense would be considered part of the built up area, for example, recreation land, land comprising the curtilage of a house or business set in large grounds, farm yards, or cemeteries.</p>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	
2	Glossary	<p>Tranquillity: In determining the tranquillity of a place, and indeed the impact development may</p>	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		have on it, both aural and visual elements will be considered		

1 Minor Changes Proposals Maps

Table 1

Policy / Para/Figure	Change Made	Explanation
Proposals Maps	Made background mapping darker	Amendment to improve look of paper proposals maps
Proposals Maps Legend	Re-organise data to reflect Chapters in the plan	Amendment to match chapters in plan
Proposals Maps Legend	Added note: 'The spatial extent of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (Policy 60) and High and Low Risk Areas (Policy 47) are shown on page 69 and 70 of the Proposals Map document'	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity
Proposals Map - Map 17 and Peterlee Map	Missing Peterlee/Horden Station Allocated Transport Facility	Drafting error
Proposals Map / Online - Housing Allocation	H/49 - boundary adjustment to Western Edge of site	Amendment due to drafting error
Proposals Map - Mineral Safeguarding Area	Added OS background map	Amendment to improve look of paper proposals maps
Proposals Map - Mineral Safeguarding Area	Changed data order to highlight minerals area within the Coal Resource Area	Amendment due to drafting error
Proposals Map - Unstable Land Map	Added OS background map	Amendment to improve look of paper proposals maps
Proposals Map Online - Policy 44	Added Listed Buildings	Amendment due to drafting error
Proposals Map / Online	Data that occurs adjacent to County Boundary included to show continuity in data such as SAC data	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity
Proposals Map/ Online - Relief Road data	Relief Road split into two different datasets as represented as two policies. Northern Relief Road changed to orange.	Amendment to match chapters in plan
Proposals Map / Online - Other Strategic Sites	New layer added	Amendment to match chapters in plan

Policy / Para/Figure	Change Made	Explanation
Proposals Map / Online - Durham City Strategic Sites	New layer added	Amendment to match chapters in plan
Proposals Map / Online - Strategic Employment Site Data	Changed name to Aykley Heads to reflect policy name	Amendment to match chapters in plan
Proposals Map Online - Policy 57	New layer added - Exposed Coal Field	Amendment to match text in plan
Proposals Map Online- Policy 46	New layers added - Floodzones	Amendment to match text in plan
Proposals Map / Online - Policy 43	Edited boundary of Local Wildlife Site - Coxhoe Ponds	Amendment to take into account boundary of housing commitment - Land at Coxhoe Industrial Estate
Proposals Map / Online - Policy 29	Added commitment - Land at Coxhoe Industrial Estate	Omitted from previous version
Proposals Map / Online - Policy 26	Policy Name Change - Retail Hierarchy and development in Commerical Town Centres.	Amendment to improve the Plan's clarity
Proposals Map / Online - Policy 53	Added Mineral Sites - Station Quarry	Omitted from previous version
Proposals Map / Online - Policy 53	Added Mineral Sites - Newlands Quarry	Omitted from previous version
Proposals Map Online - Landscape - Landscape Conservation Improvement Priority Areas	Policy link and number change from 35 to 39	Amendment due to drafting error
Proposals Maps - Durham City Map	Boundary of H/5 altered to reflect boundary on Map 15	Amendment due to drafting error

2 Indicators

Table 2

Policy	Old Indicator	Changes Made	Explanation
Policy 3	Employment Land approved and completed	Net Employment Land approved and completed	Amendment to improve clarity
Policy 24	The amount of specific use employment land lost to other uses	The amount of approved specific use employment land lost to other uses	Amendment to improve clarity
Policy 41	Percentage of schemes approved, affecting biodiversity and geodiversity, where an ecological management plan is secured	Remove Indicator as policy doesn't mention ecological management plans.	Not applicable
Policy 22	Renewable energy capacity of permitted and completed schemes	Renewable energy capacity of approved and completed schemes	Amendment to improve clarity
Policy 57	Quantity of permitted reserves of coal and fireclay	Quantity of new permitted reserves of coal and fireclay	Amendment to improve clarity
Policy 41	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition	Remove Indicator as LA doesn't have control over management of SSSI's	Not applicable
Policy 25	Name - Retail Allocations and Development in Commercial Centres	Name - Retail Allocations and Development in Town Centres	Amendment to improve clarity
Policy 26	Percentage of units within Commercial Centres in use as A5 (hot food takeaways)	Percentage of units within Town Centres in use as A5 (hot food takeaways)	Amendment to improve clarity

The County Durham Plan

CIL Rationale and Draft Charging Schedule

Schedule of Changes

Altogether better



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Executive Summary

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1		The CIL ensures that most new development makes a proportionate and reasonable financial contribution to delivering the strategic infrastructure identified within the 'Regulation 123 list' which lists the specific projects that will benefit from CIL finance in the County Durham Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) .	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
2		This work is now complete and the key findings form the basis of this report together with representations made to the Preliminary and Draft Charging Schedules which was consulted upon in September 2012 and October 2013 .	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
3	Green Box	Local Plan and GIL Viability Study Update (LP&GIL VS) The viability evidence used in this report has been updated since the GIL charges were taken to the Council's Cabinet in October 2013. The refinement to the evidence in the Local Plan and GIL Viability Study has resulted in minor changes in the results for Sheltered Housing and Extra Care Accommodation. Due to the cautious approach taken by the Council in 'striking the balance', the GIL rates proposed in this document remain sound.	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	

How to comment

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1		<p>You can make your comments known to us in a number of ways, but we would encourage you to submit your views online, via the County Durham Plan consultation pages at: http://durhamconsultation.co.uk/planning/</p> <p>To use our interactive website, and to make your views known to us, if not already registered, you will need to register your details and then log in using the user name you register with and the password which will be sent to you by email. This method should save you time and it will allow us to process and consider your comments more quickly. We hope that you will find the website quick and easy to use and will use it as your preferred way to access and comment on documents in the future. Once your comments have been submitted they will be checked and added to the interactive website where you will also be able to see what comments have been made by others. To protect your privacy, all other information you provide when registering with us will not be open to public view.</p> <p>You can also send us your comments by e-mail to:</p> <p>GDPeconsultation@durham.gov.uk</p> <p>Alternatively you can send us your comments to our special freepost address (all you need to do is write this one line on an envelope –no other address details are needed):</p>	<p>To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.</p> <p>To be deleted as the consultation period has now closed.</p>	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<p>FREEPOST Spatial Policy</p> <p>As well as being available on our website this document is also available to view at all local libraries and Customer Access Points across County Durham. For enquiries and to request copies of the document, including in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, audio cassette or an alternative language, please call:</p> <p>0300 026 0000:</p> <p>You can also download an electronic copy of this report and learn more about the County Durham Plan from our main website:</p> <p>http://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp</p> <p>All comments and completed response forms should be received by:</p> <p>Friday 6th December 2013.¹</p>		

1 Introduction

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	1.1 bullet 2	Summarise the methodology, assumptions made and the evidence base used in producing the CIL rates drawing on comments received to the CIL Rationale and Preliminary and Draft Charging Schedules ; and	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
2	1.2	This consultation document is the second formal step in setting a CIL for County Durham. Stakeholder responses to this CIL Rationale and Preliminary Charging Schedule have been considered and can be viewed in the Statement of Consultation for the Preferred Options Local Plan against the Developer Contributions Policy. These responses together with a working group nominated by the Home Builders Federation have informed the Draft Charging Schedule together with an update of the Local Plan and CIL Viability Report.	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
3	1.5	At the time of writing the Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2014 is still in draft and were laid before Parliament on Monday 20th January and follow the consultation of 2013. there has been a consultation on further CIL reforms but the outcome of this consultation are not yet known. The principal change relates to the abatement (Part 9 (9) - inserting new regulation 74B) a few other minor corrections are also proposed.	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
4	1.19 second bullet point	The Affordable Housing and CIL Viability Study (2012) - HDH Planning & Development were appointed to commence the viability analysis to inform CIL. As the work progressed it was	Typographical error.	
5	1.19 third bullet point	The County Durham Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft (2013) also. The results informed the Local Plan Preliminary Charging Schedule which set out the housing, employment and retail development requirements and strategic site allocations. The Local Plan is at Pre-Submission Draft stage and will be Submitted for examination in spring 2014 with Examination and Adoption due late 2014. The timescales for the CIL Charging Schedule run parallel to those of the Local Plan	Typographical error.	
6	1.19 final bullet point	HDH Planning & Development were appointed to update the viability analysis undertaken to inform the Preliminary Charging Schedule alongside the Council's own Planning and ⁶ Assets Team and representatives appointed by the Home Builders Federation.	Grammatical error.	
7	1.19 final bullet point	The viability work is based on a number of modelled sites that have had appropriate assumptions on costs and revenues applied to them. Viability analysis was carried out for residential and commercial developments and the methodology and results of the work are set out in detail in the Local Plan and CIL Viability Assessment Report. ⁷	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	

2 Infrastructure Evidence

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	2.2	<u>The funding gap outlined above is based on the 2013 Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The 2014 IDP is currently being updated in time for Submission to reflect the latest emerging evidence bases. This enables the Inspector to have the latest information regarding Infrastructure requirements and costs as part of the County Durham Plan.</u>	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
2	2.3	The IDP will be ^{was} ¹ published for consultation alongside the Draft Charging Schedule and the Pre-Submission Draft County Durham Plan.	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	

3 CIL Projected Income and Next Steps

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
1	5.6	In both instances <u>where there is no neighbourhood plan in place</u> , this amount of CIL monies directed to the community is capped at £100 per household per year. ¹	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	
2	Question 1 and para 5.8	<p>Table 1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p>Question 1</p> <p>3.1 Once the justification for CIL has been established through the identification of an infrastructure funding gap, the projects to be funded by CIL are set out on a 'Regulation 123 list'. The Regulation 123 List is ultimately a key Council decision:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>3.2 It is currently proposed that the Northern Relief Road, Horden Rail station and the Bishop to Barnard Castle Multi-User Route are included on the Regulation 123 list because of its importance to the delivery of the Plan:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>3.3 Are you aware of any other infrastructure projects (including any not currently included within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan) which are important</p> </div>	To improve the clarity of the Charging Schedule.	

Table Note	Policy/ Para/ Figure	Change Made	Explanation	Relevant Representation
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">to the delivery of the Plan and should be considered for inclusion on the Regulation 123 list?</p> </div> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><u>Following consultation, the final draft Regulation 123 has been compiled to reflect the infrastructure items which are currently considered essential to delivering the County Durham Plan.</u></p>		

To find out more about the County Durham Plan contact:

Write to: Spatial Policy Team
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ

Telephone: 03000 026 0000

Email: CDPconsultation@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham.gov.uk/cdp

Interactive Website: <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning>

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Duty to Co-operate

Newcastle, Gateshead, Northumberland, Durham, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is the agreement between Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, Northumberland County Council, Northumberland National Park, Durham County Council, North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council and Sunderland City Council (“the Partners”) to comply with the duty to co-operate on planning issues set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act) as well as those that relate to Strategic Priorities as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 1.2 Section 33A of the Act introduces a new ‘duty to co-operate’. This applies to all local planning authorities in England and to a number of other public bodies including the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency, Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England, Natural England, Civil Aviation Authority, Homes & Communities Agency, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Office of the Rail Regulator, Highways Agency, Integrated Transport Authorities and Highway Authorities.
- 1.3 Section 20 of the Act requires that in examining Local Plans the Secretary of State will be assessing whether the Local Planning Authority has complied with the duty to co-operate in preparing the Local Plan.

2. The purpose of our co-operation

- 2.1 The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to set out how the Partners will comply with the duty to co-operate for their mutual benefit and for that of their joint plan making area. It will:
- Clarify and record the responsibilities of the Partners both individually and collectively; and
 - Establish guidelines for joint working going forward in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

3. Status of the Memorandum of Understanding

- 3.1 The Memorandum of Understanding is an operational document. It is not a formally binding legal agreement and the partnership is not a legal entity.
- 3.2 The Partners individually and collectively agree to use all reasonable endeavours to comply with the terms and spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- 3.3 Under the Memorandum of Understanding the Partners cannot employ staff, let contracts or commit financial resources on behalf of the constituent Partners without their formal agreement.
- 3.4 Agreement to or withdrawal from the Memorandum of Understanding does not remove a Local Authority's duty to co-operate pursuant to the Act.

4. Governance Arrangements

- 4.1. These arrangements are set out on the attached flowcharts ("the Flowcharts"). The arrangements are as follows:
- 4.2. Each local authority will be responsible for preparing and adopting their own Local Plan, development plan documents and local development documents and setting up their own governance arrangements to facilitate this.
- 4.3 Each Local Authority's Local Plan Governance Group will feed progress reports and strategic priority issues that have a cross-boundary interest to the Planning Heads of Service Group for discussion. The Planning Heads of Service Group will include representation from each of the seven local authorities. This will be the mechanism of co-operating on such issues.
- 4.4 The Planning Heads of Service Group will report their discussions and agreed actions back to the Local Plan Governance Groups and as appropriate to any or all of the following:
 - Economic Directors Group
 - LEP Transport Group
 - LEP Planning and Infrastructure Group
 - Chief Executives Group
 - Leaders and Elected Mayors Group
 - North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- 4.5 These above groups may also refer issues to the Planning Heads of Service Group for discussion and or action and for feeding back to the Local Plan Governance Groups.
- 4.6 The Local Plan Governance Group is the relevant board or grouping of senior officers managing the production of the authority's Local Plan.

5. Scope of Co-operation

- 5.1 Each Partner will engage constructively, actively, expediently, and on an on-going basis in any process which involves the following:
 - The preparation of Local Plans;
 - The preparation of other local development documents;
 - Activities that can reasonably be considered to prepare the way for activities which any of the above that are or could be contemplated; and
 - Activities that support any of the above so far as they relate to sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas.
- 5.2 Engagement for the purposes of 5.1 includes in particular:
 - Considering whether to consult on and prepare and enter into and publish agreement on joint approaches to the undertaking of activities in 5.1; and
 - Considering whether to agree to prepare joint local development documents.

- 5.3 When complying with the duty to co-operate the Partners will have regard to guidance given by the Secretary of State.

6. Meetings

- 6.1. The Planning Heads of Service Group will meet bi-monthly or as required.

7. Funding and Finance

- 7.1. Each Authority will use its own staff to progress their Local Plans except where consultants are used.
- 7.2. If consultants are used on a joint basis their costs will be apportioned dependent upon the amount of work that affects each authority's area. The Project Directors responsible for each Local Plan Governance Group or in their absence the Project Owners as specified on the Flowcharts will be responsible for authorising the costs associated with any work prior to that work being commenced.
- 7.3. Each authority will invoice the other authority once every two months for expenditure it has incurred on the others behalf, providing supporting detail of the relevant transactions as appropriate.

8. Duration

- 8.1. The joint governance arrangements will remain in place until the duty to co-operate is no longer required by legislation.

9. Dispute Resolution

- 9.1. In the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved by the Planning Heads of Service Group the matter concerned will be referred to the Chief Executives Group. If the matter cannot be resolved by the Chief Executives Group it will be referred to the Leaders and Elected Mayors Group. If the matter is not able to be satisfactorily resolved the Partners put in writing and keep on file the matter.
- 9.2. Those decisions in respect of agreement and dispute will be clearly logged and submitted as part of the evidence to each respective local planning authority's Local Plan examination to demonstrate how the duty has been complied with.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

- 10.1. Subject to the rights of third parties, the Partners will share equally the intellectual property rights to all data, reports, drawings, specifications, designs, inventions or other material produced or acquired including copyrights in the course of their joint work. The Partners agree that any proposal by one Partner to permit a third party to utilise the documents and materials produced by the partnership shall be subject to the agreement of all other Partners. Any changes, amendments or updates made to the documents and materials, if made under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, shall be jointly owned by the Partners.

11. Freedom of Information Requests

11.1. If any partner receives a freedom of information request in respect of shared work associated with the Memorandum of Understanding it will be shared at the earliest opportunity with the other relevant authorities in order to determine and achieve a consensus as to what information shall be released.

12. Termination

12.1. Any of the Partners may withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding at any time. Any such withdrawal would need to be approved by the Chief Executives Group and Leaders and Elected Mayors Group.

12.2. If the Memorandum of Understanding is terminated, the Partners agree that any reports, studies or any other information which has been jointly prepared by the Partners can be used by each of the Partners separately.

13. Signatories



Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____



Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____



Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____



Elected Mayor: _____

Chief Executive: _____



Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____



Chairman: _____

Chief Executive: _____



South Tyneside Council

Leader: _____

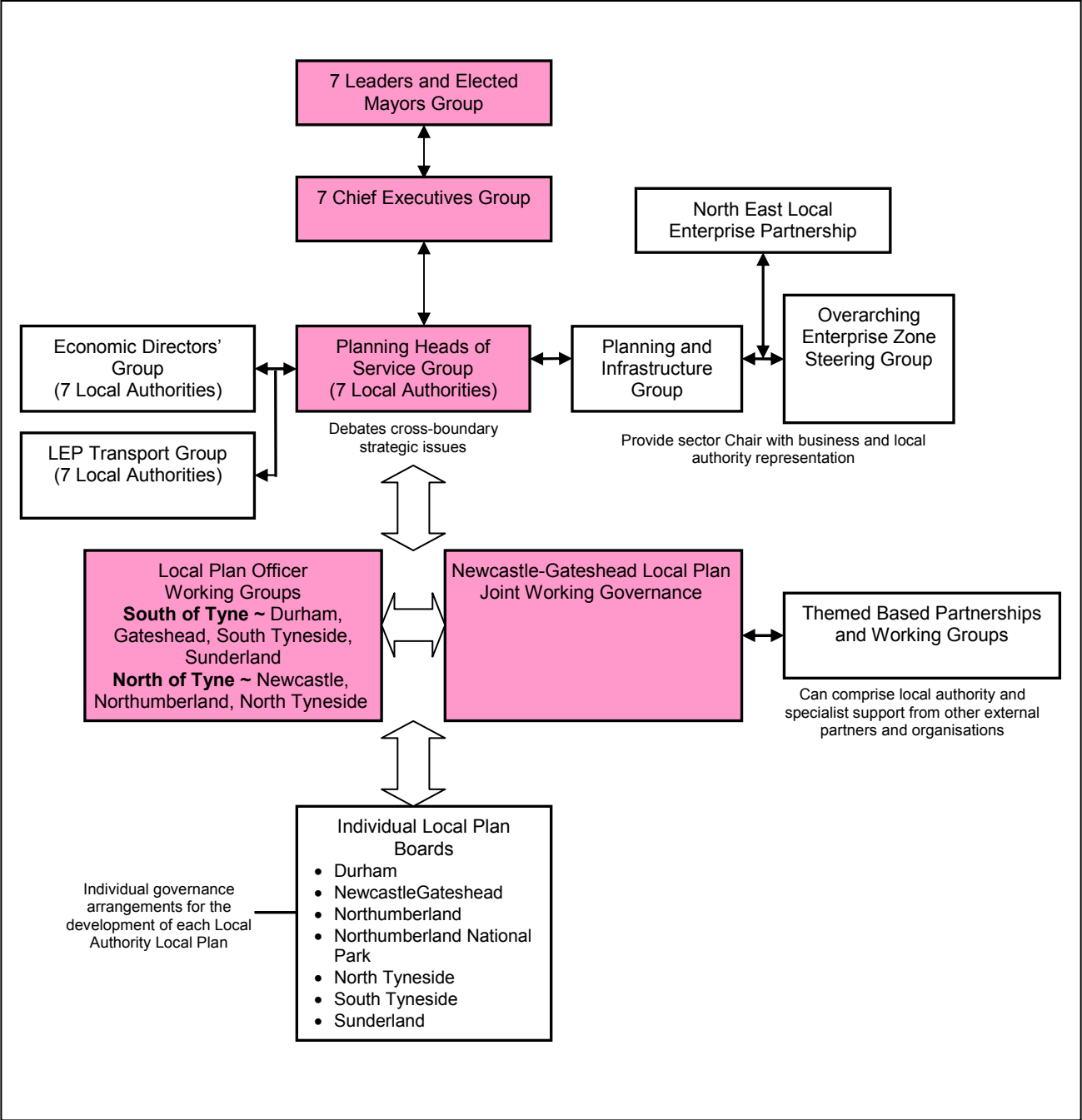
Chief Executive: _____



Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____

Duty to Co-operate Governance Structure 'Flowchart'



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Cabinet

19 March 2014

Homesteading Scheme

Key Decision R&ED/03/14



Report of Corporate Management Team
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development
Councillor Eddie Tomlinson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Rural Issues

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the introduction of a discounted sales scheme for long term empty homes owned by either the Council or housing associations in County Durham, often known as a 'homesteading' scheme.
- 2 The report sets out the background to homesteading and how a scheme can bring empty homes, often in need of repair and improvement, back into use through discounted sale prices, with additional assistance, if required, through the provision of an interest free loan.
- 3 A pilot programme is planned in Coundon for the sale of up to 6 DCC owned houses. These will be sold alongside 8 houses in the ownership of a local housing association, living, in the Dean Bank, Ferryhill neighbourhood. If successful, further phases across a wider range of renewal areas and across a wider range of social landlords are planned for 2014-16.

Background

- 4 The term 'homesteading' has been used in housing renewal to describe a policy where empty homes, in public ownership, are offered for sale at a discounted price to prospective owner occupiers. The homes are difficult to let and have been empty for at least 6 months.

- 5 A renewed emphasis on policies that bring empty homes back into use has raised the profile of this type of initiative.¹ Although there are no current schemes in the North East, there are other examples in other parts of the country (see examples in Appendix 1).
- 6 Homesteading can help to increase the level of owner occupation in an area; improving community sustainability through the introduction of long term residents who are investing in the neighbourhood.
- 7 The concept and proposal has been shared with the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group on Empty Homes and a recommendation was included in their February 2013 Cabinet report to develop this initiative further.
- 8 Recent research² has also concluded that homesteading could form part of the Council's overall strategy on empty homes.
- 9 It is proposed that the overall scheme is aligned where possible to the Council's renewal areas. These areas have higher than average percentages of empty homes and receive other public funding to help bring empty homes back into use. A list of these areas is set out below.
 - Easington Colliery
 - Chilton West
 - Dean Bank, Ferryhill
 - Coundon and Dene Valley
 - Craghead and South Moor
- 10 Maps of the two pilot areas are attached in Appendix 4 with the proposed DCC properties identified for disposal (on the map of Coundon).
- 11 It should be noted that the extent of DCC commitment in the pilot scheme is limited to 6 houses. The partnership with livin means that a broadly similar scheme is offered in an additional location. Sharing resources and experience through partnership will create a stronger identity for the homesteading programme and allow learning from both elements of the pilot to be shared.
- 12 To help any homesteading programme, it is recommended that interest free repayment loans, available to owner occupiers buying long term empty homes in the private sector, are offered as an additional incentive.

¹ Univ. of Sheffield 'DIY Regeneration? Turning Empty houses into homes through homesteading' Nov 2013

² Arc 4 'Bringing Empty Homes back into Use in County Durham' December 2012

Details

- 13 The outline proposals for the scheme are set out in Appendix 3. The Council will deliver the pilot scheme alongside a livin scheme (formerly Sedgefield Borough Homes) but in total, three key partner housing association partners have agreed in principle to participate, namely:
- livin
 - Four Housing Group
 - Accent Housing
- 14 The sale price will be discounted to a figure which is significantly below open market value. The following is proposed:
- For properties owned by the Council the level of discount is fixed at the minimum level of discount ordinarily available through Right to Buy (a 35% discount on the open market value³)
 - For properties owned by housing associations the minimum level of discount will be at the minimum discount available under the Right to Acquire (£9,000) (for a house worth £30,000 this would be the equivalent of a 30% discount). The discount may be increased above this minimum level but this will be at the housing association's discretion. For the pilot, it is possible that the discount is increased to 35% (to equate to the RTB discount above) if this represents a better financial incentive to the purchaser (subject to approval by the housing association Board and the HCA)
- 15 Eligibility would be as wide as possible subject to the initial purchaser completing an agreed schedule of works and making the house his/her principal home for a period of 5 years from the date of purchase (for more details on eligibility – see paras 25-30 below).
- 16 In addition to the discount outlined above, an optional interest free loan would be made available (up to £15,000) for periods of up to 10 years to assist with paying for any identified repair and improvement works. Regular monthly repayments would be required. Loan conditions will be the same as for the interest free loans scheme provided by the Council in Empty Homes Cluster Areas.
- 17 Any required works will be specified by the Council's Housing Service to provide purchasers with an indication of what improvements and repairs are expected of them. The specification would be flexible and broad to give purchasers appropriate freedoms and flexibilities.

³ The General Housing Consents 2013 allows local authorities to dispose of any empty property at a discount up to the minimum of the Right to Buy discount without CLG consent.

- 18 The following table illustrates how homesteading works for houses purchased from either the Council or a registered provider (RP).

	Durham County Council	Registered Provider
	3 bed unimproved house owned by DCC	2 bed unimproved house owned by a housing association
Open Market Value (OMV) of unimproved house	£30,000	£27,000
Homesteading discount	£10,500 (35% of OMV)	£9,000 (Right to Acquire discount)
Sale Price	£19,500	£18,000
Cost of Works to fully improve house	£5,000	£4,000
Estimated Open Market Value of Improved House	£32,500	£29,000

Table 1: Indicative financial breakdown of typical homesteading sales

- 19 The marketing will be undertaken directly by the Assets section of the Council with support from the Housing Service and Dale and Valley Homes. Houses will be also offered through the Durham Key Options (DKO) website.
- 20 Each party to the transaction will be responsible for their own conveyancing and other costs. Therefore all relevant legal fees and agents/surveyors fees will be paid by the vendors, whether that be the Council or a housing association. This arrangement does not normally occur in relation to DCC property transactions where the purchaser would be expected to bear DCC's costs. However, given the low sales prices and the need to incentivise sales as much as possible, it is considered that an extra charge for our fees will be unpopular. DCC will cover these costs from the sales receipts.
- 21 The same arrangement would apply to sales of housing association properties where legal and estate agents fees would also be borne by the vendor (i.e. the housing association).
- 22 The Council owned homes are in Rutland Street and Buckingham Terrace, Leeholme, Coundon and their indicative full and discounted valuations are as follows:

INDICATIVE VALUES	
FULL OPEN MKT VALUE	DISCOUNTED AT 35%
£25,000 - £34,000	£16,250 - £22,100

- 23 The Registered Providers (RP's) will be offering the vast majority of the homes earmarked for homesteading. Proposals will be submitted to the HCA to secure their approval. The disposals will also require approval from the RP's respective Boards/Committees and their funders (where appropriate). A RP will also want to be sure there are no adverse consequences for their business plans.
- 24 Overall divisions of responsibility will be as follows:

Durham County Council	Registered Providers
ROLES UNDERTAKEN BY ALL LANDLORDS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of long term empty homes in renewal areas 2. Survey of property and creation of Schedule of Works 3. Marketing and Disposals 4. Monitoring of works completion and continued occupancy 	
Roles for Durham County Council	Roles for Registered Providers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall strategic direction of programme 2. Provision of Interest Free Loans (subject to eligibility) 3. Advertisements on Durham Key Options system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approvals from HCA

Table 2: Overall divisions of responsibilities between DCC and housing associations

Conditions

- 25 Once sold, the ideal would be to keep the houses in owner occupation 'in perpetuity'. Owner occupation needs to be encouraged in these areas but a balance needs to be struck between imposing restrictions on occupancy and allowing purchasers the freedom to move on.
- 26 Several options for imposing conditions which maximise the period within which owner occupiers are expected to remain in the property were considered. The options ranged from a simple three year residency requirement through to owner occupation 'in perpetuity'.

- 27 Whilst seeking owner occupation in perpetuity is regarded as the ideal it would create too onerous a condition, would prove difficult to monitor and enforce and would deter initial purchasers. Advice from lenders and other professional agencies suggests that sales could be seriously hampered.
- 28 For the scheme to be given a chance of success it is proposed that the pilot scheme is less restrictive. It is recommended that the Council requires a property to be kept in owner occupation for a period of 5 years.
- 29 If demand for the pilot scheme proves strong then consideration will be given to extending owner occupation requirements to longer periods of time in any further sales.
- 30 Penalties will be applied to the first purchaser (through clawback of the full discount) should the house be sold; should specified works not be completed or if the first homesteaders leave the house prior to the end of a 5 year period. A legal charge will be placed on the property equivalent to the full discounted amount for the period of 5 years.

Programme and Funding

- 31 The pilot programme will include up to 6 DCC owned properties. This first phase will be subject to appraisal and evaluation. It is anticipated that the pilot will start in Spring 2014.
- 32 The first pilot phase will focus on long term void properties in Coundon and also properties in Dean Bank, Ferryhill (in the ownership of livin). Dale and Valley Homes manage several long term voids in the Coundon area.
- 33 Any subsequent phases would extend over the entire county.
- 34 The homesteading scheme will complement other empty homes initiatives and provide added value to our overall regeneration investment in the areas.
- 35 As indicated above, registered providers (housing associations) with properties in these areas include Three Rivers; livin; and Accent. Dale and Valley Homes also manage properties eligible for the scheme but the Council's other ALMO, East Durham Homes does not have any long term voids in the identified renewal areas.
- 36 Capital receipts from the sale of Council owned properties will go to the Housing Revenue Account. Proceeds from the sales of houses owned by RPs will be used in the first instance to pay off any outstanding grant but subsequently will be reinvested by the RP.
- 37 It should be noted that any scheme is subject to securing a satisfactory source of mortgage finance.

- 38 Funding for the interest free loans will be taken from the HCA/CLG cluster programme money.
- 39 The regional loans administrator (Five Lamps) is already administering a large regional loans portfolio on behalf of all 12 authorities in the North East and will be asked to appraise applications and set up any new loans to assist new purchasers.

Future Action

- 40 The registered providers have all agreed to participate in this scheme in principle and will work in partnership with the Council to ensure the scheme is launched effectively.
- 41 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will continue to be updated on this initiative and their permission will be sought for the disposal of the RP houses at less than full market value.

Recommendations and reasons

Cabinet is recommended to

- (a) Note the establishment of a Homesteading programme initially for the Council's renewal areas.
- (b) Agree to the proposed sales of DCC houses at below market value equivalent to the minimum Right to Buy discount of 35% (including a provision that the Council bears its own surveyors and legal costs).
- (c) Agree to the establishment of a pilot scheme in Coundon and Dean Bank, Ferryhill for Spring 2014 and subject to its success, extend to other houses in the Council's renewal areas and in other priority locations.

These actions will help to address the high number of long term empty properties in some of areas of older stock where demand is low and sales to prospective owner occupiers have diminished.

Background papers

None

Contact: David Siddle Tel: 03000 268010

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

The capital receipt received from the sale of council owned properties will be utilised to support the overall HRA capital programme. Resources for loans provided to purchases under this scheme will be provided under existing budgets held under the Council's Financial Assistance Policy. There are no other direct financial implications arising from this report

Staffing –

None

Risk –

The Council will incur marketing costs which will not be reimbursed if the sales do not occur.

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 –

As part of each sale appropriate provisions will need to be put in place to protect the discount for a period of 5 years (owner occupation provision) and to secure any loan paid to the purchaser

APPENDIX 2

Other homesteading schemes in the country

(a) 'Own Place' - Riverside HA

- 1 "OwnPlace" is a Riverside Group initiative involving the sale of their empty properties for home ownership to local people.
- 2 The properties are mainly 2 and 3 bedroom terraced houses, some of which have been empty for some time. Some are in poor condition, but under the scheme Riverside carry out structural repairs and some improvement works to bring all properties up to a standard which allow buyers to secure a mortgage on the property.
- 3 The properties will be sold at market value (independently set), but buyers will receive a grant from Riverside equivalent to 25% of market value. In other words if a property has a market value of £80,000, then allowing for the grant, the buyer would pay £60,000. Sales are on a 125 year lease.
- 4 Riverside will only sell homes to prospective owner occupiers, and only then on the condition that the property is not sub-let. In addition, whilst the lease is in operation the buyer will only be allowed to sell the property to another home owner, to stop the property being let by a private landlord. (It should be noted that the purchaser can choose to purchase the freehold interest after which the terms and conditions of the sale are lifted)
- 5 The buyer keeps the grant provided they live in the property for 5 years. If they sell the property before then they will have to pay some or all of the grant back (on a sliding scale of 20% per year), much as Council tenants have to with a 'Right to Buy' discount.
- 6 Riverside Group believe that by selling some properties to home owners who are willing to stay in an area and invest in the homes, this will help stabilise the neighbourhood and make it more attractive to other people thinking of moving in. It will help shift the balance from rented accommodation to owner occupation.
- 7 The "OwnPlace" scheme is aimed at helping first time buyers onto the first rung of the housing ladder. A simple set of eligibility rules have been developed for the scheme that:
 - Buyers must be 18 years or older;
 - They must either be renting a property or living with family or friends;

- They must be able to show that they need help in buying a property because of limited income although they must also be able to show that buying a home (with the benefit of a grant) and looking after it is something they can afford to do.
- They must be able to fund the purchase either through a mortgage or savings.
- Some existing home owners may also be eligible – for instance if they need to move because their home is being cleared, or they need to move because of a relationship breakdown.

(b) Homes for £1 – Stoke-on-Trent City Council

1. This initiative is part of Stoke's empty homes 'cluster programme' and involves the release of 35 empty homes in social ownership to first time buyers.
2. The Council emphasize that the purchasers should be prepared to commit to being involved in the community and take an active role in its wider regeneration.
3. First purchasers must be resident in Stoke; have specific limits on household income and commit to remaining in occupation for a minimum 5 years.
4. The homes are allocated according to household needs (purchasers do not 'choose' the home they buy)
5. Purchasers can access low interest finance (up to £30,000) from the Council for repayment over 10 years. Should the house be sold before repayment of the loan then all debts need to be redeemed (plus a proportion of any capital appreciation).
6. Any resale must be limited to owner occupation for up to 10 years.

APPENDIX 3

Basic details of the homesteading scheme

Eligibility

1. Any purchaser who intends to use the house as their principal home will be considered
2. Applicants must be eligible for a mortgage for the property (or be a cash buyer)
3. Applications will be considered from anywhere in the country
4. Successful applicants must undertake to live in the property as their principal residence up to the end of the 5th year from the date of purchase.
5. Should the purchaser leave or sell the property in advance of the 5th anniversary of purchase completion then the Council reserve the right to seek repayment of 100% of the discount incorporated into the scheme.

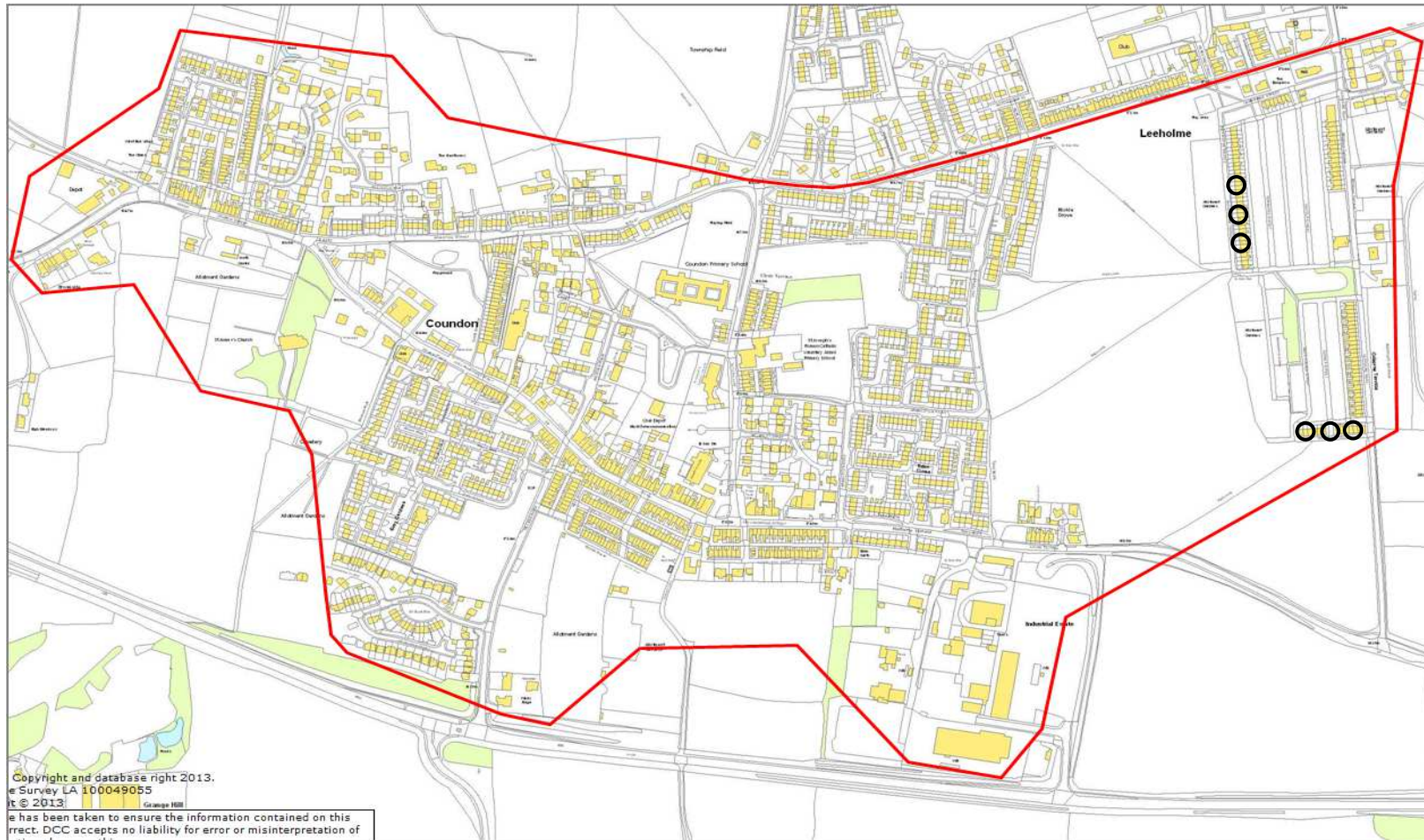
Works

1. Where necessary, the houses will require repair and improvement work to bring them up to a Durham minimum standard (including the Housing Health and Safety Ratings Standard (HHSRS)).
2. The Council will prepare a schedule of works that will provide a summary of the work required for any prospective purchaser.
3. All relevant works must be completed within one year of purchase.
4. If the required work is not complete within one year of purchase then the Council reserves the right to recover all the discounted element of the purchase price and any loan.

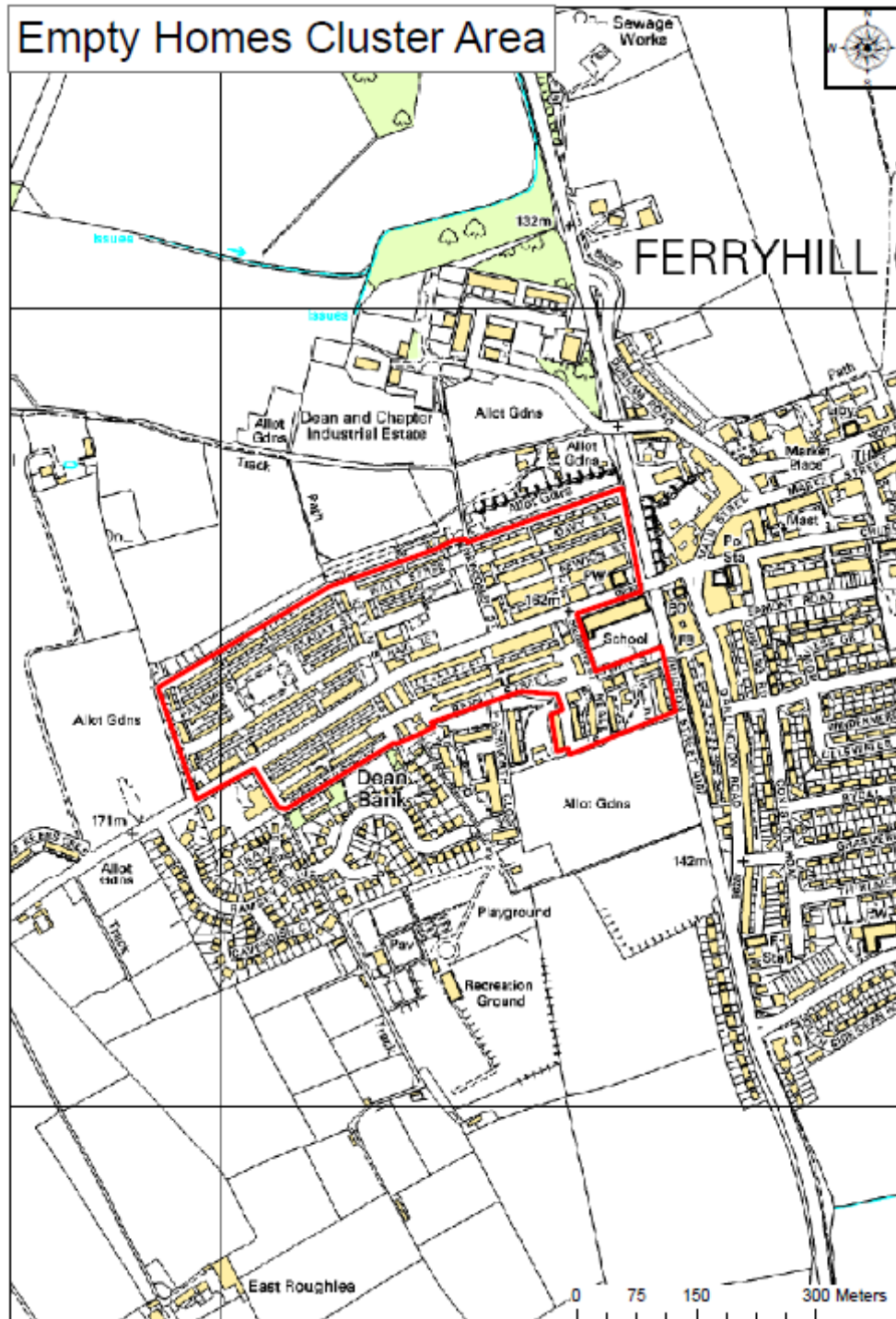
APPENDIX 4 - MAPS

Coundon

DCC houses for disposal under the pilot scheme - 3, 6 & 9 Rutland Street and 16,17 & 24 Buckingham Terrace



Dean Bank, Ferryhill



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Cabinet

19th March 2014

Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service



**Key Decision NS/19/13
MTFP Ref: NS17**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Terry Collins, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

1. To report back to Cabinet on the results of the garden waste consultation.
2. To seek approval to introduce a charge for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside from 2015, in doing so achieving the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings identified from the Review of Waste Charges (£933k) in 2015/16 (deferred from 2014/15).

Background

3. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP4) has identified that the level of savings required in the period 2011 to 2017 has increased to £224m.
4. On 18th September 2013, Cabinet received a report outlining the proposals for the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste, along with a financial model to show how savings could be made. Cabinet gave approval to commence consultation regarding the scheme.
5. This consultation gave people the opportunity to have their say on proposed changes to the garden waste collection service in County Durham which includes the introduction of a fee for the service.
6. Garden waste collections are a non-statutory function, introduced by many Local Authorities as a way to meet statutory targets relating to recycling and diversion of waste from landfill. Under the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) system recycling targets were statutory, also landfill diversion targets were incentivised by the landfill allowance trading scheme introduced in 2005 which incorporated fines of up to £150/tonne for excess biodegradable waste going to landfill from a 1995 baseline.

7. Collecting garden waste helped to meet these targets, and while this also had the effect of generating additional waste, many authorities chose to introduce a separate collection service to households, as this waste was easily recyclable.
8. Durham County Council currently provides a fortnightly garden waste collection service to 151,700 properties between spring and autumn without additional charge.
9. A further 7,500 households in the former Teesdale area continue to be served through 3rd Sector group (“Rotters”). Rotters operated the service on a charged basis until 2010 when the Teesdale service became free of charge through support from the County Council.
10. As part of the previous two tier system, a variety of schemes were introduced by the former Districts from 2003. Many parts of the County were excluded from the scheme due to ‘opt in’ or ‘opt out’ methods that were applied as part of the roll out.
11. Approximately 70,000 households received the service at LGR in 2009. This has now grown to approximately 151,700, as a result of the efforts of the County Council to harmonise collection systems. For many households, therefore, the garden waste scheme, while popular, has not been a long-standing service.
12. The service is therefore not currently available to all households; however, there remains a demand for the service from those areas not currently covered by the scheme. Under the proposals, approximately an additional 35,000 properties will be able to access the scheme.
13. A consultation on the proposals was held between Friday 20 September 2013 and Monday 28 October 2013.

Methodology

14. The purpose of the consultation was to get feedback from residents to try and gauge potential take up and preferences if the proposed changes were to be implemented.
15. An engagement plan was developed and approved by the council’s Consultation Officers’ Group. The aim of the plan was to encourage as many residents as possible to respond within the consultation period.
16. Responses were captured through the use of a consultation survey which was available online via the County Council’s website and in paper version on request.
17. The following mechanisms were used to inform the public about the proposals and encourage people to respond by completing the survey.

- **Press release** – a press release was issued encouraging people to respond to the survey.
 - **Town and parish councils** - town and parish councils were contacted with a request to encourage residents to respond. Promotional posters were also issued to town and parish councils.
 - **Area action partnerships** –area action partnerships were contacted with a request to distribute details of the consultation via their networks. A copy of the promotional poster was also issued to AAPs for distribution.
 - **Website** - the survey was promoted on the home page of the County Council's website between 16 and 25 October.
 - **Environment Partnership** – the chairs of the Environment Partnership theme groups were contacted encouraging a response to the survey.
 - **Buzz magazine** – an article was included in the DCC staff magazine 'Buzz' signposting to the survey for those staff who are also residents of County Durham.
 - **Members update magazine** – an article was included in the DCC Members Update magazine to inform local members of the consultation and signposting to the survey.
 - **Customer access points** – information was displayed on TV information screens during October to let people know about the survey and how they could take part. Posters were also issued to customer access points to display. Copies of the survey were available at customer access points for those people who preferred a paper copy of the survey.
 - **Other DCC and community venues** – posters and flyers promoting the consultation were issued to libraries, leisure centres, One Point hubs, children centres and community centres throughout the county.
18. Members of the council's citizens' panel were also surveyed for this consultation. The citizens' panel is a sample of residents from the County Durham population who agree to take part in council consultations. 2722 members of the panel were issued with this survey.
19. The citizens' panel survey included an additional question about which other areas of the waste management service could be considered for future savings.
20. A total of 2117 responses were received via the survey – 1066 (50.4%) from the general public and 1051 (49.6%) from the citizens' panel. The responses from Citizens' Panel and members of the public are kept separate in this report.
21. Additional feedback was also received from Barnard Castle Town Council, Horden Parish Council, Seaham Town Council, Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council, and Hunstanworth Parish Meeting. A separate email response was also received from a member of the public. This feedback has been summarised as follows:

Barnard Castle Town Council	Not opposed to introducing a charge, and happy to pay fee to Rotters; felt consultation was a futile exercise.
Horden Parish Council	Highlighted risk for increased fly tipping; would like to see discounted rate for residents who have fewer collections throughout the year.
Seaham Town Council	Wished to express concerns about those who were struggling financially and the risk of increased fly tipping.
Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council	Understands the need for the council to make savings however, concerns were raised over increased fly tipping.
Hunstanworth Parish Meeting	Felt boundary should be extended to include customers in the west of the county or waste would create more pollution.
Other feedback	Suggested initiating a community led project for neighbourhood composting.

Summary of key results

- **Current usage of service** - the majority of people responding to the survey currently use the garden waste collection service: citizens' panel (71.5%); general public (92.8%).
- **Reasons for not using current service** - of those respondents that don't currently use the garden waste collection service, the most common reasons for citizens' panel members are because they don't have a garden (37.8%) or because they are not within the scheme area (27.1%). The most common reasons for respondents from the general public are because they don't receive the service (26.1%) or 'other' reasons (36.2%), mainly because the service is not provided or because they compost/recycle instead.
- **Willing to pay for service** – when asked if respondents would be willing to pay for garden waste collections to allow the service to be provided in future, 31.3% of citizens' panel respondents indicated they would, 59.6% would not be willing to pay and 9.2% did not know; 29.8% of the general public would be willing to pay, 59.5% would not be willing to pay and 10.7% did not know.
- **Service offers and discounts**¹ – when asked about sign up offers, 42.2% of the citizens' panel would be more likely to sign up if an early payment discount was offered; 33% would like an online discount with 27.2% selecting a three year discounted sign up. The general public's responses followed a similar trend, 40.4% would like an early payment discount; 36% would like an online discount, 23.7% selected a three year discounted sign up.
- **Number of bins required** - the majority of people would only want one garden waste bin if they signed up for the service: citizens' panel (89.9%); general public (85.5%).
- **Preferred methods of payment** – the preferred methods of payment for citizens' panel members are online using debit or credit card (44.4%) and direct debit (25.2%). A higher proportion of the general public prefer online

using debit or credit card (57.5%) and 24.1% of the general public prefer direct debit.

- **Other methods of disposing garden waste**¹ – when asked how they would dispose of their garden waste if they didn't want to sign up to the service, the most common responses from citizens' panel members were to 'take it to the household waste recycling centre' (46.5%), followed by 'put it in the general rubbish bin' (32.5%), followed by 'compost it' (29.5%). The most common responses from the general public were to 'put it in the general rubbish bin' (52.3%) followed by 'take it to the household waste recycling centre' (42.5%), followed by 'compost it' (26.5%).
- **Other comments on the plans** – common comments on the plans were concerns around increased fly tipping and a belief that the service should be funded by council tax.
- **Areas for future savings** – the majority of citizens' panel members thought an increase in bulky waste charges should be considered if further savings needed to be made in the area of waste management in future (64.5%). A third of respondents (34%) felt a withdrawal of the garden waste collection service altogether should be considered and 5.6% of respondents suggested the closure of more household waste recycling centres.

Other Authorities / Benchmarking

22. More than 35% of local authorities in England currently apply a charge for garden waste collections with many more considering implementation. Benchmarking has indicated that the average service charge across local authorities in England is £39.43 per year however authorities offer schemes based over differing number of weeks per year. An estimate of a benchmarked cost per collection across English authorities is £1.61 the equivalent proposed in Durham is £1.25.
23. In addition to those authorities that have established charges, there are a number who have recently introduced charges in response to MTFP pressures; these include Wirral (£35), Chiltern (£35) and Craven (£24). Authorities that have already announced the introduction of schemes for the next season (2014) include Richmondshire (£17), Broxtowe (£30), Ryedale (£27), Derby (£40), South Bucks (£45), Swindon (£40). Authorities that are considering the possibility of introducing a charge include Gateshead, Cardiff, and North West Leicestershire.
24. Established charges within the region include Northumberland County Council charge £23 per season for their garden waste collection and Newcastle City Council charge £20. Gateshead Council is currently considering introducing a charge.

¹ Question was multiple choice and therefore may not total 100%

Risks

25. There are a number of potential risks that are involved in the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste, these include:
- Fly tipping – A common concern around the introduction of the charge is that the number of fly tipping incidents will increase. Wirral Council, who recently introduced a charge, did not see any increase in the number of fly tipping incidents. Similarly in Durham after the introduction of a charge for bulky household waste collections a 14% decrease in fly tipping incidents was recorded, and as such any increase in cost has not been included in the financial model. Fly tipping is a criminal offence and is treated seriously by the Council; as such close monitoring will take place to ensure any emerging issues are quickly addressed.
 - Recycling performance - Modelling work undertaken in preparation of the consultation identified a likely decrease in the total amount of garden waste that is collected and as such would have an impact on recycling performance. Consultation results have suggested that of those that do not use the service, waste would be disposed of either via a HWRC, composted or put in the general waste bin. These scenarios were accounted for in the original model with an anticipated reduction of 4% from the current level of 46% of waste recycled.
 - Additional traffic at HWRCs – It is likely as a result of a charge an increase in the traffic at HWRCs will be apparent as customers seek to dispose of their garden waste. These traffic increases will be closely monitored in partnership with the operating contractor to ensure any necessary steps are taken to mitigate any impact.
 - Increased residual waste – as suggested through consultation findings it is possible that customers that do not choose to subscribe to the scheme and do not use HWRCs or composting will dispose of their waste in their residual waste bins. While the financial impact was taken into account as part of the original model, this will be discouraged through communications and education campaigns. Enforcement options will be considered but an education first approach will be adopted. Alternative methods of disposal will also be encouraged through sharing of garden waste bins between neighbours and compost bins.

Summary

26. As the need to deliver financial savings increases, initiatives that deliver savings whilst mitigating impact on residents have to be considered. Taking the popularity of this non statutory service into account, steps should be taken to enable the continuation of the service within financial requirements. The trend nationally for charging continues to increase as budget pressures are felt in all authorities.

27. No charge will be introduced for the 2014 season with the scheme remaining with the current delivery model. However, it is proposed that a charge be implemented for the 2015 season.
28. For the 2015 season it is proposed that that a relatively low price of £20 is charged for collections, which benchmarks favourably nationally. For the 2015 season it is also proposed that a price of £50 is offered to households that subscribe to the service for three years. Other incentives referred to in consultation will be considered for the future.
29. By introducing a charge for the residents of Durham on an opt-in basis this popular service can continue, and be made available to approximately 35,000 more households. Alternatives will be provided to residents through HWRCs and home composting. It is recommended that a relatively low price be charged for collection which benchmarks favourably nationally.
30. The results of the consultation are broadly in line with expectations and with the experience of other councils elsewhere. The assumption had been that 40% of eligible households would be willing to pay a small charge to take up the service with 60% declining to do so. Given the limitations of a consultation process, a 31% positive result is an encouraging indicator; also, the 59% negative response reflects the 60% assumption very closely. While it is important to recognise the consultation exercise represents only a snapshot of opinion, the results are nevertheless encouraging.

Recommendations

31. That Cabinet:-
 - i. Notes the outcomes of the public consultation.
 - ii. Agrees to implement a charge for Garden Waste collections commencing 2015.
 - iii. Agrees to implement a charge for the 2015 season of £20 per year with an option for households to subscribe to the service for three years for £50.
 - iv. Agrees to delegate to the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships all actions and decisions necessary to implement a charging scheme for garden waste collections in County Durham commencing in 2015.

Background papers

Cabinet Report 18th September 2013, Review of the Garden Waste Collection Services [Key Decision NS/19/13] [MTFP Ref: NS17]

Contact: Alan Patrickson 03000 268165

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The financial benefits of the scheme were outlined in 18th September 2013, Review of the Garden Waste Collection Services

Staffing

There is likely to be a requirement for some temporary staffing during the set up period both operationally and administratively. It is also likely that there will be a reduction of collection vehicles and associated staff once the routes are fully designed and bedded in. It is planned that this will be achieved without the need for compulsory redundancies

Risk

A Risk Assessment has been produced and a reportable risk has been identified. Appendix 2

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed in relation to this review and is available at Appendix 3

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

Consultation results are included in this report.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

Assisted collection arrangements currently associated with the service will be maintained.

Legal Implications

The Garden Waste Collection Service is a non-statutory service.

Appendix 2 Reportable Risk- Introducing Garden Waste Charging.

Risk Description	Potential Impact	Measures to mitigate the risk (if not already in place, state implementation date)	Risk Owner
<p>Existing customers may choose not to opt-in to the service impacting on current service delivery arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual waste tonnages may increase as a result of increased garden tonnages entering the waste stream resulting in additional cost to the Authority. • Potential of increased garden waste entering HWRC's • The Authority's reuse, recycling and composting rate may decrease and the National Target is to reuse, recycle and compost 50% by 2020. 	<p>Data and financial modelling based on benchmarked information both regionally and nationally demonstrate that despite participation in the opt-in scheme dropping as much as 60% to 40% of current users, garden waste presented would be around 60% of that currently collected. The remaining 40% garden waste not collected as part of garden waste collection rounds would be split as 16% in to residual waste bins, 12% entering Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and 12% being home composted or "disappearing".</p> <p>Based on these percentage splits and associated tonnages and costs to the authority, the financial benefits of introducing a charge, minus the additional costs associated with the above, result in an overall saving of £976,623.</p> <p>This takes in to account increased costs of disposing garden waste and additional garden waste entering HWRC's.</p> <p>Individual Authority waste targets have been removed (National Indicators and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme) however there remains a National target to reuse, recycle and compost 50% by 2020. There are no direct penalties for an individual Authority not achieving this. Durham County Councils new range of waste treatment contracts are based on high levels of diversion and encourage high recycling rates which associated with the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collection last year mean any reduction in the reuse, recycling and composting rate will be largely mitigated by the improvements in rates resulting from new contractual arrangements.</p>	<p>Alan Patrickson</p>

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Appendix 3

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

NS17.9A

Review of Garden Waste



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.

<p>Service/team or section: Projects and Business Services</p>	<p>Start date: 1 March 2013 <u>Reviewed</u> 6/11/2013 and 4/2/14</p>
<p>Lead Officer: Head of Projects and Business Services Strategic Waste Manager Refuse and Recycling Manager (Direct Services)</p>	
<p>Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)</p> <p>In order to achieve agreed savings targets because of budget reductions, a review of the Garden Waste Service has taken place to enable the Council to determine the future provision of this service.</p>	
<p><u>Background</u> Currently garden waste is collected on a fortnightly basis from 151,700 households within the County free of charge. The current garden waste scheme does not cover all households (223,800 households) across the County; 68% of all properties across the County currently have access to a garden waste collection service.</p>	
<p><u>Proposal</u> The proposal involves operating the scheme based on 16 collections per year, per household and introducing a fee per household per calendar year for this service. The proposal involves offering the scheme to households within a defined geographical area of the county to ensure it is viable and economically effective.</p>	
<p>Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners / Specific audiences / Other (please specify) – Elected Members, General public – County Durham Residents, Durham County Council Employees, Partners</p>	
<p>Is a copy of the subject attached? No</p>	
<p>A copy of the subject can be obtained by contacting the Strategic Waste Manager</p>	
<p>Initial screening</p>	

The screening has focussed on the impact of introducing a charge to the service. This review incorporates the findings of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	N	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
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What evidence do you have to support your findings?

The proposed charge for the service has been kept at a relatively low level in order to ensure the viability of the scheme whilst minimising the impact of customers having a new paid-for service.

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people who may be relying on others to tend their gardens but who use the service to dispose of this waste. These residents may not be able to use an alternative means of disposing of this waste and will therefore have to pay the cost of receiving this service.

In terms of implementation, the service is committed to developing a comprehensive communications plan that will ensure that the service information is accessible to all residents; including those with learning disabilities and sensory impairments.

Assisted Collection Service

Those residents requiring an 'assisted collection' service will continue to receive this service.

The assisted collection service ensures that residents who are unable to present their wheeled bin at the collection point, due to ill health, infirmity or disability, and without other occupants (16 years and over) in the household to assist them, are placed on the 'assisted collection' register. Residents who are on the 'assisted collection' register will have their garden waste wheeled bin collected by a collection operative from an agreed location, emptied into the collection vehicle and then returned to that same location. Registration is subject to an application process and approval from the Council; applications for assisted collection and bin storage/collection arrangements may be assessed by home visits and/or telephone calls.

Bulky Household Collection

The collection of garden waste is included as an item of household waste too large to be disposed of through the domestic waste collection service and as such, it can be collected through the Bulky Household Collection service. This service is available to all residents

Page 40
 and is a charged for service.

Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres

This option is being considered as an alternative for rural areas where households will no longer be eligible for the garden waste service.

Composting

The council encourages the use of composters to dispose of garden waste.

Payment Mechanisms

To ensure residents can continue to access the service, the Council will offer a range of various payment mechanisms.

Consultation results

The main issue highlighted in the consultation was the cost of the scheme. There was no evidence of a particular group being affected more than another. There are differences in preference with older people and disabled people in terms of use of payment methods

The consultation has also highlighted that younger people are more price sensitive to the scheme and are encouraged by the pricing initiatives while older customers are more likely to use the scheme regardless of payment schemes.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – **Yes** **Date: 1st February 2014**

If you have answered ‘No’ you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	<p>Identify the impact: does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups? There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on gender.</p>	<p>Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered. Consultation responses Male 895 (49%) Female 932 (51%) Total 1827 Males are less likely to join the service than females</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Don't</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>30.0%</td> <td>62.0%</td> <td>8.0%</td> <td>870</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>36.6%</td> <td>52.4%</td> <td>10.9%</td> <td>906</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Don't	Frequency	Male	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	870	Female	36.6%	52.4%	10.9%	906	<p>What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan) Development of the scheme includes a range of payment methods including discounts for early payment</p>
	Yes	No	Don't	Frequency														
Male	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	870														
Female	36.6%	52.4%	10.9%	906														

		<p>A higher percentage of females were undecided about whether they will use the service</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Don't know</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>28.5%</td> <td>64.6%</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>33.4%</td> <td>55.4%</td> <td>11.2%</td> <td>536</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consultation shows females are more likely to join the scheme if a discount is made available for early payment:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>13.9%</td> <td>86.1%</td> <td>288</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>22.2%</td> <td>77.8%</td> <td>315</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Don't know	Frequency	Male	28.5%	64.6%	6.9%	452	Female	33.4%	55.4%	11.2%	536		Yes	No	Frequency	Male	13.9%	86.1%	288	Female	22.2%	77.8%	315		
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<p>Age</p>	<p>There may be an impact on older residents who rely on others to tend their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme, as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.</p>	<p>Consultation responses Consultation responses show those below the age of 44 are less likely to use the service while those over 65 are more likely to use the service</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Frequency</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 44</td> <td>446</td> <td>24.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-64</td> <td>894</td> <td>48.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>488</td> <td>26.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consultation shows older residents are less likely to join the scheme if a discount was offered as part of a £50 charge for three years</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 44</td> <td>16.0%</td> <td>84.0%</td> <td>306</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-64</td> <td>7.9%</td> <td>92.1%</td> <td>190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>3.4%</td> <td>96.6%</td> <td>89</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Likely to use online payment discounts:</p>		Frequency	Percentage	Under 44	446	24.4%	45-64	894	48.9%	65+	488	26.7%		Yes	No	Frequency	Under 44	16.0%	84.0%	306	45-64	7.9%	92.1%	190	65+	3.4%	96.6%	89	<p>The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of this support.</p> <p>Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents at a charge</p> <p>Possible introduction of Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres in more rural areas</p>
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65+	25.0%	33.8%	41.2%	136																																			
<p>Disability</p>	<p>There may be an impact on disabled residents who rely on others to tender their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.</p> <p>There are no significant difference in responses with</p>	<p>The 2011 census shows that almost 24% of the county's population have a disability.</p> <p>Around 12% of the population have caring responsibilities for others.</p> <p>Consultation responses Disabled Yes 289 (16%) No 1517 (84%) Total 1806</p> <p>Consultation shows disabled people are more likely to use other methods and are less likely to use</p>	<p>The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of options open to them.</p> <p>Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents</p>																																				

	regard to disability	credit or debit cards for payment	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Online with a credit/debit card</th> <th>Direct debit</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Disabled</td> <td>25.4%</td> <td>28.8%</td> <td>45.8%</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not disabled</td> <td>48.2%</td> <td>24.6%</td> <td>27.3%</td> <td>411</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Online with a credit/debit card	Direct debit	Other	Number	Disabled	25.4%	28.8%	45.8%	59	Not disabled	48.2%	24.6%	27.3%	411	<p>Possible introduction of Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres</p> <p>Payment methods other than credit and debit cards are effectively communicated</p>
	Online with a credit/debit card	Direct debit	Other	Number															
Disabled	25.4%	28.8%	45.8%	59															
Not disabled	48.2%	24.6%	27.3%	411															
Race/Ethnicity	There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on race/ethnicity.	Almost 97% of the county's population is white British.	<p>Consultation responses</p> <p>99% of responses were from White British people, the remaining 1.0% reported as Other</p> <p>There were no specific consultation comments relating to race or ethnicity.</p>																
Religion or belief	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.																		
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.																		
How will this promote positive relationships between different communities? N/A																			

Section three: Review and Conclusion

<p>Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.</p> <p>The proposed charge for the service has been kept at a relatively low level in order to ensure the viability of the scheme whilst minimising the impact of introducing a charge for this service.</p>				
<p>Potential impacts</p> <p>It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people who may be relying on others to tend their gardens but who use the service to dispose of this waste. These residents may not be able to use an alternative means of disposing of this waste and will therefore have to pay the cost of receiving this service.</p>				
<p>Consultation responses</p> <p>There are no significant differences between aggregated age groups, gender or disability status. There are differences in payment methods with older people and disabled people preferring to use methods of payments other than online.</p>				
<p>Mitigating actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulky Household Waste Collection service available to all residents • Effective Communication Plan to communicate changes and methods of payment • Possible introduction of mobile facilities in rural areas • Composting schemes 				
Action to be taken		Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
The changes of service charges should be clearly communicated ensuring particular attention to customer needs		Communications and Marketing Team Leader	March 2015	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
A range of payment mechanisms should be offered as part of the new scheme		Head of Projects and Business Services	March 2015	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
When will this assessment be reviewed?		Date: September 2015		
Lead officer - sign off: Head Of Projects & Business Services		Date: 4 February 2014 Reviewed 7 November 2013		
Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager		Date: 4 February 2014 Reviewed 7 November 2013 Reviewed 4 February 2014		

Cabinet

19 March 2014



**Forecast of Revenue and Capital
Outturn 2013/14 for General Fund and
Housing Revenue Account – Period to
31 December 2013**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources
Councillor Alan Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Cabinet with a forecast of 2013/14 revenue and capital outturn for the period to 31 December 2013 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

Background

- 2 This report updates the information presented to Cabinet on 20 November showing the forecasted revenue and capital outturn based on expenditure and income up to 30 September 2013 and incorporates the recommended changes to cash limits within Service Groupings agreed at that time.
- 3 The report also provides an update on the Collection Funds' performance in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates.

Revenue - Current Position to 31 December 2013

- 4 The table overleaf compares the forecast with the revised budgets and is shown in more detail in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 5 The following adjustments have been made to the Original Budget that was agreed by Full Council in February 2013:
 - (i) agreed budget transfers between Service Groupings;
 - (ii) additions to budget for items outside the cash limit (for Cabinet approval);
 - (iii) planned use of or contribution to Earmarked Reserves (see Appendix 4).

	Original Budget 2013/14	Budget - incorporating adjustments	Service Groupings Forecast of Outturn	Forecasted Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assistant Chief Executive	11,178	10,220	10,136	-84
Children and Adults Services	291,815	272,521	263,163	-9,358
Neighbourhood Services	108,776	111,742	110,898	-844
Regeneration and Economic Development Resources	41,801	41,354	41,627	273
	22,246	18,024	18,403	379
Cash Limit Position	475,816	453,861	444,227	-9,634
Contingencies	7,852	5,827	5,827	0
Corporate Costs	80	1,670	1,534	-136
NET COST OF SERVICES	483,748	461,358	451,588	-9,770
Capital charges	-51,723	-50,473	-50,473	0
Interest and Investment income	-1,441	-1,441	-1,938	-497
Interest payable and similar charges	35,148	34,796	30,719	-4,077
Net Expenditure	465,732	444,240	429,896	-14,344
Funded By:				
Council tax	-164,469	-164,469	-164,469	0
Council tax freeze grant	-2,033	-2,033	-2,033	0
Use of earmarked reserves	-4,399	24,250	24,250	0
Estimated net surplus on Collection Fund	0	0	0	0
Start up Funding Assessment	-278,370	-278,370	-278,370	0
New Homes Bonus	-4,799	-4,799	-4,799	0
New Homes Bonus - Re-imburement	-943	-943	-943	0
Section 31 Grant - Small business rate relief	0	0	-2,239	-2,239
Education Services Grant	-7,200	-7,236	-7,698	-462
Forecast contribution to Cash Limit Reserve	-3,519	-5,640	3,994	9,634
Forecast contribution to General Reserves	0	-5,000	2,411	7,411
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

Note: Negative figures in the variance column represent an underspend or overachievement of income

6 The sums Service Groupings have proposed as being outside the Cash Limit are detailed below:

SERVICE GROUPING	PROPOSAL	Amount
		£m
ACE	Pay Protection from At Risk Register	0.007
Neighbourhoods	MTFP Mitigation	0.440
	Winter Maintenance	0.402
RED	Asset Management – Surplus Property Security Costs	0.083
Resources	Discretionary Rate Relief	-0.330
	Coroner's Service	0.032
Total		0.634

- 7 After adjusting the budgets as detailed above the forecast outturn for Cash Limit Reserves and the General Reserve are summarised in the table below:

Type of Reserve	Opening Balance as at 1 April 2013	Budgetted use at 1 April 2013	Movement during 2013/14		2013/14 Forecast Outturn
			Planned contribution to (-) or use of reserve	Contribution to (-) or use of reserve	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Grouping Cash Limit					
Assistant Chief Executive	-1.165	0.389	-0.180	-0.084	-1.040
Children and Adults Services	-9.732	2.991	1.700	-9.358	-14.399
Neighbourhoods	-2.311	0.139	0.356	-0.844	-2.660
Regeneration and Economic Development Resources	-3.416	0.000	0.161	0.273	-2.982
	-3.280	0.000	0.084	0.379	-2.817
TOTAL CASH LIMIT RESERVE	-19.904	3.519	2.121	-9.634	-23.898
General Reserve	-24.410	0.000	5.000	-7.411	-26.821

- 8 The estimated balance on the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve will have reduced to £2.217m by 31 March 2014.
- 9 At this stage possible redundancy numbers for 2014/15 and 2015/16 are still to be finalised and will always be estimates due to the lengthy consultation and redeployment processes which need to be followed. In addition there are still significant savings shortfalls in 2015/16 and 2016/17 which render the estimates on redundancy numbers difficult to forecast with any accuracy at this stage.
- 10 The figures in the table above therefore reflect the actual replenishment of the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve by £15m as agreed by Cabinet on 18 December 2013 by transferring the following sums from the reserves identified.

	£m
Service Grouping Cash Limit Reserves	10.000
General Reserve	5.000
	<hr/>
Total Transfer	15.000
	<hr/>

- 11 The forecasted increase in Cash Limit and General Reserves is a prudent position to be in given the forecasted levels of savings the Council needs to make of £23m in 2014/15 and a further £87m over 2015/16 and 2016/17, as the delivery of such is becoming more and more difficult to achieve.
- 12 The reasons for the major variances are detailed by each Service Grouping below.

Assistant Chief Executive

- 13 The forecast revenue outturn for 2013/14 is a cash limit underspend of £84k for the year, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves including a contribution of £0.353m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the cost of future redundancy payments, and items outside the cash limit. The transfer to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve is the principle reason for the differences between the

current and previous position, which was a forecast cash limit underspend of £0.366m.

- 14 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across ACE to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons for the projected underspend is the net effect of the following items;
- Partnerships and Community Engagement is forecast to underspend by £60k, primarily due to an underspend on premises costs within Community Buildings.
 - The Planning and Performance Team are forecast to underspend by £0.290m, primarily due to proactive management of vacancies in anticipation of future year MTFP savings, which accounts for £0.135m of the saving. There is also a £85k of savings anticipated in supplies and services, including a managed underspend in relation to resident surveys. The remaining £70k is an over recovery of income primarily relating the County Records Office.
 - A £87k underspend is forecast for Policy and Communications, predominantly resulting from a £53k managed underspend on employees in the Civil Contingencies Unit with the remainder from a managed underspend on supplies and services and additional income generated from advertising.
 - Each of the 14 area action partnerships (AAP) have an 'Area' budget to contribute to local projects of £0.120m in 2013/14. Combined with revenue budgets carried forward from previous years (related to committed expenditure on agreed projects) the total revenue budget across all 14 AAP's is £2.636m. Committed spend of £2.133m is being held against this budget and it is anticipated that the remaining £0.503m will be committed to investments before 31 March 2014. The forecast outturn also assumes that actual expenditure of £1.680m will be incurred by the year end.
 - In 2013/14 Members' Neighbourhood revenue budget, including sums carried forward from the previous year, totalled £2.152m. Committed spend of £1.278m is been held against this budget and it is anticipated that the remaining £0.874m will be committed to the associated projects and initiatives before 31 March 2014. The forecast outturn assumes that actual expenditure of £1.260m will be incurred by the end of the year.
- 15 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the total cash limit reserve forecasted to be carried forward for ACE is £1.040m from April 2014.

Children and Adults Services

- 16 The 2013/14 projected outturn position for Children and Adults Services (CAS), based on the position to 31 December 2013, is a cash limit underspend of £9.358m. This represents 3.3% of the total budget for CAS and compares to a quarter 2 forecast of a cash limit underspend of £11.985m.

- 17 The projected outturn takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, capital accounting entries and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves. A £6.199m transfer to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve has been factored into the quarter 3 forecasts.
- 18 The forecast underspend is accounted for by the net effect of the following items:
- Early achievement of a number of future year MTFP management and support service proposals, together with the careful management and control of vacancies and general budgets across the service has created a projected net underspend for the year of approximately £5.7m;
 - Net spend on adult care packages is approximately £5.8m below budget, which represents circa 6% of the adult social care budget. This area of spend is closely monitored to assess the impact of demographic and procedural/operational changes. Savings have arisen from tighter and consistent and effective application of the existing eligibility criteria, reducing the level of care packages subsequently commissioned, and the transformational change agenda, linked to the provision of social care, will further refine processes. The service is reviewing its approach to current savings in order to consider increasing the saving associated with consistent application of eligibility criteria. This will need to be carefully considered in light of transition cases, potential for ordinary residence claims and the potential for increased care package costs linked to older carers and general increases in demand. Inflation rate increases within the MTFP are 2.5% for 2013/14 and 1% for 2014/15. Contracts with residential and domiciliary care providers have increases of 2% for both years in question. This has led to a forecast underspend in 2013/14 of £0.4m which will need to be used to underwrite part of the inflationary uplift in 2014/15 which will be 1% higher than the 1% budget provision.
 - A review of one-off additional funding has identified an in-year contribution to the overall cash limit of approximately £0.4m. It is anticipated that this funding will be utilised in part to resource the work associated with the outcomes of the work linked to the transformation agenda in social care for children and adults;
 - Children's Care (excluding the Secure Services Trading Account) are forecasting an underspend of £1.409m. This is primarily as a consequence of underspends on staffing resulting from early achievement of MTFP savings and maintaining vacancies pending a restructure (£0.808m). Close management of the transportation budget, ensuring only essential journeys are undertaken and lower cost alternatives are used (where possible) has resulted in a forecast savings of £0.128m across the service. Over achievement of income (£0.372m) has been achieved by maximising contributions from partner bodies to fund care packages. This, combined with a range of net savings in other areas, leads to the overall projected saving of c£1.409m.

- The Secure Services Trading Account is projecting a surplus of c£1m at Quarter 3. The trading surplus has been achieved as a result of higher than initially budgeted sales of welfare beds (c£0.600m) combined with the holding of a number of vacancies pending the award of a new contract from the Youth Justice Board (c£0.400m). The surplus on the Trading Account has been transferred to the Earmarked Reserve.
- Public Health is reporting a break even position after providing for c£4.4m of anticipated costs that will be incurred during the service's transition to an alternative delivery model during 2014/15. These transitional costs are funded from an underspend that has manifested itself within commissioning budgets where existing arrangements with external suppliers of services have been re-evaluated and provided only in line with the anticipated new delivery model for Public Health services across the county.
- The Education service is forecasting an underspend of £1.17m. The in-year reduction in Extended Rights to Free Travel Grant of £0.170m reported at Quarter 2 has been offset by a £0.500m forecast underspend across Home to School transport. A further £0.480m underspend relates to the Support and Development Service, largely through reduced employee costs through a combination of vacancies and early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP savings.
- Early Intervention and Involvement is forecast to underspend by £1.02m. This relates largely to a reduction in employee and service delivery costs within the One Point service (£0.496m) and underspends across Community Safety and Involvement; Think Family and the Youth Offending Service (£0.228m).

19 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including the transfer to Reserves in year (including the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve), the cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Children and Adults Services is forecast to be £14.399m.

Neighbourhood Services

20 The forecast revenue outturn for 2013/14 is a cash limit underspend of £0.844m, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit. This compares to the previous forecast, at Quarter 2, of a £0.955m underspend.

21 The projected outturn takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve, capital accounting entries and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves. There have been no transfers to MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve from the Neighbourhoods Cash Limit.

22 The main reasons for the forecast variances are as follows;

- Within Direct Services, there are savings of approximately £0.380m associated with early savings on the corporate fleet review,

underspends on premises costs in Facilities Management, and an increased surplus within Building Services.

- There are underspends of approximately £0.246m within Environment, Health and Consumer Protection associated with employees and supplies and services.
- There is also a forecast underspend of approximately £0.149m on employees and supplies and services within Business Support, and Policy, Performance and Communications.
- Within Culture and Sport there is a projected underspend of £0.130m within Libraries, where some elements of the planned 2014/15 MTFP savings have been achieved earlier than originally anticipated.
- An earmarked reserve of £0.180m is being created to fund remedial works associated with a pollution incident at Morrison Busty depot.
- Finally, there is a general underspend of approximately £0.100m in supplies and services across all areas of Neighbourhood Services.

23 In addition to the above variances, there is a projected overspend of £0.402m on the Winter Maintenance budget. Historically, the winter maintenance budget has consistently overspent over the last few years, but this projected underspend is considerably lower than in previous years due to the relatively mild winter experienced to date. It is requested that this overspend is treated as being outside of Neighbourhood Services' cash limit.

24 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £2.660m.

Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)

25 The 2013/14 forecast outturn for Regeneration and Economic Development is a cash limit overspend of £0.273m and compares with a cash limit underspend of £0.423m at quarter 2.

26 The projected outturn takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from an earmarked reserve, year end capital accounting entries and use of contributions to earmarked reserves. A £0.875m transfer to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve has been factored into the quarter 3 forecasts and is the principle reason for the differences between the current and previous position.

27 The forecast position is accounted for as follows:

- Strategy Programmes and Performance is forecast to underspend by £0.148m due to savings on employee costs, including vacancies and the secondment of an employee to the Association of North East Councils, maternity savings and other general efficiency savings on supplies and services.
- Economic Development and Housing is forecast to overspend by £24k, primarily due to unmet vacancy savings and loss of income on

business units, offset by general efficiency savings on supplies and services.

- Planning and Assets is forecast to underspend by £0.625m, consisting of a £0.669m underspend in the Planning Service and a £44k overspend on Asset Management. The underspend in the Planning service primarily relates to overachievement of planning fee income, employee savings from vacant posts and other efficiency savings on transport and supplies and services. Assets is experiencing income pressures, mainly from Newgate Street in Bishop Auckland, the Brackenhill Centre in Peterlee and Millenium Square in Durham City where anticipated rental income is not being achieved.
- Transport is forecasting a £0.165m overspend, which is primarily due to the increase in contract costs to NSL Limited for enforcement of parking policies throughout County Durham.
- Central Costs is forecast to underspend by £18k, which results from a rebate on a procurement exercise.

28 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including the £0.875m transfer to the the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve in year, the cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Regeneration and Economic Development is forecast to be £2.982m.

Resources

29 The 2013/14 projected outturn position for Resources, based on the position to 31 December 2013, is a cash limit overspend of £0.379m, which compares with a cash limit underspend of £1.682m at quarter 2.

30 The projected outturn takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, capital accounting entries and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves. A £2.573m transfer to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve has been factored into the quarter 3 forecasts and is the principal reason for the differences between the current and previous position.

31 The forecast overspend is a managed position. The Heads of Service across Resources continue to proactively manage activity to remain within the cash limit, notwithstanding the contribution to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve. The projected position is the net effect of the following items:

- Corporate Finance is forecast to underspend by £0.168m. £47k of this relates to the management of staff vacancies, reflecting the early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP savings. The majority of the balance arises from an £84k underspend from income from VAT services.
- Financial Services is forecast to underspend by £0.891m, consisting primarily of £0.601m in respect of the management of staff vacancies, reflecting the early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP savings, offset by a £0.380m managed overspend on work packages with external contractors. There are also managed underspends against supplies and services (£0.121m) and staff travel costs (£0.165m). The balance

comprises a forecast over recovery of income of £0.384m, primarily from increased court cost fee income relating to council tax and business rates recovery.

- Human Resources is forecast to underspend by £0.203m, primarily from a £0.224m underspend against employees, to reflect the early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP savings, together with other minor variances across supplies and services and income budgets.
- ICT Services is forecast to underspend by £0.121m, which comprises of several areas. There is an underspend of £0.238m in employees costs, arising from the proactive management of vacancies in anticipation of future years' MTFP savings. There have been further managed savings of £78k against staff travel budgets and £75k against supplies and services. These are offset by an under-recovery of income of £0.279m. The remainder is made up of other minor variances across a number of budgets.
- Internal Audit is forecasting an underspend of £0.196m, consisting of a £0.190m underspend on employees, through tight management and control of staff vacancies and secondments in anticipation of a staffing restructure, and £6k additional income from Service Level Agreements.
- Legal and Democratic Services is forecast to underspend by £0.584m, which arises primarily from the early achievement of the proposed 2014/15 MTFP savings of £0.344m across a range of activities. There are also underspends of £0.133m against Corporate and Democratic budgets mostly underspends against subscriptions (£28k), mobile phone costs (£13k), employees (£13k), transport costs (£39k) and computer hardware (£33k). The main contributions to the remaining underspend of £0.107m come from a £60k underspend on employees and an £18k underspend on staff travel costs.
- Service Management is showing a £31k underspend from the rebate arrangement with Comensura regarding agency staff.

32 There is also a £0.136m underspend against Centrally Administered Costs, comprising underspends against Audit Fees (£22k), the costs of raising loans (£30k), bank charges/payment cards (£62k) and subscriptions (£22k).

33 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecast cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Resources is £2.817m.

Schools

34 The planned and / approved use of schools balances built into the 2013/14 schools budget plans was £4.5m, but this was offset by plans to increase the balances of other schools by £2.7m, giving a net use of balances of £1.8m. Accordingly the budgeted position was for retained schools balances to be £18.3m at 31 March 2014, with 248 schools planning to have positive retained balances totalling £19.5m, and the 13 schools planning to have deficit balances totalling £1.2m. Of the 15 schools with deficit balances at 31 March 2013, 8 were planning to have surplus balances at 31 March 2014 and 7 were planning to still have deficit balances at 31 March 2014.

- 35 The latest position is that the total forecast retained school balance at 31 March 2014 will be £16.1m, £2.2m less than the original budget plans. In itself this should not be a cause for concern with overall balances being above the level at which the Council would become concerned about balances being too low. Further comments are set out below:
- Of the schools that originally forecast a positive balance, 8 are now forecasting a deficit; these 8 schools originally planned total positive balances of £0.202m, but are now forecasting deficit balances of £0.174m.
 - Of the 13 schools that originally forecast a deficit balance, 2 are now forecasting surplus balances; one of these schools planned a deficit balance of £2k and is now forecasting a surplus of £9k and the other planned a deficit of £1k and is now forecasting a positive balance of £31k. A further 5 of these schools are forecasting that they will break even, compared to a total planned deficit of £0.125m.
 - The remaining 6 schools that originally forecast a deficit balance are all schools that carried forward a deficit balance from 2012/13, and the total deficit balance for these schools has decreased from a planned total of £1.1m to a forecast total of £0.9m. Most of the reduction is in respect of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The PRU, which only received a delegated budget from April 2013, already had a budget deficit at that time and during the current financial year its funding has been increased by £0.300m, from within the DSG, which has reduced its forecast deficit to £14k. For 2014/15 the Council has transferred £0.300m from primary and secondary school formula funding into the base budget.
 - Two of the other schools that are still forecasting a deficit are secondary schools, both have had financial problems for some time and the Council is working with them to address these issues, but there remains significant concerns over their financial position.
 - Another school causing significant concern is a primary, which is expected to become a sponsored academy in September and which is currently forecasting a deficit balance of £75k. The Council will work closely with the school over the summer term to ensure that the majority of this is recovered before conversion. Any deficit balance on conversion will become a charge against the Council's General Fund.
- 36 Other concerns relate to schools that have a small balance relative to their main sources of funding. Of the 247 schools that are not forecasting a deficit, 36 are forecasting a surplus of less than 2.5% of the total of their Dedicated Schools Grant funding and income from the Pupil Premium.
- 37 Some schools will be able to address deficit balances in their budget plan for 2014/15 due to known changes that are expected to improve their financial position, including increased funding through increased numbers of pupils, or reduced staffing already implemented. Where this is not the case schools have now begun the process of re-structuring to reduce costs by changing their staffing structure and local authority school finance officers have notified Education Development Partners (EDPs) from the Education Development

Service. EDPs are able to work with schools to identify areas where there is scope to make savings in the schools' budget plan.

- 38 Schools will receive final budget information, including details of funding and costing information, at the end of February and will start detailed budget planning for 2014/15 in March, with most schools' budget plans being completed by the end of April. Schools that wish to set a deficit budget plan will need to seek permission from the Council to do so, and those with a planned surplus of less than 2.5% of funding will be notified of the Council's concerns.

Central Budgets

- Interest Payable and Similar Charges - Capital Financing

- 39 During the previous quarter, a review of capital financing costs has led to a forecast underspend of £4.077m. This saving is being achieved due to lower than forecast interest rates on loans and borrowing not needing to take place yet due to higher levels of cash balances than forecast.

- Interest and Investment Income

- 40 The forecast of outturn is an overachievement of income of £0.497m which is due to a higher than anticipated level of cash balances. This is due in the main to slower than expected use of reserves and capital spend.

- Education Services Grant

- 41 The forecast of outturn reflects net additional grant income of £0.462m which is due to the actual grant notification being higher than the amount budgeted for in 2013/14.

Earmarked Reserves Forecast

- 42 Appendix 4 details the forecast use of Earmarked Reserves in 2013/14. Based on the latest forecast the position at the end of the year is estimated to be as follows:

	Non-Schools	Schools and DSG	Cash Limits	TOTAL
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening Earmarked Balances as at 1 April 2013	-61.925	-24.041	-19.904	-105.870
Less/Plus Forecasted usage/increase of Earmarked Reserves	-26.389	2.139	-3.994	-28.244
Forecasted Earmarked Reserve Balance as at 31 March 2014	-88.314	-21.902	-23.898	-134.114

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 43 In summary, the HRA shows a forecasted balanced outturn position on the revenue account after using a projected surplus of £0.861m towards financing the capital programme, reducing the need for borrowing. The following table summarises the updated position, with more detail shown in Appendix 5:

Housing Revenue Account	2013/14 Budget	2013/14 Projected Outturn	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Income			
Dwelling Rents	-63,633	-63,202	431
Other Income	-1,466	-1,457	9
Interest and Investment Income	-104	-104	0
Total Income	-65,203	-64,763	440
Expenditure			
ALMO Fees	16,469	16,469	0
Repairs, Supervision and Management Costs	12,220	12,204	-16
Depreciation	7,850	8,150	300
Interest Payable	12,447	10,862	-1,585
Revenue Contribution to Capital Programme	16,217	17,078	861
Total Expenditure	65,203	64,763	-440
2013/14 Surplus transferred to balances	0	0	0

Note: Negative figures in the variance column represent an underspend or an overachievement of income

- 44 The main variances are explained below:

- Dwelling Rents are forecast to be £0.431m less than budget. This relates to an increase in “Right to Buy” sales and an increase in the void rate across all three housing management areas;
- General Supervision and Management are forecast to overspend by £0.185m which relates to the customer service recharges for Durham City Homes being higher than the original budget and additional asset management work relating to the Housing Stock Transfer;
- Supervision and Management Special costs are expected to be £23k underspent, resulting from general efficiency savings on the running expenses of communal halls in the Durham City area;
- Rents , Rates and Taxes are forecast to overspend by £0.140m reflecting an increase in council tax empty property charges resulting from the increased voids;

- Depreciation variances reflect an impairment charge resulting from a revaluation of garages in the East Durham Homes area;
- Bad Debt Provision is lower than budget due to lower than anticipated arrears, reflecting a delay by the Government in introducing Universal Credit and the work carried out by the three providers in maintaining rent arrears at a consistent level;
- Interest Payments are forecast to be £1.585m below budget resulting from a lower interest rate and lower outstanding loan debt than originally anticipated;
- Revenue Support to Capital is £0.861m higher than budgeted, reflecting the utilisation of the in-year surplus, being the balancing item on the HRA which identifies the potential resources available to support the capital programme and reduce the reliance on borrowing.

Capital

Background

- 45 County Council on 20 February 2013 approved a 2013/14 General Fund (GF) capital budget of £159.461m.
- 46 The 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital budget of £49.271m was also approved at this meeting.
- 47 The Capital Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) has continually reviewed the capital programme and taken into account further developments and analysis of changes and demands on resources. The recommendations following the latest MOWG review on 17 February 2014 are included in this report. The revised budgets set out in this report reflect the last changes to the approved programmes in year.

Current Position

- 48 The following table summarises the original budget and revisions reported to MOWG. The table also summarises the forecast outturn for each service and actual spend as at 31 December 2013.

Summary General Fund Capital Programme 2013/14

Service	Original	Reprofiling	Amendments	Revised	Projected	Actual
	Budget	from 12/13	recommended	13/14		
	13/14	to 13/14	by MOWG	Budget		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	Outturn	Spend
					£'000	£'000
Assistant Chief Executives	3,959	367	-2,094	2,232	2,231	688
Children and Adults Services	56,046	14,989	-18,653	52,382	52,382	33,475
Neighbourhoods	32,533	5,673	-7,578	30,628	28,817	17,131
Regen and Economic Development	49,318	4,996	-17,035	37,279	37,279	22,466
Resources	17,605	1,916	-14,255	5,266	5,267	2,588
Total General Fund	159,461	27,941	-59,615	127,787	125,976	76,348

49 Included in the above table is a summary of revisions in the 2013/14 capital budget approved by MOWG since the last report (14 November 2013, 13 January 2014 and 17 February 2014). The following adjustments are of note:

Reprofiling of Budgets:

Children and Adults Services

50 Following a review of schemes within the programme budgets have been reprofiled, including:

Building Schools for the Future Projects

- Savings of £1.2m from Easington, Wellfield, Glendene and North Durham Academy were reallocated to provide additional funding required by other projects.
- reprofiling of approximately £15m from 2013/14 to 2014/15 was reported in respect of The Consett Academy and Leisure Centre Project.

School Related Projects

- Reprofiling of £0.200m for the Schools Access Programme from 2013/14 to 2014/15.
- a transfer of £0.279m was made from the DSG Structural Maintenance budget in connection with boiler replacement works at The Meadows which can be delivered more cost effectively combined with the main school project.

Public Health Projects

- Reprofiling of £0.160m from 2013/14 to 2014/15 in connection with dilapidation costs required for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centres.
- Reprofiling of £18k from 2013/14 to 2014/15 for the refurbishment of kitchens at County Hall.

Neighbourhoods

51 A reprofiling exercise resulted in £8.301m being reprofiled from 2013/14 to 2014/15 for the following areas:

- Culture and Sport £1.912m
- Direct Services £2.800m
- Technical Services £2.300m
- Project and Business Services £1,289m

52 This includes £1.2m relating to the upgrade of Waste Infrastructure and Waste Transfer Stations, £1.9m towards the Seaham North Pier Project and £2.5m relating to the planned procurement of vehicles, which has been delayed until service reviews are complete.

Regeneration and Economic Development

53 A review of the RED capital programme resulted in the £17.770m being reprofiled from 2013/14 to 2014/15 as follows:

- General Fund £12.006m
- HRA £5.764m

54 This includes £1.1m for the refurbishment of the Gypsy Traveller sites, £1.9m relating to The Empty Homes Cluster Bid project and £5.3m relating to the Decent Home Programme.

Assistant Chief Executive

55 The overall budget of £2.124m Assets in the Community has been reprofiled as follows:

Year	£000
2013/14	98
2014/15	871
2015/16	1,155

56 This reflects the anticipated outcome of on-going negotiations with the relevant community action groups to encourage them to take up revised leases with the Council. A significant proportion of buildings are now in the final stages of Asset Transfer and are expected to meet the two year timeframe for this element of the project.

Resources

57 ICT Budgets to the value of £0.840m have been reprofiled from 2013/14 to 2014/15 in line with anticipated project delivery, including £0.400m of the Desktop Replacement Programme, £0.250m for the Tanfield Power upgrade and £0.190m for the Homeworking Project.

Additional Funding:

Regeneration and Economic Development

- 58 External Grant – Grant funding to the value of £46k has been received from Natural England for the Paths and Communities Project.

Children and Adults Services

Public Health Funding

- Direct Revenue Funding to the value of £0.428m was agreed to fund the acquisition of Health Check equipment, refurbishment of kitchens in County Hall and to meet the dilapidation costs relating to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centres.

Building Schools for the Future

- A contribution of £0.216m has been received from the Diocese towards work at Dene school.

Neighbourhoods Services

- 59 **Section 106 Contributions** – Section 106 contributions of £50k have been received towards play park projects.

Projected Outturn Update

- 60 **Children and Adults Services** – It is anticipated that the projected outturn for CAS will be £52.382m, which is £5.882m lower than the budget approved at the MOWG 13 January 2014. The budget has been revised at the MOWG 17 February 2014 to reflect the latest outturn position.

- 61 **Neighbourhood Services** - It is anticipated that the projected outturn for Neighbourhood Services will be £28.817m, which is £1.811m lower than the budget approved at the MOWG 13 January 2014. This under spend is attributable to the following service areas:

- the Vehicle and Plant Replacement programme within Direct Services will underspend by £0.920m.
- Street Lighting Energy Replacement Programme (SLERP) within Technical Services will under spend by £0.744m
- Seaham North Pier project within Technical Services will underspend by £0.147m.

Housing Revenue Account

Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2013/14

Service	Original Budget 13/14 £'000	Reprofiling from 12/13 to 13/14 £'000	Amendments recommended by MOWG £'000	Revised 13/14 Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Actual Spend £'000
HRA	49,271	958	-410	49,819	49,819	28,389
Total	49,271	958	-410	49,819	49,819	28,389

62 It is anticipated that the projected outturn at 31 March 2014 will be in line with the revised budget.

Capital Financing

63 The following tables summarise the recommended financing of the revised capital programme:

Financing – General Fund Capital Programme 2013/14

Financed by	Original Budget 13/14 £'000	Reprofiling from 12/13 to 13/14 £'000	Amendments recommended by MOWG £'000	Revised 13/14 Budget £'000
Grants and Contributions	66,498	7,120	-11,546	62,072
Revenue and Reserves	987	1,022	5,716	7,725
Capital Receipts	19,774	10	-3,624	16,160
Borrowing	72,202	19,789	-50,161	41,830
Total	159,461	27,941	-59,615	127,787

Financing – Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2013/14

Financing	Original Budget 13/14 £'000	Reprofiling from 12/13 to 13/14 £'000	Amendments recommended by MOWG £'000	Revised 13/14 Budget £'000
Grants and Contributions	19,400	-	-	19,400
Revenue and Reserves	24,069	-	1,549	25,618
Capital Receipts	426	-	-	426
Borrowing	5,376	958	-1,959	4,375
Total	49,271	958	-410	49,819

Collection Funds

- 64 The Collection Funds consists of two main income streams – Council Tax and Business Rates.

Council Tax

- 65 Council Tax is charged for all residential dwellings in bandings agreed by the Government's Valuation Office Service. Exemptions, reliefs and discounts are awarded dependent upon the state of the property and Council Taxpayers' personal circumstances.
- 66 Since 1 April 2013, no reduction is awarded for void properties, previously no charge was made for first six months empty and 50% chargeable up to two years empty was applied. In addition, from 1 April 2013, following the 100% empty property charge being applied and being in place for up to two years empty, an additional 50% premium is now charged for properties over two years empty. These changes increased the collectable debit by c£5.5m in 2013/14.
- 67 Collection rates do not appear to have been adversely affected by these changes. As at 31 December 2013, the in-year Council tax collection rate was 82.9% which is 0.2% better than the 2012/13 in-year performance and 2.2% better than 2011/12.
- 68 The in-year collection rates for the last three years including the current year are shown below:

Billing year	31 December %
2013/14	82.9
2012/13	82.7
2011/12	80.7

- 69 The income shown in the Council Tax Collection Fund is the amount collectable from Council Tax payers in the long run, rather than the actual cash collected in the year the charges are raised. Likely bad debts are accounted for by maintaining a bad debt provision. The amount estimated to be collectable is estimated each year by reference to the actual council taxbase for all domestic properties in the county (schedule of all properties, discounts and reliefs) with an allowance for non-collection, currently 1.5%.
- 70 The Band D Council Tax (on which all other bands are based) is calculated by dividing the Council Tax Budget requirement, net of Parish/Town Council Precepts by the council taxbase.
- 71 Because of changes in the number of properties, eligibility of discounts and reliefs during the year, the actual amount collectable increases or decreases from the estimate on a dynamic day to day basis. All of these adjustments mean that the actual amounts collected will differ from the original estimate. Such differences at the end of each accounting year, after taking into account the calculated change required in the 'bad debt' provision, whether surplus or deficit are shared between the major preceptors, Durham County Council, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.

- 72 Each month the changes in council tax liability are tracked and the provision for bad debts recalculated to enable an outturn position to be assessed. At 31 December 2013, the liability changes were extrapolated to the year end to give an estimated position at 31 March 2104, as follows:

	£'000
Net Bills issued during Accounting Year 2013/14	263,447
LCTRS and previous year CTB adjustments	-52,124
Calculated change in provision required	-5,218
Net income receivable (a)	206,105
Precepts and Demands Durham County Council (including Parish/Town Councils)	174,452
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	20,060
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	11,596
Total Precepts and Demands (b)	206,108
Net Income for year (a) – (b)	-3
Surplus Brought Forward from 2012/13	6
Estimated Surplus at 31 December 2013	3

- 73 At 15 January 2014, the estimated year end surplus/deficit is notified to the major preceptors for inclusion in the budget setting process for 2014/15 as an additional income or expenditure item. Given the small value of the surplus calculated above, the decision was taken to declare an estimated break-even position on the Council Tax Collection Fund for 2013/14. Any difference between this and the actual position at 31 March 2014 will be carried forward to be taken into account for the surplus/deficit at the end of 2014/15.

Business Rates

- 74 Business rates have been levied on all non-domestic properties since 1990. In all previous years, Durham County Council acted as a tax collector, with all amounts receivable, debtor and creditor balances and provisions owing to or from Central Government.
- 75 2013/14 is the first year of the Business Rates Retention Scheme whereby income generated from Business Rates is shared between Central Government (50%), Durham County Council (49%) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (1%). For the first time, therefore, it is not only the accuracy and timeliness of bills levied and collected that is monitored and audited, but the level of income anticipated for the year is of

utmost importance and new monitoring procedures have been devised for this purpose.

- 76 Bills raised, exemptions and reliefs awarded are closely monitored together with anticipated changes in reliefs such as Mandatory Charitable on a monthly basis to enable a comparison with the January 2013 estimate used for budget setting purposes. The December 2013 figures were extrapolated to the year end to give an estimated surplus/deficit on the Business Rates Collection Fund as follows:

	£000
Net rate yield for 2013/14 including previous year adjustments	113,556
Estimate of changes due to appeals lodged	-6,510
Estimated losses in Collection	-1,614
Net income receivable (a)	105,432
Agreed allocated shares	
Central Government (50%)	54,037
Durham County Council (49%)	52,957
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (1%)	1,081
Cost of Collection Allowance (paid to Durham County Council)	604
Total fixed payments (b)	108,679
Net income for year (a) -(b)	-3,247
Estimated deficit at year end extrapolated from actuals at 31 December 2013	3,247

- 77 The extrapolated figures to the year end would accrue a deficit to Durham County Council of £1.591m on the Business Rates Retention Scheme for 2013/14. The major reasons for the change from a surplus of £62k reported in September are as follows:

- there has been an increase in the value of void periods being claimed as businesses move in and out of premises.
- there has been a higher success rate of appeals against rating valuations by ratepayers since the inception of the new Business Rates Retention Scheme than in the period over which the estimate was calculated. This has become evident in the cash adjustments made in the last few months and also prompted an increase in the provision for appeals lodged, yet to be settled.

78 The estimated deficit shown above forms part of the statutory 2014/15 'NNDR1' notification to Business Rates Retention Scheme shareholders – Durham County Council, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and Central Government. The NNDR1 determines the likely income from Business Rates in 2014/15 and is used in Durham County Council's budget setting process. The amount receivable is the net of:

- The deficit accruing from 2013/14
- The estimated income for 2014/15

79 However, there will continue to be changes to the Business Rates collectable as amendments to ratepayers' accounts are processed to the year end. Any difference between the actual surplus/deficit at 31 March 2014 and the estimate declared on the NNDR1 will be taken into account when the estimated surplus/deficit for 2014/15 is calculated in January 2015.

80 The Business Rates Retention Scheme has not changed the actual business rates charged to ratepayers and therefore was not expected to have a detrimental effect on collection rates. At 31 December 2013, the in-year collection rate for 2013/14 charges was 85.4%, 1.1% above the same point in 2012/13 and 3.6% above the in-year figure for 2011/12.

81 The collection rates for the last three years up to 31 December each year, including the current year are shown below:

Billing year	31 December %
2013/14	85.4
2012/13	84.3
2011/12	81.8

Section 31 Grant- Small Business Rate Relief

82 Business properties with rateable values under £12,000 benefit from relief on the rates payable. Central Government decided to extend the enhanced rates for the whole of 2013/14. This meant that the income receivable under the new Business Rates Retention Scheme would be reduced and a special grant has been awarded to recompense authorities for the shortfall so produced.

83 Properties with rateable values up to £6,000 are granted full relief instead of 50% relief under the previous scheme, and properties with rateable values between £6,000 and £12,000 have relief tapered from 100% down to 0%, but in all cases double the standard relief.

84 The grant has been calculated as 50% of the extended small business rate relief given. Under rules governing the share of Business Rates income, the Local Share of the grant will be 25% of the total relief granted, with 98% of that coming to Durham County Council.

85 As at 31 December 2013, the Small Business Relief awarded is £9.139m. Of this, Durham County Council would receive £2.239m. This figure may increase or decrease during the remainder of the year, as amendments are made to ratepayers' accounts.

Deferred Rates

- 86 During 2012/13, businesses could choose to spread the retail price index increase (3.2%) of their bill over three years. The bills were issued for the whole amount due but part of the bill was not collectable during the billing year.
- 87 Billing Authorities were compensated in 2012/13 by a reduction in the cash payable to Central Government of the whole amount of the rates so deferred. This was done by an adjustment of the audited return NNDR3. Normally, this would have been repayable in 2013/14 and 2014/15 with the deferred rates being added back into the amount payable to Central Government.
- 88 However, with the inception of Business Rates Retention Scheme, CIPFA has notified all Billing Authorities that Government 'does not anticipate recovering this amount'. For Durham County Council, deferred rates in 2012/13 amounted to £0.446m. If the position is confirmed by Government then this amount will be available to the General Fund.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 89 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Note the projected change in the Council's overall financial position for 2013/14.
 - Agree the proposed 'sums outside the cash limit' for approval.
 - Agree the revenue and capital budget adjustments
 - Note the forecast use of Earmarked Reserves.
 - Note the forecast end of year position for the Cash Limit and General Reserves position.
 - Note the position for the Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and the Collection Funds in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance -

The report details the 2013/14 forecast of outturn position for Revenue and Capital and details the forecast movement on Reserves.

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 3: Revenue Summary by Expenditure / Income for the period ended 31 March 2014

	Original Budget 2013/14	Agreed Budget	Service Groupings Forecast of Outturn	Corporate Costs	Sums Outside the Cash Limit	Cash Limit Reserve	Contribution to / Use of Earmarked Reserves	Revised Service Outturn	Forecasted Variance (including Corporate Costs)	Forecasted Variance - Corporate Costs
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	474,690	514,811	509,837	0	-1,576	-10	-251	508,000	-6,811	0
Premises	49,324	52,460	52,441	0	-34	56	40	52,503	43	0
Transport	50,097	50,428	48,160	0	-20	0	16	48,156	-2,272	0
Supplies & Services	113,512	128,688	131,469	1,703	-18	179	816	134,149	5,461	-122
Agency & Contracted	269,897	264,026	256,462	3,018	-62	0	5,135	264,553	527	-14
Transfer Payments	210,685	213,183	212,547	0	0	0	2	212,549	-634	0
Central Costs	101,309	105,164	100,832	0	0	-400	8,417	108,849	3,685	0
Other	1,265	12,377	12,404	0	0	0	10,570	22,974	10,597	0
Capital Charges	51,723	50,473	50,473	0	0	0	0	50,473	0	0
GROSS EXPENDITURE	1,322,502	1,391,610	1,374,625	4,721	-1,710	-175	24,745	1,402,206	10,596	-136
Income										
- Specific Grants	528,182	572,155	570,009	3,037	0	0	330	573,376	-1,221	0
- Other Grants & conts	25,320	26,459	32,339	0	0	0	-4,498	27,841	-1,382	0
- Sales	6,720	5,147	4,798	0	0	0	0	4,798	349	0
- Fees & charges	108,122	106,610	108,912	0	3	0	-2	108,913	-2,303	0
- Recharges	169,661	186,165	202,313	0	0	0	-519	201,794	-15,629	0
- Other	8,602	11,961	12,028	150	0	0	-37	12,141	-180	0
Total Income	846,607	908,497	930,399	3,187	3	0	-4,726	928,863	-20,366	0
NET EXPENDITURE	475,895	483,113	444,226	1,534	-1,713	-175	29,471	473,343	-9,770	-136

Appendix 4: Earmarked Reserves Position as at 31 December 2013

EARMARKED RESERVES AND CASH LIMIT RESERVES	SERVICE GROUPING	2012/13	USE OF	CONTRIBUTION	TRANSFERS	TOTAL	2013/14
		CLOSING BALANCE	RESERVES	TO RESERVES	BETWEEN RESERVES	MOVEMENT ON RESERVES	CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013
		£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
ACE AAP/Members Reserve	ACE	-1,854	0	-280	0	-280	-2,134
ACE Grant Reserve	ACE	-233	65	0	0	65	-168
ACE Operational Reserve	ACE	-140	8	0	0	8	-132
ACE Public Health Reserve	ACE	0	0	-350	0	-350	-350
ACE Clinical Commissioning Group Reserve	ACE	0	0	-300	0	-300	-300
Social Care Reserve	CAS	-4,053	1,671	-4,321	0	-2,650	-6,703
Health and Wellbeing Reserve	CAS	-500	500	0	0	500	0
Community Safety Reserve	CAS	-22	22	0	0	22	0
Aycliffe Young People's Centre Reserve	CAS	-428	0	-1,064	0	-1,064	-1,492
Continuing Professional Development Reserve	CAS	-469	0	-218	0	-218	-687
Education Reserve	CAS	-383	80	0	-400	-320	-703
Tackling Troubled Families	CAS	-942	0	-500	0	-500	-1,442
Special Projects Reserve	CAS	-60	0	0	0	0	-60
Public Health Reserve	CAS	0	0	-4,442	0	-4,442	-4,442
Neighbourhoods AAP Reserve	NS	-66	13	0	0	13	-53
Customer Services Reserve	NS	-110	73	0	0	73	-37
Direct Services Reserve	NS	-2,594	850	0	0	850	-1,744
Env. Health and Consumer Protection Reserve	NS	-430	110	0	0	110	-320
Culture and Sport Reserve	NS	-2,291	1,017	-183	0	834	-1,457
Strategic Waste Reserve	NS	-376	376	0	0	376	0
Technical Services Reserve	NS	-445	307	-180	0	127	-318
Transport Asset Management Programme Reserve	NS	-318	9	0	0	9	-309
Economic Development Reserve	RED	-1,018	150	0	0	150	-868
Planning Reserve	RED	-1,688	0	0	0	0	-1,688
North Pennines AONB Partnership Reserve	RED	-919	0	0	0	0	-919
Employability and Training Reserve	RED	-846	0	-516	0	-516	-1,362
RED Regeneration Reserve	RED	-1,051	0	0	0	0	-1,051
Housing Regeneration Reserve	RED	-77	16	0	0	16	-61
Housing Solutions Reserve	RED	-987	55	-51	0	4	-983
Restructure Reserve	RED	-729	0	0	0	0	-729
LSVT Reserve	RED	-111	11	0	0	11	-100
Transport Reserve	RED	-364	0	0	0	0	-364
Funding and Programmes Management Reserve	RED	-175	50	0	0	50	-125
Resources Corporate Reserve	Resources	-1,843	0	0	0	0	-1,843
Resources DWP Grant Reserve	Resources	-107	0	-945	0	-945	-1,052
Resources System Development Reserve	Resources	-850	316	0	0	316	-534
Resources Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve	Resources	-2,579	330	0	0	330	-2,249
Local Council Tax Support Scheme Reserve	Resources	0	0	-1,031	0	-1,031	-1,031
Resources Land Search Fees Reserve	Resources	-1,000	0	0	0	0	-1,000
Resources Legal Expenses	Resources	-200	0	0	0	0	-200
Resources Elections Reserve	Resources	-800	650	-700	0	-50	-850
Resources ICT Reserves	Resources	-480	87	0	0	87	-393
Cabinet Reserve	Corporate Fin	-220	0	0	0	0	-220
Corporate Reserve - Demographic Pressures	Corporate Fin	-8,650	2,150	0	0	2,150	-6,500
Equal Pay Reserve	Corporate Fin	-7,111	997	-6,820	0	-5,823	-12,934
Insurance Reserve	Corporate Fin	-7,832	0	-2,042	0	-2,042	-9,874
Performance Reward Grant Reserve	Corporate Fin	-1,735	419	0	0	419	-1,316
MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve	Corporate Fin	-4,839	2,622	-15,000	0	-12,378	-17,217
Total Non-Schools Reserve		-61,925	12,954	-38,943	-400	-26,389	-88,314
Cash Limit Reserves							
Assistant Chief Executive		-1,165	389	-264	0	125	-1,040
Children and Adults Services		-9,732	4,291	-9,358	400	-4,667	-14,399
Neighbourhood Services		-2,311	495	-844	0	-349	-2,660
Regeneration and Economic Dev		-3,416	434	0	0	434	-2,982
Resources		-3,280	463	0	0	463	-2,817
Total Cash Limit Reserves		-19,904	6,072	-10,466	400	-3,994	-23,898
Schools' Balances							
Schools' Revenue Balance	CAS	-19,418	2,139	0	0	2,139	-17,279
DSG Reserve	CAS	-4,623	0	0	0	0	-4,623
Total Schools and DSG Reserve		-24,041	2,139	0	0	2,139	-21,902
Total Earmarked Reserves		-105,870	21,165	-49,409	0	-28,244	-134,114

Appendix 5: Forecasted Housing Revenue Account to 31 March 2014

	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Forecasted Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Income			
Dwelling Rents	-63,633	-63,202	431
Non Dwelling Rents	-1,075	-1,068	7
Charges for Services and Facilities	-391	-389	2
Total Income	-65,099	-64,659	440
Expenditure			
ALMO Management Fee and Outsourced Contract	16,469	16,469	0
Repairs and Maintenance	4,433	4,433	0
Supervision and Management - General	4,417	4,602	185
Supervision and Management - Special	411	388	-23
Rents, Rates, Taxes and other Charges	310	450	140
Depreciation and Impairment of fixed assets	7,850	8,150	300
Increase/Decrease in bad debt provision	968	650	-318
Debt Management Costs	194	194	0
Total Expenditure	35,052	35,336	284
Net cost of HRA services per Authority I&E Account	-30,047	-29,323	724
HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core	1,085	1,085	0
Net Cost of services but not allocated to specific services	402	402	0
Net cost of HRA Services	-28,560	-27,836	724
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	12,447	10,862	-1,585
Direct Revenue Financing [Balancing Item on HRA]	16,217	17,078	861
Interest and Investment Income	-104	-104	0
[Surplus] / Deficit for the year on HRA services	0	0	0

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Cabinet

19th March 2014



**Update on the delivery of the
Medium Term Financial Plan 3**

Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

**Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council and all Cabinet
collectively**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides an update on the progress made at the end of December 2013 on the delivery of the 2013/14 to 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP3).

Background

- 2 Cabinet has received regular updates on the progress made by the Council in delivering the financial targets within MTFP1 which covered the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 and within MTFP2 which covers the period 2012/13 to 2015/16. These updates have also outlined the approach being taken to ensure the Council has a rigorous programme management framework in place to make certain we meet our duties under the Equalities Act, we comply with our duties as an employer and we consult on and communicate the changes being made.
- 3 MTFP3 agreed by Council in February 2013 takes the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2016/17 to over £188m.
- 4 However at Council on 26th February 2014, Members were advised that the latest forecast has increased the savings required by 2017 to £224m based on the impact of the 2015/16 Spending Round and the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Local Government Finance Settlement.

Progress to date

- 5 Savings of this level continue to be a major challenge for the Council, for example, the programme to deliver the MTFP savings comprises of more than 300 individual projects. Details of the approach were included as part of the members induction programme following the Council elections in 2013.

- 6 Through detailed planning and robust decision making, we have continued to meet the savings targets either on time or ahead of the planned delivery date.
- 7 In some instances projects are affected by other factors causing a delay or change in the delivery of the savings and for these it is necessary to find another way of making the savings targets through mitigation. These mitigating actions ensure the overall savings target is still delivered. An example has been the proposed savings through the creation of a Leisure Trust. As a result of a number of external factors which meant that the original savings planned were unlikely to be achieved, the service replaced this proposal with a number of alternative proposals, some of which were new and some of which were future years planned savings which were brought forward.
- 8 Through the ongoing vigilance over the delivery of the proposals, the Council continues to deliver well against the savings target. At the end of the third quarter (end of December) 97% of the 2013/14 total has been delivered (£20.16m against a target of £20.87m).
- 9 This progress continues to reflect the work undertaken already on delivering the previous MTFPs and the high level of savings this year from projects and changes implemented previously. During 2013/14 service restructures continues to be the main area where savings have been made.
- 10 Work is well advanced for future savings required in 2014/15.

Consultation

- 11 As Members will be aware the council undertook innovative and wide ranging public consultation on the MTFP throughout October to early December last year.
- 12 Building on our expertise on participatory budgeting (PB), all 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) conducted a PB event (or events in the case of Mid Durham). Over 10,000 people voted at the PB events with more than 3,000 giving the council their views on the MTFP and 1,300 taking part in a board game based exercise designed to glean spending priorities through group discussion.
- 13 The key findings from the consultation were:
 - members of the public found it hard to identify the required level of savings that the council needs to deliver;
 - across all of the different consultation methodologies, there was little consensus on which services to 'protect' in relative terms;
 - there was considerable consensus on the services from which to take more savings. However, on their own, these would not be sufficient to meet the level of savings required;
 - there was a rich level of intelligence from the group exercise work;
 - there was support from the group exercises for a council tax rise of up to 2% but very little support for a rise in excess of this level.

- 14 In respect of the current MTFP, consultations on specific service changes which occurred during this period included the review of waste charges and lunchtime school crossing patrols. There was also a consultation on in-house social care provision which relates to savings for the next MTFP year 2014/15.
- 15 However as the majority of savings for 2013/14 relate to staffing restructures, the majority of consultation activity this period has been undertaken internally with staff and trade unions.
- 16 Feedback from consultations is taken into account in deciding the final outcomes; an example of this was seen in the review of libraries and future library opening hours. Feedback from consultation has also identified the need to protect frontline services as far as possible and to date over 64% of the savings that have been delivered have been from non-frontline services.

HR implications

- 17 The impact on the Council's workforce continues to be in line with the original MTFP estimates in 2011. At that time it was anticipated that approximately 1,600 staff posts would be removed from the establishment together with a further 350 vacant posts deleted over the period from 2011 to 2015.
- 18 During the first three quarters of this financial year 101 employees have left through redundancy or early retirement related to MTFP and 77.5 vacant posts have been deleted.
- 19 The Council has continued to support employees affected by the MTFP including offering staff affected alternative employment through the Council's redeployment process. The financial challenges facing the Council continue to be shared through direct communications with all staff, with another series of staff roadshows being planned for the first quarter of 2014/15.
- 20 Employees are also continuing to apply for ER/VR and to date we have 185 expressions of interest which we are actively managing and expect to be able to facilitate as part of future savings proposals.
- 21 The impacts on staff are also considered as part of the equality impact assessment process. It should be noted that although the information below does not relate to MTFP decisions alone, the majority are the result of MTFP and this offers a useful indication of the impact on staff across the authority.
- 22 The gender balance of those leaving through voluntary redundancy, early retirement and ER/VR during Quarter 3 showed that 61% were female and 39% male; this reflects the overall gender balance in the workforce. Around 12.5% had a disability, this is higher than the overall workforce (2.9% of employees are disabled) but the number is very low. 37.5% were not disabled while the remainder had not disclosed whether or not they had a disability. All were white British except for 11% who had not disclosed their ethnicity. The majority (78%) were full-time workers. A small number of compulsory redundancies showed that 75% were female and 75% were full-time workers. All were white British and a very low number had disclosed a disability.

Equality Impact Assessments

- 23 Equality impact assessments (EIA) form a key part of the ongoing MTFP process. A number of the initial screenings provided to Cabinet in January 2013 have been updated during the year to take account of consultation responses and additional evidence; the updates also include information on any mitigating actions.
- 24 Action plans from equality impact assessment are monitored on a quarterly basis. The impact assessments and action plans are also reviewed during the decision making process, for example, updated EIAs are provided where Cabinet receive a report ahead of consultation and where a further report is received with any final recommendations.

Conclusions

- 25 The Council's approach of planning early and delivering the savings through robust programme management continues to be an important aspect in overcoming the significant challenge of delivering the MTFP.
- 26 By the end of December we had delivered £20.16m of the 2013/14 MTFP target of £20.87m. By the end of 2013/14 we will have delivered savings totalling £113.9m against a target of £224m for the period 2011 to 2017.
- 27 It will become increasingly difficult to deliver the levels of savings required over future years, and this will involve a number of difficult decisions. However £22m of savings proposals are in place for 2014/15 and planning work is already well advanced, in order that the appropriate consultations and decision making can occur in adequate time to deliver the savings necessary.

Recommendations

- 28 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and the progress being made in delivering the £20.87m of savings for 2013/14 where 97% of the savings have been delivered by 31st December 2013.

Contact: Roger Goodes, Head of Policy & Communications
Tel: 03000 268050

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The delivery of the MTFP involves cumulative saving of approximately £224m over the period from 2011 to 2017 of which £66.4m was delivered in 2011/12 and £26.4m delivered during 2012/13. In the current year we have already delivered 97% of the target of £20.87m, which brings the total amount saved to date to over £113m.

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

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

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken for the original 4 year MTFP plan and additional screening was undertaken for the 2012/13 proposals and any other changes made to the original plan. In addition, for each proposal an EIA is undertaken as part of the decision-making before the proposal is implemented.

Accommodation As proposals are planned the impact on accommodation is ascertained, with staff being consulted on any moves as part of the process. The anticipated loss of 1600 posts from the Authority will mean a requirement for less accommodation and the Office Accommodation Team has built this into the Office Accommodation Strategy.

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

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

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

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

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

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Cabinet

19 March 2014



Quarter 3 2013/14

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) and report other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2013/14.

Background

2. This is the third quarterly corporate performance report of 2013/14 for the council highlighting performance for the period October to December 2013. 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. There is a stronger focus this year on volume measures in our performance framework. This allows us to better quantify productivity and to monitor the effects of reductions in resources and changes in volume of activity. Charts detailing some of the key volume measures which form part of the council's corporate basket of performance indicators are presented in Appendix 4.

Executive Summary

Overview

6. Overall the local authority is performing well, maintaining performance in many areas and achieving improvements in some services. This quarter shows 80% of reported indicators are approaching, meeting or exceeding targets. This is despite the challenging financial context which is unprecedented in the history of local government and is hitting County Durham harder than most. The UK economy shows its strongest growth since 2007 (based on GDP), with the economic growth in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership outstripping the rest of the country this quarter, narrowing the gap on other regions. However, issues continue to affect performance across County Durham.
7. The employment rate in County Durham has fallen from last quarter and remains below the national and regional rates. The youth unemployment level remains high although this is continuing to decrease with the level improving from the same period last year. Long-term unemployment continues to rise and is worse than national and regional rates, although the actual number of claimants has fallen. There continue to be significant challenges in the underlying health picture in the county with male and female life expectancy remaining below North East and national comparators.
8. Despite challenges to the economy, housing indicators have shown improvement this period with the number of housing completions and affordable homes significantly increasing. The number of empty properties brought back into use and private sector properties improved and are both exceeding target. Homeless indicators continue to show a positive year on year trend with levels of applications, acceptances and preventions.
9. Demand on council services is rising across many key areas with increased volumes of activity in areas such as freedom of information requests, fly-tipping incidents and people rehoused through the Durham Key Options system but more worrying are those relating to vulnerable or potentially vulnerable residents such as increased referrals of children in need, and new claims for council tax support and housing benefit. However, a reduction in demand has occurred in overall planning applications, telephone calls received and face-to-face customer contacts. The drop in face-to-face contact is partly due to the Christmas close down period.
10. Crime levels in County Durham have continued to increase for the second consecutive quarter with a rise in the overall crime rate, including increases in alcohol related crime, victim based crime, stealing across most theft categories and serious and major crimes. The increase in crime has been observed in more than half of police force areas nationally. Re-offending remains worse than national rates. Incidents of anti-social behaviour have fallen and it is the lowest reported since 2011/12.
11. Performance has improved in some key areas of the Altogether Better Council priority theme this quarter. Customer service indicators show improved telephone call handling and customer waiting times at access points. The level of sickness absence within the organisation has reduced and places current sickness levels better than the corporate target for the first time this year. Despite the depressed local economy and the effects of welfare reform, some improvements have been made in benefit processing and rent arrears have fallen. Challenges persist in areas such as paying supplier invoices within 30 days which remains inconsistent and although employee appraisal has shown real improvement this year, levels are still short of the corporate target.

Key Messages from Altogether Priority Themes

12. The state of our local economy remains one of the council's biggest challenges. Despite this, performance is improving and direction of travel is positive on the majority of tracker and target indicators which we measure within the Altogether Wealthier theme.
13. Despite the overall positive trend, the number of people employed has fallen by 3,800 since last quarter. This represents a decrease in the employment rate from 67.1% to 65.7% and is below both the regional (66.2%) and national rates (71.4%). The fall in employment this period may be attributable to seasonal fluctuations when uplift in employment was seen last quarter over the early summer period. The proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job has improved slightly falling from 15.49% to 14.39%. This is also worse than both the North East (14.13%) and national (11.5%) figures.
14. Long-term unemployment in County Durham, measured as the percentage of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for one year or more continues to increase although the actual number of claimants has fallen from 4,740 to 4,320. Overall unemployment claimants in County Durham have also fallen from 13,123 to 11,884. Youth unemployment, as measured by the number of 18-24 year old JSA claimants, has again decreased, falling from 4,255 claimants last quarter to 3,525 this quarter. The number of apprenticeships started by 16 to 18 year olds has decreased however there has been a slight increase in the number of 19 to 24 year olds securing apprenticeships.
15. Despite challenges to the economy, housing indicators have shown improvement. There has been a significant increase in the number of new homes with 352 net completions this quarter, 176 of which are classed as affordable homes. The number of empty properties that were brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention has now achieved the annual target and the number of private sector properties improved is also exceeding quarterly targets. The numbers of major and overall planning applications however have both decreased.
16. The percentage of children in low income families has also improved slightly, from 24.7% last quarter to 24.4% this quarter, but still remains worse than national rates.
17. The number of families rehoused through Durham Key Options system has increased by 12% since last quarter. Homeless indicators continue to show a positive year on year trend. Although the number of Housing Solutions presentations has increased very slightly this quarter the volume of statutory homeless applications, acceptances and preventions have all improved.
18. Highlights for areas affecting children and young people confirm the positive position reported for educational attainment at quarter 2. Revised data show 63.1% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English and maths. A positive position is also shown for A levels, 98.9% of pupils achieved two A Levels at grade A*-E (level three) or equivalent. Revised data also show that 41.9% of pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage achieved a good level of development. However current performance is worse than national, regional and statistical neighbour averages.
19. County Durham remains in the top 20% of local authorities and is ranked 15th highest nationally, based upon the total number of families achieving reduction in crime/anti-social behaviour, improved school attendance or moving back into employment, within and outside the Stronger Families Programme.

20. Between October and December 2013, 7% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) which relates to approximately 1,048 young people. This is better than performance in quarter 1 and the regional average but worse than national and statistical neighbour averages.
21. The proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery in County Durham is achieving target and is an improvement from last quarter but remains worse than the England average and same period last year.
22. Performance against key safeguarding targets continues to be challenging. The number of looked after children (LAC) reduced this period and improved from the same point of the previous year and compares favourably with the latest national, North East and statistical neighbours comparative data. Looked after children cases reviewed within timescale are slightly below target and the corresponding period of the previous year. Children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of the previous referral did not meet target and were higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. Child protection cases reviewed in timescale is below target but shows improvement from the corresponding period of the previous year.
23. Key health and adult care measures show that positive progress continues with care for older people and vulnerable residents.
24. Older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital was 87.1%, which continues to exceed target and national and regional averages. In addition, 94.7% of respondents to the local care survey responded that the help and support they received had improved their quality of life. The number of permanent admissions to residential or nursing care for adults aged 65 and over has shown a 13% reduction from the same period last year and has achieved the quarterly profiled target.
25. The proportion of service users requiring no on-going care following completion of their reablement package has improved from same period last year. The percentage of adults receiving secondary mental health services that were known to be in settled accommodation at the time of their last review exceeds target and provisional national and comparator group averages.
26. The number of smoking quitters has deteriorated from last year and the Stop Smoking Service has failed to achieve its target. This issue is not specific to the North East and is affecting the whole of England.
27. The percentage of eligible people who received an NHS health check failed to achieve target but performance is similar to regional rates and is better than national and comparator group averages.
28. Male and female life expectancy has increased to 77.9 years and 81.5 years respectively but remains below the national averages of 79.2 years for males and 83 years for females. This has a long-term effect on future demand for adult social care services for older people provided by the council and NHS partners.
29. Safer measures continue to show mixed performance this period. After the long-term trend of falling crime levels, overall crime has increased for the second consecutive quarter including increases in alcohol related crime, victim based crime, stealing offences across most theft categories and serious or major crimes. However, it is noteworthy that whilst the trend is cause for concern, crime levels are below 2011/12 levels. Reoffending rates in Durham remain worse than national rates.

30. Incidents of anti-social behavior (ASB) reported to the police have fallen and are the lowest reported since quarter 1, 2011/12. There are continuing low levels of repeat victims of domestic abuse and Durham consistently meets target and outperforms latest national and regional figures.
31. The percentage of adult social care users reporting that the care and support they receive helped them to feel safe and secure was 91.3%, which exceeds a target of 75% and 2012/13 national (77.9%) and the North East (79.4%) performance figures.
32. Low levels of successful drug treatment continue this quarter and remain below target and national performance. People successfully completing alcohol treatment is achieving target and national performance.
33. Key environmental indicators show that street and environmental cleanliness has improved with levels of litter and detritus better than the profiled target. Fly-tipping incidents have seen further increases this period.
34. There have been a number of improvements in some key areas under the Altogether Better Council theme.
35. The average time to process new housing benefit (HB) and council tax reduction (CTR) claims have met or are close to target. There has been an improvement in processing times for changes in circumstances as volumes have continued to fall during quarter 3. The target has been met for both HB claimants and CTR claims.
36. The level of sickness absence has reduced and levels are better than target for the first time this year. Employee appraisals have shown improvement this year but remain below target.
37. Customer service indicators show improved telephone handling with calls answered within three minutes above target and an improvement on the previous quarter. The average waiting time at a customer access point continues to improve and remains well within target. The volume of telephone calls received shows 8.9% fewer calls were received this quarter (235,064) when compared with quarter 2 (258,047).
38. The percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within 20 days was 80% this quarter, which was below the national standard of 85%. This performance is against a backdrop of increasing numbers of FOI and EIR requests from 189 in quarter 3 2012/13 and 249 last quarter to 319 this quarter.
39. Tenant rent arrears have fallen for all three housing providers and targets have been met.
40. Despite renewed focus on paying supplier invoices within 30 days, performance is below target and remains inconsistent.

Volume of Activity

41. Volume measures have been collected for three quarters now and some trends are beginning to emerge. There is generally a direct link between workload volumes and performance. As workloads increase then, given a fixed and in some cases reducing resource available to process this work, performance will be adversely affected. However, establishing targets does assist in performance managing services to within accepted levels. There are several areas where we see that performance deteriorates as volumes increase or performance improves as volumes decrease. This has been observed in the benefits service, telephone call handling, responses to requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act and to a certain extent, in children in need referrals. (Appendix 4, Charts 5, 7, 9 and 10)

42. Services where the contrary trend has been observed is in the processing of planning applications (Appendix 4, Chart 1) and face-to-face customer waiting times (Appendix 4, Chart 8). The volume of planning applications received by the council has shown a steady decline over the year but performance has also been falling, albeit performance across all three quarters has remained within target. There are a number of variables which can affect planning application processing performance, not least of which is the mix of application types across major, minor and other planning applications. Major planning applications which are traditionally the most problematic and can lead to significant processing delays are down. The service is currently going through the implementation of a new planning system which will affect performance in the short term.
43. Waiting times for face-to-face enquiries at our customer access points (CAPs) has shown a continual trend of rising volumes and also reduced waiting times over the last two years. However, volumes of people accessing our CAPs did reduce over the last quarter from the absolute peak of over 93,000 people seen over the July to September period last year down to 78,729 contacts from October to December, partly due to the Christmas close down period. Waiting times further improved last quarter dipping below the four minute mark for the first time against a council target of 15 minutes.
44. The overall trend for presentations to the Housing Solutions Service, although demonstrating some seasonality is one of a steady increase (Appendix 4, Chart 2.) The number of people registered on the Durham Key Options service who have been rehoused has shown a continual increase over the last three years (Appendix 4, Chart 3.) The economic downturn and welfare reforms will both have an impact in this area.

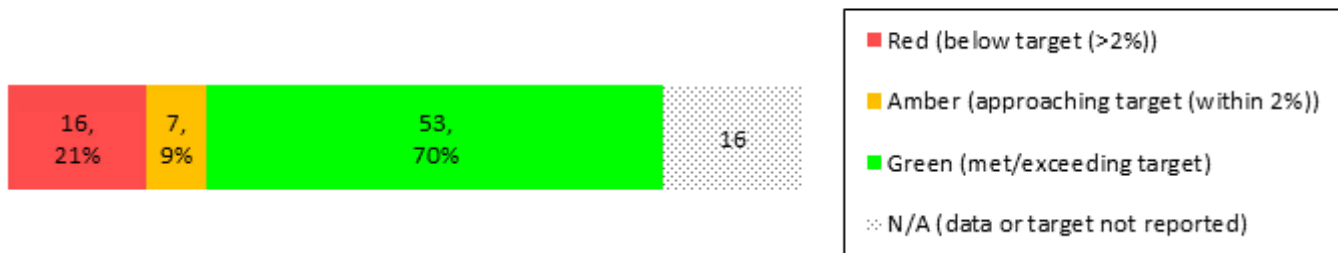
Welfare reform and demand

45. Overall, the expected levels of demand for support are lower than expected at this stage. Housing providers are not reporting large increases in arrears through the reduction in housing benefit or introduction of the benefits cap. In fact, overall they have seen a slight fall in the number of tenants who are in arrears compared to last year. Anecdotally, tenants appear to be prioritising housing costs over other spending.
46. Demand for Discretionary Housing Payments has increased over recent months, as a result of the work undertaken throughout the year through the triage process but it appears that the situation is similar with other authorities seeing an increase in demand over recent months. The number of tenants affected by the under occupation rules who were in arrears increased during quarter 1 but have reduced thereafter. Housing Solutions presentations have increased very slightly this quarter with the number of families rehoused through the Durham Key Options system also increasing. This is largely due to increased voids and internal transfers. In relation to the Welfare Assistance Scheme, the number of enquiries and awards has been lower than anticipated, although we have seen a significant increase in awards in recent months and work with partners to review the scheme is ongoing. More details are included within the Welfare Reform Update considered by Cabinet on 12 February 2014.

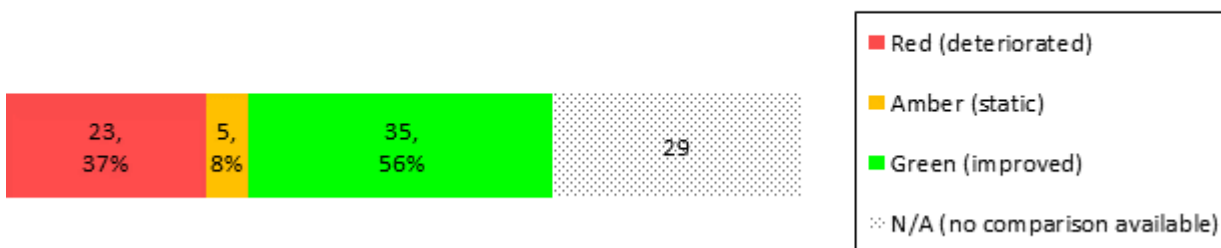
Overall Performance of the Council for Quarter 3

Key Performance Indicators

Performance against targets



Direction of travel



Source: Service performance monitoring data

47. In quarter 3, 64% (40) of key performance indicators have improved or remained static. In relation to performance against target 79% (60) of reported indicators are approaching, meeting or exceeding targets.

48. Areas where there has been improvement in performance in terms of direction of travel are:

- Number of affordable homes delivered
- Empty properties brought back into use
- Employment rates
- Number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused
- Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE level including English and Maths
- First time entrants to the youth justice system
- Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
- Under age conception rate
- Children in reception and year 6 recorded as having excess weight
- Looked After Children per 10,000 population
- Exits from alcohol treatment that are planned discharges
- Adult community health checks
- Permanent admissions to residential or nursing care (aged 65+)
- People who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package

- Patient experience of community mental health services
- Perceptions that police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti-social behaviour and crime
- Police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Repeat incidents of domestic abuse
- Properties occupied by owner occupiers made energy efficient as a direct consequence of local authority assistance
- Average waiting time at a customer access point
- Council tax and business rates collected in-year
- Current tenant arrears as a percentage of the annual rent debit
- Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within statutory deadlines
- Days/shifts lost to sickness absence – all services including school staff

49. Key issues in terms of areas where there has been a deterioration in performance in terms of direction of travel compared to last year are:

- Total planning applications received
- Apprenticeships started by young people resident in County Durham as recorded by the National Apprenticeship Service
- JSA claimants claiming for 1 year or more
- Number of housing solution presentation
- Businesses engaged with/ assisted
- Pupils on Level 3 programmes achieving 2 A levels at grade A*-E or equivalent
- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at GCSE level
- Children in Need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral
- Looked after children cases reviewed within required timescales
- 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training
- Older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services
- Overall crime rate
- Feed In Tariff installations
- Fly-tipping incidents reported
- Income generated from council owned business space

50. Examples of areas where performance is meeting or exceeding target are:

- Affordable homes delivered
- Empty properties brought back into use
- Planning applications determined within deadline
- Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE level including English and Maths
- Pupils on Level 3 programmes achieving 2 A levels at grade A*-E or equivalent
- Successful interventions via Stronger Families programme
- Successful completions of those in alcohol treatment
- Patient experience of community mental health services
- Land and highways with high levels of litter and detritus

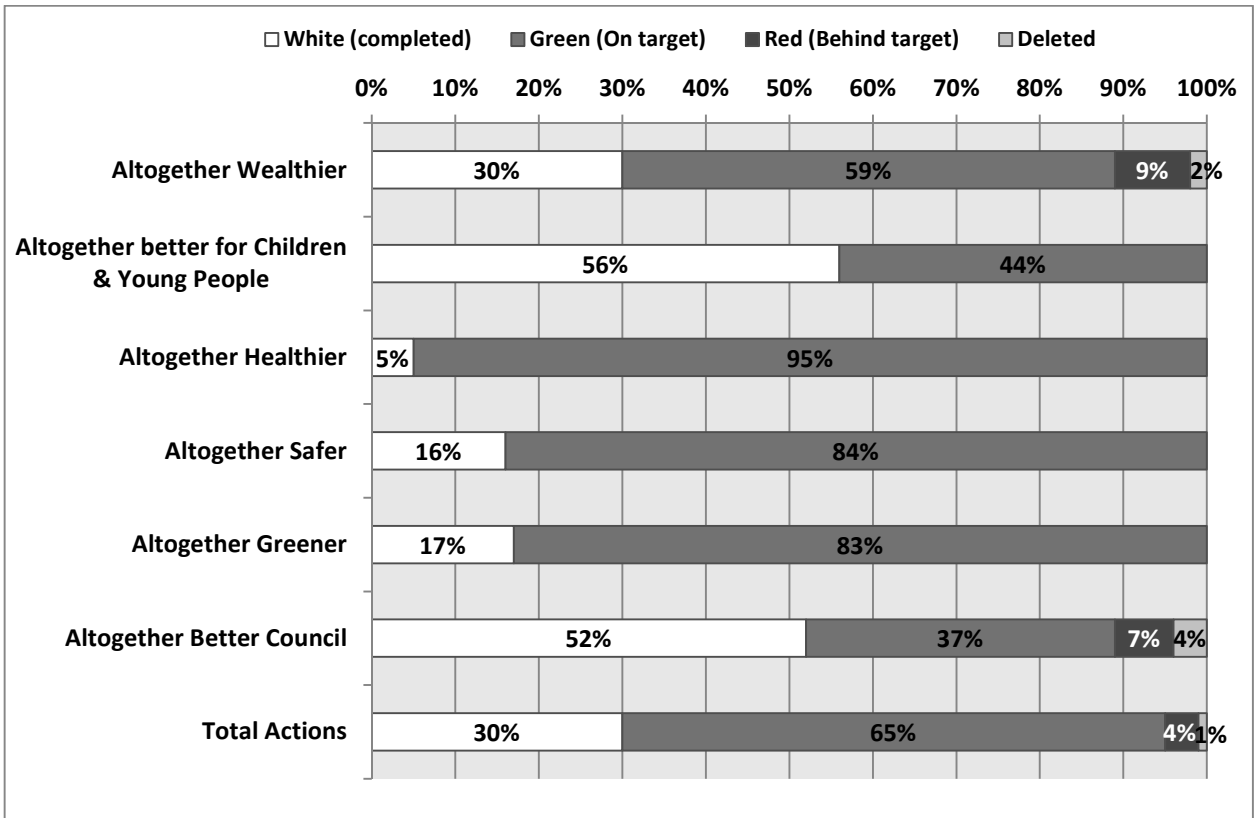
- Household recycling and composting collected from the kerbside
- Municipal waste landfilled
- Calls answered within 3 minutes
- Current tenant arrears as a percentage of the annual rent debit

51. Key issues in terms of areas where performance has not achieved target include:

- Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE level including English and Maths
- Children in Need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral
- Child protection cases reviewed within required timescales
- Eligible people who receive an NHS health check
- Successful completions of drug treatment
- Reduction of CO2 emissions from local authority operations
- Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within statutory deadlines
- Appraisals completed

Council Plan Actions

Progress against Council Plan by Altogether theme: Quarter 3 2013/14



52. Monitoring of the Council Plan is carried out on a quarterly basis to ensure that actions are being completed. Good progress has been made overall in the third quarter of 2013/14 with 30% (48 out of 161) of actions being achieved and 65% (104 actions) on target. Actions behind target equate to 4% (seven actions). The Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme has achieved the highest percentage of actions completed (56%) and the Altogether Better Council theme has the highest percentage behind target (7%), which amounts to two actions.

Service Plan Actions

Service Plan Progress to End of Quarter 3

Service Grouping	Total number of Service Plan actions	Number of actions met or exceeded target	% of actions met or exceeded target	Number on target	% of actions on target	Number behind target	% of actions behind target	Deleted	% of actions deleted
Assistant Chief Executive	74	45	61%	18	24%	10	14%	1	1%
Children & Adult Services	178	54	30%	121	68%	3	2%	0	0%
Neighbourhood Services	113	36	32%	69	61%	2	2%	6	5%
Regeneration & Economic Development	96	12	13%	75	78%	8	8%	1	1%
Resources	116	64	55%	43	37%	8	7%	1	1%
Total	577	211	37%	326	56%	31	5%	9	2%

Source: Service monitoring data

53. The table above shows that overall, 93% of service plan actions have either been achieved or are on target to be achieved by the deadline. Actions behind target equate to 5%. There are a number of actions (2%) proposed to be deleted as they are either no longer relevant or have been incorporated into other actions. The Children and Adult Services grouping has the highest percentage of actions achieved or on target (98%) and the Assistant Chief Executive service grouping has the highest percentage of actions behind target (14%).

54. Reporting of these key actions is on an exception basis with a full copy of the exceptions, deletions, amendments and additions available on request from performance@durham.gov.uk

Equalities and Diversity

55. Service plan monitoring has shown that Single Equality Scheme actions are progressing well with 50 (38%) actions complete, 75 (57%) on track to achieve target, five (5%) actions behind target and two (1%) actions deleted.

Carbon Reduction by the Council

56. In order to achieve the targets for reducing carbon emissions by the council, a set of three actions have been included in all service plans and progress monitored. One action was completed during quarter 1, which was to recruit a minimum of one eco-champion per tier 4 manager. The action relating to the office carbon reduction surveys has been completed in quarter 3. The remaining action to reduce car business mileage for each service grouping (by a minimum of 10% for 2013/14) is on target.

Risk Management

57. Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's challenging change agenda, so that any risks to successful delivery can be identified and minimised. The council's risk management process therefore sits alongside our change programme and is integrated into all significant change and improvement projects.
58. The key risks to successfully achieving the objectives of each corporate theme are detailed against each Altogether theme in the relevant sections of the report. These risks have been identified using the following criteria:-
- Net impact is critical, and the net likelihood is highly probable, probable or possible.
 - Net impact is major, and the net likelihood is highly probable or probable.
 - Net impact is moderate, and the net likelihood is highly probable.
59. As at 31 December 2013, there were 33 strategic risks, which is a net decrease of four from the previous period ending 30 September 2013. Of these, five are key risks matching the criteria above. The following matrix summarises the total number of strategic risks based on their net risk assessment as at 31 December 2013. Where there have been changes to the number of risks from the last quarter period end, the risk total as at 30 September 2013 is highlighted in brackets.

Figure 4: Corporate Risk Heat Map

Impact					
Critical	2 (2)	1 (1)	2 (3)		1 (0)
Major		3 (3)	4 (3)	1 (3)	
Moderate		0 (1)	9 (10)	4 (6)	1 (3)
Minor				2 (2)	2 (0)
Insignificant					1 (0)
Likelihood	Remote	Unlikely	Possible	Probable	Highly Probable

Key risks 

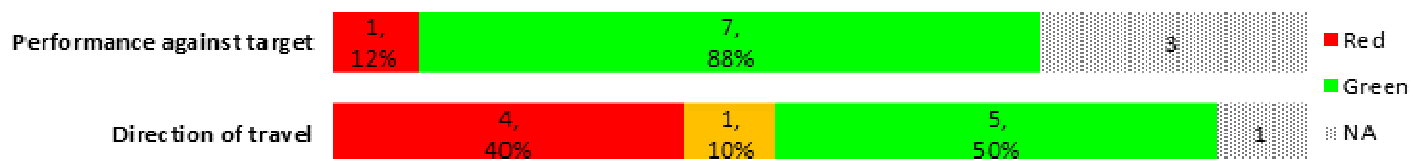
60. At a corporate strategic level, key risks to draw attention to are:
- Government ongoing funding cuts which now extend to at least 2017/18 will continue to have an increasing major impact on all council services. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and highly probable likelihood. Sound financial forecasting is in place based on thorough examination of the Government's "red book" plans.
 - If there was to be slippage in the delivery of the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings projects, this will require further savings to be made from other areas, which may result in further service reductions and job losses. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and possible likelihood. The implementation of the delivery plan by ACE is closely being monitored by Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet.
 - If local authority schools and other local authority services choose not to take council services, together with the loss of community buildings, both Technical and Building Services could see a loss of business. This key risk is categorised with major impact and

probable likelihood. A draft booklet will be produced to promote Building Services ready for distribution throughout council services.

- d. Potential restitution of search fees going back to 2005. This key risk is categorised with moderate impact and highly probable likelihood. The mitigation of this risk is dependent upon the outcome of the negotiations and litigation currently being defended by lawyers instructed in group litigation.
 - e. If we were to fail to comply with central government's Public Services Network Code of Connection criteria, this would put some of our core business processes at risk, for example, revenues and benefits. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and possible likelihood. In May 2013, an ICT Health Check was carried out and a number of recommendations were made to bring the council to a position of compliance.
61. Five risks have been removed from the register in this quarter. This is due to management of the risks by the services as mitigating actions have been completed to reduce risks to a level where management now consider existing controls to be adequate.
62. The implementation of additional mitigation on a number of risks has enabled the council to improve performance, decision-making and governance, and this is detailed in the relevant sections of the report.

Altogether Wealthier: Overview

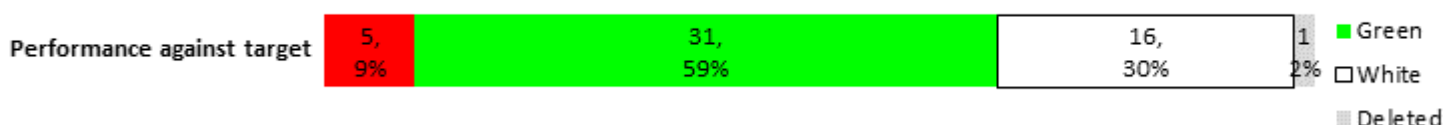
Target performance indicators



Tracker performance indicators



Actions



Council Performance

63. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. During quarter 3 a further 28 empty properties have been brought back into use due to the targeted approach and partnership work with registered providers. Since April 2013, 80 properties have been brought back into use and performance now exceeds the annual target of 75. Discussions with owners regarding the options for returning their properties back into use has continued and included purchase, lease and repair schemes or advertising through the Durham Key Options scheme. The revised grants and interest free repayment loans process, through the empty homes cluster programme, was launched in October to assist the return of empty properties back into use within designated areas.
- b. This quarter 215 private sector properties were improved as a consequence of local authority intervention, bringing the total since April 2013 to 674. Performance exceeds the period target of 592. Property condition inspections continue to be undertaken in selective licensing designations.
- c. The number of non-decent homes for all providers continues to decrease from last quarter. East Durham Homes has improved from 31.9% to 26% and good progress is being made towards their target of 25% by the year end. This represents an improvement of 43% from the corresponding period last year, when 45.5% of homes were non-decent. Dale and Valley Homes has improved from 14.8% to 6.8%. Non-decency levels for Durham City Homes have reduced from 8% to 4.5%. Both Dale and Valley Homes and Durham City Homes are on track to meet their 0% target.
- d. Good progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Delivery of Durham City Regeneration Schemes is due for completion by March 2017. Works on the former ice rink site for the National Savings and Investment office are on course. Design options are under consideration for the redevelopment of North Road Bus Station and the preferred option feasibility design and costing for the redevelopment of North Road is expected in March 2014.
 - ii. Work to increase the number of visitors to the city, making it a viable 48 hour stay for tourists, is due by March 2015. The destination marketing campaign for Lindisfarne Gospels was nominated for UK creative out of home awards and the

destination marketing for Lumiere was profiled at the World Travel Market as an example of best practice in digital marketing.

- iii. In relation to the future of council housing across County Durham, the council submitted its application to proceed with the stock transfer to the Homes and Communities Agency on 3 December 2013 and it is hoped that an outcome will be known by March 2014. The shadow board has met for the first time and an Interim Managing Director to lead the new registered provider was appointed in December.
- iv. Renewal/refurbishment of Gypsy roma traveller sites has made good progress. Works at the Adventure Lane, West Rainton site commenced in October 2013 and at the Tower Road, Stanley site in November 2013 and both sites are progressing to schedule. Planning approval for the Drum Lane, Chester-le-Street site was granted in November and for Green Lane, Bishop Auckland in December. Works are scheduled to commence on both sites shortly.

64. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. The percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks has fallen from 76.7% in quarter 2 to 72.7% this quarter. However this remains above the 71% target and is an improvement from 69.7% in quarter 3 2012/13. Performance compares favourably with the national rate (67%) although is not as good as the nearest statistical neighbour rate (75%). The overall proportion of planning applications determined within deadline has also fallen, from 88.5% last quarter to 85% this quarter but performance is in line with the 85% target. Staff changes and IT training have contributed to this slight dip in performance this period. The numbers of major and overall planning applications have both decreased this quarter compared to previous quarter. Major planning applications have fallen from 43 at the previous quarter to 33 this quarter. Overall planning applications have fallen from 762 at the previous quarter to 711 this quarter with a further fall from 719 in quarter 3 2012/13 (see Appendix 4, Chart 1).
- b. Key Council Plan actions behind target in this theme include:
 - i. The development of the County Durham Plan. Preparation for examination in public, including mock examination and pre-enquiry meeting is due by June 2014. This has been revised to July 2014. Following on from the extensive consultation on the pre-submission draft, work is being undertaken to prepare the plan for submission. If any changes are made to the plan at this stage then further consultation may be required. It is anticipated that submission will take place in April 2014 with the examination in public likely to start in July 2014, possibly lasting for up to three months.
 - ii. Delivery of a programme of transport capital works across the county:
 - A167 Northlands roundabout at Chester-le-Street is due for completion by April 2014. Advance utility works are now ongoing however construction will now take place between April and August 2014.
 - Bishop Auckland rail station was due by November 2013. This has been revised to February 2014 because a delay with the BT Openreach telephone connection has deferred the opening of a new passenger waiting room and travel hub. The waiting room will be opened as soon as possible once the external signage is complete. This action was delayed from September to November 2013 in quarter 2.
 - East Durham rail station was due for completion by December 2014. This has been delayed until March 2015 due to communication issues with Network Rail. The revised development agreement has been received from

Network Rail for stages one to four of the Governance for Railway Investment Project and it is anticipated to commence in February 2014.

- c. There is also one action that has been deleted which is to deliver traffic priorities in Durham City including linking traffic signals to develop more effective flows of traffic and the use of technologies to reduce congestion on the network by 2015. Funding was expected for this project when the Council Plan for 2013/14 was in development but unfortunately this was not granted and no other form of funding has yet been identified.

65. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:

- a. The number of people in employment has fallen by 3,800 since the last quarter, from 228,300 to 224,500. This represents a decrease in the employment rate from 67.1% reported last quarter to 65.7% at the end of September 2013 and remains worse than national (71.4%), regional (66.2%) and nearest statistical neighbour (69.4%) rates. The fall in employment this period may be attributable to seasonal fluctuations when uplift in employment was seen last quarter over the early summer period. The employment rate however remains higher than the corresponding period last year when 65.2% of the working age population were employed.
- b. The proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job has improved, falling from 15.49 % to 14.39% (47,400 people). This represents an improvement from the same period last year (16%) but remains below both the national (11.5%) and North East (14.13%) figures. A recent TUC report on the labour market in the regions of England found that despite increases in the number of people in work in the UK and the likelihood of people having a job increasing, people's chances of having a job have fallen in the North East.
- c. The proportion of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants claiming for one year or more continues to rise, from 36.12% last quarter to 36.35% this quarter, although the actual number of long term claimants has fallen from 4,740 in September to 4,320 in December, reflecting a fall in overall numbers claiming JSA. County Durham's rate is worse than both the national (27.1%) and North East (35.8%) rates.
- d. The number of 18 to 24 year olds claiming JSA continues to decrease from 4,255 last quarter to 3,525 this quarter. The youth unemployment level has improved 31% from the same period last year, when there were 5,115 claimants.
- e. Data provided by the National Apprenticeship Service shows a 17% decrease in the number of apprenticeships started by young people resident in the county from 1,659 in 2011/12 academic year to 1,372 in 2012/13 academic year. However, the number of 19 to 24 year olds starting apprenticeships shows a small increase of 3% during the same period from 2,075 to 2,140. Regional and national comparisons demonstrate similar trends. This quarter, 38 apprenticeships were started through Durham County Council funded schemes, achieving the quarterly target of 33, although this has reduced from 43 reported last quarter.
- f. The latest local measure at May 2013 shows that the percentage of children in low income families has improved slightly, falling from 24.7% last quarter to 24.4% this quarter. This represents 21,600 children in County Durham where households are claiming out-of-work benefits. The rate shows a reduction from the same period last year (24.8%). This compares favourably with the regional rate (25.3%) but is worse than the national rate (19.4%).
- g. There has been a significant increase in the number of housing completions with 352 net additional homes being completed during quarter 3 compared to 165 in quarter 2 and 158 for the corresponding period last year. The number of affordable homes delivered has also improved, from 78 in quarter 2 to 176 in quarter 3, exceeding the quarterly target of 88 and performance for the same period last year (55). Since April

2013, 314 affordable homes have been completed, showing good progress towards achieving the annual target of 350. The increase is as the result of a number of planning permissions being implemented in the southern area of the county. In Durham City there were 18 new homes completed, an increase from 11 in quarter 2 and 10 in quarter 3 2012/13. The proportion of homes completed in and near major settlements fell from 69.09% last quarter to 44.8% this quarter.

- h. Homeless indicators continue to show a positive year on year trend. The number of homeless presentations this quarter (1,443) shows a slight increase from last quarter (1,437) and also the same period in 2012/13 (1,437) (see Appendix 4, Chart 2). The level of statutory applications has reduced from 15.17% (218 applications) in quarter 2 to 13.1% (189 applications) in quarter 3 with a 28.7% decrease compared to the same period last year (18.37%, 264 applications). The level of acceptances of a statutory duty has also fallen to 3.4% (49 acceptances) in quarter 3 from 3.83% in quarter 2 (55 acceptances) and 5.22% for the corresponding period last year. The level of preventions has increased from 24.57% in quarter 2 (353 preventions) to 25.29% in quarter 3 (365 preventions), with an improvement of 20% since quarter 3 2012/13 when performance was 21%.
- i. The number of families rehoused through Durham Key Options system has increased by 12% from 1,224 last quarter to 1,370 this quarter. This compares to 937 for the same period in 2012/13, an increase of 46% (see Appendix 4, Chart 3). This is largely due to increased voids and internal transfers.

66. New developments this period within this priority theme relate to:

- a. The draft North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy was submitted to Government in October 2013. Durham County Council is leading on the NELEP's Implementation Group to develop governance arrangements for the ESIF programme. A series of work streams have been set up through the Business, Enterprise and Skills EU Group to identify potential activities for the new ESIF programme.
- b. The draft North East Strategic Economic Plan, which was developed collaboratively with a range of partners across the area, was submitted to Government on the 19th December. Six weeks consultation will commence from January 2014 and the final plan will be submitted to Government in March 2014. Work on the implementation plan for the prioritisation framework will take place January to March 2014.
- c. Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland councils have all come together to form the North East Leadership Board (NELB). The NELB will join a number of other areas, including West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Merseyside, in making working arrangements more formal by creating a legal body called a 'combined authority'. This will ensure that the North East does not lose out on opportunities for greater decision-making powers or access to more funding from Government. A proposal has been submitted to the Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government to establish the NELB as the combined authority for the area. If successful, the NELB will come into effect on 1 April 2014. We will continue to work together to develop the practical arrangements necessary to operate the combined authority.

67. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People: Overview

Target performance indicators



Tracker performance indicators



Actions



Council Performance

68. Key achievements this quarter include:

- Revised data for the 2012/13 academic year confirms the positive position reported at quarter 2 with 63.1% of pupils achieving five or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English and maths, an improvement from 62.5% in the previous year and exceeding national performance of 59.2%. A positive position is also shown for A levels with 98.9% of pupils achieving two A Levels at grade A*-E (Level 3) or equivalent. This is a slight decrease from 99.1% in the previous year but is better than target (98.1%) and national performance (97.9%).
- As at September 2013, 42% of families allocated a lead professional within the Stronger Families Programme met the turnaround results criteria, which has resulted in a payment by result claim. The local authority has claimed £186,500 reward grant up to September 2013. Turned around is defined as the individual(s) in the family achieving the reductions in crime/anti-social behaviour, improved school attendance or moving back into employment as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Troubled Families Programme Financial Framework (March 2012). Performance has achieved the quarterly profiled target of 25%. There have been a total of 312 families turned around to date. County Durham remains in the top 20% of local authorities and is ranked 15th highest nationally based upon the total number of families turned around as at the end of September 2013.
- The number of looked after children (LAC) reduced to 599 at the end of December 2013, which equates to a rate of 59.8 per 10,000 population (see Appendix 4, chart 4). This is an improvement from 63.6 per 10,000 at the same point of the previous year and is better than national (60 per 10,000), North East (80) and statistical neighbours (81) data. The reduction in LAC is primarily due to early intervention and prevention strategies but is balanced with the need to secure placements to address safeguarding concerns. The Early Help Strategy ensures families receive appropriate, timely support to prevent an escalation of difficulties, which may result in children needing to be looked after in the future. The LAC Reduction Strategy aims to improve the adoption process placing children permanently, either within their family or with foster carers, without unnecessary delay and embracing the Government's Adoption Reform Programme, which is now being extended into 2014/15.

69. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Revised data for the 2012/13 academic year show that 41.9% of pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) achieved a good level of development. Once a baseline has been established for this new indicator a target will be set. Current performance was however worse than the national (52%), regional (45%) and statistical neighbour (47%) averages. In order to improve this position the Education Development Service have:
- Discussed outcomes with head teachers
 - Developed a handbook to support schools in EYFS assessment
 - Devised a training programme for schools to support embedding the EYFS assessment
- b. Between July and September 2012, the percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery in County Durham was 19.1%. Performance is achieving the 20.6% target and is an improvement from previous quarter (21.6%) but remains worse than the England average (11.8%) and the same period last year (18.5%), although this was the lowest quarterly figure recorded in the last three and a half years. The babyClear project which is the North East's regional approach to reducing maternal smoking is now fully implemented. BabyClear is led by Fresh and the Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre and is supported by all eight of the North East's Foundation Trusts. In addition, the Stop Smoking Service receives referrals from maternity services to initiate discussions on stopping smoking with the client. Latest data shows that 67% of referrals were declined or the client could not be contacted.
- c. Data for April to December 2013 show that 565 out of 585 looked after children (LAC) cases were reviewed in timescale, which equals 96.6%. Performance is slightly below the 97.6% target and the corresponding period of the previous year (97.5%). During quarter 3 there were six reviews (relating to eight children) that were not undertaken within timescale due to a case moving placement and recording issues.
- d. Child protection reviews undertaken between April and December 2013 show that 276 out of 289 cases were reviewed within timescale, which equals 95.5%. There were only four reviews that were not completed within timescale, however these related to large sibling groups. Performance is below the target of 100% but is an improvement from 92.7% during the corresponding period of the previous year. Durham is above the 2012/13 statistical neighbour average of 94.8% and is marginally below the national (96.2%) and North East (96.6%) rates. Systems have been put into place to ensure that, where reviews have to be rearranged, this is done as early as possible so that the revised date is still within timescale. Any proposals to cancel reviews are to be agreed by senior managers within Children and Adults Services.
- e. Between April and December 2013, 1,695 out of 5,574 children in need referrals occurred within 12 months of the previous referral, which equals 30.4%. Performance did not meet the target of 21% and is worse than the corresponding period of the previous year (15.3%) (see Appendix 4, chart 5). An audit of a sample of 16 cases where there had been at least one re-referral in the previous 12 months has been undertaken. The findings of the audit did not reveal any patterns for re-referrals in terms of geographical variations or the length of time between referrals. The transformation of children's care, including a revision of the common assessment framework/children in need processes and the creation of a single point of access, to be implemented from April 2014, will ensure that referrals are dealt with appropriately and families are provided with ongoing support so that issues do not recur which would lead to re-referral.
- f. There are no Council Plan actions behind target in this theme.

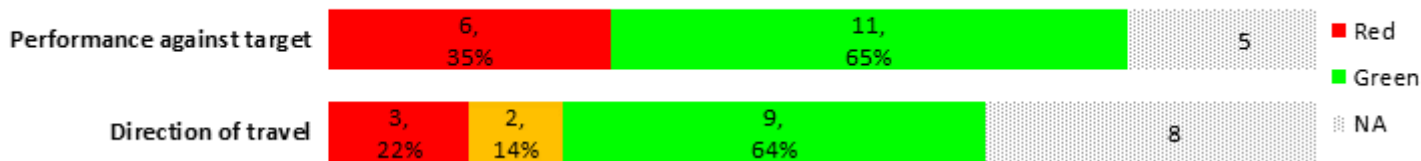
70. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:

- a. The percentage of children recorded as having excess weight in reception has reduced from 23.6% in the 2011/12 academic year to 21.9% in 2012/13, which is better than the national rate of 22.2%. The percentage of year six children recorded as having excess weight has also reduced from 38.4% in the 2011/12 academic year to 35.9% in 2012/13, which although higher than the national average of 33.3% is similar to the North East figure of 35.7%. A healthy weight alliance for County Durham has been launched to promote healthy weight in the county and a Healthy Weight Strategy is currently being developed to support delivery. The main focus is to reduce the inequality gap between reception and year six and continue to provide support to families to achieve a healthy weight.
- b. Data for October to December 2013 indicate that 7% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET), which relates to approximately 1,048 young people. This is better than performance in quarter 1 (8.7%) and the regional average of 7.8% but worse than the national rate of 5.7% and statistical neighbour average of 6.5%. As part of the September Guarantee to ensure 16 and 17 year olds receive an appropriate place in education or training, 97.3% of 16 year old school leavers received an offer of education or training in a school, college, work based training provider, or an apprenticeship. This is an increase from 96% in 2012. The proportion of 17 year olds who received an offer was 90.3%, an increase from 89.4% in 2012. Intensive work by the One Point Service and Improving Progression Team has facilitated an increase in 16 to 18 year olds progressing into education, employment or training destinations which has resulted in a significant decrease in the proportion of NEETs. Additional actions which have contributed to the decrease in NEETs include:
 - Implementation of risk of NEET indicators across schools so that measures can be put in place to support young people at key transition points.
 - Information about young people who are NEET and young people who are not known is shared on a monthly basis with key partners e.g. schools, colleges and other learning providers.
 - Information about young people who are eligible for support from the youth contract is shared with the provider on a monthly basis in order to engage with those NEETs and help overcome barriers to progression.
- c. The rate of proven re-offending by young people displayed a downward trend from 2010/11 to 2012/13 (1.73 offences to 1.29). However, during 2013/14 there has been a rising trend in re-offending with 140 offences committed by the 151 young people within six months of inclusion in the 2013 cohort. This equates to a frequency rate of 0.93 offences per young offender and an increase from 0.56 during the equivalent period of the previous year. Actions taken by County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) to reduce re-offending include:
 - Targeting resources on high risk young people
 - Robust risk management planning processes
 - Implementation of CDYOS Offending Behaviour Programmes
 - Expansion of restorative justice across all orders
 - Increased focus on young people's speech, language and communication needs and barriers to engagement

71. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Healthier: Overview

Target performance indicators



Tracker performance indicators



Actions



Council Performance

72. Key achievements this quarter include:

- Between April and December 2013, 520 over 65 year olds were admitted on a permanent basis to residential or nursing care. This equates to 538.4 per 100,000 and achieved the quarterly profiled target of 642.9 per 100,000. Performance is also better than at the same period last year (618 per 100,000). This is in line with our strategy to support more people to live independently at home.
- At the end of December 2013 (rolling year), 59.5% (10,714 of 18,001) of all social care service users in receipt of community services had a personal budget, which compares to 53.2% at the same time last year and exceeds the target of 55%. This is better than the 2012/13 England average of 55.5% and North East rate of 52%.
- Between April and December 2013, 94.7% (586 of 619) of service users reported that the help and support they receive has made their quality of life better. This is above the target of 92%.
- Of those older people discharged from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services between January and September 2013, 87.1% (929 of 1,067) remained at home three months later. This is exceeding the target of 85%, the 2012/13 national average (81.4%) and the North East average (84.9%).
- From April to December 2013, 74.6% of service users (742 of 995) required no ongoing care following completion of their reablement package. Performance is above the same period last year (59.6%).
- In the year ending December 2013, 2,540 out of 2,878 (88.3%) of adults receiving secondary mental health services were known to be in settled accommodation at the time of their last review or assessment, which is slightly better than at the same time period last year (88.1%). This is exceeding the 2013/14 target of 85% and 2012/13 provisional national (59.3%) and comparator group (57.4%) averages.

73. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- Latest provisional figures show that the Stop Smoking Service achieved 2,023 smoking quitters between April and September 2013. This equates to 475 quitters per 100,000 which is below the target of 535 per 100,000 and is less than the 554 per 100,000 during the same period of the previous year. County Durham's performance is worse

than the regional average of 488 quitters per 100,000 but better than the England rate of 316 per 100,000.

North East Stop Smoking Services are struggling to engage with the volume of smokers that they have historically achieved, which is affecting quit numbers. This issue is not specific to the North East and is affecting the whole of England. There is speculation on what is behind this trend, with the growth of the electronic cigarette market potentially having an impact.

Actions being taken to increase the number of quitters include:

- New Year Health Harms Campaign, including promotional material at shopping centres in Bishop Auckland, Peterlee, Stanley and Consett.
- Managers within the Specialist Stop Smoking Service are setting up new clinics and closing non-productive clinics.
- On-site visits to providers (e.g. pharmacies) to discuss performance and support providers with any delivery issues they are struggling with.

- b. Between April and September 2013, 4.8% of eligible people (7,855) received an NHS Health Check, which falls below the quarterly profiled target of 10%. This is however higher than the same period last year when 3% of eligible people (4,930) had received a health check. Performance is similar to the regional average of 4.7%, and is better than the England and statistical neighbour figures of 4.2% and 4.4% respectively.

Public Health is considering changing the focus of health checks from a universal to a targeted approach. This would involve expanding the community based Check4Life Programme in areas with a high prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors and GP practices targeting those eligible people with an estimated high risk of CVD. The CVD Prevention Framework will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval in March 2014.

- c. There are no Council Plan actions behind target in this theme.

74. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:

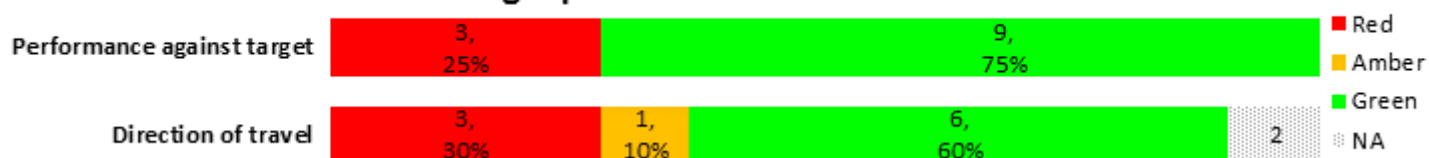
- a. In the eight sample days in 2013 there were 375 delayed transfers of care from hospital which equates to a rate of 11.3 delays per 100,000 population. This is a slight increase from 10.7 per 100,000 in the equivalent period in the previous year. This performance is worse than the England average of 9.3 delays. Only 31 delayed transfers were fully or partly attributable to adult social care, which equates to a rate of 0.94 per 100,000 population. Performance has improved from 1.86 in the equivalent period of 2012/13 and is better than the national figure for the period of 3.08 delays.
- b. Latest data show that male and female life expectancy in County Durham has increased. For males born in County Durham, life expectancy increased by three years in the last ten years from 74.9 in 2001/03 to 77.9 in 2010/12. County Durham has kept pace with the national and regional rise in male life expectancy. The gap between County Durham and England has remained at 1.3 years over the period. Male life expectancy stands at 79.2 for England and 77.8 for the North East.

For females born in County Durham, life expectancy has increased by 2.3 years in the last ten years from 79.2 in 2001/03 to 81.5 in 2010/12. County Durham has kept pace with the national and regional rise in female life expectancy. The gap between County Durham and the North East has narrowed by 0.2 years, from a gap of 0.3 in 2001/3 to 0.1 in 2011/12. The gap between County Durham and England has remained at 1.5 years over the period. Female life expectancy stands at 83.0 for England and 81.6 for the North East.

75. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Safer: Overview

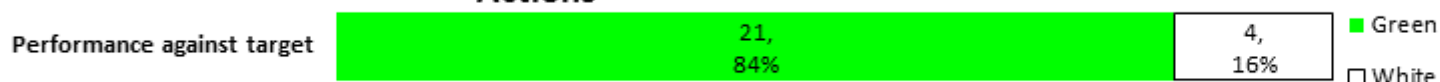
Target performance indicators



Tracker performance indicators



Actions



Council Performance

76. Key achievements this quarter include:

- Of the adult social care users who responded to the local Children and Adult Services survey, 91.3% reported that the care and support services they received helped them to feel safe and secure. This exceeds the target of 75% and 2012/13 performance for national (77.9%) and the North East (79.4%).
- The change in detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management cohort shows a 46% reduction this period against the previous year and has achieved the target of a 40% reduction.
- The number of people in alcohol treatment with the Community Alcohol Service between October 2012 and September 2013 was 1,531. Of the 1,531 people in treatment, 555 successfully completed their treatment plan. This equates to a 36.3% successful completion rate, which is achieving target of 36% and is consistent with national performance of 36%.
- During April and December 2013, 184 victims presented at the Durham Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) of which 15 were repeat referrals for domestic abuse, equating to 8.2%, better than the period target of less than 25% and national (24.4%) and North East (27%) rates. As reported at quarter 2, the MARAC partners and the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) are to undertake a self-assessment to explore the apparent lower level of referrals overall compared with regional and national rates. This will be undertaken in February 2014, and initial findings will be available in March 2014.

77. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- The number of people in drug treatment with the Community Drugs Service (CDS) for opiate use between April 2012 and March 2013 was 1,472. Of the 1,472 people in treatment, 109 successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present to the CDS between April and September 2013. This equates to a 7.4% successful completion rate, which is below the annual target of 11% and slightly below national performance of 8%. The provision of treatment through the Recovery Academy Durham (RAD) was temporarily reduced due to a lack of appropriate supported housing. Four three bedroom houses are now available to the RAD, leased from East Durham Homes, and one of these houses will be a female only house. Referrals to RAD are now being made by the Community Drug Service with a view to filling the houses as soon as possible. The RAD has also started accepting day cases (clients who live in their own accommodation but access treatment within RAD). A performance clinic was held with providers in

November 2013 which addressed the specific issue of increasing successful completions. Action plans have been developed and sent out to providers.

- b. The number of people in drug treatment with the Community Drugs Service (CDS) for non- opiate use between April 2012 and March 2013 was 430. Of the 430 people in treatment, 152 successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present to the CDS between April and September 2013. This equates to a 35.3% successful completion rate, which is below the annual target of 48% and below the national outturn of 40%.
- c. The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents between January to September 2013 was 140. Of the 49 incidents in the most recent quarter (quarter 2) there were three fatalities (6%). The number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents between July and September 2013 was six. This has contributed to a cumulative figure over January to September 2013 of 19 which has exceeded the target of 12, however none were fatal.
- d. There are no Council Plan actions behind target in this theme.

78. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:

- a. During the period April to December 2013 there were 18,797 crimes reported to the police (36.6 per 1,000 population). This has increased from 17,733 crimes in the same period of 2012/13 and equates to a 6% rise in overall crime. Based on current figures, Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 9.6% increase in total crime by the end of 2013/14. Increasing crime has been observed in more than half of forces nationally. Despite this the County Durham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area continues to have one of the lowest levels of crime per 1,000 population and is currently ranked first out of 15 most similar CSPs.
- b. During April to December 2013 there were 8,905 stealing offences. This is an increase of 4.9% when comparing to the equivalent period in 2012/13. Increases have been observed across most theft categories except dwelling burglary and theft from vehicle which are showing decreases. Durham Constabulary has also had a major success with reducing metal theft.

The following table shows a breakdown of theft offences that have displayed a rise in comparison to the same period of the previous year:

Offence	Apr-Dec 2012	Apr-Dec 2013	% Change
Theft of a pedal cycle	277	335	+20.9%
Theft from the person	74	87	+17.6%
Burglary other (non-dwellings e.g. sheds, garages)	1459	1606	+10.1%
Theft of a vehicle	324	356	+9.9%
Shoplifting	1460	1572	+7.7%

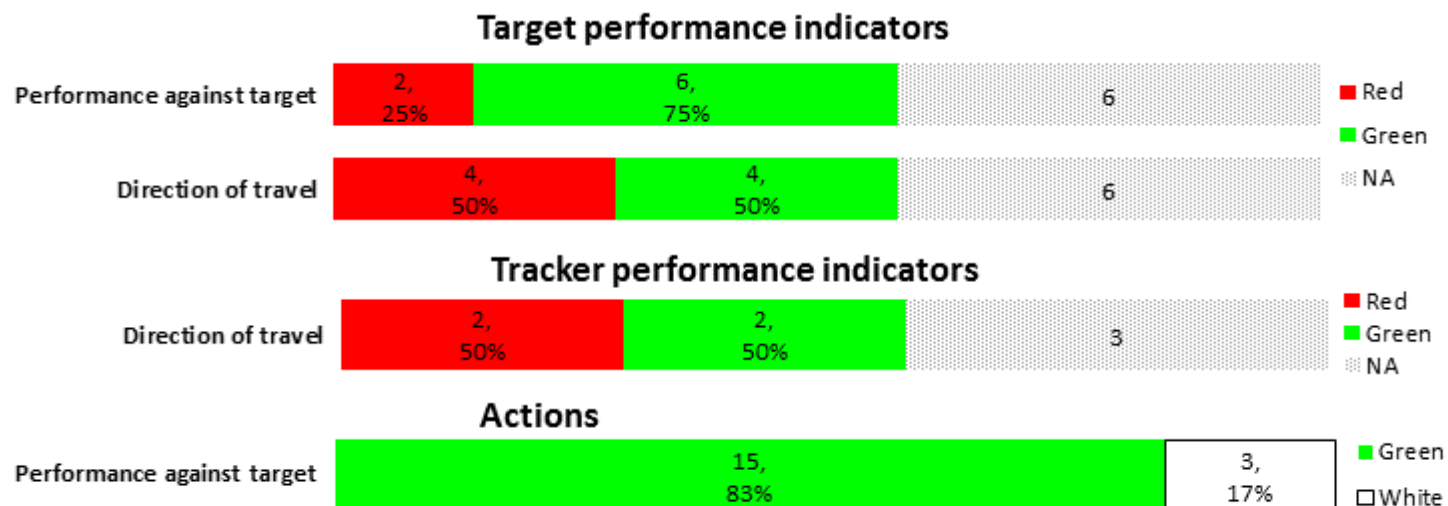
- c. There were 16,666 victim based crimes between April to December 2013, which is a 7% increase (1,086 more victims of crime) when comparing to the same period in 2012/13. During this period there were 557 serious or major crimes, a 61% increase compared to the equivalent period last year. The main contributing factor to this significant rise in serious crimes is the highly publicised Saville enquiry which has highlighted the issue of historic sexual offences, and this has had an impact in the County Durham CSP area.
- d. During April to December 2013 there were 19,011 incidents of anti-social behavior (ASB) reported to the police. This equates to a 2.2% decrease from the equivalent period in 2012/13. It should be noted that the number of incidents recorded during October to December 2013 (5,451) is the lowest reported since quarter 1 2011/12. As a

result of this recent downward trend Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 6% reduction in ASB by the end of 2013/14.

- e. During April to December 2013, there were 2,996 incidents of alcohol related ASB incidents, which equates to 16% of total ASB reported to the police. Performance shows a two percentage point increase on the equivalent period in 2012/13. There were 3,625 violent crimes reported to the police, of which 34% were recorded as alcohol related. Performance shows a two percentage point increase on the equivalent period in 2012/13. Durham Constabulary identified that the increases are partly due to the improved recording of alcohol as an aggravating factor and partly due to the good weather experienced in 2013. Actions within Durham Constabulary's ASB Alcohol Delivery Plan include:
- Tackling high impact locations where alcohol is being used and is impacting upon ASB.
 - Tackling outlets that are selling alcohol and in turn are a causal factor to incidents of ASB.
 - The Constabulary's Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit is using ASB data to identify and target hot spots.
- f. Latest data relating to the rolling year January to December 2011 show that 29.2% of offenders in Durham reoffended, compared to 26.8% nationally. This figure represents a 0.1 percentage point decrease on the previous year's equivalent period.

79. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

80. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Street and environmental cleanliness has improved this period. The results of the second survey relate to the period August to November 2013 and indicate that of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 5.91% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 7% and it has improved from 8% reported at quarter 3 2012/13. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 7.33% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% but it has slightly deteriorated from 7.04% reported at quarter 3 2012/13.
- b. There were 844 feed in tariff installations registered and approved during quarter 3, including 374 solar PV installations equating to installed capacity of 1.425MW. The quarter 3 target of 800 installations was achieved. There has been an increase of 14.4% in renewable energy generation this quarter compared to the same period last year. The installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham was 205.13MW in quarter 3; 172.4MW operational and 32.729MW approved (Wind - 128.83 operational and 6.51 approved).
- c. Good progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Projects for renewable energy development on council assets are progressing with the biomass boiler at Killhope performing well. The biomass boiler at Green Lane, Spennymoor has now been installed and performance data is awaited. Following a promotional campaign there has been considerable interest with regard to community energy projects.
 - ii. In relation to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the production of the new statutory AONB Management Plan is underway and the plan is due for completion in early January and adoption by the five local authorities by the end of March 2014.

81. The key performance improvement issue for this theme relates to fly-tipping.

There were 7,889 fly-tipping incidents reported in the 12 month rolling period from January to December 2013. There has been an increase of 8.9% compared to the previous period and 20.1% compared to 12 months earlier (see Appendix 4, chart 6). Analysis shows that there has been an increase in the number of larger vehicles fly-tipping, typically relating to building and construction and there has been a 60% increase in fly-tipping incidents in the east,

particularly around Seaham, Horden and Peterlee. The deployment of 10 CCTV cameras in the east resulted in 10 fixed penalty notices; 2 court convictions with fines and costs totalling £1,400; 4 cases pending court action; and 6 cases currently under investigation.

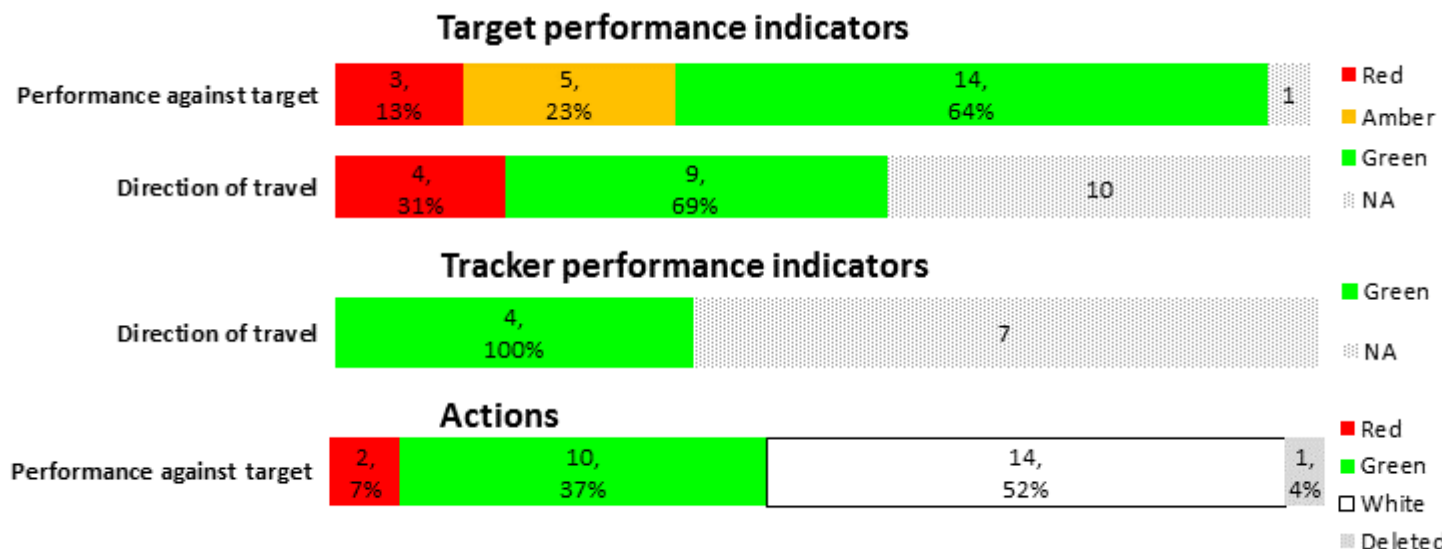
Actions being taken include:

- A number of stop and search operations are being carried out by neighbourhood wardens to identify any vehicles carrying waste illegally. In addition, wardens are also carrying out more duty of care checks with any firms seen carrying out building or other types of maintenance work to ensure appropriate means of disposing of waste are in place.
- An awareness and enforcement campaign has taken place during December and January to coincide with increased purchasing of household items. This campaign will focus on the householder's duty of care.
- Durham County Council (DCC) in partnership with the police and Environment Agency ran a campaign in December targeting people who dump waste illegally. Actions included:
 - Surveillance of known fly-tipping hotspots, checking companies which transport and dispose of waste to ensure they are properly registered and disposing of the waste correctly.
 - As part of the campaign residents were also encouraged to report incidents and provide information to help Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Protection Team to identify those responsible.
 - During the campaign over 100 suspected incidents of fly-tipping were reported and are under investigation. Some fixed penalty notices have already been issued and checks also been made on a number of traders. As a result of investigations by Durham County Council into incidents of fly-tipping, there are cases due to go before the courts in January/February 2014.
- A joint project with the police has commenced looking at environmental issues and part of this work will be to identify fly-tipping hot spots. Once analysis is complete, an action plan will be produced.

82. There are no Council Plan actions behind target in this theme.

83. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Better Council: Overview



Council Performance

84. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Between October and December 2013, 212,323 telephone calls were answered which is 91% of all calls received compared to 88% at quarter 2. Improvements have also been seen in call handling times. During quarter 3, 87% were answered within three minutes against a target of 80%, an improvement on quarter 2, when 78% were answered within three minutes. The volume of telephone calls show 8.9% fewer calls received this quarter (235,064) when compared with quarter 2 (258,047) (see Appendix 4, Chart 7).
- b. During quarter 3, the average waiting time at a customer access point was 3 minutes 53 seconds, which is well within the 15 minutes target. Footfall in our Customer Access Points decreased from 93,059 in quarter 2 to 78,729 in quarter 3, partly due to the Christmas close down period. Face to face contact dropped in November and December, however contact during quarter 3 this year was 2.2% higher than the same period last year (see Appendix 4, Chart 8).
- c. During quarter 3, new housing benefit (HB) claims were processed in 21.02 days on average while new council tax reduction (CTR) claims were processed in 22.18 days on average. Current performance is better than the 25 day end of year target and the Great Britain average of 24 days for processing new HB claims.

The volume of new HB claims processed has increased from 2,962 in quarter 2 to 3,453 this quarter. The volume of new CTR claims processed has increased from 3,389 in quarter 2 to 3,801 this quarter (see Appendix 4, Chart 9).

Processing rates for changes of circumstances have continued to improve and have been well below the 12 day target for both HB and CTR claims for the last three months. The average time taken to process change of circumstances was on average 9.45 days for HB claims and 10.05 days for CTR claims. Performance is better than the Great Britain average of 11 days for HB claims.

The volume of change of circumstances for HB claims processed has fallen from 25,152 in quarter 2 to 22,873 this quarter. The volume of change of circumstances for CTR claims processed has fallen from 27,215 in quarter 2 to 24,319 this quarter (see Appendix 4, chart 10).

- d. The average days lost to sickness absence per full time equivalent (including school based employees) reduced from 9.31 in quarter 2 (October 2012 to September 2013) to 8.92 days this quarter (January to December 2013). This represents an improvement

of over 4% and places current sickness levels better than the 9.05 days corporate target for the first time in 2013/14. Improving the management of attendance and reducing incidences of sickness absence is a priority for the council.

- e. Tenant rent arrears have fallen for Durham City Homes from 2.24% in quarter 2 to 2.05% this quarter and the target of 2.5% has been met. Dale and Valley Homes performance of 1.58% is well within target of 3% and it has improved from 1.64% reported last quarter. Arrears for East Durham Homes have fallen slightly from 2.89% in quarter 2 to 2.85% this quarter and the target of 3% has been achieved. There has been an improvement in performance during this quarter which is assumed to be linked to the two weeks rent free period in December.
- f. Good progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Become public service network compliant allowing the council to trade services by March 2014. The Public Service Network Code of Connection (PSN CoCo) is a set of standards that govern the security, risk management and information assurance of networks connected to the Government Conveyance Network (GCN) and Government Connect Secure Extranet (GCSx). The council achieved PSN CoCo compliance on 22 October 2013 through a documented submission containing a number of planned activities to mitigate outstanding risks. The council's compliance is effective until mid-2014, when further assessment will be required.
 - ii. Increase availability of technology across the county by developing the Digital Durham programme for next generation broadband delivery to all areas of the county by March 2015. December 2013 saw the official launch of the first fibre cabinet in the programme located in Durham City Marketplace. This cabinet can supply fast speed broadband to businesses and residents in the heart of the city, supporting regeneration, economic growth and job opportunities. Also during December 2013 a further 22 cabinets were surveyed and are progressing to build stage. With an additional 112 cabinets to be surveyed before the end of March 2014, the first phase of the nine phase programme is well underway. Additional funding from the Rural Community Broadband Fund is being sought for Teesdale and Weardale with a final application to DEFRA expected during quarter 4 2013/14.

85. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Despite renewed focus on paying supplier invoices on time, performance continues to hover around 91%, short of the 92% target. Although December performance was 93%, performance is not yet consistent enough to deliver on-target performance over a quarter. Whilst it is clear that consistent compliance with agreed business processes is a matter that needs to be continuously highlighted, addressed and reinforced, a software issue arose during quarter 3 that slowed down the invoice payment process and may affect future performance.
- b. Employee appraisals recorded across the council has shown real improvement over the last year in particular and the introduction of email alerts for managers seems useful in this regard, but further and sustained effort is required by managers and supervisors to ensure that all relevant employees have undergone an appropriate appraisal event in the last 12 months and that this is recorded on the 'MyView' system. The percentage of performance appraisals completed and recorded fell slightly from 75.3% in quarter 2 to 73.3% this quarter. This is short of the 80% corporate target.
- c. The percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within 20 days was 80% this quarter which was below the national standard of 85%. Current performance reflects a good month in October but slightly lower performance in November and December. The volume of FOI

and EIR requests received this quarter was 319 which has increased compared with 249 last quarter and 189 at same period last year (see Appendix 4, chart 11).

- d. Key Council Plan actions behind target in this theme include:
 - i. The production of a regeneration investment plan to maximise external funding for the council and its partners was due for completion by December 2013. This has been delayed until April 2014. This action was delayed from September 2013 to December 2013 in quarter 2.
 - ii. The delivery of a programme of data protection health checks to ensure that personal data held by the council is managed effectively was due by December 2013. An initial pilot programme has been completed with full rollout now due by September 2014.
- e. There is also one action that has been deleted which is to undertake a review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme by December 2013. This action has been deleted as there are no changes required for 2014/15 and the review will be carried out in the Spring of 2014 ahead of a decision for 2015/16.

86. The key risks to successfully delivering the objectives of this theme are:-

- a. Government ongoing funding cuts which now extend to at least 2017/18 will continue to have an increasing major impact on all council services. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and highly probable likelihood. Sound financial forecasting is in place based on thorough examination of the Government's "red book" plans.
- b. If there was to be slippage in the delivery of the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings projects, this will require further savings to be made from other areas, which may result in further service reductions and job losses. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and possible likelihood. The implementation of the delivery plan by ACE is closely being monitored by Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet.
- c. If local authority schools and other local authority services choose not to take council services, together with the loss of community buildings, both Technical and Building Services could see a loss of business. This key risk is categorised with major impact and probable likelihood. A draft booklet will be produced to promote Building Services ready for distribution throughout council services.
- d. Potential restitution of search fees going back to 2005. This key risk is categorised with moderate impact and highly probable likelihood. The mitigation of this risk is dependent upon the outcome of the negotiations and litigation currently being defended by lawyers instructed in group litigation.
- e. If we were to fail to comply with central government's Public Services Network Code of Connection criteria, this would put some of our core business processes at risk, for example, revenues and benefits. This key risk is categorised with critical impact and possible likelihood. In May 2013, an ICT Health Check was carried out and a number of recommendations were made to bring the council to a position of compliance.

Conclusions

87. Overall the local authority is performing well, is maintaining performance in many areas and achieving improvements in some services despite an extremely challenging environment of continued budget reductions, a depressed local economy and the Government's welfare reforms.

88. Although the UK economy shows its strongest growth since 2007, issues continue to affect performance across County Durham such as the employment rate and youth and long-term

unemployment. There are significant challenges in the underlying health picture in the county with male and female life expectancy below North East and national comparators.

89. Demand on council services is rising across many key areas but more worrying are those relating to vulnerable or potentially vulnerable residents. Crime levels in County Durham have continued to increase for the second consecutive quarter, a theme that has been observed in more than half of forces nationally.

90. A small number of Council Plan actions need to be amended or deleted to reflect current circumstances.

91. This quarterly report has highlighted a number of performance issues which require further investigation or intervention.

Recommendations and Reasons

92. Cabinet is recommended to:

- a. Note the performance of the council at quarter 3 and the actions to remedy under performance.
- b. Agree all changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

Altogether Wealthier

- i. Development of the County Durham Plan. Preparation for examination in public, including mock examination and pre-enquiry meeting by June 2014. Revised date: July 2014.
- ii. Deliver a programme of transport capital works across the county:
 - A167 Sunderland Bridge junction, Durham by April 2014. Revised date: August 2014.
 - Bishop Auckland rail station by November 2013. Revised date: February 2014.
 - East Durham rail station by December 2014. Revised date: March 2015.

Altogether Better Council

- iii. To produce a Regeneration Investment Plan to maximise external funding for the council and its partners by December 2013. Revised date: April 2014.
- iv. Deliver a programme of data protection health checks to ensure that personal data held by the council is managed effectively by December 2013. Revised date: March 2015.

Deleted Actions

Altogether Wealthier

- v. Deliver traffic priorities in Durham City including linking traffic signals to develop more effective flows of traffic and the use of technologies to reduce congestion on the network by December 2015.

Altogether Better Council

- vi. Undertake a review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme by December 2013 (as previously agreed by Cabinet as there is no requirement to review for 2014/2015).

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

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period

AMBER

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period

RED

Performance against target

Performance better than target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

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

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
1	Apprenticeships started through Durham County Council funded schemes	109	Apr - Dec 2013	97	Not comparable [1]	New indicator	Not comparable [2]			
2	Percentage achievement rate of all enrolments on adult learning courses	92	2012/13 ac yr	92.0	GREEN	96.5	RED	91.7 GREEN		2010/11 ac yr
3	Number of affordable homes delivered	176	Oct - Dec 2013	88	GREEN	55	GREEN			
4	Number of private sector properties improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention	674	Apr - Dec 2013	592	GREEN	911	RED			
5	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention	80	Apr - Dec 2013	53	GREEN	46	GREEN			
6	Proportion of Dale and Valley Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	6.8	As at Dec 2013	0.0	Not comparable [1]	1.3	RED	36.4 Not comparable	4.4** Not comparable	2011/12
7	Proportion of Durham City Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	4.5	As at Dec 2013	0.0	Not comparable [1]	4.5	AMBER	36.4 Not comparable	4.4** Not comparable	2011/12
Page 479	Proportion of East Durham Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	26.0	As at Dec 2013	25.0	RED	45.5	GREEN	36.4 Not comparable	4.4** Not comparable	2011/12

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
9	Percentage of council owned factories and business support centre floorspace that is occupied	76.5	As at Dec 2013	75.0	GREEN	71.0	GREEN			
10	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	72.7	Oct - Dec 2013	71.0	GREEN	69.7	GREEN	67.0 GREEN	75** RED	Oct - Dec 2013
11	Overall proportion of planning applications determined within deadline	85	Oct - Dec 2013	85.0	GREEN	85.2	RED			
Altogether Better for Children and Young People										
12	Percentage of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (including English and maths)	20	2012/13 ac yr	25.0	RED	17.4	GREEN	15.3 GREEN	16.3* GREEN	2012/13 ac yr
13	Percentage of 16-18 year olds whose status is 'not known'	7.0	As at Dec 2013	8.5	GREEN	NA	Not comparable [2]	11.1 Not comparable	8.3** Not comparable	As at Nov 2013
14	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	63.1	2012/13 ac yr	63.0	GREEN	62.5	GREEN	59.2 GREEN	60.1** GREEN	2012/13 ac yr
15	Percentage of pupils on Level 3 programmes in community secondary schools achieving 2 A levels at grade A*-E or equivalent	98.9	2012/13 ac yr	98.1	GREEN	99.1	AMBER	97.3 GREEN	98.6** GREEN	2012/13 ac yr
16	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (Key Stage 2) (% pts)	21.0	2012/13 ac yr	not set	GREEN	20.0	Not comparable [2]	19 RED	21** AMBER	2012/13 ac yr

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
17	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (Key Stage 4) (% pts)	30.5	2012/13 ac yr	30.0	AMBER	30.3	RED	26.4 RED	31.6** GREEN	2011/12 ac yr
18	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery	19.1	Jul - Sept 2013	21	GREEN	18.5	RED	11.8 RED	19.7* GREEN	England Jul-Sept 2013 NE 2012/13
19	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds) (Also in Altogether Safer)	347	Apr - Dec 2013	560	GREEN	410	GREEN	712 Not comparable	738** Not comparable	2011/12
20	Percentage of Children In Need (CIN) referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral	30.4	Apr - Dec 2013	21.0	RED	15.3	RED	24.9 RED	22.5** RED	2012/13
21	Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	14.1	Apr - Dec 2013	15.0	GREEN	18.3	GREEN	14.9 GREEN	13.3** RED	2012/13
22	Percentage of looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	96.6	Apr - Dec 2013	97.6	AMBER	97.5	RED	90.5 GREEN	93.7** GREEN	2009/10
23	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	95.5	Apr - Dec 2013	100.0	RED	92.7	GREEN	96.2 RED	94.8** GREEN	2012/13
Page 481	Parent/carer satisfaction with the help they received from Children and Young People's Services	72.0	Apr - Sept 2013	72	GREEN	72.80	RED			

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
25	Percentage of successful interventions via the Stronger Families Programme	42.0	Apr 2012 - Sept 2013	25.0	GREEN	NA	NA	7.1 GREEN		Jan 2013
26	Percentage of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage meeting or exceeding expected levels of development in the prime areas of learning	41.90	2012/13 ac yr	Not set for 2012/13	NA	NA	NA	52 RED		2012/13 ac yr
Altogether Healthier										
27	Four week smoking quitters per 100,000	475	Apr - Sep 2013	535	RED	554	RED	316 GREEN	488* RED	Apr - Sep 2013
28	Percentage of eligible people who receive an NHS health check	4.8	Apr - Sept 2013	10.0	RED	NA	NA	4.2 GREEN		Apr - Sept 2013
29	Percentage of people eligible for bowel cancer screening who were screened adequately within a specified period (new definition under development)	No data recorded	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
30	Percentage of women eligible for cervical screening who were screened adequately within a specified period	77.7	2013	80.0	RED	78.8	RED	73.9 GREEN	75.9* GREEN	2013
31	Under 75 all cause mortality rate per 100,000 population	294.6	2012	288	RED	307	GREEN	256.4 RED	298.3* GREEN	2012
32	Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke) per 100,000 population	70.3	2009/11	Not set for 2009/11	NA	New indicator	NA	60.9 RED		2009/11
33	Under 75 mortality rate from cancer per 100,000 population	119.2	2009/11	Not set for 2009/11	NA	New indicator	NA	108.1 RED		2009/11

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
34	Under 75 mortality rate from liver disease per 100,000 population	17.9	2009/11	Not set for 2009/11	NA	New indicator	NA	14.4 RED		2009/11
35	Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory disease per 100,000 population	28.5	2009/11	Not set for 2009/11	NA	New indicator	NA	23.4 RED		2009/11
36	Percentage of women eligible for breast screening who were screened adequately within a specified period	78.6	2013	70	GREEN	79.3	AMBER	76.3 GREEN	77.9* GREEN	2013
37	Percentage of exits from alcohol treatment (Community Alcohol Service) that are planned discharges (Also in Altogether Safer) <i>This indicator is no longer reported, please see indicator below.</i>	73	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	64	GREEN	64	GREEN	68 GREEN		Apr 2012 - Mar 2013
38	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Safer)	36.3	Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	36	GREEN	36	GREEN			
39	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Safer)	7.4	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	11	RED	New indicator	NA	8 RED		2012/13
40	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates (Also in Altogether Safer)	35.3	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	48	RED	New indicator	NA	40 RED		2012/13
Page 483	Number of adult community health checks / appraisals completed	3,276	Apr - Dec 2013	1,875	GREEN	3,191	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
42	Adults aged 65+ per 100,000 population admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care	538.4	Apr - Dec 2013	642.9	GREEN	618.2	GREEN	709 Not comparable	759** Not comparable	2012/13 (provisional)
43	Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support, and those receiving direct payments	59.5	As as 30 Dec 2013	55.0	GREEN	53.2	GREEN	55.5 GREEN	52.6** GREEN	2012/13 (provisional)
44	Percentage of service users reporting that the help and support they receive has made their quality of life better	94.7	Apr - Dec 2013	92.0	GREEN	95.4	RED	88.2 GREEN		Apr 2011 - Mar 2012
45	Proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/ rehabilitation services	87.1	Jan - Sept 2013	85.0	GREEN	87.6	AMBER	81.4 GREEN	84.9** GREEN	2012/13
46	Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package	63.0	Apr - Dec 2013	55.0	GREEN	59.6	GREEN		60.2* GREEN	Jul - Sept 2013
47	Percentage of adults receiving secondary mental health services known to be in settled accommodation	88.3	Jan - Dec 2013	85.0	GREEN	88.06	GREEN	59.3 GREEN	57.4** GREEN	2012/13 (provisional)
48	Patient experience of community mental health services (scored on a scale of 0-100)	89.4	2013	87	GREEN	88.4	GREEN	85.8 GREEN		2013
Altogether Safer										
9	Repeat incidents of domestic abuse (referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC))	8.2	Apr - Dec 2013	25.0	GREEN	10.7	GREEN	24.4 GREEN	27* GREEN	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013

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
50	Percentage of adult safeguarding investigations completed within 28 days	75.3	Apr - Dec 2013	75.0	GREEN	81.7	RED			
51	Proportion of people who use adult social care services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure	91.3	Apr - Dec 2013	75.0	GREEN	86.4	GREEN	78.1 GREEN	80.1* GREEN	2012/13
52	Percentage reduction in detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort	46	Oct - Dec 2013	40	GREEN	66	RED			
53	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds) (Also in Altogether better for Children & Young People)	347	Apr - Dec 2013	560	GREEN	410	GREEN	712 Not comparable	738** Not comparable	2011/12
54	Percentage of exits from alcohol treatment (Community Alcohol Service) that are planned discharges (Also in Altogether Healthier) <i>This indicator is no longer reported, please see indicator below.</i>	73	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	64	GREEN	64	GREEN	68 GREEN		Apr 2012 - Mar 2013
55	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Healthier)	36.3	Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	36	GREEN	36	GREEN			
Page 485	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	7.4	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	11	RED	New indicator	NA	8 RED		2012/13

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
57	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	35.3	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	48	RED	New indicator	NA	40 RED		2012/13
58	Building resilience to terrorism (self assessment)	3	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	3	GREEN	3	AMBER	2.34 GREEN	2.88** GREEN	2009/10
59	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	140	Jan - Sept 2013	140	GREEN	145	GREEN			
	Number of fatalities	17				21				
	Number of seriously injured	123				124				
60	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	19	Jan - Sept 2013	12	RED	14	RED			
	Number of fatalities	0				1				
	Number of seriously injured	19				13				
Altogether Greener										
61	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	5.5	2012/13	9	RED	6.3	RED			
62	The number of properties within the private sector made energy efficient with the use of Green Deal loans as part of the Warm Up North consortium	5,356	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	2,500	GREEN	2,134	GREEN			
63	Number of registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	844	Apr - Dec 2013	800	GREEN	900	RED			

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
64	Value of bids to Environment Agency for Local Levy Scheme	Reported Q4	NA	0	NA	New Indicator	NA			
65	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.91	Aug - Nov 2013	7	GREEN	8	GREEN	11 GREEN		2011/12
66	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	7.33	Aug - Nov 2013	10	GREEN	7	RED	11 GREEN		2011/12
67	Percentage of the 378 local sites (geological and wildlife) that have an up to date management plan in place	18.3	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	18.3	GREEN	16.9	GREEN			
68	Area of council owned woodland brought into positive management (ha)	Reported Q4	NA	50	NA	New indicator	NA			
69	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal.	39	As at Dec 2013	37	GREEN	35	GREEN			
70	Number of additional heritage assets that are open for Heritage Open Days	20	As at Sept 2013	30	RED	34	RED			
71	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	43.5	Jan - Dec 2013	44.0	Not comparable [2a]	43.4	Not comparable [2a]	41.57 GREEN	35.89* GREEN	2012/13
72	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - recycling	21.9	Jan - Dec 2013	19.0	Not comparable [2a]	17.5	Not comparable [2a]			

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
73	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - composting	10.3	Jan - Dec 2013	10.1	Not comparable [2a]	10.2	Not comparable [2a]			
74	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	23.1	Jan - Dec 2013	35.0	Not comparable [2a]	40.2	Not comparable [2a]	30.3 RED	28.33* RED	2012/13
Altogether Better Council										
5	Percentage of calls answered within 3 minutes	87	Oct - Dec 2013	80	GREEN	New Indicator	NA			
76	Average waiting time at a customer access point (mins:secs)	03:53	Oct - Dec 2013	15:00	GREEN	05:17	GREEN			
77	Percentage all ICT Service Desk incidents resolved on time	91	Oct - Dec 2013	90	GREEN	93	RED			
78	Average time taken to process new housing benefit claims (days)	21.02	Oct - Dec 2013	22.0	GREEN	New Indicator	NA	23 GREEN	25** GREEN	Jul - Sept 2013
79	Average time taken to process new council tax reduction claims (days)	22.18	Oct - Dec 2013	22.0	AMBER	New Indicator	NA	33 GREEN	27** GREEN	Jan - Mar 2013
80	Average time taken to process change of circumstances for housing benefit claims (days)	9.45	Oct - Dec 2013	11.0	GREEN	New Indicator	NA	11 GREEN	9** RED	Jul - Sept 2013
81	Average time taken to process change of circumstances for council tax reduction claims (days)	10.05	Oct - Dec 2013	11.0	GREEN	New Indicator	NA	16 GREEN	12** GREEN	Jan - Dec 13
82	Percentage of council tax recovered for all years excluding the current year	99.1	As at Dec 2013	98.5	GREEN	NA	NA			

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
83	Percentage of business rates recovered for all years excluding the current year	99.2	As at Dec 2013	98.5	GREEN	NA	NA			
84	Savings delivered against the MTFP (£m)	18.7	As at Dec 2013	20.9	Not comparable [1]	NA	NA			
85	Percentage of council tax collected in-year	82.9	Apr - Dec 2013	84.0	AMBER	82.7	GREEN	97.4 Not comparable	96.7* Not comparable	2012/13
86	Percentage of business rates collected in-year	85.4	Apr - Dec 2013	86.0	AMBER	84.3	GREEN	97.7 Not comparable	96.7* Not comparable	2012/13
87	Percentage of accounts paid to the council within 30 days (debtors)	79.5	Oct - Dec 2013	73.0	GREEN	73.6	GREEN			
88	Income generated from council owned business space (£)	1,986,971	Apr - Dec 2013	1,927,500	GREEN	2,134,000	RED			
89	Percentage of local authority tenant satisfaction with landlord services	86	As at Apr 2013	87	AMBER	New indicator	NA			
90	Current tenant arrears as a percentage of the annual rent debit - Dale & Valley Homes	1.58	As at Dec 2013	3.0	GREEN	1.72	GREEN			
91	Current tenant arrears as a percentage of the annual rent debit - Durham City Homes	2.05	As at Dec 2013	2.5	GREEN	2.45	GREEN			
92	Current tenant arrears as a percentage of the annual rent debit - East Durham Homes	2.85	As at Dec 2013	3	GREEN	2.88	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
93	Average asset rating of Display Energy Certificates (DECs) in county council buildings	98.9	As at Sept 2013	96.0	RED	98.4	RED			
94	Percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within statutory deadlines	80	Oct - Dec 2013	85	RED	73	GREEN			
95	Percentage of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days to our suppliers	91	Oct - Dec 2013	92	AMBER	91.4	RED			
96	Percentage of performance appraisals completed	73.3	Jan - Dec 2013	80.0	RED	NA	NA			
97	Days / shifts lost to sickness absence – all services including school staff	8.92	Jan - Dec 2013	9.05	GREEN	9.7	GREEN			

[\[1\] Annual target](#)

[\[2\] Due to changes to the indicator previous year's data is not comparable](#)

[\[2a\] Due to changes to the indicator's reporting period data is not comparable](#)

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
98	Number of the top retailers represented in Durham City	13	As at Dec 2013	13	AMBER	13	AMBER			
99	Percentage of households within County Durham that can access Durham City market place by 8.30am, using public transport with a total journey time of 1 hour, including walking time	71.08	As at Dec 2013	73.58	RED	75.57	RED			
100	Number of visitors to the main tourist attractions in Durham City.	298,698	Jul - Sept 2013	99,687	Not comparable [3]	121,626	GREEN			
101	Number of passenger journeys recorded by the operator of the 3 Durham City Park and Ride sites	317,904	Oct - Dec 2013	325,457	RED	301,729	GREEN			
102	Number of all new homes completed in Durham City	18	Oct - Dec 2013	11	GREEN	10	GREEN			
103	All homes completed in and near all major settlements, as defined in the County Durham Plan, as a proportion of total completions	44.80	Oct - Dec 2013	69.09	RED	67.00	RED			
104	Proportion of properties within the county that are within council tax band D and above as provided by the District Valuation Office	14.89	As at Dec 2013	14.86	GREEN	14.79	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
105	Total number of planning applications received against all categories	711	Oct - Dec 2013	762	RED	719	RED			
106	Total number of major planning applications received	33	Oct - Dec 2013	43	RED	33	AMBER			
107	Number of apprenticeships started by young people resident in County Durham as recorded by the National Apprenticeship Service	1,372	2012/13 ac yr	1,659	RED	1,659	RED			
108	Proportion of the working age population defined as in employment	65.7	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013	67.1	RED	65.2	GREEN	71.4 RED	66.2* RED	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013
109	Number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24	3,525	As at 12 Dec 2013	4,255	GREEN	5,115	GREEN			
110	Proportion of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that have claimed for one year or more	36.35	As at 12 Dec 2013	36.12	RED	30.78	RED	27.10 RED	35.8* RED	As at Dec 2013
111	Percentage of children in low income families (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	24.4	As at May 2013	24.7	GREEN	24.8	GREEN	19.4 RED	25.3* GREEN	As at May 2013
112	Percentage of children in low income families (national annual measure) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	23.0	2011	23.0	AMBER	23.0	AMBER	20.6 RED	24.5* GREEN	2011

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
113	Proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job	14.39	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013	15.49	GREEN	16.00	GREEN	11.50 RED	14.13* RED	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013
114	Proportion of the working age population who are qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent	47.4	2012	46.5	GREEN	46.5	GREEN	56.9 RED	50.9* RED	2012
115	Number of net homes completed	352	Oct - Dec 2013	165	GREEN	158	GREEN			
116	Total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)	1,370	Oct - Dec 2013	1,224	GREEN	937	GREEN			
117	Number of preventions as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	25.29	Oct - Dec 2013	24.57	GREEN	21.00	GREEN			
118	Number of statutory homeless applications as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	13.1	Oct - Dec 2013	15.17	GREEN	18.37	GREEN			
119	Number of homeless acceptances (of a statutory duty) as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	3.4	Oct - Dec 2013	3.83	GREEN	5.22	GREEN			
Page 1 of 493	Total number of housing solutions presentations	1,443	Oct - Dec 2013	1,437	RED	1,437	RED			

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
121	Number of passenger journeys made by concessionary bus pass holders	2,513,309	Oct - Dec 2013	2,567,198	RED	2,528,542	RED			
122	Number of passenger journeys made on the Link2 service	8,351	Oct - Dec 2013	8,425	RED	8,089	GREEN			
123	Number of trips made using council funded community transport	10,500	Oct - Dec 2013	11,515	RED	41,085	Not comparable [2]			
124	Number of local passenger journeys on the bus network	6,210,395	Oct - Dec 2013	6,106,674	GREEN	6,177,587	GREEN			
125	Number of visitors to the main attractions in County Durham	1,665,324	Jul - Sept 2013	1,326,220	Not comparable [3]	1,433,272	GREEN			
126	Number of tourism businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham	Not reported	Not reported	89	Not comparable [3]	47	GREEN			
127	Businesses engaged with/assisted (all sectors)	77	Oct - Dec 2013	104	RED	212	RED			
128	Number of new business start-ups as a result of receiving business assistance	9	Jul - Sept 2013	11	RED	New indicator	NA			
Altogether Better for Children and Young People										
129	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	10.4	Nov 2012 - Jan 2013	7.5	RED	7.5	RED	5.6 RED	7.3** RED	Mar 2013

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
130	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) - comparison against corresponding quarter of previous year	7	Oct - Dec 2013	14.9	Not comparable [2]	Not comparable	Not comparable [2]	6 RED		Sept - Nov 2013
131	Percentage of children in reception with height and weight recorded who have excess weight	21.9	2012/13 ac yr	23.6	GREEN	23.6	GREEN	22.2 GREEN	22.8** GREEN	2012/13 ac yr
132	Percentage of children in year 6 with height and weight recorded who have excess weight	35.9	2012/13 ac yr	38	GREEN	38.4	GREEN	33.3 RED	34.7** RED	2012/13 ac yr
133	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-17	31.8	Jul - Sept 2012	34.3	GREEN	37.1	GREEN	26.0 RED	35.6** GREEN	Jul - Sept 2012
134	Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 13 - 15	7.7	Jan - Dec 2011	10.8	GREEN	10.8	GREEN	6.1 RED	8.7** GREEN	Jan - Dec 2011
135	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	0.93	Apr - Sept 2013	0.37	Not comparable [4]	0.56	RED			
136	Emotional and behavioural health of Looked After Children	16.1	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	15.9	GREEN	15.9	GREEN	13.8 GREEN	13.5** GREEN	2011/12
137	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population	59.8	As at 31 Dec 2013	61.9	GREEN	63.6	GREEN	60.0 GREEN	81** GREEN	As at Mar 2013
138	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	27.3	Oct - Dec 2013	26.4	GREEN	30.6	RED	47.2 RED	31.2* RED	Jan - Mar 2013

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
139	Percentage of children in low income families (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Wealthier)	24.4	As at May 2013	24.7	GREEN	24.8	GREEN	19.4 RED	25.3* GREEN	As at May 2013
140	Percentage of children in low income families (national annual measure) (Also in Altogether Wealthier)	23.0	2011	23.0	AMBER	23.0	AMBER	20.6 RED	24.5* GREEN	2011
Altogether Healthier										
141	Male life expectancy at birth (years)	77.9	2010/12	77.5	GREEN	77.5	GREEN	79.2 RED	77.8* GREEN	2010/12
142	Female life expectancy at birth (years)	81.5	2010/12	81.4	GREEN	81.4	GREEN	83.0 RED	81.6* RED	2010/12
143	Percentage of the adult population participating in at least 30 minutes sport and active recreation of at least moderate intensity on at least 3 days a week	29.8	Oct 2011 - Oct 2013	24.3	GREEN	24	GREEN	22.6 GREEN	22.1* GREEN	Jan - Dec 2012
144	Excess winter deaths (3 year pooled)	18.1	2008/11	19.8	GREEN	19.8	GREEN	19.1 GREEN	16.7* RED	2008/11
145	Delayed transfers of care from hospital per 100,000 population	11.3	Apr - Nov 2013	10.3	RED	10.7	RED	9.3 RED	7.6* RED	England Apr- Nov 2013 NE 2012/13 provisional

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
146	Delayed transfers of care from hospital, which are attributable to adult social care, per 100,000 population	0.9	Apr - Nov 2013	0.9	AMBER	1.9	GREEN	3.1 GREEN	2.2* GREEN	England Apr-Nov 2013 NE 2012-13 Provisional
147	Suicide rate per 100,000 population(Also in Altogether Safer)	11.4	2009/11	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA	7.9 RED	9.3* RED	2009/11
Altogether Safer										
148	Recorded level of victim based crimes	16,666	Apr - Dec 2013	10,814	Not comparable [4]	15,580	RED			
149	Perceptions that the police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti social behaviour and crime	58.3	Oct 2012 - Sept 2013	0.0	GREEN	57.6	GREEN		55.3** GREEN	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013
150	Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population)	36.6	Apr - Dec 2013	23.8	Not comparable [4]	34.6	RED	71 Not comparable		Apr 2011 - Mar 2012
151	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	35.3	Aug - Nov 2013	43.7	GREEN	41.7	GREEN			
152	Number of serious or major crimes	557	Apr - Dec 2013	369	Not comparable [4]	345	RED			
153	Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	19,011	Apr - Dec 2013	13,517	Not comparable [4]	19,437	GREEN			
154	Number of reported crimes categorised as stealing	8,905	Apr - Dec 2013	5,808	Not comparable [4]	8,486	RED			

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
155	Number of adult safeguarding referrals fully or partially substantiated	161	Apr - Dec 2013	99	RED	New indicator	NA			
156	Proportion of offenders who re-offend in a 12-month period	29.2	Jan - Dec 2011	29.7	GREEN	29.3	GREEN	26.9 RED		Jul 2010 - Jun 2011
157	Percentage of alcohol related anti-social behaviour incidents	16	Apr - Dec 2013	16	AMBER	13.8	RED			
158	Percentage of alcohol related violent crime	34.4	Apr - Dec 2013	34	RED	32	RED			
159	Percentage of families where a successful intervention for crime/anti-social behaviour is achieved	33.6	Apr 2012 - Oct 2013	22.8	GREEN	New indicator	NA			
160	Suicide rate per 100,000 population (Also in Altogether Healthier)	11.4	2009/11	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA	7.9 RED	9.3* RED	2009/11
161	Number of hate incidents	224	Apr - Dec 2013	144	Not comparable [4]	174	RED			
Altogether Greener										
162	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham by 40% by 2020	41.2	As at Dec 2011	25.1	GREEN	25.1	GREEN	6 GREEN	18* GREEN	2009
163	Renewable energy generation -MwE installed or installed/ approved capacity within County Durham	205.13	As at Dec 2013	202.71	Not comparable [5]	181.97	Not comparable			

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
164	Number of fly-tipping incidents reported	7,889	Jan - Dec 2013	7,242	RED	6,568	RED			
165	Percentage of fly tipping incidents that have been investigated	87	Oct - Dec 2013	92	RED	New Indicator	NA			
166	Number of prosecutions by Durham County Council in response to fly tipping	2	Oct - Dec 2013	1	GREEN	New Indicator	NA			
167	Net change in the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register	4	2012/13	0	RED	0	RED			
168	Net change in the number of sites at 'high risk' on previous years Heritage at Risk register	-1	2012	0	GREEN	0	GREEN			
Altogether Better Council										
169	Staff aged under 25 as percentage of post count	5.45	As at Dec 2013	5.55	NA	4.37	NA			
170	Staff aged over 50 as a percentage of post count	37.79	As at Dec 2013	36.84	NA	37.80	NA			
171	Women in the top 5 percent of earners	52.11	As at Dec 2013	51.53	NA	50.20	NA			
172	BME as a percentage of post count	1.4	As at Dec 2013	1.4	NA	0.96	NA			

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
173	Staff with disability (DDA definition) as a percentage of post count	2.9	As at Dec 2013	2.93	NA	3.10	NA			
174	Percentage of abandoned calls	9	Oct - Dec 2013	12	GREEN	10	GREEN			
175	Percentage of calls answered within 1 minute	76	Oct - Dec 2013	60	GREEN	67	GREEN			
176	Staff - total headcount (ONS return)	17,577	As at Dec 2013	17,533	NA	17,743	NA			
177	Staff - total full time equivalent (FTE) (ONS return)	14,211	As at Dec 2013	14,198	NA	14,276	NA			
178	Number of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) incidents reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	17	Apr - Dec 2013	16	Not comparable [4]	26	GREEN			
179	Percentage of posts with no absence (excluding SCHOOLS)	73	Oct - Dec 2013	78.31	RED	69.44	GREEN			

[\[2\] Due to changes to the indicator previous year's data is not comparable](#)

[\[3\] Due to seasonal changes data is not comparable with the previous quarter](#)

[\[4\] This data is cumulative and the figure is based on 12 months data for the year end so comparisons are not applicable.](#)

[\[5\] This data is cumulative year on year](#)

Chart 1 – Planning applications

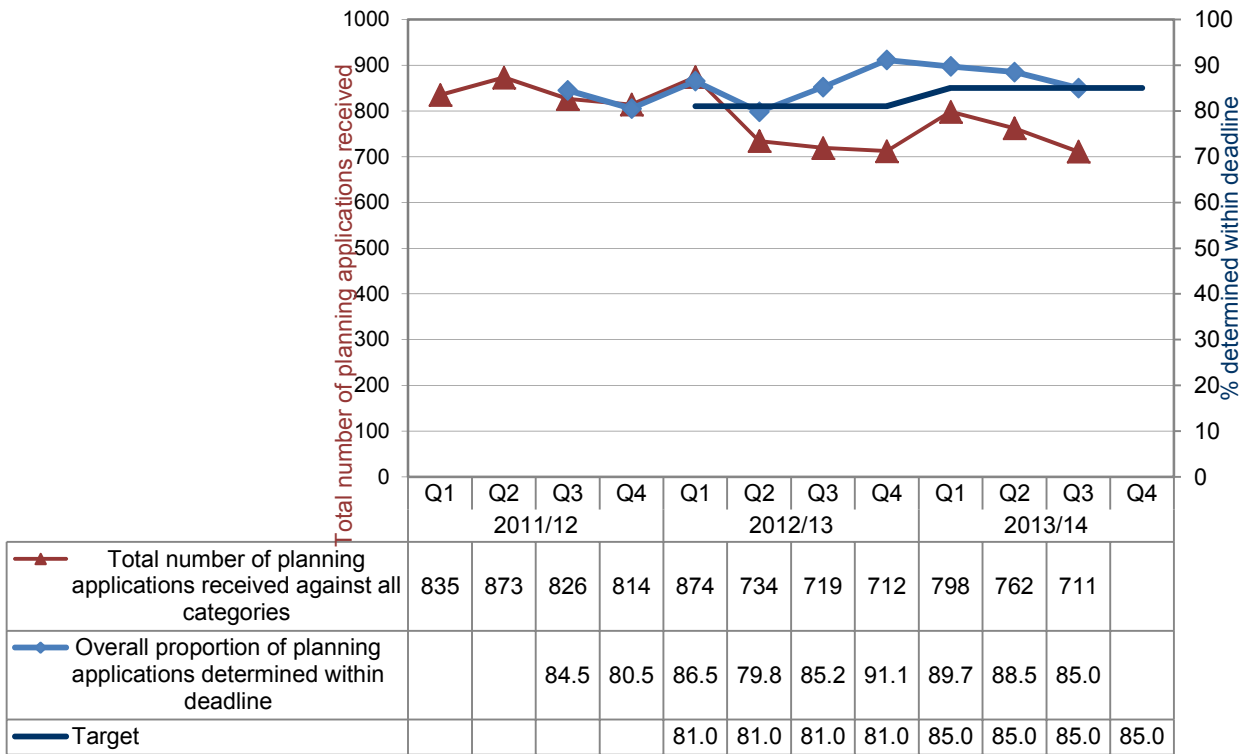


Chart 2 – Housing Solutions presentations

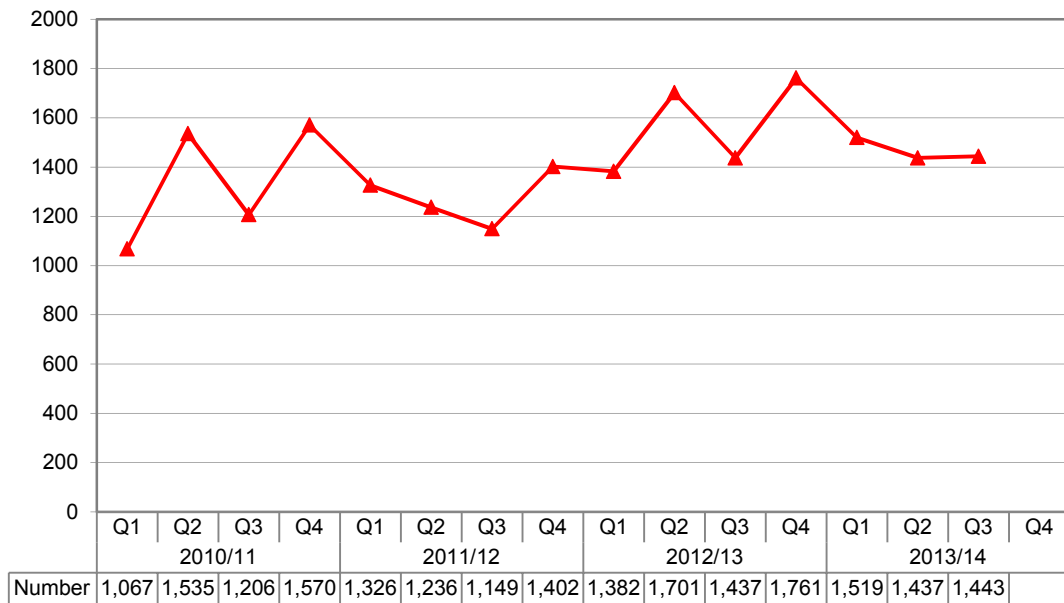


Chart 3 – Durham Key Options - total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)

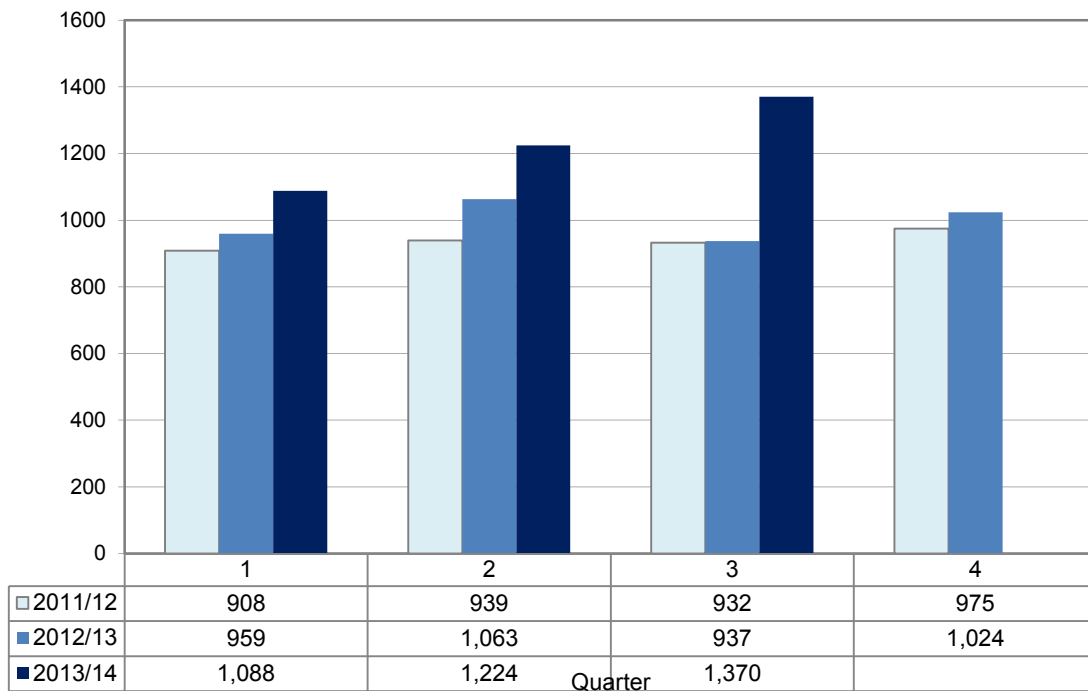


Chart 4 - Number of looked after children cases

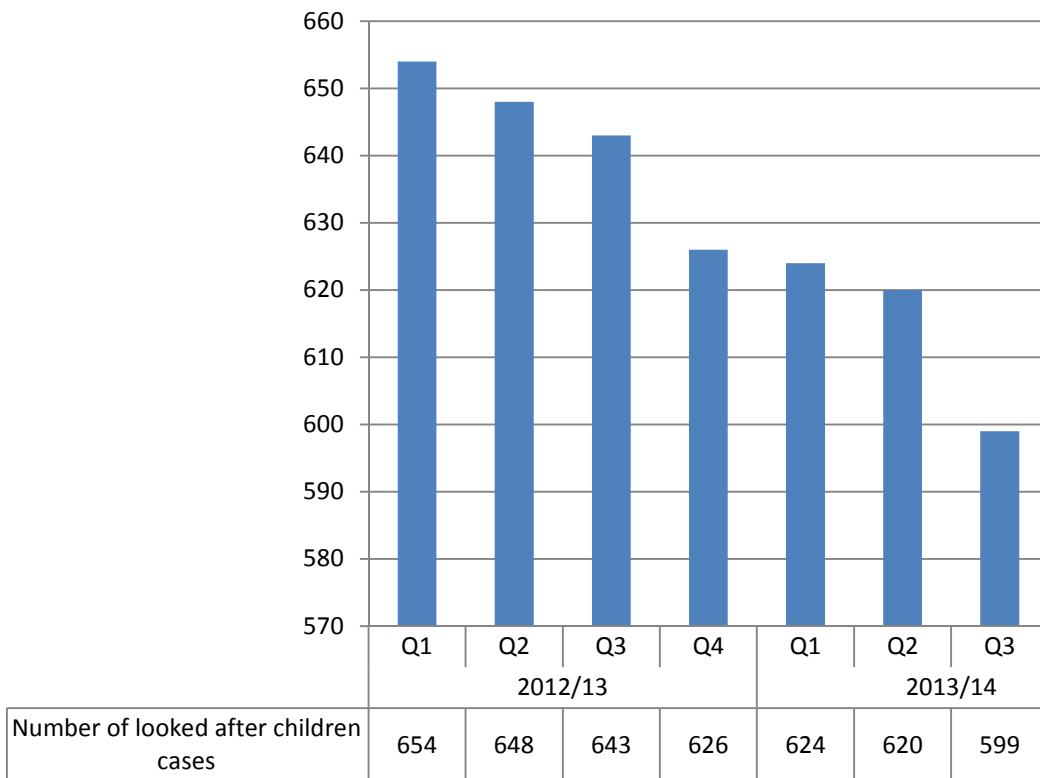


Chart 5 - Children in need referrals within 12 months of previous referral

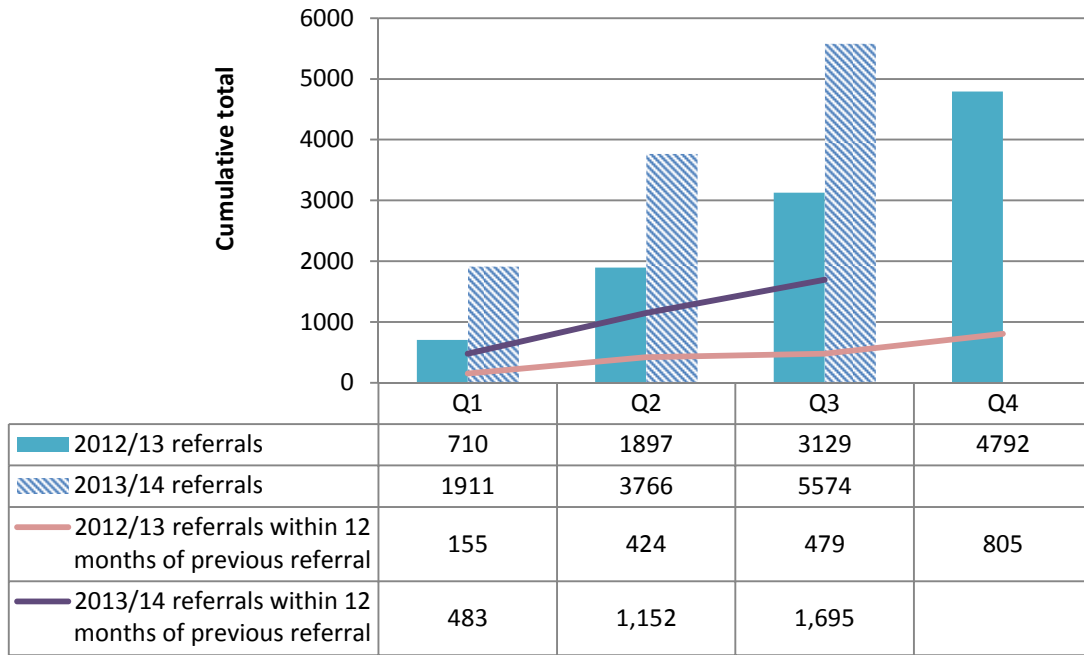


Chart 6 – Fly-tipping incidents

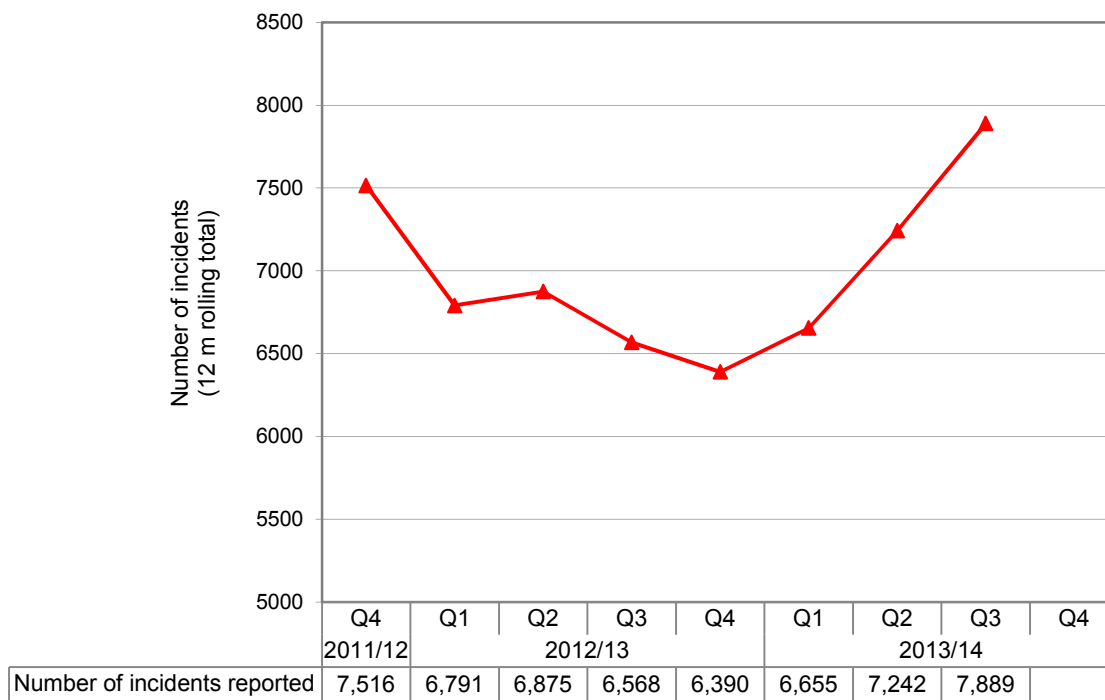


Chart 7 - Telephone calls

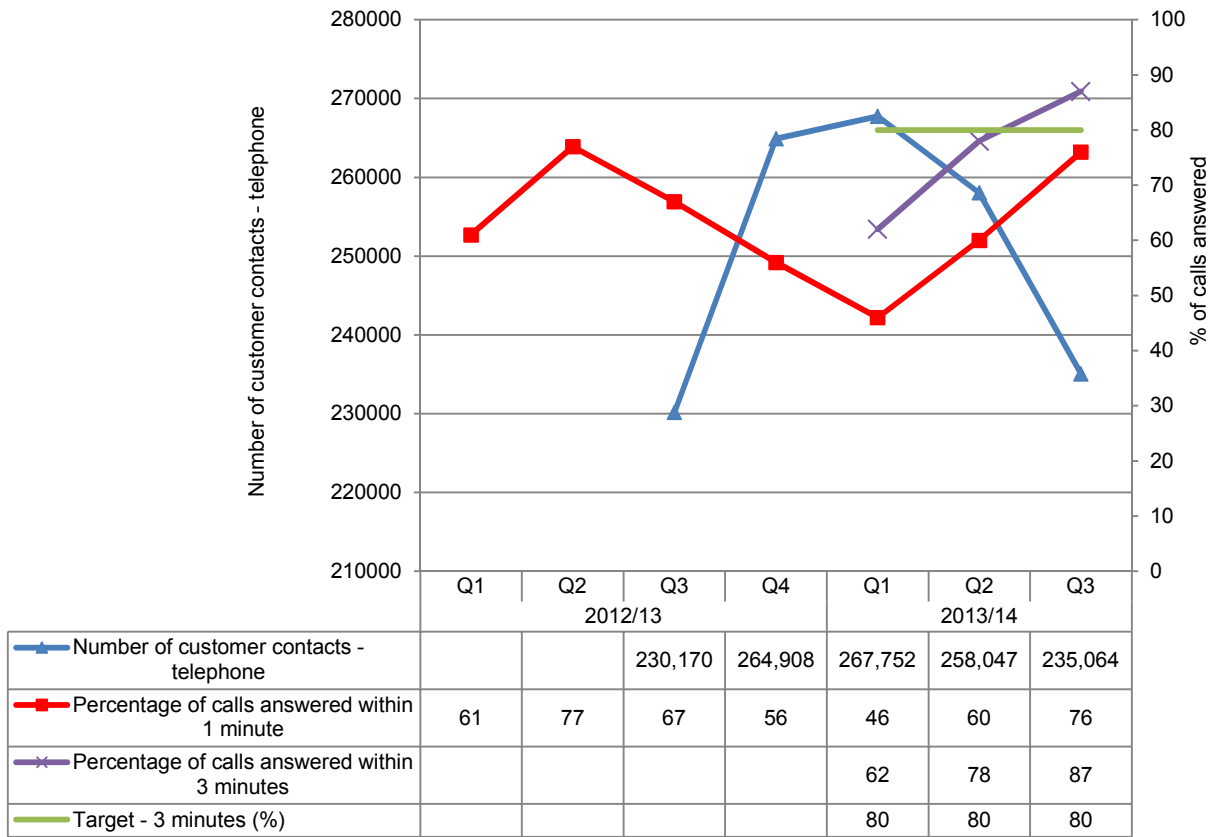


Chart 8 – Face to face contacts

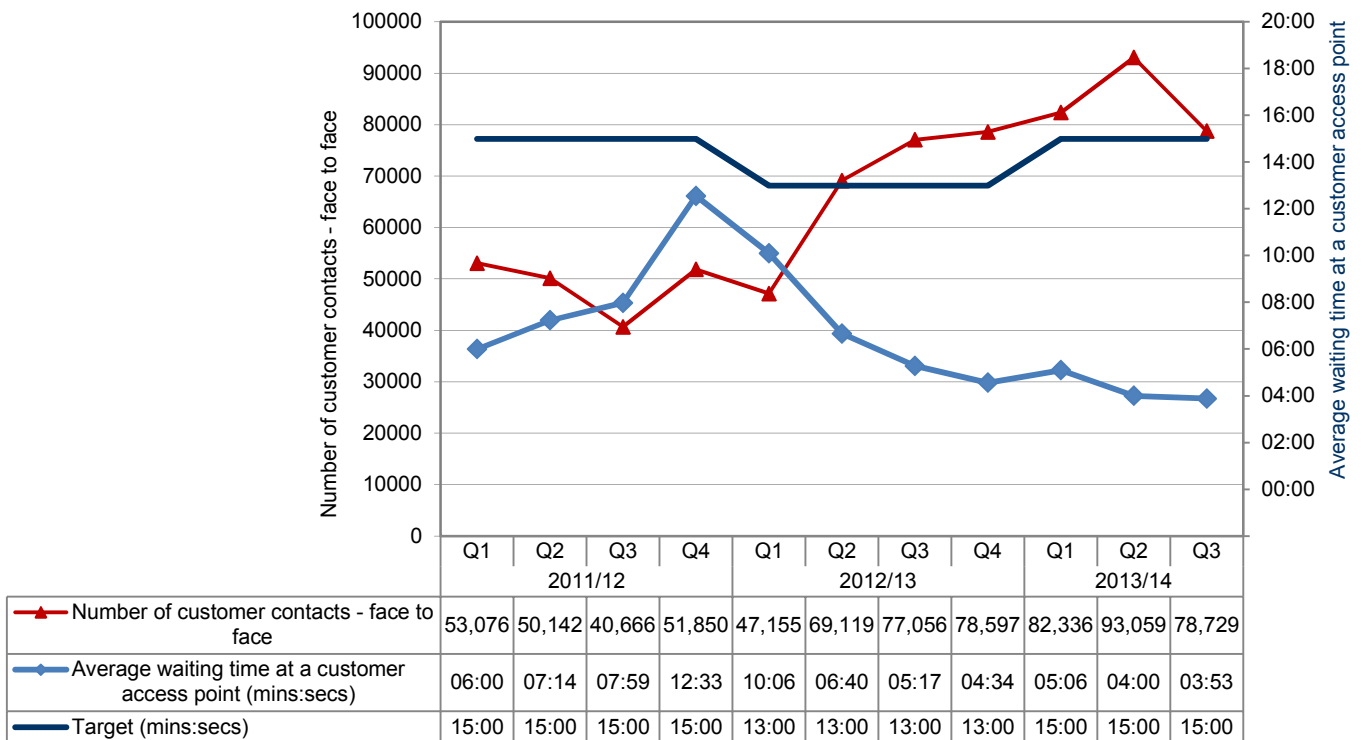
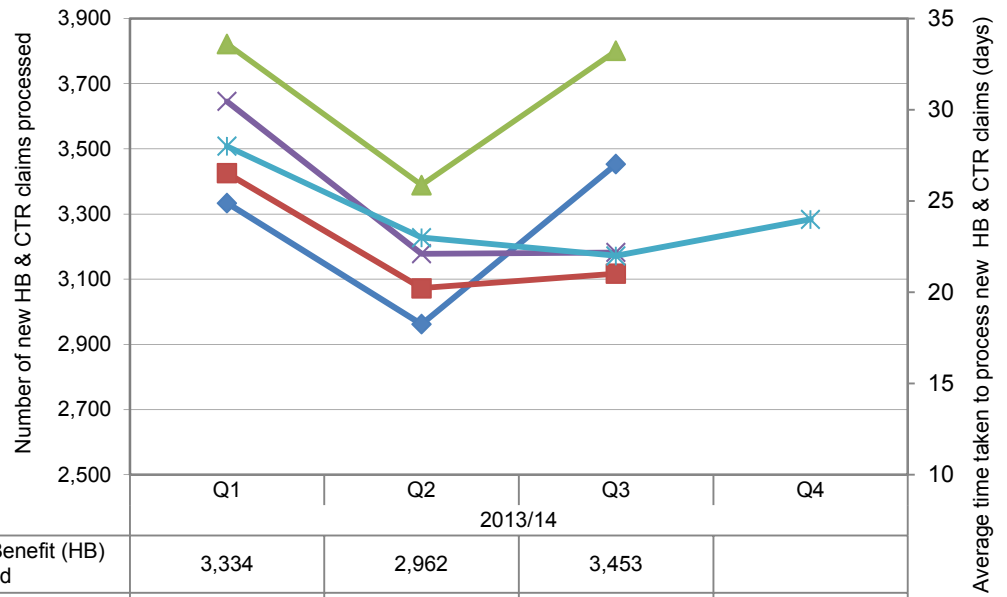
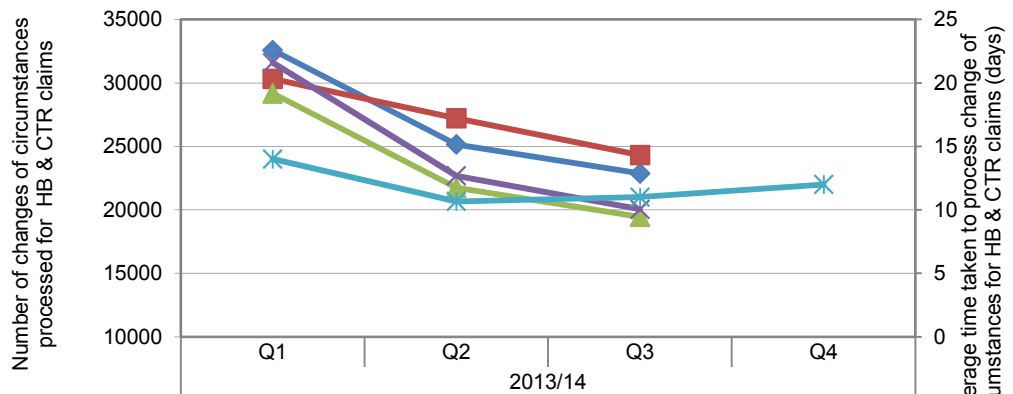


Chart 9 – Benefits – new claims



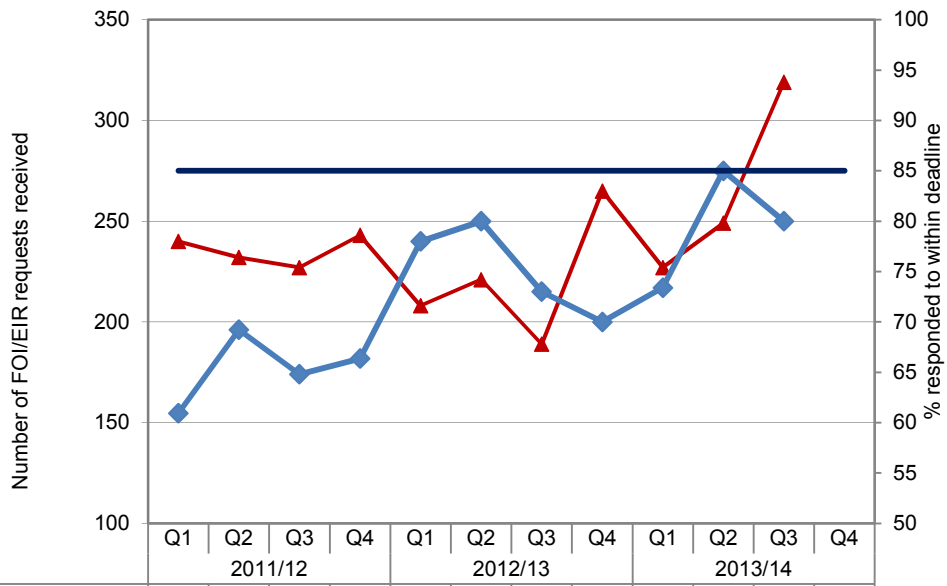
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013/14				
Number of new Housing Benefit (HB) claims processed	3,334	2,962	3,453	
Number of new Council Tax Reduction (CTR) claims processed	3,822	3,389	3,801	
Average time taken to process new HB claims (days)	26.53	20.23	21.02	
Average time taken to process new CTR claims (days)	30.46	22.11	22.18	
Target - discrete quarter (days)	28	23	22	24

Chart 10 – Benefits – changes of circumstances



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013/14				
Number of changes of circumstances processed for Housing Benefit (HB) claims	32,574	25,152	22,873	
Number of Changes of Circumstances processed for Council Tax Reduction (CTR) claims	30,326	27,215	24,319	
Average time taken to process change of circumstances for HB claims (days)	19.18	11.74	9.45	
Average time taken to process change of circumstances for CTR claims (days)	21.59	12.68	10.05	
Target - discrete quarter (days)	14	10.66	11	12

Chart 11 – Freedom of Information (FOI) requests



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	2011/12				2012/13				2013/14			
Number of FOI/EIR requests received	240	232	227	243	208	221	189	265	227	249	319	
% of FOI/EIR requests responded to within statutory deadlines	61	69	65	66	78	80	73	70	73	85	80	
Target (%)	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85

Cabinet

19 March 2014



Sustainable Community Strategy

Report of Corporate Management Team

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

**Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

1. To endorse the renewed Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham.

Background

2. The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the overarching plan for County Durham which sets out our optimistic and ambitious vision for the future and sets the direction for the work of the County Durham Partnership.
3. The present strategy, covering 2010 – 2030, has been in place for the last three years and is now being refreshed to reflect the changing landscape and need to deliver services with fewer resources. The new strategy will therefore embed strong cross thematic work, build on community strengths, support local communities to help themselves, promote and guide collective action, help us to focus interventions in localities and make the best use of existing networks.
4. The SCS has been amended to reflect changes in local priorities as well as national policy changes. The Council and partners have maintained and strengthened partnership working in times of significant national and local change to ensure service delivery continues to meet existing need and where possible to prevent the need for costly services in the future. There is a continued focus on improving the quality of life for people and reducing inequalities within across the county.
5. Cabinet agreed the SCS high level objectives listed in appendix two for all five priority themes at the meeting held on 20 November 2013.

Overview

6. Significant elements of the renewed strategy include:
 - a. Showing that the partnership has a clear strategic direction and is ready to seize opportunities and face challenges together;
 - b. The economy remains the county's top priority;

- c. The delivery of the SCS is underpinned by the County Durham Plan which is the spatial expression of the strategy and as such provides details on proposed housing, employment and retail developments across the county;
 - d. There are many successes to build on, however all partners recognise there are challenges ahead;
 - e. We are maximising benefits by working with our wider networks including the voluntary and community sector, local councils, armed forces and faith communities;
 - f. All partners understand the interdependencies of their work as well as that the needs of communities are different across the county;
 - g. We are supporting local communities through building capacity and utilising the skills, knowledge and experience within them;
 - h. Moving forward there will be a need to make tough decisions in a timely manner;
 - i. With all of these in mind we can still be optimistic about the future.
7. The five thematic partnerships show how they have developed their work plans and individual strategies since 2010 and have many strengths and achievements on which they can build upon when looking to the future to meet the challenges they have identified.

Cross Thematic Focus

8. In addition to the existing work of the thematic partnerships and high level objectives, it has been agreed that the renewed SCS should target a number of areas that need additional joined up working. The revised SCS will therefore have a stronger focus on issues that cut across more than one thematic priority, particularly those that will have a significant impact on the high level objectives of more than one thematic partnership (wider determinants and interdependencies).
9. Six most frequently mentioned issues were:
 - a. Job creation
 - b. Mental wellbeing
 - c. Stronger families
 - d. Volunteering
 - e. Alcohol
 - f. Reducing inequalities
10. These are being pursued as the focus of further work for the CDP Board and for inclusion within the SCS. Scoping work around the areas of cross thematic focus will consider how we can work differently to have a bigger impact on these issues over the next three to five years.

Approach

11. Over the last three years the commitment to work in partnership has grown and there is broad support that, at a time when we are facing increasing challenges, there is an even greater need to work together. The support for the partnership is based on the many achievements that have been made over recent years.

12. To be most effective it has been agreed that the CDP and particularly the CDP Board adopt a more proactive approach around the cross cutting themes detailed above. It will encourage community independence and support local people to take ownership to allow partners to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

Recommendations and reasons

13. Members are asked to endorse the renewed Sustainable Community Strategy (appendix three) for presentation to Full Council on Wednesday 2 April 2014.

Contact: Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement,
03000 263605

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the working practice of AAPs.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human Rights - None

Consultation - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners and the establishment of a Sound Board to progress the recommendations and will continue this consultative approach.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None

Appendix two – high level objectives

- Altogether wealthier
 - Thriving Durham City
 - Vibrant and successful towns
 - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
 - Competitive and successful people
 - A top location for business
- Altogether better for children and young people
 - Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
 - Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
 - A think family approach is embedded in our support for families
- Altogether healthier
 - Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
 - Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
 - Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
 - Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
 - Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need
- Altogether safer
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour
 - Protecting vulnerable people from harm
 - Reducing re-offending
 - Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
 - Embed the Think Family approach
 - Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
 - Reduce road casualties
- Altogether greener
 - Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
 - Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
 - Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change
 - Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

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Altogether Better Durham The Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham

This document is produced for Cabinet on 19 March 2014.

The Overarching Plan for County Durham

This Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the overarching plan for County Durham. It sets out our shared long-term vision for the county, our ambitions for the area and the priorities that partners and communities believe are important. It provides the blueprint to deliver long lasting improvements and sets the scene for the County Durham Plan, the local plan for the county which identifies where new housing, employment and retail development should take place and which areas need to be protected and enhanced, in order to ensure that Durham develops a thriving economy and remains a beautiful place to live and visit. Improving the economy continues to be our top priority as a partnership as it is recognised that employment opportunities and supporting people into employment, has a massive impact on their lives and the lives of those around them.

County Durham is a beautiful and diverse county with a strong sense of community identity. It has some of the most outstanding landscapes from the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the West to the Heritage Coastline in the East and is the home to a range of treasures including Durham Cathedral and Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We have much to be proud of in County Durham, but we also recognise we need to improve and this vision sets out a path to an **altogether better Durham** by 2030. It sets the direction and provides the context for all partners working to improve quality of life in the county.

Fundamentally, it is about realising two aims for County Durham:

- An altogether better place
- Altogether better for people

Altogether better place

An **altogether better place** is one where people of all ages and circumstances can meet their needs, whether material, social or spiritual. It is concerned with the physical structure of our towns and villages, the location of housing, jobs, shopping and leisure facilities, the design of buildings and the transport links between them.

Our ambition is to create sustainable places where people want to live, work, visit and invest.

Altogether better for people

Making the county **altogether better for people** involves many strands, including tackling deprivation, narrowing the gap in life chances across the county and reducing inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged. This aim is about ensuring that individual and community well-being results from the programmes and actions we develop.

We want to reduce inequalities between different sections of the community as well as between the county and the rest of the region and the country. We will promote 'equality of opportunity' for all, ensuring that our residents and communities have the skills and support they need to achieve their goals and improve their life chances.

Since our first SCS was written in 2010, we have worked hard to make this vision a reality and through strong partnership working, have seized opportunities and faced a range of challenges together. This collective approach to supporting local communities is now a way of life in County Durham and, through partners' continued commitment, our performance has increased year on year:

- ❖ We delivered a very successful Year of Culture in 2013 which saw over 500,000 visitors to the county and generated in the region of £30M for the economy.
- ❖ We have been instrumental in attracting Hitachi Rail UK into our area which will mean thousands of jobs for local people.
- ❖ Our young people continue to achieve GCSE results higher than the national average with eleven consecutive years of improvement.
- ❖ We have won awards for our approach to working with young offenders.
- ❖ The teenage conception rate is now better than our neighbouring authority areas and continues to improve.
- ❖ Police recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour have fallen by almost 20,000.
- ❖ We have already exceeded our ambitious carbon reduction target of 40% by 2020.
- ❖ We outperform national averages in recycling.
- ❖ The Area Action Partnerships, the most local element of the County Durham Partnership framework, have secured over £34M of match funding in communities.
- ❖ We have won national and international recognition for our participatory budgeting work which has awarded £1M to over 100 local groups.
- ❖ We have undertaken one of the biggest and most ambitious asset transfer programmes with our community buildings that will see a network of sustainable buildings managed by local communities.

Through strong leadership, a clear strategic direction, our ability to innovate and our commitment to working together, we plan to address local needs, reduce inequalities, improve life chances for all and shape a better future for the county.

There have been substantial national policy changes since 2010 which have had significant impacts on local people and partners working together to meet local needs. There have also been considerable reductions in both mainstream and targeted funding, which have particularly affected our county given its levels of deprivation. County Durham has responded rapidly to financial austerity, by managing the necessary changes well, making difficult but timely decisions, protecting front line services wherever possible and working with local people to find alternative solutions to the problems we all face.

By sharing ideas and developing local solutions, we hope to maintain our path towards an altogether better Durham. We have set in place the foundations for robust and sustainable growth and continue to search for and identify new opportunities. Moving forward, we will need to do more to enable communities to take control of local assets and services, so that public sector resources are used effectively and where they are needed most. We are, therefore, willing to try new things and to work differently in order to achieve better outcomes for local people.

We will continue to work together to maximise our resources and, with careful planning and good management, we will continue to deliver value and achieve our shared priorities for the county.

Together we can be optimistic about the future and will continue to work towards our vision of an Altogether Better Durham, by realising our five priority themes and high level objectives:

- **Altogether wealthier**

- Thriving Durham City
- Vibrant and successful towns
- Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
- Competitive and successful people
- A top location for business

- **Altogether better for children and young people**

- Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- A think family approach is embedded in our support for families

- **Altogether healthier**

- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
- Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
- Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need

- **Altogether safer**

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Protecting vulnerable people from harm
- Reducing re-offending
- Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
- Embed the Think Family approach
- Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
- Reduce road casualties

o Altogether greener

- o Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
- o Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
- o Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change
- o Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

Changing Landscape

The world in which many public, private and voluntary sector services are delivered has changed significantly in recent years, and continues to do so. All partners have proactively faced these challenges and taken the opportunities where they have been available whilst still delivering services for our local people.

Funding

Councils, police, fire service and health services have seen the biggest changes in generations to their structures and funding. This has resulted in significant reductions in resources, with the county council alone facing reductions of more than £224M by 2017. However by working in partnership and with an emphasis on accurate forecasting, strong decision making, robust planning and a commitment to listen to and action the views of local people, we are in as strong a position as possible. This also enables us to take the opportunity to look at the resources we have and explore new ways of working as well as different ways of achieving the efficiencies needed.

Whilst many jobs in County Durham are reliant on public sector funding and there are planned reductions in this sector, we recognise that there has been growth in other areas including the University and the private sector.

Cross-thematic focus

Partners are keen to target resources where they are needed most and in addition to the thematic priorities highlighted above, they have identified key areas for focus by the whole partnership. These are issues that will benefit from additional joined up working and cut across more than one theme of our work:

- Job creation;
- Mental wellbeing;
- Stronger families;
- Volunteering;
- Inequalities;
- Alcohol.

Welfare Reforms

County Durham has many deprived areas and government changes to the welfare system have had a significant impact on people living in the county. The total financial loss to the county's economy per year, as at December 2013, is estimated to amount to £188 million. Partners have responded together to anticipate benefit changes, mitigate impacts and support benefit claimants to become more independent. Specific packages of support have been developed to help residents and service users adapt and welfare reform conferences have been held to promote innovative solutions that meet the needs of local people. However these changes are undeniably impacting on local people and the economy.

North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Changes to national economic policy have created some new structures, most notably for the county, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) - a business-led organisation responsible for promoting and developing economic growth in Northumberland, Durham and Tyne and Wear. The NELEP commissioned an independent economic review of the economy which identified what needed to be done strategically over the next five years to stimulate productivity and increased employment opportunities. The review made a number of recommendations that will be taken forward by the NELEP and the County Durham Economic Partnership.

European Structural and Investment Funds

European funding of €157M from 2014 to 2020 offers significant opportunity for investment in the county to boost economic recovery and contribute to the ambitions of the NELEP and also the Europe 2020 strategy.

There are a number of themes that this funding will be used for in County Durham: volunteering; youth employment; digital demand (ICT); education and business links; energy awareness and sustainability; pre and start up enterprise and business support; access to finance; higher level skills; innovation; social inclusion and a capital programme. All parts of the partnership are involved in this work, therefore ensuring that work plans developed will complement existing pieces of work.

The Combined Authority

The council has played a leading role in establishing a combined authority to formalise joint working between seven of the North East Local authorities (Durham, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland) on transport and skills, along with improving the opportunity to attract external funding. This will offer County Durham opportunities that would not otherwise be available and which will have significant impact in the future.

Changes to health structures

We have established a Health and Wellbeing Board which sets the health priorities for the local area and is a key part of the County Durham Partnership. The Board is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reducing health inequalities.

The reforms to the National Health Service have been the most significant we have seen since the NHS was introduced in 1948. We have two General Practitioner (GP) led Clinical Commissioning Groups which implement and commission locally led responses to health problems. These are groups of GPs, nurses and clinicians who commission local health services.

The Council, through its Public Health team which transferred in to the local authority in 2013, has responsibility for improving and protecting the health of the county's residents and helping them to stay well. The team works with partners to commission and develop new health improvement initiatives with communities. The annual Report of the Director of Public Health looks at the health inequalities in the area and sets out proposals to address them.

Academies and Free Schools

The county now has an extended Academies Programme and includes free schools, which are set up and managed by parents, teachers, charities and businesses. This follows significant changes in national education policy.

Changes to community safety structures

Our directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for agreeing policing priorities in consultation with local people and delivering against these through the development of a Police and Crime Plan (PCP).

We are changing the way we work with and manage offenders within the community as part of the 'Transforming Rehabilitation' Government initiative. A new National Probation Service and a local Community Rehabilitation Company are being established. These new arrangements will be in place by March 2015 following a period of transition.

The County Durham Plan

The County Durham Plan, the local plan for the county is the spatial expression of the SCS and outlines where development will take place up to 2030. It is our strategy for the future physical development of the county and identifies where new housing, employment and jobs and retail development should take place and which areas need to be protected and enhanced,

We have identified a completely new direction for the county, moving away from a public sector funding led strategy to one which is more market driven.

We will focus growth around the county's principal towns by stimulating the development of good quality housing, employment opportunities and town centre renewal and investment. This will help the county realise its potential as the ideal location for a range of industries and businesses and to provide 30,000 new jobs for current and future residents.

We recognise that the social impacts of increased housing and employment opportunities are a key aspect of the plan and all partners have been involved in its development. Schools will be developing across the county and existing schools improved to accommodate the children of the families living in new housing developments. We will also increase health care provision in some areas to cope with population changes.

We will invest in transport infrastructure, environmental improvements and additional services due to the increase in physical developments, both in business and residential areas.

Durham City is one of the North East's prime economic assets and a key location for sustainable growth, with 5,000 new houses and 7,000 new jobs proposed. Other elements of the plan include:

- increasing the percentage of the workforce that is in work to 73%;

- focusing new development on the county's 12 main towns (Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Durham City, Peterlee, Seaham, Shildon, Spennymoor, Stanley and Newton Aycliffe);
- making sure the transport system is easily accessible;
- protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; and
- increasing the number of visitors to the county and the amount of time and money they spend.

The SCS is the overarching strategy for the county and is underpinned by a series of plans. These meet the priorities of all partners whilst helping us tackle any pressures as well as take opportunities as they are presented.

Individual delivery plans set out our ambitions in full and can be accessed via www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk – [paper version](#)
(Individual delivery plans set out our ambitions in full and can be accessed through the links above – [web version](#))

Commitment to working together

Our Ambition for County Durham

Our plans for the county remain focused and ambitious and we are committed to working together with communities to try new things and to build stronger communities ready to take advantage of every opportunity. We have high aspirations and a proven ability to deliver, and along with the tenacity of local people, we expect to succeed.

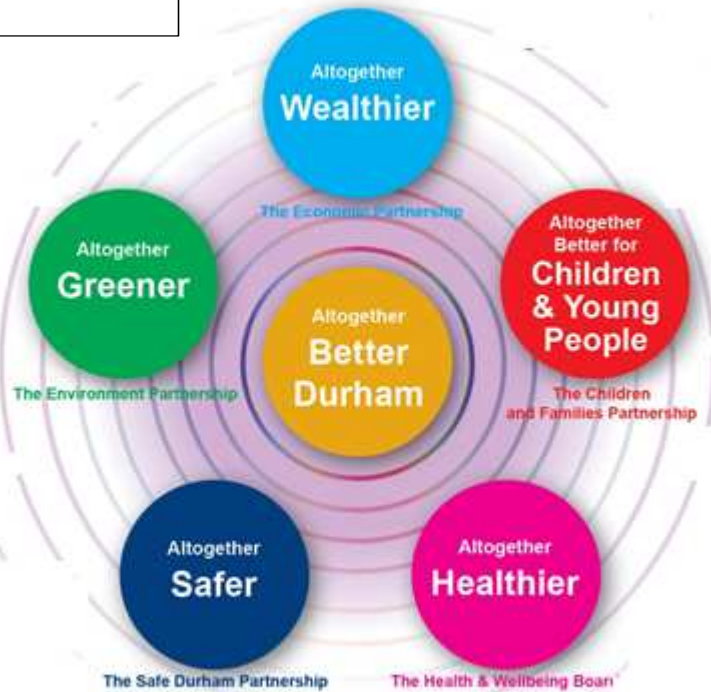
Partnership Framework

The County Durham Partnership (CDP) brings together key organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors and is made up of the CDP Forum, CDP Board, five thematic partnerships and 14 Area Action Partnerships. It exists to ensure local needs and priorities are met and to drive a common purpose and ambition for the county, influence the use of all partners' resources and ensure a strong focus on the achievement of the county's priorities, as set out in this SCS.

The Economic Partnership aims to make County Durham a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential.

The Environment Partnership aims to transform and sustain the environment within County Durham, maximising partnership arrangements to support the economy and the wellbeing of local communities.

The Safe Durham Partnership tackles crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment and to reduce re-offending.



The Children and Families Partnership works to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in County Durham.

The Health and Wellbeing Board promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.



Area Action Partnerships

At a local level Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) have had a significant impact across the county by developing and successfully implementing a wide variety of initiatives locally. Of over 2,000 projects delivered since 2009, a selection includes:

- o The regeneration of Durham's Wharton Park which was initiated by Durham AAP and has now resulted in a £2m award from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- o 13 apprenticeships have been created and 76 residents/ businesses have been engaged with through support from Spennymoor AAP, with 17 residents moving into employment or further training.
- o 208 unemployed Aycliffe residents have received training, resulting in 55 people getting a job due to Great Aycliffe AAP working with Bishop Auckland College and Livin Housing Association.
- o 100 local new businesses have been created through Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP working with South Durham Enterprise Agency on an innovative Business Advisor Programme.
- o Mid Durham AAP has supported Derwentside Homes develop an older people's telephone befriending support scheme which has 30 volunteers working with 130 regular users. The scheme is being rolled out across the county.

- o A Credit Union has been developed by East Durham AAP which is delivered by over 50 volunteers in 14 community venues with over 1,000 members.

This action focused approach has seen £21 million allocated to local priorities and just under £34 million attracted in matched funding over the last five years.

New ways of working have been piloted through AAPs and over 11,000 people are now involved as AAP Forum members, more than 30,000 people have attended decision making events and over 18,600 people have engaged in participatory budgeting events. Indeed our work on participatory budgeting has attracted attention from the USA, Canada and Denmark.

The work of AAPs, Thematic Partnerships and the CDP board together have effectively linked strategic vision with local action and improved our opportunities for success.

We recognise that to achieve our ambitions, greater public involvement presents a wealth of untapped skills, knowledge and capacity for action. Local people want to do more and the partnership is committed to providing the support and resources needed to enable local people to take greater control.

Added value of wider networks

We can only achieve our goals by working together through our wider networks. A shared approach to delivering the savings and increasing efficiency helps all partners to manage their services in a better way, than if they had to do it individually.

The **voluntary and community sector (VCS)** in the county contributes mutual understanding and a shared vision. The difference in skills and perspective that the sector offers complements the way the partnership has developed.

VCS organisations play a key role in the delivery of services, particularly at a time of major change for public sector organisations and are well placed to take advantage of opportunities and identify new ways of working. The sector can become a delivery agent that will ensure the sustainability of vital services across the county by taking a proactive approach. This joint approach shows how we are evolving and strengthening our ethos of partnership working.

Our Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy identifies that knowledge has improved, understanding increased and productive working relationships have developed. All partners recognise that a strong, active and flourishing VCS is a vital component in building resilient communities and enabling individuals to reach their potential.

Local councils are also engaged in the partnership and support other partners to achieve shared priorities and outcomes. As a democratically elected group, town and parish councils are informed by the views of local people and work on the behalf of their communities. These views are important to the partnership and are help shape local priorities and, perhaps more importantly, inform partners about the impacts of changes on local people.

There are a range of opportunities for joint working with local councils across partnership organisations that include efficiencies through joint procurement as well as devolution of services to reduce duplication.

The County Durham Partnership sets out its support for the **armed forces community** through its commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This encourages local people to support people in their area and to help them understand issues, service personnel may face on their return. We have also developed suitable approaches to support which include detailed information on a dedicated element of our website with links to a number of external organisations. We have highlighted armed forces personnel, through the work of some of our thematic partnerships, particularly when looking at employment support and the health and wellbeing of people and their families.

Our work with **faith communities** ensures that we acknowledge the contribution and resources offered to our communities by the huge range and variety of individuals, groups and organisations that make up this network. Much of the work supports the most vulnerable members of our communities which will become increasingly important as the economic landscape continues to change. This cooperation takes place through education provision in schools; in health and wellbeing projects; in imaginative employment schemes for young people; through creative and artistic cultural initiatives and other leisure focused activities; and philanthropic and charitable initiatives.

Given their role, faith communities are ideally placed to contribute to realising the county's vision, acting as 'critical friends' for other partners and co-creating a socially just and inclusive society.

Interdependencies

All parts of the partnership have an impact on each other and it is very important that plans or programmes are not developed in isolation. Tackling an issue by working in partnership offers benefits and opportunities that may not be realised if only one organisation or part of the partnership is involved. We all try to avoid duplication, as well as ensuring that services are not completely stopped in a community, if there is evidence that there is still a need for it.

Social determinants of health

People's health is often determined by wider social issues such as lifestyle, employment and housing. Our commitment to working together to address the social determinants of health is recognised across all of our priorities, but is most clearly defined in relation to health. The World Health Organisation (WHO) describes the social determinants of health as "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age". They include jobs, housing, education, crime, access to services and other aspects of living conditions. People's health can be determined by a variety of factors such as their gender, age and genetic makeup as well as factors that they have more impact on and control over such as their lifestyle choices and social environment.

These factors can't be addressed by one single organisation or partnership as they have multiple impacts and contributory factors. We understand how our work impacts on the social determinants of health and what can be done to address them, while addressing individual partners or thematic partnership's own objectives. Some practical examples include:

- Education – low education levels are linked with poor health, more stress and lower self-confidence. Education plays a large part in shaping the futures of children and provides on going opportunities for adults to develop their skills.
- Physical environment – safe water and clean air, healthy workplaces, safe houses, communities and roads all contribute to good health.
- Employment and working conditions – being in employment is a key element of mental and physical wellbeing. Having more control over working conditions has a positive impact on health. Healthy workplaces can contribute significantly to improving the health of the workforce.
- Social support networks – greater support from families, friends and communities is associated with better health.
- Culture - customs and traditions, and the beliefs of the family and community all affect health.
- Personal behaviour and coping skills – individual behaviour and lifestyle choices can have a great impact on health and wellbeing.
- Health services - access and use of services that prevent and treat disease influences health, whether in a hospital or community.
- Age, gender and individual factors – these are clearly important factors that impact on health across an individual's lifetime. Health changes over

time as we age and certain biological and genetic factors affect some individuals more than others.

Profile of the county

In developing shared plans and strategies we aim to ensure we all have a shared understanding of County Durham and some of its key challenges. The following narrative looks at the make-up of the county in 2014 and recognises the diversity within it. It identifies inequalities between the major centres of population, smaller towns and other localities. We have collected a wide range of information relating to various priorities across all parts of the partnership which has identified some key trends.

Population Growth

Between 2001 and 2011 the population of the county increased by 4.0%, from 493,678 to 513,242, faster than the regional average but slower than the national average of 7.1% over the same period.

Population growth in County Durham is a recent trend. Now, the county has almost exactly the same total population as it did 30 years ago with growth very similar to the North East average. County Durham has the largest population in the North East, and looking to the future, is projected to continue to increase by 9.3% to 543,000 by 2030.

Age Profile

The county's population is ageing as well as increasing in number. The number of older people is increasing at a quicker rate than the population overall, whereas the number of younger people has fallen. This is similar to the regional picture, however nationally, younger age groups are increasing. County Durham already has a relatively large number of older people with almost a fifth (18%) of the population aged 65 or over compared to 17.3% regionally and 16.4% nationally.

The oldest age group (aged 85+) has also increased by the highest rate. Between 2001 and 2011 the number people aged 85 and over increased by 27.4% compared to 23.3% nationally.

These trends are likely to continue, largely because of the county's current age structure and trends in people living longer. The number of older people in the county is projected to increase substantially by 48.9% by 2030. This means the number of residents aged 65+ will increase from 93,000 in 2011 to 138,400 in 2030. The number of 85+ people is set to increase even more sharply over the same period, doubling from around 11,000 to 22,000 residents.

The working age population overall is projected to decline by 1.1% by 2030. The younger working age population (aged 16-39) will increase over this period by 12% whilst the older working age population (aged 40-65) is projected to decline by 11.9%. Despite declines in the number of children over the last ten years recent increases in births means the number of children aged 0-15 is projected to steadily increase by 6.6% up until 2022.

Local economy

Geographically, the county is both large and diverse. More than half the county's population live in the 12 major centres of population with around a third living in smaller town and urban fringe areas. The remaining population live in villages and hamlets some of which are the most rural areas in England. The county has many physical assets with a World Heritage Site, 70 parks and open spaces, an area of outstanding natural beauty covering the upper Teesdale and Weardale and 15km of defined Heritage Coast.

Our top priority is to improve the local economy leading to an Altogether Wealthier Durham. Economic factors shape the circumstances in which people are born, educated, live healthy lives, work and grow old. These circumstances, along with government policies, can help define life for our communities.

Local economic indicators show a significant gap between County Durham and England average. One of the ways we show this is through Gross Value Added (GVA) which measures the value of all goods and services produced in an area. In County Durham this shows that the local economy would need to increase by 70% to close the gap with the England average. Regional comparisons also show a significant difference, with a 25% increase needed to close the gap with the North East average.

Text box/Infographic quantifying trends in employment rate 2007-2012 e.g.

CD (2012) 65.1%, (change since 2007) -6%

NE 66.2%, -3.2%

GB 70.7%, -1.6%

Other economic measures show a similar trend. The local employment rate compared to the England average had been improving before 2008 but fell considerably during and following the recession. The proportion of local people in employment fell and remained low for a long time, only showing some signs of improvement in 2013.

The impact of the recession on local unemployment has been considerable. The number of people claiming Jobseekers allowance (JSA) doubled, adding to long term unemployment issues that the county has always had, with around one in ten of the working age population claiming a sickness related benefits. The number of young JSA claimants and those claiming for more than a year have both increased considerably which need new approaches and interventions to ensure we break the cycle of worklessness.

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale and trends in unemployment

1)JSA claimants 12,000 (up 110% May 08-May 13)

2)LT unemployment 4,500 (up 890% May 08-May 13)

3) youth unemployment (70% May 08-May 13).

Together these indicators illustrate the scale of the task and provide the partnership with further evidence as to why improving the local economy is the top priority. However, all thematic areas clearly remain vital in delivering a better quality of life for all residents.

Quality of life

More than one in four residents have no qualifications (27.5%) which is high when compared nationally (23.9%). There are also relatively fewer highly qualified residents in the county (21.5%) than compared nationally (28.7%).

There are, however, signs for optimism. In 2012/13, GCSE educational attainment showed a consecutive improvement for the eleventh year, outstripping the national average, with 62.9% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths.

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of those going on to higher education (2011/12),

CD 16.1 per 1,000 18+ population, +20% since 2001

NE 18.1 per 1,000 18+ population, +25% since 2001

Eng 21.6 per 1,000 18+ population, +28% since 2001

This good performance at GCSE level is not reflected in higher education starts because relatively few people go on to study at university. Also, because of increases in apprenticeship starts locally, in both 2010/11 and 2011/12, more County Durham residents started apprenticeships than went on to study at university for a first degree.

New and improved approaches to health mean that life expectancy has been steadily improving in County Durham but is still relatively low when compared nationally. However, there is still a large gap between affluent and deprived areas within the county. A boy born today in the most deprived areas of County Durham is expected to live around eight years less than if he were born in the most affluent. Similarly girls born in the most affluent area are expected to live around six years longer than those born in the most deprived areas.

Text box/Infographic quantifying inequality in Life Expectancy 2008-2010

Male/Female

CD 77.0 years/81.0years

ENG 78.6 years/82.6years

Patterns in why people die early show that circulatory diseases and cancers are the main factors that contribute to poor life expectancy for males and females. However, smoking is the biggest single contributor to a shorter life expectancy in the county and contributes substantially to the many cancers. Between 2008 and 2010 cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer accounted for 65% of early or premature deaths in County Durham.

Almost one in four residents (23.6%) reported that they had a long term illness or disability which limits their day-to-day activities in the 2011 Census. Despite improvements since 2001 this remains much higher than national (17.9%) comparison.

Inequalities such as these are also shown in other population needs data which show referrals for social care are much higher in relatively deprived areas. Health and social care providers also have the added challenge of providing services for a rapidly increasing number of older people, many of whom have very complex needs.

County Durham is one of the safest places to live in the UK as crime is low and below the average for England. It is, however, relatively higher in more deprived areas. Anti-social behaviour remains a significant issue for many residents despite recent improvements.

Partnership Localities

In April 2013 the County Durham Partnership agreed to adopt a new partnership geography comprising five sub-county areas, to be used to develop a cross-thematic analysis for the consideration of priorities and need below county level. The following information describes how these areas vary in terms of population characteristics, trends as well as needs and will be used to support the geographic focus of the partnership's work.

Central Durham

Central Durham is home to the county's largest settlement, Durham City, and also includes various suburbs and satellite villages. It is also home to our world heritage site in Durham Cathedral and a world renowned university.

**Map of SPA geography
highlighting Central Durham**

Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses Central Durham had the highest rate of population growth of all of the five sub-county areas, with an increase of 6.6%, rising to 106,700 people. Parts of Durham City experienced particularly large growth.

This increase is mainly due to Durham City being the home to one of the country's leading universities and its expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate places prior to 2011. This added to the already disproportionately high number of 16-39 year olds living in Durham City. The role of the university can be clearly seen in the area's age profile with around a sixth (15.8%) of the area's population aged between 18-24, far higher than the county average of 9.7%.

The area differs to the rest of the county in other ways too. Mainly it stands out as the most affluent area of the county, albeit with some areas of deprivation. Unemployment (2.8%) and worklessness are relatively low (10.1%) compared to the national levels (3.6% and 11.4%). Both long term (1%) and youth unemployment (3%) are also low.

Educational attainment levels in the area are very good. In 2012 more than seven out of ten pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and maths. What is also notable is the relatively high level of attainment amongst disadvantaged pupils in the area, much higher than their equivalents elsewhere in the county.

Life expectancy is generally high with two areas, Belmont and Carville for females and Newton Hall for males, having the highest life expectancy in the county at 87.1 and 81.3 years respectively. However, despite the proportion of people in the area with a limiting long term illness being the lowest of all sub-county areas, it remains above the national average.

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of poor health in Central Durham

Limiting Long Term Illness

Central Durham - 20% 19,000 people

E&W - 18%

Crime and antisocial behaviour in the area are very low when compared nationally.

East Durham

East Durham's two major centres of population: Peterlee and Seaham, have each experienced different trends in population change. The area had the lowest rate of growth in population of all five areas, with an increase of 1.2% between 2001 and 2011 rising to 95,100 people.

Map of SPA geography highlighting East Durham

This has been concentrated in areas with housing developments, particularly in the North Seaham area, with the East Shore Village development contributing to the 17.1% increase in the local population. The greatest increase was in Murton South and South Hetton which increased by 19.9% due to developments on former colliery and factory sites. These developments have radically changed the housing mix in the local area adding substantially to the number of detached properties available.

Peterlee, however, was the opposite with a fall in the overall population with central Peterlee and the Blackhalls falling considerably, each by 8.0% and 8.0%. The area has also experienced a relatively large fall in the number of school age children falling by over a fifth (-21.4%) almost double the county trend (-12.8%).

East Durham has long had high levels of worklessness despite recent improvements. The latest data indicates that around 13,000 people (21.4% of the working age population) claim out of work benefits of which over half (around 7,000 people) claim a sickness related benefit. In addition, the Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is high with youth unemployment more than twice the national rate.

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of worklessness in East Durham

ED (Workless) 21.4% (JSA)6% (LTU)1.9% (YU)11.4%

NE 15.5%, 5.3%, 1.8%, 8.1%

Eng 11.4%, 3.6%, 1%, 5.1%

Smaller areas within East Durham show very high concentrations of worklessness. Almost a third of the working age population in parts of Easington Colliery, Eden Hill and Horden are claiming out of work benefits.

More than a third (34%) of the population aged 16+ has no recognised qualifications, much higher than county and nationally. GCSE attainment in 2012 was relatively low (57%) compared to the county average (65%) but is only slightly below the England average (59%).

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of poor health in East Durham

Limiting Long Term Illness

East Durham - 28% 26,000 people

E&W - 18%

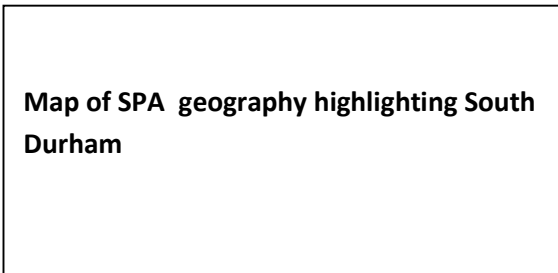
Poor health is also a significant issue with more than one in four residents (28%) reporting that they had a long term illness or disability which limits their day-to-day activities. Despite relatively large improvements since 2001 this remains far higher than national (17.9%) and regional

(21.6%) comparisons. Life expectancy in many areas of East Durham is also lower and referrals for social care are high.

Crime in the area is below national and anti-social behaviour is relatively high in the area and continues to be a significant issue for many residents.

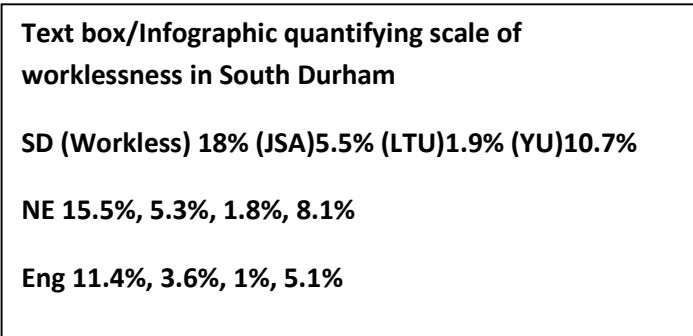
South Durham

South Durham is the most populated locality, with 145,000 residents, more than a quarter (28.2%) of the county's population. Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses this increased by a relatively small amount, 2.8% or 3,900 people.



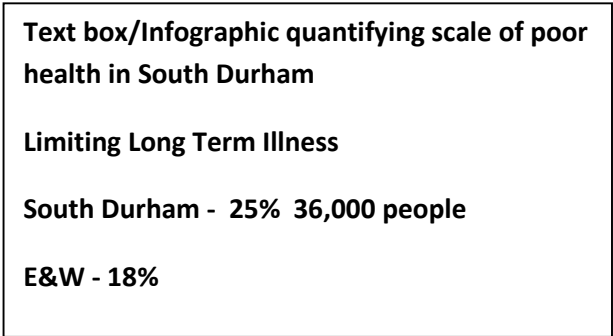
Almost three in five of the area's population (57.9%) live in the five major centres; Bishop Auckland, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Shildon and Spennymoor. There have been small areas of high population growth in Bishop Auckland largely related to new housing. There have also been areas of population decline, most notably in parts of Spennymoor and Ferryhill, although this is an area which includes the Durham Gate project where housing developments are underway.

Worklessness is high in the area with over 16,000 residents claiming out of work benefits, equivalent to almost a fifth of working age population. Over the course of the recession JSA claimants more than doubled with youth unemployment more than twice the national rate.



Almost a third (30%) of the population aged 16+ has no recognised qualifications, higher than county (28%) or national comparisons (24%). However GCSE attainment in the area in 2012 (66%) was slightly above the county average (65%) and good compared to the England average (59%).

Poor health is also a significant issue in the area. Around one in four South Durham residents (24.8%) reported that they had a long term illness or disability which limits their day-to-day activities, higher than national (17.9%) and regional (21.6%) comparisons. Life expectancy in the area is low and referrals for social care are high.



Crime in the area is below national. Anti-social behaviour is relatively high in the area and continues to be a significant issue for many residents.

North Durham

The population of North Durham increased by 5.6% between 2001 and 2011 to around 133,500 people which was the second largest of the five sub-county areas.

North Durham is the most urban area with around 70% of its population living in the three major centres; Chester-le-Street, Consett and Stanley. Since 2001 housing developments in South Stanley and particularly in the Delves and Leadgate areas of Consett, have led to relatively high levels of population growth.

Worklessness is near the county average with around 12,000 residents claiming out-of-work benefits. Similar to county trends, just over half of worklessness is made up of people claiming sickness related benefits.

Slightly more than a fifth of the area's population (22.9%) reported that they had a limiting long term illness or disability which is higher than national (17.9%) and regional (21.6%) comparisons, though slightly lower than the county average (23.6%). Just over a quarter (26.4%) of the population aged 16+ have no recognised qualifications which is lower than county (28%) but higher than national (24%) comparison. GCSE attainment in the area in 2012 (62.7%) was slightly below county levels (65%) but better than the England average (59%).

Crime and antisocial behaviour in the area are very low when compared nationally.

Map of SPA geography highlighting North Durham

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of worklessness in North Durham

ND (Workless)14.4%% (JSA)4.2% (LTU)1.4% (YU)7.9%

NE 15.5%, 5.3%, 1.8%, 8.1%

Eng 11.4%, 3.6%, 1%, 5.1%

The Dales

The Dales is the county's most rural locality with around a third of people living in small towns. Slightly less than half of these live in Barnard Castle, the only major population centre. Around two thirds of the population live in rural villages some of which are located in the most sparsely populated areas in England.

Map of SPA geography highlighting The Dales

This area has the lowest number of people out of the five sub-county areas with only 6.4% of the county's population, 33,100 people. Between 2001 and 2011 this population increased by 2.8% or 900 people. The number of people aged 65+ increased by 19.0% to 7,400 and those aged 85+ increased by 28.7% to just over 900 people. This means that people aged 65 and over account for more than a fifth of the local population, higher than the other four localities and the England average (17%).

Worklessness is low with around 1,800 residents claiming out-of-work benefits. Both long term and youth unemployment are also relatively low. This is reflected in general low levels of deprivation as nowhere falls within the top 10% most deprived when compared nationally¹. However because of the area's rural nature, the challenges are different from the rest of the county. For example, more than one in four households are believed to be in fuel poverty, higher than the county and England averages. This is likely to be related to the lack of mains gas supply in the area leading to many residents using alternative, more costly fuels.

Text box/Infographic quantifying scale of Fuel Poverty.

The Dales 4,000 households (26.4%)

CD 44,300 (19.5%)

E&W 320,900 (14.6%)

Just over a quarter (25.2%) of the population aged 16+ has no recognised qualifications, lower than county (27.5%) but higher than national (23.9%) comparison. GCSE attainment in 2012 (67.3%) was above county and national levels. There is however a large gap in attainment in the area between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.

Around one in five residents (21.1%) reported a long term illness or disability which limits their day to day activities, less than the county average (23.6%) but higher than the national average (17.9%). This is reflected in other health data with relatively low mortality rates as well as fewer social care referrals.

Crime and antisocial behaviour in the area are very low when compared nationally.

Text box/Infographic quantifying gap in

GCSE attainment 2011/12. %+ A*-C GCSE inc. Eng + Maths

	All	Disadv	Non-Disadv	Gap
Dales	67.3%	37.8%	75.7%	38%
CD	64.9%	44.1%	73.3%	29.2%
ENG	58.8%	38.5%	65.7%	27.2%

¹ Indices of Deprivation 2010

Altogether wealthier

Our Vision for 2030

Our vision is for a modern and dynamic county characterised by excellent quality of place, competitive businesses with a highly skilled and economically active labour market and high levels of economic activity. We will create sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential.

By 2030 County Durham will be known for:

- Its diverse and competitive economy, which has made County Durham an attractive place to work and invest.
- Its importance as a significant visitor destination and the renaissance of its small towns and villages.
- Its well educated, skilled and enterprising people.

By recognising job creation, sustainable economic growth and regeneration as the top priority for County Durham we aim to ensure that, by 2030, it is a place people will want to visit, invest in and make their home. It will also support and enable local people and businesses to achieve their potential.

The county faces significant economic challenges, with high unemployment and low land values alongside low levels of investment. To realise our vision for growth we need to direct investment into the most effective way possible and ensure that we have the right infrastructure, the right support, in the right places, to support job growth.

It is vital that the county, its businesses and its people, are supported to take advantage of the opportunities available through the wider economy. If people are in employment it is recognised that they have more chance of enjoying a longer, healthier life. So by supporting more people into work, there is a benefit on the wider determinants of health. Also, children who grow up in a home where one or both parents are in employment will go on to achieve higher levels of educational attainment and employment themselves. It will also have an impact in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and provide a foundation for children and young people to achieve their potential.

Achieving our vision

To achieve our vision, our high level objectives are:

Thriving Durham City

- To **exploit the city's potential** as a major retail, business and residential centre, academic hub and visitor destination. Through a coordinated regeneration programme in the city centre we seek to build on the city's potential, attracting much needed private sector employment opportunities which will support economic growth.
- To deliver the cultural and tourism ambitions for the City which benefit the entire County. Through a variety of approaches, specifically the **County Durham**

Cultural Programme we will improve the cultural offer within the county and increase opportunities for people to experience and take part in cultural activities.

Vibrant and Successful Towns

- To embed a **'Whole-Town' approach** through coordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health. By enabling and supporting the ambitions within the County Durham Plan and our regeneration frameworks we will help to stimulate investment in our towns which boost opportunities to support employment growth.
- To improve the **Economic Transport Corridors** to unlock the potential of our network of major centres. Through investments in key junctions and opening up new rail and road routeways we will improve transport network flows and access to our employment sites.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Rural Communities

- To **establish communities where people live, can live and want to live**. Working in partnership we will continue to provide support for residents and communities to improve their resilience.
- To **improve the housing offer** and narrow the deprivation and inequalities gap between communities. Through a joined up approach we will continue to effectively enhance the housing choices and support services available to our residents.
- To improve equality of access to employment and services. Through digital inclusion and delivering the **Digital Durham Broadband Delivery Programme** we will improve equality of access for businesses and residents, helping to enhance economic and social well-being by providing superfast broadband access to all businesses, homes and communities in County Durham.
- To mitigate the impact of welfare reform on our most vulnerable residents.

Competitive and Successful People

- To **raise the aspirations, participation and attainment of young people**. We will continue to promote apprenticeships as a viable route into employment, support employer led skill development and stimulate and promote the opportunities presented through entrepreneurship.
- To re-engage adults with work and move economically inactive residents into the labour market. By supporting people on paths back into work, including through volunteering opportunities and enhancing national employment support programmes we will work in partnership to increase our employment levels within the county. Through initiatives such as **County Durham Apprenticeship Programme** we will continue to help increase the numbers of 16-24 year olds participating in education, training and work by providing sustainable work based training opportunities. Interventions like the **Families First Project** provide families with a long history of worklessness with tailored support to overcome the barriers they face in finding employment.
- To stimulate demand for higher level skills and support an employer led skills agenda. Through joint working we will continue to support employer led skills development with our businesses, Durham University, our further education

colleges and training providers. With particular focus on our growth sectors we will enhance opportunities for business and employment growth.

A Top Location for Business

- To **nurture business creation, development and growth**, aligned with key wealth creating sectors. Business Durham and partners will continue to build on local potential to help grow and sustain businesses, expand labour markets, create new businesses and develop new business market growth.
- To **create the right environment for innovation and growth**. Through the development and delivery of the County Durham Innovation Framework opportunities for commercialisation and opening new business markets will be capitalised. Fostering business growth and through the enhancement of business sites within the county we will help to stimulate and grow our business base.
- To promote County Durham as an **attractive economic location for investment**. Through place promotion championed by Visit County Durham and Business Durham we will continue to promote the county as a top location for business. By removing development constraints and taking a development led approach to investment opportunities and stimulating the right infrastructure development we will enhance the county as a place to do business and improve our business offer.

The success of our delivery will be measured through five key outcomes over the lifetime of this strategy.

1. The County Durham employment rate to return to, and be maintained at, pre-recession levels (73% of the working age population) within the period 2010-2030 leading to 30,000 additional jobs for County Durham residents.
2. The number of businesses in the county to increase by 4,300 by 2030 contributing towards the rise in the employment rate.
3. Overall disposable income of households to rise within the next 20 years to 103% of the regions values (or 87.4% of the national figure).
4. The county's per capita GVA figure to rise to 87% of the regional value (or 68% of the UK figures) by 2030.
5. The number of areas in the county which are ranked nationally in the top 20% of the Index of Deprivation's for low employment to reduce from the current number of 174 to 64.

Of the five measures of success, the CDEP has agreed that the top priority outcome is to improve our **employment rate**. Taking into account changes in population, in order to achieve the pre-recession employment rate, we require an additional 30,000 residents of County Durham to be in employment. This will come from a mix of:

- Additional employment and self-employment opportunities located in the county.
- More residents being able to access employment within a broad travel to work area.
- Additional numbers of employed people becoming resident in County Durham.

Successes to build on

Much of our work involves working at a regional, national and, in the case of Hitachi Rail Europe, internationally. This area of work is particularly open to external forces and therefore the role of partners within the Economic Partnership is key in attracting businesses in to the county. Some of the successful services, initiatives and programmes include:

- Continuing to grow and support our business base through partnership working and tailored support:
 - Newton Aycliffe Business Park with Hitachi Rail Europe awarded the Intercity Express programme
 - Business Durham and its provision of proactive support to the business community through the promotion of enterprise and business start-ups. The Future Business Magnates continues to flourish and stimulate possibilities of enterprise for our young people and harness our employer education links.
- Improving the infrastructure of the county and its access to maximise opportunities for our businesses, residents and communities through initiatives like:
 - £5 million Transit 15 programme, improving connections between settlements and Durham City
 - Seaham North Dock St John's Square – public services centre including local authority and health provision
 - Securing funding for the Digital Durham Broadband Delivery Programme. This will be implemented and will improve the economic and social well-being of all residents by providing superfast broadband access to all businesses, homes and communities
- Supporting and enhancing national employment support programmes through local initiatives, raising aspirations and opportunities:
 - **County Durham Apprenticeship Programme** which aims to increase the numbers of 16-24 year olds participating in education, training and work by providing sustainable work based training opportunities.
 - **Families First Project** provides families with a long history of worklessness with tailored support to overcome the barriers they face in finding employment
- Development of the World Heritage Visitor Centre for the Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site
- County Durham 2013 Cultural Programme which provided a varied programme of events and activities and increasing opportunities for people to experience and take part in cultural activities.

In addition, all 14 AAPs are focused on supporting local communities to become stronger and better prepared. Much of this activity has been focused on helping people into employment, either through mentoring and developing skills to help make people job ready or through involvement in initiatives such as the County Durham Apprenticeship Scheme. The approaches taken by different partnerships vary due to their locality and specific characteristics whilst some AAPs are delivering initiatives jointly.

Business advice with a twist

The Durham Creatives programme is a good example of the role the County Durham Economic Partnership can play by investing in the development of a potential growth sector, and enabling a fresh approach to delivery. It aims to deliver a package of prestart, start-up and growth support to County Durham's creative sector.

By offering "Business Advice- with a twist" they have been able to capture the attention of a wide range of potential creative start-up businesses and offer specialist support in a number of different fields.

Following a successful pilot a more comprehensive programme was commissioned. The initial funding of £175,000 was matched with a European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) contribution, creating a substantial project worth £350,000.

They have generated 17 new business starts and have at least five more in the pipeline. 307 people have engaged in the project, 67 of whom are now ready to start their own businesses.

Looking to the future

We recognise that we are operating in a global economic downturn with reduced resources as well as declining private investment, both of which lead to an underperforming local economy with high numbers of unemployed people. It is therefore more important than ever that we take advantage of our key assets, tackle constraints to growth and as partners, we work together to achieve our ambitions.

To drive forward our priorities the Economic Partnership will give attention to:

- **Making our places work** (our economic infrastructure) and promotion of County Durham as a place to invest, do business and visit.
- **Influencing and informing wider decision making priorities and investments** in particular the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) and North East Leadership Board (Combined Authority)
- **Enabling effective investment planning within the County** – developing, supporting, overseeing and promoting a pipeline of prioritised schemes and making the most of available resources. The CDEP will maximise the benefits of available funding and resources such as the EU 2014-20 Programme to help achieve our ambitions to support job creation.
- Creating **more opportunities for employment** and reducing disparities, with a key current emphasis on opportunities for young people and promoting training and skills development in new and emerging employment sectors.

Altogether better for children and young people

Our Vision for 2030

Our vision is for a Durham which is altogether better for children, young people and their families. We want all children and young people in County Durham to be safe, healthy and to believe, achieve and succeed.

By 2030 County Durham will be known for:

- The value it places on the views of children, young people and parents and for listening to what they say.
- Educational attainment and achievement, which consistently exceeds the national average.
- Working in partnership to ensure children have a safe, happy and healthy start to life that continues into their youth.

It is important for the future of the county that our children and young people are supported to make the best start in life and empowered to be able to make the right choices. As educational attainment continues to rise every year it is important that we continue to work with our partners in the private sector and further and higher education to ensure our children and young people have the right skills to be able to take on the opportunities available to them in the jobs market.

Achieving our vision

In order to achieve the aims set out in the Children, Young People and Families Plan we will deliver the following high level objectives:

Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential

- To **support children to achieve and develop during their early years**. Families are supported when needs arise through the development of the Early Help Strategy, and statutory changes in relation to Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnerships will enable a whole systems approach to health improvement services and service delivery.
- To **support children and young people to achieve and attain during school years** to prepare them for adulthood in all phases of education. We will support schools to provide early support to children and young people who have additional needs but who do not require more specialist services.
- To support young people to **progress and achieve in education, employment and training** to meet their potential through access to impartial and independent careers advice. Young people also have access to, and benefit from, high quality, comprehensive education and training opportunities, including Apprenticeships. We will support young people into education, employment or training, and work will continue with young people who are not, in order to help maximise their potential.
- To support children with **additional needs** to achieve and attain and educational outcomes will be improved for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with the introduction of new Education, Health

and Care Plans. A local offer will be provided so that families are aware of what services are available to them.

Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life

- **To reduce negative risk taking behaviour** through supporting children and young people to take part in positive activities which are appropriate for their age and reduce negative and sexual health risk taking behaviours e.g. smoking, drinking alcohol, teenage conceptions.
- **To reduce incidents of self-harm by children and young people** to ensure they are more resilient. Improvements will continue to be made to ensure the emotional wellbeing of children and young people and effective, appropriate mental health services will be provided to those who need it.
- To provide a range of **positive activities** for children and young people. We will review youth support services to provide a clear focus on delivering targeted support to young people who are vulnerable to poor outcomes, and will work with the voluntary and community sector to provide a comprehensive offer of positive activities for young people in County Durham.

A think family approach is embedded in our support for families

- To improve early intervention and prevention services which will **improve outcomes** for families and we will ensure that we target resources at the families who need it most in the most effective and efficient ways including implementation of the Team Around the School model which will be offered to all secondary schools, so that early help is provided to young people and their families.
- To embed the 'First Contact' system, which is a 'single front door' for children, young people and families to easily access services and advice. This is achieved by the service having one access point to one team through a single telephone number.
- To **protect children from harm** and ensure they are safeguarded and through effective working practices including, adult mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse services. We will implement joint agency response to child sexual exploitation / sexual violence and children who go missing from home and care.
- To offer **permanence and stability** in a timely manner for children who cannot live with their families, through our fostering and adoption work which streamlines processes to provide permanence and stability.

Successes to build on

Whilst financial and demand pressures on all services have increased significantly, we have maintained our quality standards and developed new and innovative approaches. We are ensuring all agencies working with families work effectively together using a 'think family' approach which joins up local services, dealing with each family's problems as a whole and using a range of methods of support and challenging poor behaviour. The 'Stronger Families' programme, known nationally as Troubled Families, supports families in the county experiencing problems or difficulties, including those who:

- have children who don't attend school or who are excluded;

- are involved in antisocial behaviour or crime;
- are not in work; and
- result in high cost services.

This includes families with children on the child protection list, families affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health problems.

Stronger Families is aiming for lasting change, resulting in families achieving positive outcomes. These include getting children and young people back into school, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and getting young people and parents back on the road to employment.

Another area of work that has been successful in achieving good outcomes for children and young people is our work on diverting young people from the criminal justice system and reducing re-offending. Our Pre Reprimand Disposal scheme is a voluntary programme offered to young people who commit their first offence and who otherwise would receive a police reprimand. It ensures interventions are based the needs of the young person and aims at preventing further offences being committed.

Our Intensive Employability Programme (IEP), which aims to achieve successful progression into appropriate and accredited training or employment for young people in order to prevent re-offending, has exceeded its targets. This is a major achievement considering the significant offending history and complex needs of the young people involved. The IEP provides programme of intensive support and provision, delivered on a 1-1 basis and tailored to young people's individual needs.

The number of looked after children in the county has reduced. Reviewing our work in this area provides a positive indication that the priorities are the right ones and actions are supporting the achievement of progress.

The Pre-Birth Intervention (PBI) Service, which launched in March 2012, has reached 30 highly vulnerable families with a wide range of complexities and risk issues, who have all experienced the previous permanent removal of children through the process of care proceedings. The PBI intervenes early in the pregnancy of high risk families, ensuring that parents have support to help them demonstrate that they can provide safe and appropriate care. Where this is not possible, the service aims to reduce delay and make timely decisions, enabling the child to form secure attachments to permanent caregivers.

There has been continued improvement in GCSE attainment, with Durham's young people performing higher than the national average. Particular improvements have been made with children who were looked after for 12 months and Gypsy Roma Traveller pupils. Also the percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training has increased. We received 'Outstanding' Ofsted ratings in latest inspections for Durham's Children's Services and Fostering Services, and will continue to build on this good work. These examples show that we are making on-going improvements with our children and young people and giving them the best opportunities.

Case Study

'Family A' was identified for the Stronger Families Programme in 2012 as their child was involved in anti-social behaviour in the community and had high unauthorised absence from school.

A lead professional met with the family to undertake an assessment which identified a wide range of issues impacting on the family including bereavement and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). A support plan was drawn up with the family including actions agreed by everyone and included practical actions including: a morning routine was established; one-to-one work between the child and a Youth Offending Service worker to address the consequences of their behaviour and the impact on the family; involving the wider family to provide additional family support and involving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

As a result, school attendance improved to 89% and improved behaviour was recognised in school with the child being awarded merit points. There were no further anti-social behaviour incidents reported over a six month period.

Looking to the future

We are always striving to improve services that we offer to children, young people and their families and are seen as national leaders in many areas. This includes working with those children and young people who are at risk of offending as well as those that are in need of fostering and adoption.

This area of work is constantly changing and we all need to be able to plan effectively as well as react to changing situations and policies. We will be focussing on a number of key areas in the future in order to:

- Embed a Think Family ethos/approach, which seeks to provide early intervention for those families that have problems and cause problems to the community around them.
- Transform the way in which we respond to the demand for Children's Services, including the development of an Early Help Strategy which will ensure that we target resources at the families who need it most in the most effective and efficient ways
- Integrate Children's Care and develop a single assessment process and single point of access
- Focus resources to supporting families with children most in need
- Work together to implement the Special Education Needs and Disability reforms including implementation of the 0-25 Education, Health and Care Plans.

Altogether healthier

Our Vision for 2030

Our vision is for a Durham where people are **altogether healthier**. Where the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham improves and health inequalities are reduced.

By 2030 County Durham will be known for:

Its strong focus on healthy lifestyles, which has significantly reduced deaths from cancers and circulatory diseases, and almost eliminated health inequalities within the county.

As a result of the national health reforms this priority theme has seen the most significant change in the last 12 months with the statutory introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) with the overall aim to ***‘Improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities’***. Central to this vision is that decisions about the services provided for service users, carers and patients, are made as locally as possible and involving the people who use them.

Achieving our vision

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is delivered by the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is developed using evidence gathered in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and has six overarching strategic objectives, listed below. As health is such a complex area there are a number of cross cutting issues that will be addressed as part of the strategy and there are high level objectives that are shared with other thematic partnerships. The objective focussing on children and young people is shared with our Children and Families Partnership whilst the initiatives aimed at protecting vulnerable people from harm are delivered by the Safe Durham Partnership. An additional area of focus that has been added as a specific objective since the introduction of the Health and Wellbeing Board is that of end of life care which is led by the NHS.

To achieve our vision our overarching objectives are:

Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

- To reduce **childhood obesity** by improving support to women to start and continue to breastfeed their babies. Also, to improve support to families with children who are obese or overweight.
- To reduce levels of **tobacco related ill health** by providing and developing a range of interventions to reduce the availability of age restricted products (e.g. tobacco) to children and young people. We will also improve **early health intervention services** for children and young people by implementing the ‘healthy child’ programme, a single pathway for early intervention by midwives and health visitors. Also, we will ensure our services are effective in coordinating the provision of early help to families identified with additional needs.
- To ensure that partner organisations work together to improve the **emotional wellbeing** of children and young people, and specifically to support those who **self-harm** including the development of open access and drop in clinics for

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, as well as increased utilisation of outreach work. We will increase publicity around the issues of self-harming and ensure parents receive appropriate advice and support. We will review the pathway for paediatric self-harm admissions and develop the knowledge and skills of school based staff to identify and support vulnerable young people engaging in self-harm behaviours.

Reduce health inequalities and early deaths

- To reduce **death from cancers and circulatory diseases** by implementing systematic approaches to primary and secondary prevention work. We will raise the profile of cancer awareness and earlier diagnosis and encourage the uptake of cancer screening programmes from communities where take up is low.
- To reduce levels of **drug related ill health** we will prevent harm, restrict supply and sustain a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact of drugs on communities and families through the implementation of the County Durham Drugs Strategy.
- We will address health issues caused by alcohol in County Durham through the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- To reduce **obesity levels** we will provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles. Through the Healthy Weight Alliance for County Durham we will aim to reduce the number of people who are obese. Our Food and Nutrition Plan for County Durham will include work around policy, food provision and access. We will ensure that national food and health campaigns are a visible part of health promotion strategies.
- To **reduce excess winter deaths** and improve life quality for those with an underlying health condition by commissioning interventions to address the impact of fuel poverty such as 'Hotspots'. 'Hotspots' helps vulnerable people who live in a cold, damp home and have an underlying health condition via referral to a range of services including advice on switching supplier, debt advice, home safety checks and access to an 'Emergency Fund'. We have also commissioned a 'Health through Warmth' service following involvement in the Warm Up North (WuN) Partnership, which helps residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes and save money.

Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions

- To ensure that **adult care services** are commissioned for those people most in need we will carry out a review of early intervention and preventative services and develop new services to meet gaps in provision, where appropriate.
- To increase **choice and control** through a range of personalised services we will use marketing campaigns to extend the number of people on the Durham Information Guide (DIG) website to provide more choice in the services available. We will also support people who have dementia to live in their own home for as long as possible where appropriate, and give people greater choice and control over the services they purchase and the care that they receive.
- To improve **independence and rehabilitation** we will support people on their return home from hospital and enable them to recover more quickly, through

better co-ordination of care. We will improve people's ability to reach their best possible level of independence by providing more short term care (reablement /intermediate care) in different settings.

- To continue the **joint commissioning of services** we will support and enable voluntary and community sector resilience and appropriate service provision through development, involvement and capacity building.

Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population

- To **maximise independence** by ensuring that people using mental health services who are in employment have a care plan that reflects the additional support needed to help them retain this employment.
- To increase **social inclusion** by identifying ways that will support the armed forces community who have poor mental or physical health.
- To reduce **suicides** through the implementation of our Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy including a local workplace health programme which will support employers to promote healthy workplaces, and tackle the causes of mental ill health at work. Access will be improved for individuals into support and recovery, through early provision of activities such as supported employment, housing support, and debt advice. We will work to reduce stigma and discrimination towards people who experience mental health problems through awareness raising campaigns.

Protect vulnerable people from harm

- To improve the safety of victims and **reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse** by providing support to victims of domestic abuse from their partners or members of the family. We will do this by increasing awareness of domestic abuse across services, organisations and the general public. We will provide training and continue to develop service delivery across agencies in line with lessons learned from Domestic Homicide reviews. A perpetrator strategy will be developed to understand what preventative intervention and rehabilitation capabilities are available for perpetrators and identify areas for activity. Teenage perpetrators of sexual violence will be targeted specifically in order to break the cycle of abuse.
- To **safeguard children and adults** whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm. We will make it easier for individuals to highlight concerns of abuse, such as more efficient reporting procedures and work in partnership to identify signs of family vulnerability and to offer support earlier.

Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need

- To improve the **End of Life Pathway** and implement the North East Charter relating to a 'good death', which aims to provide a guide to those people who are involved with people who are approaching the end of their life. This will ensure the right services are available at the right time for individuals who are dying, their families and carers. We will reduce the **number of emergency admissions to hospital** for people who have been identified as approaching their end of life by providing palliative services in the community.

Successes to build on

We know that some interventions take many years to demonstrate improved health outcomes. There are a number of ways that we can monitor progress against those interventions and a number of initiatives and ways of working together have been developed in recent years that allow us to do this. Looking back we can see that there are improvements in people's health and wellbeing. For example, between 1991-93 and 2008-10, male life expectancy in County Durham increased from 72.2 to 77 years and female life expectancy increased from 77.5 to 81 years. Although there have been great improvements we need to continue our work to close the gap between County Durham and England and also within County Durham.

A specific area of focus is the death rate for cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases and cancers, which have reduced since 2001. One area that has seen considerable improvement is that of cancer screening rates, particularly for breast cancer and cervical cancer, which are both higher than the England average.

We have had remarkable success in reducing early deaths from cardiovascular disease in County Durham. The early death rate has reduced by 70% since 1993, faster than the average reduction across England.

There have also been outstanding and improving results from our reablement service, which provides personal care, help with daily living activities and other practical tasks, for a limited period, and encourages people to develop the confidence and skills to carry out these activities themselves and continue to live at home. Admission rates to residential care have reduced as people are supported to live independently.

The under-18 conception rate has continued to fall and performance is now better than the North East region but further work is needed to catch up to the England average.

Community based programmes have also seen good success. Examples within area action partnerships include:

- The Over 50's Healthy Living Project in Teesdale provided information and training courses on how to eat a healthy diet on a tight budget
- The Cancer Champions project in Chester-le-Street identified volunteers to promote cancer screening in areas with a low take up
- The Silver Talk telephone befriending service enables older people to have regular social telephone conversations with friendly, fully trained, volunteers.

Case Studies

At the heart of all health related services is the individual and there are a number of examples of how different services support the specific needs of people.

One such example is an 84 year old man who lives alone and has dementia. His daughter lives several hundred miles away. She would worry if her father didn't answer the phone, especially that he had gone out and had forgotten how to get home. He was provided with a 'buddi' device which is worn by him and enables his movements to be tracked via satellite. With his permission, his daughter is allowed to log onto a secure

website and check the whereabouts of her father. She is now re-assured that she knows where her father is, whilst he feels more confident that he can continue to live at home.

Looking to the future

There is no doubt that tackling health inequalities and the long-standing poor health of County Durham's communities will remain challenging in the long-term. The issues are complex and inter-related with no easy solutions.

An increasingly older population will see rising prevalence of mental health conditions, dementia, increased levels of disability and long term conditions and will significantly increase the number of people needing care, and possible financial support or services. There are however a range of actions that we can be taken forward in the short, medium and long-term. It is important to maintain a clear focus on reducing inequalities across all of our services and communities so that no one is disadvantaged because of where they live. We will continue to focus on prevention to reduce the pressure on our hospitals and other health services, particularly working with our voluntary sector. We will focus on support and rehabilitation services to help maintain independence and provide early help to families.

Altogether safer

Our Vision for 2030

Our vision is for a Durham which is altogether safer where every adult, child and place in County Durham will be, and will feel, safe.

By 2030 County Durham will be known for:

Its quality of life which is enhanced by low crime, safe neighbourhoods and public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour. Partners continue to work together to reduce crime and disorder and, in Durham, we have seen considerable successes as a result. However, it is recognised that we still face major challenges ahead to narrow the gap between our more deprived communities, who are still more likely to be victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, and our more affluent areas, as well as people's perceptions and confidence.

Crime in County Durham is at its lowest since 1983 and during the last three years we have built upon this success and experienced on-going reductions in both crime and anti-social behaviour, with fewer young people in court and less re-offending. We continue to strengthen the support for victims of domestic abuse and provide more opportunities for people to recover from drug and alcohol misuse.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2014-17 demonstrates how we work together to tackle those issues that are of most concern to the people of County Durham, in order that our communities feel safe and have confidence in those agencies delivering services to them. Working in partnership will be crucial if we are to meet existing and emerging challenges during a time of significant change for those agencies working towards our vision. We will involve a wide range of agencies, members of our communities, voluntary and community sector, social enterprises and charities.

Achieving our vision

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan is developed through evidence gathered through the Safe Durham Partnership's Strategic Assessment. This helps us to identify priorities as well as highlight performance, progress and achievements against the commitments made in the 2011/14 Partnership Plan. It also identifies key crime and disorder risks and threats to the community.

To achieve our vision our overarching objectives, and associated outcomes, are:

Reduce anti-social behaviour

- To increase **public confidence** in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues by developing awareness of, and increase community involvement in, the Police/Partners and Community Together (PACT) meetings and raise public awareness of opportunities, and benefits from, getting involved in improving their area through initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch;
- To reduce **anti-social behaviour** and low level crime - including secondary deliberate fires by targeting measured reductions including home safety checks;

- To create **high quality, clean, green, attractive, accessible environment** by carrying out targeted campaigns as residents tell us that dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping affect their perception of the local area.

Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm

- To provide protection and support to improve outcomes for **victims of domestic abuse and their children** - whilst working towards preventing its occurrence within County Durham by; by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early to prevent it; taking action to reduce the risk to people who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice; and, providing adequate support where abuse does occur and obtain the best outcome for victims and their families.
- To tackle **sexual violence** and the negative impact it has on individuals and families by giving victims access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process with services in place to support them including; preventing sexual violence and sexual exploitation and reducing the associated harm; ensuring that all victims of sexual violence have the access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs; and, improving the criminal justice response to tackling sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
- To reduce the impact of **Hate Crime** by increasing reporting through awareness raising activities carried out so that people know that hate crime can relate to disability, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and transgender/gender identify.

Reducing Re-offending

- To prevent **inter-generational offending** that occurs when, for example, parental offending increases the risk of their child offending, which will incorporate working with families to prevent first time entrants to the youth justice system by; maintaining and developing pre-court assessments and interventions for young people; meeting the health needs of young people who offend and embedding the 'Think Family' approach.
- To prevent **repeat offending** by delivering a range of offender management interventions and will include developing local transitional arrangements for the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation program to improve the management of offenders.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction

- To **reduce the harm caused by alcohol** to individuals, families and communities through the 'prevention and control' element of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Delivery Plan including; delivering education and raising public awareness of alcohol related harm; reducing the number of alcohol related incidents and offending; supporting responsible licensed premises management; delivery of effective treatment and recovery services and helping people to break the cycle of alcohol misuse.

- To reduce the **harm caused by drugs/substances** - through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery. A Drugs Strategy will be developed in 2014 which will focus on these strands of action.

Embed the Think Family Approach

- To **embed 'Think Family' and 'Stronger Families'** into offender and victim services as part of the prevention and early help approach of supporting families. The Think Family approach joins up local services, dealing with each family's problems as a whole and using a range of methods of support and challenge poor behaviour.

Counter Terrorism and prevention of violent extremism

- To **implement 'CONTEST'** (national strategy) by responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it. We will work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support. We will also work with key sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.
- To challenge **extremism and intolerance** by implementing a cohesion action plan in cases where a community is presented with risks from extremist groups.

Road Casualty Reduction

- To improve **education and raise awareness in communities** by delivering road safety education in schools, colleges, youth centres, children's centres and nurseries. We will also deliver road safety training including child pedestrian training, Bikeability Training and EXCElerate to young driver training in schools and colleges. A road safety publicity campaign will be delivered to embed safe road use.
- To improve health and wellbeing of communities through **road casualty reduction** including leading on the implementation of a revised speed management policy for the county, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists and other road users.
- To **develop a safer road environment** by delivering a community speed watch and camera enforcement programme and develop a Speed Management Strategy to address both excess and inappropriate speed.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) nationally has been a significant change in the community safety arena in recent years. The PCC's vision is "to achieve excellence in local policing and the highest levels of public confidence by working alongside communities and partners to address what matters locally"². As part of that vision, the PCC aims to achieve the following outcomes, underpinned by a personal commitment to work with and for our communities:

- **Making local communities and the victims of crime feel empowered** through: involving them in the design/redesign of local police and crime

² Police and Crime Plan 2013-17 page 3

services, listening to their feedback in the evaluation of service delivery, defining services that match the needs our communities have identified to us.

- **Maximising the benefits of partnerships** through the use of innovative shared working arrangements to tackle and prevent crime at its source.
- **Using our resources intelligently** to ensure what we do is both efficient and effective.

The Commissioner also has the responsibility of delivering against the policing priorities as well as engaging with local people to develop and deliver against their priorities through the development of a Police and Crime Plan. Priorities you have voted for in consultation are:

- To tackle anti-social behaviour.
- To tackle the harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drugs.
- To improve road safety by tackling careless and dangerous driving, speeding and other related road safety issues.
- To make our policing services visible and accessible at all times.

In addition the Commissioner also has personal commitments which are:

- To reduce the impact of domestic abuse, particularly violence against women and girls
- To reduce the impact of hate crime
- To improve engagement with local communities across the Constabulary area

Successes to build on

Our approaches towards managing offenders, and the benefits of restorative justice, are two key pieces of work that have been developed and embedded in our everyday work. Restorative approaches is an important element of the work to have fewer victims, fewer crimes and reduced demand on the criminal justice system. A restorative approach brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm together, enabling everyone affected by the incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. Our schools are using this approach to improve the learning environment and developing important skills for learning; reducing exclusions and improving attendance. Neighbourhood police teams are applying restorative approaches to every day policing and our Youth Offending Service use the approach as an option for every young person who offends.

Another significant area of work that has continued to be strengthened is the approach we take to those young people who are at risk of committing crimes. Our Pre Reprimand Disposal scheme is a voluntary programme offered to young people who commit their first offence and who otherwise would receive a police reprimand. It ensures interventions are based the needs of the young person and aims at preventing further offences being committed. It has led to a 78% reduction in first time entrants in to the youth justice system between 2007/08 and 2012/13 which is significantly better than regional and national rates. The system has been recognised nationally and won the Youth Justice Category for the Children and Young People Now Awards 2012. It has also received commendations from organisations such as the Howard League Community Programmes Awards and the Butler Trust.

Domestic abuse has also been a key area of focus for the partnership with new ways of working introduced in order to ensure that both victims and perpetrators are offered support in the hope of stopping the abuse. Success for high risk victims of domestic abuse has also been achieved through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This is a co-ordinated and immediate approach involving the key agencies and is focussed on the individual who has suffered domestic abuse. Also, our Domestic Homicide Review Procedure makes sure that lessons are learned when a person has been a victim of a domestic homicide.

The Safe Durham Partnership has also continued to address issues such as anti-social behaviour as well as drug and alcohol misuse through existing strategies and working arrangements that undergo regular monitoring and reviews. Our communities have proved to be very important in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour; not least through the Safe Durham Partnership strategy to modernise Neighbourhood Watch. Our aim was for a bigger, stronger and more active movement and today, Durham Constabulary Force area has a higher percentage of households in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme than any other Force area in England and Wales. A range of initiatives have been put in place by Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators that have shown demonstrable success.

Our 'Building Recovery' objective demonstrates our aim to deliver effective treatment and recovery services in order to help individuals achieve abstinence from illicit drugs, to ensure that recovery is sustained and help people successfully re-integrate into their communities and wider society. A range of services are used to deliver this approach, including the 'Recovery Academy Durham'. The Recovery Academy works with up to a maximum of 14 clients, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The model includes a course of intensive 12 step study, on a one-to-one and group basis with trained peer therapists. It offers a secondary program after graduation to help with education, employment and training and ongoing recovery support.

Case Study

As alcohol misuse remains a concern, particularly amongst young people, the work of the Brief Interventions Team is important in working with people across the County. A 12 year old was found by the police to be in possession of one litre of cider. A home visit was arranged and it was found that the young person lived with their grandmother as they had refused to live with their parent. During the intervention it became apparent that they were consuming strong white cider regularly. Their safety was questioned following further disclosures and it was clear that the grandmother was in desperate need for support. These concerns were escalated to the initial response team and the young person was referred to the 4Real alcohol service that provided specialist support while additional support was provided to the wider family.

Looking to the future

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-2017 highlights some key areas for improvement under each of the seven high level objectives.

Despite reductions in levels of **anti-social behaviour** incidents, the public still perceive this to be a problem. Reducing people's perception and increasing confidence in the

police and partners efforts to deal with anti-social behaviour will be a key focus over the next three years. Specific issues which the public have raised include dog fouling, speeding traffic and rubbish lying around.

When trying to **reduce reoffending**, adult offender health assessments shows mental health has become the issue of greatest need, while a recent assessment of young people who offend has identified a range of health needs and in particular that of speech, language and communication needs. The partnership will develop timely access to specialist adult mental health services where appropriate and develop pathways and access for identified health needs of young people who offend with a focus on their communication needs.

Nationally identified risks associated with women offenders are reflected locally. These include abuse, anxiety and depression, substance misuse, safe accommodation, vulnerability from male offenders and leaving behind dependent children when entering prison. Highlighted as a new area of focus in 2013 the partnership will continue to tackle the vulnerability issues these women face.

Maintaining a strong understanding of the Prevent objectives, the drivers of **terrorism** and a strong, tried and tested Safeguarding Referral Programme, called 'Channel' will be the three important elements of stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. A multi-agency group is in place and is represented by all key sectors that understand the risk of radicalisation and their obligation to ensure terrorist ideologies, and those that promote them, do not go uncontested. It will be important that all key sectors are delivering a range of tools to ensure key members of staff, and others working within key sectors, have a good understanding of how to recognise those vulnerable, or subject, to radicalisation and know how to respond.

A new focus which is shared by the Police and Crime Commissioner is around **vulnerability**, particularly concerning increasing reporting of **hate crime**. There will also be a continued focus on increasing the reporting of domestic abuse while reducing repeat victimisation.

Altogether greener

Our Vision for 2030

Our vision is for an altogether greener Durham which makes efficient use of energy resources, has built resilience to extreme weather events, protects its natural assets for all to enjoy, conserves and made best use of its heritage through open access to historic buildings and where people are proud of their contribution to clean neighbourhoods.

By 2030 County Durham will be known as:

A place where people want to live and visit because of the quality of the natural and historic environment.

The Environment Partnership aims to develop innovative approaches to addressing environmental issues across County Durham, pooling collective resource and sharing best practice. The strength of the partnership lies in its ability to engage with, and harness, the commitment of communities and key organisations to work together to both improve the natural and built environment through enhancing existing assets, and to engender behavioural change in businesses and neighbourhoods to consider the environmental impact of their actions.

Since the Sustainable Community Strategy was developed in 2010, several changes that impact on this theme have taken place. Consequently the Environment Partnership has restructured to take these changes into account and build on previous successes.

These involved:

- Recognition that we need to engage much more closely with communities; therefore greater representation from AAPs, voluntary and community groups have been factored into each of the thematic groups.
- Development of two Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) cutting across County Durham which will drive improvements in relation to habitats and natural landscapes in accordance with natural boundaries rather than Local Authority boundaries.
- Changes in Public Health and the recognition of wider determinants playing a key role in the health and wellbeing of our communities. This presents an opportunity for more cross thematic working.

Achieving our vision

The priorities of the Environment Partnership have been collectively developed by all partners following community liaison and looking at a range of evidence.

To achieve our vision our overarching objectives are:

Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment

- To **reduce environmental crime**, ensuring streets and open spaces are well-maintained, free from litter, dog fouling, graffiti and fly-tipping. This is to be achieved through a targeted programme of activity, with joint educational campaigns and enforcement operations at hot-spot locations throughout the county. We will also instigate our locality teams to work in specific neighbourhoods to address issues such as poor housing environments.
- To **reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill** by delivering and promoting a range of services tailored to local communities and based on the principles of sustainable living. This will include educational campaigns to convey the benefits of re-using, recycling and composting, whilst promoting self-sufficiency by encouraging individuals and communities to utilise appropriate spaces to grow their own produce and work with organisations who can share the benefit of this with those struggling financially.
- To harness the contribution individuals and local communities can make toward a cleaner, greener and sustainable environment by **raising awareness of everyone's contribution to improving the local environment and increasing volunteering** to encourage businesses and communities to get involved. We will build on our existing activity, for example the Big Spring Clean, Britain in Bloom, as well as developing new local campaigns across the county and promoting community champions

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

- To **increase the value of local landscapes, biodiversity and eco-systems** by encouraging all to utilise and enjoy our natural environment. We will promote the natural environment as an ideal place to take exercise and be in contact with nature.
- To **implement a sympathetic grassland management regime** on selected verges and open spaces across the county to **maximise their biodiversity potential**. We will also identify sites suitable for wildflower planting and include poppies to commemorate World War I.
- To actively **encourage the sustainable management of our woodland resources** by promoting the development and marketing of woodland products and encouraging planting schemes whilst ensuring any impact on wildlife is positive.
- To utilise the benefits of the **natural environment** we can maximise opportunities to use our natural habitats for the absorption of carbon emissions
- To protect our **valued natural environment** we will work with businesses and key organisations to consider what defences can be put in place to address the impact of extreme weather events

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

- To **support communities to deal with the increased frequency of extreme weather** events, e.g. flooding, by changing how they think and encouraging them to act now. We will undertake a co-ordinated approach to increase environmental awareness and encourage householders and businesses to reduce energy consumption and limit CO₂ emissions as well as adapt to climate change.

- To **address and reduce incidences of 'fuel poverty'** by increasing the take-up of households energy efficiency improvements through the 'Warm Up North Scheme' without up-front cost as these are paid back via energy bill savings as part of the government's green deal scheme.
- To facilitate a programme of energy efficiency in our business community buildings and schools to reduce energy costs, cut carbon and increase comfort.

Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

- To **develop and retain the expertise** essential to repair historical sites and maintain our built heritage by working with local training organisations to provide opportunities for skills development
- To seek funding opportunities to support '**Heritage at Risk**' projects across the county.

Successes to build on

There are many examples of community volunteering projects through which local people give their time to improve their local environment. The most high profile event is the Big Spring Clean which ran in 2013 and saw nearly 1,500 volunteers giving up over 2,000 combined hours to collect over 1,000 bags of rubbish at 85 locations. Many other local events, litter picks and community clear ups take place on an almost continuous basis, the number mostly limited by the availability of supervisors and equipment. In addition, a number of 'Weeks of Action' have taken place at hotspot areas. Responsible dog ownership continues to be promoted through the Green Dog Walkers Scheme and to date almost 1,000 dog owners have signed up to the scheme.

A hotline to enable responsible walkers to report any environmental anti-social behaviour issues has been set up to protect the coastline. We not only protect the natural environment but also our wildlife, for example the 'Little Tern' Project located at Crimdon and funded by the Heritage Coast. We have worked with the RSPB to improve the little tern's habitat and therefore its population. The attractiveness of the local environment is reflected in the number of awards the county has received which includes 21 green flags for parks and green spaces. We continue to work hard to reduce carbon emissions across the county and have already achieved a 40% reduction from our baseline year of 2011. A low carbon recovery is being encouraged and we are aiming for an 80% reduction from levels in 1990 by 2050.

We continue to inform residents of the home insulation measures available to them: take-up resulting in lower carbon emissions and energy bills, reducing the impact of climate change as well as fuel poverty. County Durham has the highest uptake of free insulation measures in the North East and between 2008 and 2013, the energy efficiency of more than 54,000 homes was improved. We will build on this success with the Warm Up North Scheme, a multi-area partnership with eight other North East local authorities which maximises the uptake of the Government's Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation Scheme grants and is the largest and most advanced such partnership in the UK.

During September each year, properties across the county take part in Heritage Open Days and we continue to promote this scheme and encourage all to visit. The number of sites participating increases each year 78 properties took part in 2013.

Case Study

The Chester Le Street School & Community Gardening Project aimed to encourage local children and young people to take pride in their local environment through planting up a half barrel for their school grounds or communal space.

Chester-le-Street & District AAP engaged with young people from 22 local schools and six youth groups in planting activities to improve their environment and benefit communities across the area. They also received an information pack with additional ideas for growing projects.

The ultimate aim was for children and young people to feel a sense of achievement and ownership of their own gardening project and, through this, they gained an increased understanding of the local environment as well as wider environmental issues.

Looking to the future

The partnership recognises that a greater emphasis on adaption to extreme weather and climate resilient communities is needed. A countywide climate adaptation campaign emphasising self-help, awareness raising and encouraging investment in adaptation measures in homes and businesses has been proposed which would focus on high risk communities and vulnerable citizens and building on existing networks and channels of communication. There are plans for a programme of green infrastructure improvements including sustainable urban drainage, peatland protection, tree planting, wetland creation and flood mitigation schemes.

An increase in severe weather events, including prolonged winter snow, hotter summers, heavy rain storms, high winds and flooding, as a consequence of climate change will make it more difficult to manage services and will have a significant impact on both the natural and built environment.

As the economy improves and the business sector grows, it is imperative that County Durham remains a low carbon economy and that any growth is sustainable. Increased energy costs are proving challenging for both businesses and households. Due to this it is possible that more people will experience fuel poverty. Almost half of buildings or structures on the national Heritage at Risk Register do not have a beneficial use so there is no economic incentive to look after them. In addition, the funding gap between the cost of repairs and the value of the building or structure (conservation deficit) has increased significantly since 2012. Many buildings and structures have been on the register for a long time and the partnership is committed to finding solutions for them.

Shaping the Future

Together we want to shape a better future for County Durham. It is important that we continue to be ambitious and collectively identify areas of work that will add value. Working in partnership is more important than ever and looking for new and innovative ways of doing things is equally as important.

We recognise that the key to a stronger future is jobs and all parts of the partnership are focused on creating jobs, building the skills and confidence needed to seize opportunities and addressing those problems that prevent people accessing high quality employment.

Building on Community Strengths

Our communities are one of our strongest assets and, as such, offer a wide and diverse range of skills and experience. Communities coming together around a common goal or purpose and achieving something positive can facilitate and support the wellbeing of individuals, families and neighbourhoods.

As the resources available in the county change and many partner organisations are no longer able to provide the same range of services for local communities, or these services are reduced, it is more important than ever to make sure our communities are supported and enabled to meet many of the challenges they face.

We know that there are many examples across the county of where the benefits of the strengths, skills and knowledge that lay within communities are being recognised every day across the diverse range of communities that make up County Durham. People are volunteering and helping to maintain the social fabric of their communities by helping to keep their local community centre or church hall open, or by supporting vulnerable people who live nearby. All of these acts enable service providers to join up with activities taking place in localities and also, with resources reducing, to be able to identify areas that could offer savings whilst not seeing services reduce. We recognise that individuals and communities are themselves a resource and not only users of services. There are a number of examples of how this works including local people involved in the running of local community venues including community centres and leisure centres.

Case Study - Macrae House

We have undertaken one of the biggest asset transfer programmes in the country in order to support a network of sustainable community buildings. Each building and management group has brought its own unique set of needs and issues as well as a wealth of history and experience.

Macrae House and Murton Community Centre were both located quite close together in Murton and each had different strengths, from the activities on offer to the wealth of knowledge from the management committee. Through the support of our team the two groups met and decided that the community centre would close and their activities would transfer to Macrae House. Importantly everyone felt that this was the best outcome for their respective centres and worked closely together in order for the new working arrangements to feel right for everyone involved.

The centre is now successfully running many projects that fully engage the community and reach previously 'hard to reach' groups therefore benefiting everyone by reducing social isolation. The personal journeys of the management committees of both original organisations have been life changing with new skills learnt, self-confidence raised, an increased sense of well-being and many actively engaged in many social and fitness activities.

Cross thematic focus

We have set out how we plan to focus on key issues such as jobs, growth, families, health inequalities, anti-social behaviour and the environment. In short we are aiming to improve quality of life and create an altogether better Durham. To enhance this work the County Durham Partnership Board has set out its commitment to focus on what matters and identify key actions that members can drive forward to make a difference. These are issues that will benefit from additional joined up working and cut across more than one theme of our work.

In addition to the work programmes of the thematic partnerships and the AAPs, the County Durham Partnership Board has identified six key areas that they will jointly focus on to shape and delivery shared work programmes. These are:

- Job creation
- Volunteering
- Mental Wellbeing
- Stronger Families
- Alcohol
- Reducing inequalities

A member of the County Durham Partnership Board will lead each work programme and seek to bring a different perspective to some of the County's most difficult issues. Importantly, this work will add value to existing programmes being driven forward by thematic partnerships and AAPs and ensure that the Partnership makes a real difference and facilitates change. We will be innovative in our approach and set a clear programme for change. The actions will look towards encouraging community independence and supporting local people to develop new and innovative solutions and take ownership of local services and facilities where this supports their needs and aspirations.

The areas we are focusing on are:

Volunteering - in the present climate there is significant potential and need to increase the number of volunteers. 'Volunteering' has many different elements to it, both for the individual and for the organisation and can offer a wide range of benefits to both.

Building the capacity, skills and a strong CV for someone wanting to build up experience to compete for work is invaluable and the work the voluntary sector does to support individuals is very important. Volunteering is also important for strengthening communities. It brings people together around a common cause and can achieve real outcomes for people. As public sector resources reduce, volunteering and supporting volunteers will enable activities to continue.

Through work on these we aim to develop a consistent approach to volunteering that will work for both the individual, and for the organisations with which they volunteer. This will improve the way volunteers are matched with placements as well as enable both parties to be supported as necessary. It will also offer a sustainable approach that can be developed to meet specific needs.

Job creation - is considered vital that this remains our number one priority and the focus of more intensive work. Without employment, so many of the challenges faced by all parts of our communities would be compounded and the quality of life of people and their families would be affected in so many ways. It is acknowledged that there is a lot of work already taking place in this area across the partnership, however, it is hoped an additional emphasis across all areas will add value to this.

This work offers an opportunity to explore new and innovative ways of working and will help to ensure that everyone can benefit from a comprehensive range of support that links to all parts of the broader partnership's work. People seeking good quality employment face difficulties in the present climate and individuals with multiple issues or who have been unemployed for a long period face additional pressures that partners will work together to address.

As this is our top priority we will also ensure that all parts of the partnership address this when developing new plans and work programmes. It is important that opportunities to train, support and employ local people are recognised in all parts of our work and we will learn from examples of where partners have done this already.

Mental Wellbeing - There are a number of external pressures that can impact on people's wellbeing and these run through every aspect of the work of the County Durham Partnership including employability, parenting, crime and health. It is also important that any activity that takes place helps to counteract the stigma of mental health issues and enables people to seek help and support that is appropriate to them.

Through supporting people suffering from mental health difficulties we will help to combat the feelings of social isolation. We will also look at the range of support services available for both young people and adults and ensure they are appropriate and accessible when they are needed. We will further engage with employers to broaden the scope of our healthy workplace programme. We will also proactively support individuals and their families who are impacted on by external factors such as changes to the welfare system to mitigate the need for health based services.

Stronger families - the Stronger Families programme is our new way of working with County Durham families who need intensive support. If any member of the family - a child, young person or adult - has a problem, it generally has an effect on other people in the family. If the whole family is supported, it's more likely that things will improve and it is important to understand the role that all partners and partnerships can play in this emerging agenda.

Through all thematic partnerships and partner organisations being involved in this work families who may not be immediately identified could receive support. Also, practices developed through this programme could be rolled out to other areas of work such as employability initiatives and the work of community safety partners.

Alcohol – all partners acknowledge that alcohol misuse is a problem and that there is a significant amount of work carried out across the partnership on this, focused on the County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction, which sets out a number of objectives under the three themes of Prevention, Control and Recovery. It is acknowledged, however, that more could be done with a challenging approach that may not be possible without a strategic cross thematic focus.

The costs to public services from alcohol misuse is estimated at nearly £200M per annum for County Durham and covers health, crime and policing, licensing and social services as well as time lost from the workplace. In times of reduced resources and increasing demands on services it is important to review what we are doing to check we are still meeting the needs of local people.

Inequalities – Running through this cross-cutting work will be a focus on addressing inequalities. We know that there are many areas of deprivation in County Durham and overall improvements can often mask significant inequalities. Throughout our partnership work we will therefore seek to support the most vulnerable members of our community, reduce deprivation and child poverty and address inequalities. We have seen how changes to welfare support can exacerbate the problems people face and we know how problems can multiply, as one issue leads to another, putting significant pressures on individuals and families. Our action plans will therefore seek to narrow the gap in our communities; proactively ensure that changes and new policies do not impact heavily on the most vulnerable people and seek to take action that will build community capacity and prevent further problems emerging.

Facing the Challenges

All organisations involved in the County Durham Partnership are committed to the vision of an altogether better Durham. Whilst public sector partners face reduced resources which may impact on service delivery, some partners, particularly in the education and private sectors, are seeing increases in resources and opportunities available to them. Through working together to achieve our vision we aspire to meet the changing needs of our communities. We will continue to prioritise the economy and ensure we support local people back into employment.

The government's austerity programme has reduced public sector expenditure and local authorities in northern and most deprived areas have been hit the hardest, not only by higher levels of reduction in local government grant support, but also by the wider impact of welfare reform and lower rates of economic growth. We have planned and managed our changes and engaged communities in financial planning and decision making and sought to find innovative ways forward whilst maintaining front line service provision. Local people have also risen to the challenge taking on services such as leisure centres and taking control of community buildings.

Our approach is about enabling communities to flourish by supporting them, where appropriate, in the helping in the running of assets and services that matter to them and finding solutions to local problems when the public sector can no longer afford to provide the response.

There are important learning points that have helped us to successfully transfer public sector assets to local people in a well-managed and supportive way, utilising the

experience of the VCS and the skills of the University. This work has helped communities to flourish, gain confidence and establish plans beyond expectations and will inform future asset transfer in the county.

We recognise that moving forward we need to target our resources where they are needed most. To reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing we are investing in preventative services, community based services and using personal budgets to enable local people to make their own decisions about their care. Working with and through the community and voluntary sector we are making great progress in supporting local community and voluntary action to tackle health, wellbeing and social isolation.

Strategically we have set out to change the culture of the county and fundamentally change the way we work – promoting and supporting independence and community resilience, which will enable us to target finite resources to where they are needed most.

Our ambitions and confidence that we can successfully achieve our vision for the county in 2030 remain high. We have set in place the foundations for robust and sustainable growth and continue to search for and identify new opportunities. We are willing to try new things and work differently in order to achieve better outcomes for local people.

We will continue to work together to maximise our resources and, with careful planning and good management, we will continue on our clear path forward to deliver value and achieve our shared priorities for County Durham.

Cabinet

19th March 2014



The Early Years Strategy

Report of Corporate Management Team

Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children & Adults Services and Cllr Ossie Johnson Lead member for Children Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The Early Years Strategy has been developed jointly by the council (including input from Public Health) and the county Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust, and was consulted upon widely with a range of partners including GPs, Midwives, Nursery and Day care Providers and Schools during December 2013 and January 2014.
- 2 The Early Years Strategy sets out the council and partners' ambitions to deliver high quality support and provision for children from pre-birth to 5 years old.
- 3 This report seeks Cabinet approval of The Early Years Strategy, as set out in Appendix 2.

Background

- 4 The County Durham Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2014-15 and the Children, Young People & Families Plan 2014-17 have a shared priority to help children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life since evidence shows that this provides the basis for best outcomes throughout life. The Early Years Strategy will contribute to the delivery of this key priority.
- 5 The health and wellbeing outcomes of individuals and communities are greatly shaped by a wide variety of social, economic and environmental factors, such as poverty, housing, ethnicity, place of residence, education and environment.
- 6 The health and wellbeing of young children in county Durham is significantly worse than the England average.
- 7 The level of child poverty is worse than the England average. In 2011 23% of children under the age of 16 lived in poverty in County Durham.
- 8 In order to narrow the gap and improve outcomes for children and their families in County Durham, the Council will, through the deployment of its resources, ensure there is a determined and concerted effort to provide

additional support to those children and families who are vulnerable and in greatest need.

- 9 We must ensure that our services provide appropriate and effective levels of support to children and families most in need of additional and early help. In the current climate of significant public sector funding cuts it is essential to deliver value for money and show that our investment is having a demonstrable impact on outcomes for our children. In order to deliver a good return from early years services, we must satisfy ourselves that scarcer resources are put to more efficient and effective use. This will make a difference to our children and their families, and particularly those who need it most.
- 10 Outcomes for children are measured using the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. The EYFS is the statutory framework that sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. The EYFS promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.
- 11 In 2013 in County Durham, 41.7% of children achieved a “Good Level of Development” in the Early Years Foundation Stage, compared to 52% of children across the Country. For those children living in the top 30% most deprived wards, the achievement level is 36% compared to 44% nationally.
- 12 In 2012 County Durham was named in the “Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Ofsted into Early Years Settings and their outcomes” as one of the ten lowest performing authorities in the country. The inspection outcomes of a range of services were included in this review and included Children’s Centres, Nurseries and Daycare providers and Childminders.
- 13 A number of services, in addition to the above, contribute to supporting the wellbeing and development of children and families throughout their early years and include Midwifery, GPs, Health Visiting, Primary Schools and Voluntary & Community Sector organisations such as Domestic Abuse services.
- 14 Shared ownership and a joint approach to improving outcomes for children and their families during their formative years is vital if we are to secure the required improvements across the early years sector in the provision of high quality services.
- 15 Early years provision in County Durham must have a clear and shared focus on making sure the gap between the poorest achieving and their peers during the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is narrowed so that all of our children are equipped with the skills necessary to engage in their learning when they start school.
- 16 Despite a recent increased focus on the provision of support to vulnerable children and families, which has led to better performance, the required scale of improvement in EYFS outcomes for our children has not been achieved. Our resources remain stretched and will be further reduced as public spending reductions continue.

- 17 It is clear a greater emphasis is required on identifying and supporting those children and their families who are at risk of poor outcomes during their formative years, so that they get the best possible start in life. This will necessitate a review of the current model of service delivery to ensure services are able to deliver on this strategy so that the following is provided:-
- Support targeted to those who need it most;
 - Accessible services for all;
 - Flexible use of resources;
 - Effective community engagement in early years delivery;
 - Continued development of an expert workforce;
 - Emphasis on people providing services rather than the building services are provided in.
 - Improved outcomes.

The Early Years Strategy

- 18 Despite a shared recognition by all partners of the importance of high quality support for children and their families during their early years, and despite the wide range of services involved in the provision of early years services, to date there has been no Strategy in place that sets out our shared ambitions.
- 19 In order to address this the Children & Families Partnership established an Early Years Review Group, made up of relevant partners to develop a Strategy and an accompanying action plan to support the required improvements in both service delivery and outcomes for children.
- 20 The Strategy (Appendix 2) makes particular reference to inequality of outcomes for some children in County Durham and makes the link between poor outcomes in early years and poorer outcomes in later-life. The Strategy recognises that some children start their lives with reduced life chances as a result of economic and social disadvantage or because there are other risk factors present in families.
- 21 Revised Ofsted guidance in 2012 required an increased focus on vulnerable families in most need of support. Despite this increased focus, the scale of improvement in outcomes for our children has not been achieved. Our resources remain stretched and will be further reduced as public spending reductions continue.
- 22 It is clear that an approach supported by a model of service delivery is required to identify and support those children and their families who are at increased risk of our outcomes during their formative years.
- 23 The Strategy sets out a clear intention to address this inequality of outcomes and describes a new service delivery model which will ensure that through the provision of high quality universal services such as midwifery, health visiting,

nursery and daycare provision, additional help and support will be provided to those children and families who need it most.

- 24 The new service delivery model requires a high level of commitment to partnership working and information sharing and takes a robust approach to targeting resources towards those in greatest need of additional support. Its specific intention is to narrow the gap in outcomes through access to additional early years support and provision.
- 25 In developing the Strategy, a broad consultation has taken place across the Early Years sector in County Durham. A number of common themes emerged throughout the consultation and these have been incorporated into the Strategy as our “Key Ambitions”, namely:-
 - a. **Quality of Care:**
All children have access to high quality universal health and learning opportunities that are safe.
 - b. **Equity of Outcomes:**
Children who are not making the required progress or whose outcomes are compromised are identified and additional help is provided to them and their families at the earliest possible opportunity.
 - c. **Working Together**
All partners involved in the delivery of early years services work together in a coordinated way in the provision of a genuinely joined up, integrated service to children and families.
- 26 Action plans have been developed which will support the delivery of the ambitions set out in the Strategy and which will improve support offered to children and families, particularly those that have the greatest need, which in turn will lead to improved outcomes.

Next Steps:

27. To support the Strategy and Action Plan a performance framework will be developed with a clear set of performance indicators which will be used to provide timely and accurate data on progress. This will be monitored through the Children & Families Partnership
28. Subject to approval of the Strategy and Action Plans, the Early Years Review Group will continue to monitor outcomes for children and families through the implementation of the Strategy and the delivery of the Action Plans on behalf of the Children & Families Partnership.

Recommendations:

29. Cabinet are requested to:-
 - a. Approve The Early Years Strategy and Action Plan
 - b. Forward the Strategy and Action Plan for the approval of the Children & Families Partnership

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Strategy will provide a framework for future service structures / delivery mechanisms and efficiency in light of austerity / spending reductions. Aiming to increase accessibility and outcomes by better / more accessible service delivery and a focus on service delivery not structures / assets.

Staffing – Despite efforts to improve our focus on support for the most vulnerable children and families, we expect to reconsider our service delivery model to ensure activity is focussed on the provision of additional help and support to children and families with the greatest need, in line with this Strategy.

Risk – None identified

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Ongoing access to services will be available for all children and families through the provision of universal early years services together with a more targeted approach to reach those children and families who experience disadvantage. This will ensure there remains a focus on equality and diversity in service provision.

Accommodation – The review of the existing service model referred to in the strategy may have an impact on existing buildings used for the delivery of early years services.

Crime and Disorder – None identified.

Human Rights – None identified.

Consultation – Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders in the production of the strategy and action plan.

Procurement – None identified.

Disability Issues – None identified.

Legal Implications – None identified.

Altogether better
for **children** and
young people

County Durham Children
and Families Partnership

The Early Years Strategy:

“Delivering high quality support and provision for children from pre-birth to 5 years old”

“The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional are laid in early childhood. What happens during those early years, starting in the womb, has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing, from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational and economic achievement... later interventions, although important, are considerably less effective if they have not had good early foundations”

Marmot, 2010



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences from pregnancy to the age of five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting, good health advice and opportunities for high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to be healthy and to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

1.2 This strategy sets out Durham County Council's vision and priorities for all of our children during their early years, and describes how all children and families will be supported to achieve good outcomes during these critical early years, through the provision of high quality universal services. The strategy also sets out how we will ensure additional support is provided to those children and families who need extra help to reduce the gap in outcomes between them and their peers.

1.3 This Strategy will:

- Set out why a strategy for all children during their early years is vital giving the local and national policy context;
- Set out how we will ensure those children and families who require it will receive the early help they need
- Describe the role of all early years providers in ensuring the provision of a genuinely integrated service to children and families during these formative years;
- Describe our key priorities and identify the key actions that will be required to deliver the priorities and ambitions within this strategy
- Describe Durham's 3 ambitions for Early Years, namely:-
 - I. **Quality of Care:**
All children have access to high quality universal health and learning opportunities that are safe;
 - II. **Equity of Outcomes:**
Children who are not making the required progress or whose outcomes are compromised are identified and additional help is provided to them and their families at the earliest possible opportunity;
 - III. **Working Together:**
All practitioners involved in the delivery of early years services work together in a coordinated way in the provision of a genuinely joined up, integrated service to children and families.

2.0 WHY WE NEED A STRATEGY IN COUNTY DURHAM:

- 2.1 Durham is a diverse county with a rural and urban geographical mix and a blend of sparsely and densely populated areas. Deprivation features significantly in many of our communities. Almost half of our residents live in relatively deprived areas¹. There is a well-established link between deprivation and poor outcomes and these factors can have a huge impact on life chances.
- 2.2 The health and wellbeing outcomes of individuals and communities are greatly shaped by a wide variety of social, economic and environmental factors (such as poverty, housing, ethnicity, place of residence, education and environment) In terms of health and well-being, it is clear that improvements cannot be made without action on these wider determinants. Health inequalities between population groups are associated with these socio-economic and environmental factors. Such variations in health are avoidable and it is therefore imperative that we take action to provide additional support to those of our families that are most vulnerable.
- 2.3 We must ensure that our services provide appropriate and effective levels of support to children and families most in need of additional and early help. In the current climate of significant public sector funding cuts, we must deliver value for money and show that our investment is having a demonstrable impact on outcomes for our children. In order to deliver a good return from the early years services we continue to invest in, we must satisfy ourselves that our scarcer resources are put to more efficient and effective use.
- 2.4 A new model of service delivery is needed in County Durham. We will prioritise the provision of service, and people to deliver those services, over the provision of buildings, and wherever possible, make better use of existing community venues for service delivery, to make our services more accessible to more people.

3.0 A STRATEGY FOR ALL CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN THEIR EARLY YEARS

- 3.1 It is widely recognised that the early years of a child's life have a powerful influence on the rest of their lives. The support and interventions children receive early in life can help to reduce barriers to learning and development and improve whole life outcomes.
- 3.2 During these early years adults have the most impact on children's health and physical development, social, emotional and personal learning and on their language development. We recognise that all parents want the best for their children and that they have a major influence in securing the best outcomes for them.
- 3.3 There is a wide range of early years provision available to all children and their families in County Durham from pre-birth to the time when they begin

¹ The County Durham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2012

school, including midwifery, health visiting, children's centres, nursery and day care, child-minders, schools, extended family networks.

- 3.4 This universal early years provision is vital to ensuring all of our children receive the following:-

Quality and consistency in the provision of all health and early years services so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind

A secure foundation through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and assessed and reviewed regularly

Good and effective partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers so that information can be shared and additional support identified and provided at the earliest opportunity

Effective, high quality preventative universal health provision which offers every family a programme of screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices – all services that children and families need to receive if they are to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing.

4.0 ADDITIONAL EARLY HELP FOR SOME CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 4.1 Whilst we want the very best start for all of our children, we know that some children start their lives with reduced life chances and this leads to poorer outcomes for those children, both in the early years and throughout their lives. This may be because of socio-economic disadvantage, rural or social isolation or because other risk factors are present in their families which, if unsupported, can lead to a poor start for those children.
- 4.2 The link between inequality of experience in early years and inequalities in later-life outcomes is well established. A number of very prominent reviews and independent reports evidence this link (see Appendix 1).
- 4.3 A number of key messages run through all of the recent reviews, all point to the fact that that outcomes for children improve progressively the further up the socioeconomic spectrum they are, and worsen progressively the further down. Inequality in outcomes linked to deprivation is a fact that cannot be ignored and the gap in outcomes between children in these groups is growing relatively wider.
- 4.4 Several pieces of research have been carried out which conclude that targeting funding and resources to reduce inequalities in health, education and social care during these formative early years achieves better outcomes. Gaps in achievement between the poorest children and their 'better off' counterparts are well established by the age of five and it is widely accepted that there is a negative developmental influence associated with growing up in poverty

- 4.5 Therefore, it is proposed that a targeted approach, within the context of universal service provision, for children and families during their early years is implemented through this strategy.
- 4.6 This targeted approach seeks to achieve broad social benefits for all children and their families in County Durham through the provision of universal services from GP's, midwives, health visitors and early years education providers. Where additional needs are identified through contact with these key universal services, targeted family support will be provided. By targeting resources on those families that are in most need of support, the specific intention will be to narrow the gap in outcomes. This will see a concentrated effort towards supporting the 14,807 children and families who live in the most disadvantaged areas in County Durham.
- 4.7 If this targeted approach is not adopted, limited resources would have to be stretched over a very large cohort of 27,461 children under 5, the vast majority of whom will achieve good outcomes during their early years through access to the universal services described in 3.6 above and without the need for additional help or support.
- 4.8 This strategy will require partners to work together to identify early those children and families who have additional needs or where their outcomes are not reaching required levels so that early help can be provided to meet those needs and improve those outcomes. We will make sure the gap between the outcomes of these children and those of their peers is narrowed.
- 4.9 This strategy will link the early years of children's lives to their early years in school. The clear intention will be to make sure children are healthy and ready for school and that they are able to achieve according to their full potential.
- 4.10 A range of recent policy sets out the government's intention to prioritise help for children and their families in the early years. Please see Appendix 1 for a summary of the key policy drivers linked to this strategy.

5.0 CURRENT PERFORMANCE CONTEXT:

- 5.1 The 2013 Child Health Profile provides a snapshot of child health in County Durham <http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dataviews/childhealthprofile>. These annually produced profiles provide snapshot information about the current picture in the local area against 32 selected indicators and are designed to help the local authority and health services improve the health and well-being of children and tackle health inequalities. This also provides an analysis and key findings about the situation within each local authority.
- 5.2 The health & wellbeing of children in County Durham is mixed compared to the England average. Many indicators show an experience locally that is significantly worse than the England average but many of these have shown improvement from the previous profile. However, some have not improved between the 2012 and 2013 profiles.

5.3 Key findings from the profile include:

- Infant and child mortality is similar to the national average, and both reduced in line with the national experience.
- The level of child poverty is worse than the England average. In 2011 23% of children under the age of 16 lived in poverty in County Durham.
- More children participate in at least 3 hours of sport per week than the England average.
- Children in County Durham have worse than average levels of obesity. In 2011/12 10.5% of children aged 4-5 years were classified as obese which was an increase from 9.5% 2010/11. This is higher than England average, and is rising at a faster rate over time.² The obesity gap widens further by age 11.
- Breastfeeding initiation and maintenance (6-8 weeks) is lower than the England average, although initiation is improving locally.
- The percentage of teenage mothers (as a % of all delivery episodes) rose from 2.3% in 2010/11 to 2.6% 2011/12. Children born to teenage mothers have 50% higher rates of infant mortality and are at increased risk of low birth weight which impacts on the child's long-term health.³ Teenage mothers experience higher rates of post-natal depression and pregnant teenagers have been found to be three times more likely to experience insecure attachment. Teenage parents and their children are at increased risk of living in poverty.

5.4 Durham was named in the 2011/12 Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Ofsted into Early Years Settings and their outcomes, as one of the ten lowest performing authorities in the country.

5.5 Inspection outcomes for childminders and group daycare providers have improved significantly in 2013/14. Between September 2013 and February 2014, inspection outcomes for 77% of group daycare inspected and 67% of childminders inspected was judged by Ofsted to be good or better.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-early-years-and-childcare-registered-providers-inspections-and-outcomes>.

² It should be noted that the 2013 CHIMAT profile suggests 10.5% of children aged 4-5 are obese in County Durham. However, the National Obesity Observatory (NOO) report the figure as 10.3%. This is a small difference but 10.3% would mean the difference between County Durham and England is not significant.

³ World Health Organisation. May 2012. Adolescent Health.
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/> Accessed October 18th 2013.

- 5.6 Children's Centre groups have been inspected since the introduction of the new inspection framework in April 2013, and although national outcomes have declined, Durham's performance, although remaining a concern, has improved.
- 5.7 Outcomes for children are measured using the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. The EYFS is the statutory framework that sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. The EYFS promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life
- 5.8 The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) was revised this year and this appears to have had an impact on outcomes in Durham. Prior to that, although outcomes were still below national they had improved for five consecutive years.
- 5.9 In 2013 in County Durham, 41.7% of children achieved a "Good Level of Development" in the Early Years Foundation Stage, compared to 52% of children across the Country. For those children living in the top 30% most deprived wards, the achievement level is 36% compared to 44% nationally
- 5.10 Boys performance was significantly lower than that of girls. Very few children exceeded the expected level. More positively, the gap between children living in the 30% most deprived areas and other children is the same as that found nationally, but because outcomes are so low generally, this continues to be of concern.
- 5.11 Despite an increased focus on the provision of support to vulnerable children and families, the required scale of improvement in EYFS outcomes for our children has not been achieved. Our resources remain stretched and will be further reduced as public spending reductions continue. It is clear a greater emphasis is required on identifying and supporting those children and their families who are at risk of poor outcomes during their formative years, so that they get the best possible start in life.
- 5.11 The data, including regional and national comparative outcomes, can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2012-to-2013>

6.0 OUR AMBITIONS

- 6.1 Following a series of consultation events, with key stakeholders and parents using Children's Centres, the following 3 ambitions were identified:-

I Quality of Care:

All children have access to high quality universal health and learning opportunities that are safe;

II Equity of Outcomes:

Children who are not making the required progress or whose outcomes are compromised are identified and additional help is provided to them and their families at the earliest possible opportunity;

III Working Together:

All practitioners involved in the delivery of early years services work together in a coordinated way in the provision of a genuinely joined up, integrated service to children and families.

6.2 Together these 3 ambitions inform this strategy and our vision for an effective early years provision which will provide the greatest impact on outcomes for children and families.

6.3 Threaded through these ambitions are the key elements which underpin high quality provision :-

- **Safety & Safeguarding:**

Providing services in a safe, warm and welcoming environment, including, in families own homes where appropriate, and making sure staff delivering services are recruited safely so that everyone, including parents, have a clear focus on ensuring and promoting the safety and welfare of children in their care.

- **Accessibility:**

Ensuring services are provided in places and at times that are easy to reach and which respond to and meet the needs of children and their families, including in families own homes where appropriate.

- **Building Community Capacity:**

Supporting individuals and communities to identify and meet the needs in their areas. Building on existing skills and providing opportunities for people to learn through experience, increase their confidence and help them participate more fully in their communities.

6.4 Through delivery of the actions, the key outcomes for children and families in County Durham will be achieved. It is recognised that this will require a review of the current service delivery model to ensure.

- Priority is given to the provision of services, and people to deliver those services, over the provision of buildings;
- Support is targeted to those who need it most
- Accessible services for all
- Flexible use of resources
- Effective community engagement in early years delivery

- Continued development of an expert workforce
- Improved outcomes are delivered

7.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 7.1 The Strategy will be monitored through a range of internal and external processes, not least of which is the Ofsted Inspection Framework for the Early Years.
- 7.2 To support the Action Plan a detailed performance framework will be developed, which will include SMART targets and performance indicators. The framework will ensure the provision of timely and accurate data on progress which will be monitored by the Children & Families Partnership.

AMBITION 1: QUALITY OF CARE

All children have access to high quality universal health and learning opportunities that are safe

KEY PRINCIPLES:

A highly skilled and competent workforce able to deliver evidence based holistic services, identify additional needs and work in an integrated way to support children and families and ensure they are safe and protected from harm;

High quality services focussed on providing evidence based programmes that will lead to improved outcomes across the key early years domains of health, early learning, education, social skills;

Services are provided at home and in a range of community settings, close to where our children and families live and our families know where to go to access those services;

Universal support for all families through the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and through access to daycare and nursery provision which will promote the development of all children and families is regularly reviewed and that children are reaching required key milestones

Services will be safe and effective and delivered in environments that are child and family friendly and which are warm, welcoming and accessible

All learning opportunities are focussed on the development of the key early years foundation stage principles

The development and maintenance of secure attachments and warm and responsive caring relationships with children, families and early years workers

Parents will be supported and empowered to provide high quality care for their children

The Early Years workforce will share accountability for improving outcomes for children and families

KEY ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

What will we do

Develop a workforce development plan for the Early Years Workforce leading to a competent workforce with clear roles and responsibilities with early years expertise and ensure opportunities for multi-agency training.

What will this achieve

A competent and skilled workforce supporting early childhood development

<p>Ensure there is a comprehensive range of internal and external quality assurance measures in place for all services delivering early years provision.</p>	<p>A continual programme of service development and improvement across the Early Years sector</p>
<p>Ensure the integrated delivery of the children's Centre Core Purpose, the Healthy Child Programme and the Early Years Foundation Stage so that children and families are supported to reach their full potential and achieve good levels of development throughout their early years.</p>	<p>A clear focus on outcomes for children and families</p>
<p>Ensure families have opportunities to feedback their experience of services and are encouraged to engage in service development through representation on relevant forums, eg Local Advisory Boards.</p>	<p>Services take account of the needs of children and families.</p>
<p>Ensure all parents know who their child's key worker is.</p>	<p>Families know who to contact if they have a concern about their child's progress.</p>
<p>Develop the skills of parents so they can support their children's learning and development</p>	<p>Improve parental skills</p>
<p>Ensure there is a clear focus on planning and support at key transition points and episodes during children's early years, for example:- Pregnancy to birth Home to nursery Nursery to school Change in family circumstances</p>	<p>Children and families are supported to achieve a positive transition at key points throughout their early years</p>

AMBITION 2: EQUITY OF OUTCOMES

Children who are not making the required progress or whose outcomes are compromised are identified and additional help is provided to them and their families at the earliest possible opportunity

KEY PRINCIPLES

Embrace the “think family” approach which supports the whole family so that the needs of adults are understood and addressed in support of children being helped to achieve good outcomes.

To target the use of our more limited resources towards children and families who need them most

All opportunities are taken and all professionals work together to identify those children who are not achieving developmental milestones and to provide additional support to help them achieve good outcomes

To provide services that are easy to contact and delivered in places easy to access

Being vigilant that children who are vulnerable are protected from harm

KEY ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

What will we do

- Review the service delivery model to ensure:-
- Priority is given to the provision of services, and people to deliver those services, over the provision of buildings;
 - Support is targeted to those who need it most
 - Accessible services for all
 - Flexible use of resources
 - Effective community engagement in early years delivery
 - Continued development of an expert workforce
 - Improved outcomes are delivered

Ensure the workforce is appropriately deployed to meet the needs of vulnerable families and deliver equitable service and support.

Ensure all practitioners have a good understanding of the “think family” approach and implement this in their day to day practice.

What will this achieve

A concerted endeavour to support children who need it most achieve good outcomes

The provision of a needs-led equitable service

Adults and children are supported and their needs are met leading to improved outcomes for children.

<p>Ensure strong and effective links are established with services for adults, for example Job Centre Plus, Mental Health Services, Domestic Abuse Services, so that the needs of adults can be supported.</p> <p>Deliver an integrated approach to early intervention through clear pathways of universal through to specialist provision through the effective implementation of the Single Assessment Procedures so that best use is made of the early years workforce sharing knowledge and expertise to support children and family development.</p> <p>Develop and implement a parental engagement strategy which embodies a determination to support all families with a particular emphasis on those that are reluctant to engage.</p> <p>Develop a coordinated and systematic approach to the delivery of the Health Child Programme and the Early Years Foundation Stage 2 year checks which ensure effective information sharing and analysis of children's progress and development leading to a shared support package for those children who do not reach expected milestones.</p>	<p>Strong integrated working across Children's and Adult Services</p> <p>A coordinated approach to early help for children and families who require additional help</p> <p>Families are supported to engage with additional support offered when required</p> <p>Shared approach to ensuring children achieve good level of development.</p>
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AMBITION 3: WORKING TOGETHER

All partners involved in the delivery of early years services work together in a coordinated way in the provision of a genuinely joined up, integrated service to children and families

KEY PRINCIPLES

Develop a joined-up early years workforce and make sure professionals communicate and share information about children and families who require extra help

Provide wrap-around health, early learning and development care to children and families that will be experienced as seamless

Develop good links with the local community and a good understanding of local needs and deliver services to meet those needs

Make the best use of community resources - buildings and people

KEY ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

What will we do

Provide governance for effective information sharing and joint working between early years practitioners through the Local Advisory Boards.

Continue to deliver Local Authority support to the Early Years sector to reflect changing needs and support continuous service improvements

Develop an Early Years forum at locality level to offer shared opportunities for learning from good practice and service development.

Encourage volunteering within local communities

Ensure there is robust engagement of parents in Local Advisory Boards and that they are informing and influencing decision making in relation to service delivery

What will this achieve

Improve local knowledge of community needs and ensure children and families who need additional help receive it.

Improve quality of services leading to improved outcomes for children and families

Practitioners have an opportunity to develop a shared knowledge of each others services and develop services in a joined up way.

Maximise local community resources.

Service delivery and developments are informed by parent experience

Appendix 1:

POLICY CONTEXT:

A number of national strategic documents provide evidence of the priority Government places on making sure children and their families receive the help and support they need during these early stages of children's development. They point to the importance of excellent universal services and both set out a clear expectation that services have a robust and determined focus on the needs of more vulnerable children and families and that services both identify those needs early and intervene to support families to meet those needs.

"The Healthy Child Programme – Pregnancy and the first five years of life"
Department of Health, 2009

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-pregnancy-and-the-first-5-years-of-life;](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-pregnancy-and-the-first-5-years-of-life)

"The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage – Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five"
Department for Education, 2012

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00023-2012;>

"Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance"

Department for Education, April 2013

[http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/q00224078/sure-start-statutory-guidance;](http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/q00224078/sure-start-statutory-guidance)

"Fair Society, Healthy Lives" Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010
Marmott Review.

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

"Early Intervention: The Next Steps"

Graham Allen, MP, 2011

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/early-intervention-next-steps.pdf>

"The Early Years: Foundations for Life, Health and Learning"

Dame Claire Tickell, 2011

<http://media.education.gov.uk/MediaFiles/B/1/5/%7BB15EFF0D-A4DF-4294-93A1-1E1B88C13F68%7DTickell%20review.pdf>

"The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults"

Frank Field, 2010

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110120090128/http://povertyreview.independent.gov.uk/media/20254/poverty-report.pdf>

Appendix 2

Comparison of CHIMAT Child Health Profiles 2012 and 2013.

	Measure	Period	2012 Profile			2013 Profile			Improvement from previous profile?	
			No. per year	Value	England ave.	Period	No. per year	Value		England ave.
Preventable mortality	1 Infant mortality rate	2008-10	23	4.1	4.6	2009-11	23	4	4.4	No change
	2 Child mortality rate (age 1-17 years)	2001-09	18	17.7	16.5	2009-11	11	11.3	13.7	Yes
	3 MMR immunisation (by age 2)	2010/11	4,268	91.8	89.1	2011/12	5,410	94.3	91.2	Yes
Health protection	4 Dip, tetanus, polio, pertussis, Hib Imms (by age 2)	2010/11	4,546	97.8	96	2011/12	5,640	98.3	96.1	Yes
	5 Children in care immunisations	2011	355	100	79	2012	380	100	83.1	No change
	6 Acute sexually transmitted infections (inc chlamydia)			Indicator has changed		2011	2,520	36.8	35.6	N/A
Wider determinants of health	7 Children achieving a good level of development (age 5)	2011	2,925	54	59	2012	3,163	56.8	63.5	Yes
	8 GCSE achievement (5A *-C Incmaths & english)	2010/11	3,281	59.8	58.3	2011/12	3,398	62.5	59.4	Yes
	9 GCSE achievement (5A *-C Incmaths & english) for children in care	2010/11	6	13.3	12.8	2011/12	8	17.4	14.5	Yes
	10 Not in education, employment or training (age 16-18)	2010	1,290	8.5	6	2011	1,380	7.5	6.1	Yes
	11 First time entrants to the youth justice system	2009/10	361	760	1,160	2010/11	317	680.3	87.6	Yes
	12 Children living in poverty (age <16 years)	2009	20,945	23.5	21.9	2010	20,445	23	21.1	Yes
	13 Family homelessness	2007/08	436	1.9	1.9	2011/12	254	1.2	1.7	Yes
	14 Children in care	2011	520	52	59	2012	660	66	59	No
	15 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	2008-10	23	26.4	23.5	2009-11	21	23.8	22.1	Yes
	Health improvement	16 Low birthweight			New indicator		2011	450	7.7	7.4
17 Obese children (age 4-5 years)		2010/11	498	9.5	9.4	2011/12	563	10.5**	9.5	No
18 Obese children (age 10-11 years)		2010/11	1,072	21.6	19	2011/12	1,072	22.5	19.2	No
19 Participation in at least 3 hours of sport/PE		2009/10	36,327	56.7	55.1	2009/10	36,327	56.7	55.1	N/A
20 Children's tooth decay (at age 12)		2008/09	-	1	0.7	2008/09	-	1	0.7	N/A
21 Teenage conception rates (age <18 years)		2007-09	452	47.7	40.2	2010	384	43.2	35.4	Yes
22 Teenage mothers (age <18 years)		2010/11	127	2.3	1.5	2011/12	155	2.6	1.3	No
23 Hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions		2007-10	124	122	61.8	2008-10	118	116	55.8	Yes
24 Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (age 15-24 years)		208-11	80	114.5	63.5	2009-12	73	105.6	69.4	Yes
25 Smoking in pregnancy		2010/11	1,292	22.9	13.6	2011/12	1,216	21.3	13.2	Yes
Prevention of ill-health	26 Breastfeeding initiation	2010/11	3,165	56.2	74.5	2011/12	3,330	58.2	74	Yes
	27 Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks			New indicator	2010/11	1,602	27.7	47.2	N/A	
	28 A&E attendances (age 0-4 years)			New indicator	2011/12	9,801	347.8	483.9	N/A	
	29 Hospital admissions due to injury (age <18 years)			Indicator has changed	2011/12	1,923	192.1	122.6	N/A	
	30 Hospital admissions for asthma (age <19 years)	2010/11	87	86.3	93.7	2011/12	210	196.1	193.9	N/A
	31 Hospital admissions for mental health conditions	2010/11	208	206.2	124.8	2011/12	90	89.9	91.3	No
	32 Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm	2010/11				2011/12	228	227.8	115.5	No

* -Directly age standardised rate per 100,000

** -The National Obesity Observatory reports 10.3%. This makes the difference to England not significant.

	Significantly worse than England
	Not significantly different to England
	Significantly better than England
	Improved from previous profile
	Not improved from previous profile

Cabinet

19 March 2014



**Local Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report**

Report of Corporate Management Team

**Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children and
Adult Services & Cllr Ossie Johnson, Portfolio holder for Children
and Young people**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with information in respect of the Annual Report of the County Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board which sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect. The report sets out achievements in 2012/13 and priorities and challenges for 2014.

Background

2. Durham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in Durham.
3. Its statutory objectives are to:
 - Coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - Ensure the effectiveness of its work

Safeguarding means to: undertake any activity which prevents a child's health, welfare or development being impaired, and includes activity to protect from abuse and other risks such as neglect.

4. The Board is independent of any of the partners, funded by them all and hosted and supported by Durham County Council. The LSCB Chair works closely with all LSCB partners and particularly with the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services (under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004). The Director of Children's Services has the responsibility within the local authority for improving outcomes for children, local authority children's social care functions and local

cooperation arrangements for children's services in Durham the Corporate Director of Children and Adults services fulfils this function.

5. Statutory Partner Agencies (which includes both all the health commissioning bodies and provider bodies, the police, probation and the council, are under a duty to co-operate with the Board and those accountabilities are defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and the NHS Accountability Framework.
6. The Board has no service delivery functions but is required to inform (through its co-ordination and effectiveness responsibilities) the commissioning intentions of partner agencies, It is also required to monitor, quality assure and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the services commissioned and delivered in the local area.
7. Working Together (2013) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Durham LSCB report is also shared with LSCB partner agency senior management teams. The report is attached at Appendix A.
8. The report which is attached at Appendix 2 sets out the achievements and progress made during 2012/13 and identifies the challenges facing the Board in 2014/15. The report includes information on a range of issues including;
 - The provision of a wide range of evidence to demonstrate the extent to which the functions of the LSCB are being actively discharged
 - An outline of how the Board intends to focus more on the provision of Early Help
 - Work to ensure policies and procedures to keep children safe and safe recruitment are up to date
 - An assessment of interagency training
 - Information on what has been done to ensure that lessons have been learnt from Serious Case Reviews and lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths as identified by the Child Death Overview Panel
 - How the Board scrutinizes arrangements to safeguard children in the secure estates and other settings
 - Summarises arrangements for safeguarding privately fostered children

Local background and context

9. The report is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the Children and Families Partnership and reflects the County's on-going

'improvement journey' following the Ofsted Inspection in 2011 that rated services as 'outstanding'. Embedding and sustaining best practice at the front line 24/7 and 365 days each year, across the agencies, presents considerable on-going challenge and commitment, particularly, in the current financial and organisational context. This requires a high degree of multi-agency collaboration at every level.

10. The report recognises the significant service restructuring that has and is taking place within different agencies. All partners are aware of the need to promote more effective ways of using finite resources to work with children, young people and their families. Particular changes include the introduction of Clinical Commissioning Groups, restructure of the councils Children's Services and the planned changes to the Probation service
11. This year's report also builds on learning from national research including guidance on what makes a 'powerful' annual report and the 'Facets of an Effective LSCB.' (See Section 7 of the report). It is intended to address three fundamental questions:
 - What did we do?
 - How well did we do it?
 - What difference did we make to improve outcomes for children, young people and families?
12. There has been more than a 10% reduction in the year of re-referrals to children's services and 13% reduction in children subject to Child Protection Plans following introduction of the One Point service, clearer guidance and training for staff about thresholds and risk factors and an increased focus on 'early help'.
13. During 2012/13 the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan fluctuated over the period reaching a high of 465 in September 2012 and stabilising to the financial year end to 401, its lowest level since 2009.
14. The majority of children now stay on a Child Protection Plan for less than six months, with most of these staying on for three months. No children have been on a plan for two years or more, following concerted efforts to review plans earlier. The percentage of first reviews carried out on time was very good at 98%.
15. During the year 2012/13, as in previous years, the majority of children who became subject to a child protection plan were aged under four and unborn – making up 52% of all plans, reflecting the national picture, the vulnerability of very young children and the need for early intervention services in the community to be targeted at this age group.
16. Domestic abuse is the main parental risk factor for the need for a child protection conference (58.7%) followed by Alcohol misuse (32.9%)

parental mental health (30.7%) and substance misuse (21.9%) In 2011/12 domestic abuse was identified as a priority for the LSCB and is now embedded into the Board's day to day activities. Specialist training continues to be provided for multi-agency practitioners and includes awareness raising sessions as well as more in-depth specialist sessions presented by specialist workers.

17. As in other local authority areas, in Durham neglect remains the main category of abuse identified as affecting children (64%, compared to 20% for physical abuse and 6% for sexual abuse) and therefore has been a priority for the LSCB in previous years. A well-established training programme is in place and policies and procedures and practice guidance is available to practitioners to help them undertake good risk assessments and develop packages of support for children and families.
18. The numbers of children looked after has been reducing over recent years and continues on a downward trajectory. Agencies are aware that that by understanding the reasons children become looked after enables them to target better their early help and family support services.

Involving Young People

- 19 The LSCB has continued to actively to seek the views of children and young people on wider safeguarding issues. During 2012/13 the LSCB worked collaboratively with 'Investing in Children' to set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. The views of young people s have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan. For example this includes continuing specialist training for practitioners in respect of parental mental ill health and child sexual exploitation.

Monitoring Agency Performance

- 20 A comprehensive review of performance, quality assurance and audit findings is summarised in the annual report (see Section 5) and outlines the breadth and depth of work being undertaken to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in County Durham.
- 21 Particular efforts have been made to increase the number of children who go missing and who have an interview within 72 hours of returning home. Good progress has been made in Durham to establish local processes for this vulnerable group of children ahead of recent national guidance
- 22 Almost all agencies improved their performance in providing reports to review child protection case conferences. The engagement of GPs in child protection conferences has improved significantly and in some

localities practitioners were able to achieve very good levels of attendance.

- 23 Multi-agency audits have taken place in areas identified by the Board as requiring further examination. This has included audits of children subject to more than one child protection plan and a review of single agency practice audits has also been completed to ensure the Board is informed of the learning from these and issues requiring further attention.

Multi-Agency Training

- 24 Durham LSCB has a range of courses that offer practitioners from partner agencies more specialist knowledge on issues such as domestic abuse, mental ill health and working with highly resistant families and other topics. The LSCB's training strategy ensures that LSCB courses reflect national and local guidance around the importance of early help, the need for adult and children staff to collaborate and coordinate their actions and to "think family". 'Working Together 2013' identifies the need to have a well trained workforce with an appropriate knowledge base.
- 25 Addressing Child Sexual Exploitation has been a high priority for the board as has learning lessons from serious case reviews. A series of multi-agency events have been held across the county with over 1,000 staff trained on these issues.

LSCB Priorities 2014/15

- 26 The LSCB has in place a well-established number of standing sub-groups which have clear terms of reference for taking forward the priorities of the Board. The Board meets every two months and each sub-group provides regular progress reports to the Board. The LSCB continues to work on a range of issues as part of its ongoing work but has agreed to focus additional work in 2014/05 on the following priorities;
- **Information sharing** - as this remained a critical issue from Serious Case Reviews both national and local. It is recognized that agencies cannot be complacent and that further work was required to ensure that practitioners across all agencies are aware of their responsibilities to share information where appropriate. In addition a focus needed to be maintained to ensure lessons were being learnt and agreed procedures are being followed.
 - **Early Help** - the Board recognized early help as the key priority area for making significant impact on outcomes for children. Working Together identifies this as an area where LSCBs need to bring more challenge to partners to demonstrate that families are receiving help at an earlier stage before matters escalate

Issues and challenges for the Board 2014/15

- 27 Over the next year and beyond the LSCB and partners providing safeguarding services face a number of challenges including;
- Ensuring services are provided where they are most needed in the context of continued reductions in the council's budget, financial constraints on other key partners. For the Board this could also have implication in terms of levels of financial contributions from partners.
 - Implementing the Single Assessment Framework , Single Front Door and the new Threshold Document
 - The new Ofsted Inspection Framework for safeguarding children, those looked after and care leavers
 - Inspection/review of LSCBs – ensuring the LSCB is ready for inspection and can provide good evidence of effective multi-agency arrangements and evidence of impact on improving safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Durham
 - Responding to and assessing the challenges to safeguarding arrangements posed by the reform of the Probation service
 - Funding of sexual violence and advocacy (ISVA) /Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) worker to provide support around sexual health and in particular work with young people at risk of sexual exploitation.
 - Providing 'early help' early enough - LSCB and partners being able to evidence the difference for children, particular those who are most vulnerable in making sure they receive the help they need before things escalate into child protection.
 - Agencies finding ways of resourcing the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme.
 - The LSCB having a greater focus on looked after children in its performance monitoring activity to evidence how well they are safeguarded.

Recommendations

- 28 It is recommended that Cabinet receive this report in order to ensure a clear understanding in relation to the work of the LSCB over the last year.
- 29 Cabinet note the range of work that is taking place to safeguard children in County Durham, and the continued challenges, developments and achievements in this critical area of work.

Contact: Pixley Clarke, LSCB Business Manager Job Title, Contact Details – 03000 265775

Background papers: LSCB Annual Report 2011/12, Working Together 2013

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Continued pressures on the public sector and all partners who support the Board financially may have an impact on the level of funding to the Safeguarding Children Board to enable it to continue the level of work it has achieved to date

Staffing – Arrangements are in place to recruit two lay members to the Board. The position of Training coordinator is vacant, interviews are planned to recruit to this

Risk – ongoing funding contributions are required from multi-agency partners to ensure safeguarding arrangements continue to be effective

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Children’s safeguarding is intrinsically linked and is covered in the LSCB Governance and Memorandum of Understanding

Accommodation – No pertinent issues

Crime and Disorder - none

Human Rights - None

Consultation – the report is available for all partner agencies and members of the public and will be published on the LSCB website
www.durham-lscb.gov.uk

Procurement - no pertinent issues

Disability Issues – The needs of disabled children are reflected in all aspects of safeguarding and the work of the Board including policies and procedures

Legal Implications – The LSCB is a key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in County Durham will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. This is set out in Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006

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Annual Report 2013/14 – January 2014

The Effectiveness of Safeguarding in County Durham

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This report is available on the
LSCB website
www.durham-lscb.gov.uk

Section 1: Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to Durham LSCB's 2013/14 Annual Report. This is intended to give local people and staff an account of the Board's work over the past year and that of the partner agencies, to improve the safety and well-being of children and young people across County Durham. The LSCB now includes more than 25 members from 17 different agencies, 9 of whom contribute to funding the Board and the LSCB Team. This helps deliver shared priorities and support new and on-going work to safeguard children in many different settings.

Our vision continues to be that every child and young person in County Durham grows up safe from maltreatment, neglect and crime. We aim to sustain a strong safeguarding culture and arrangements where the focus is firmly on the experience of the child or young person and their journey to getting early help and support. At the heart of our plan is a strong integrated approach to early intervention and prevention underpinned by the Children & Families Partnership's 'Think Family' Strategy. The commitment of the agency partners to this vision is evidenced in the breadth of work outlined in this report, improved performance in some key areas and sustained funding, despite the financial and demand pressures on all partners.

This year we have tried to build on learning from national research about what makes an effective annual LSCB report. As such, we have given a greater focus to analysing and reporting on arrangements for challenging the quality of practice with children and their families, as well as the effectiveness of the Board and safeguarding arrangements generally across the County. We have also sought to strengthen engagement of the Board with children and young people and to reflect their voices within the report.

In 2013/14 the LSCB has responded to major changes in Public Health and the NHS, in Durham Constabulary, the Probation Service and the Local Authority. Time has been made to learn more about each other's priorities and challenges and to further strengthen

Partnership working. This has resulted in stronger joint work between children and adult's services. Examples include families where there is domestic abuse, parents who have mental health needs, alcohol or drug issues. Another key priority has been on building awareness and systems to tackle child sexual exploitation, in its many forms. Feedback from front line staff and from young people themselves has been very positive.

New arrangements have also been put in place to deal with the reduction in national monitoring, new Ofsted Inspection frameworks and the increased focus on early help. Durham LSCB has also embraced the Government's emphasis on alternative methods of investigating serious incidents. The emphasis has been on sharing and embedding learning through the LSCBs well developed multi and single agency training programme. The LSCB has also supported the raising of awareness and promotion of safeguarding standards in the voluntary, community and faith sectors through sponsorship of the local 'Never say Nothing' campaign.

Particular thanks are due to Pixley Clarke, Emma Maynard and the whole LSCB Team for their very effective joint working and sustained commitment through recent team changes. We also say goodbye to Bill Worth, our Lay Member, who sadly had to retire from this role, but who has made an important contribution to the work of the Board. Finally I would like to thank and recognise the contributions of the LSCB Sub-Group Chairs and members who play a huge role in delivering the Board's priorities and in supporting and challenging agency practice

Fran Gosling-Thomas
Independent Chair



Section 2: Executive Summary

The purpose of this annual report is to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in County Durham in 2012/13. Also, the contribution made by Durham LSCB, partner agencies and services in the County to improve the quality of services for vulnerable children. The report also recognises the achievements and the progress that has been made in the last year and as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain. It sets out how the Board's work is being developed and strengthened in 2013/14 to address these challenges.

The report demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the LSCB as set out in 'Working Together' are being effectively discharged, including:

- assessments of policies and procedures to keep children safe, including the safe recruitment;
- an assessment of single and inter-agency training;
- lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths as identified by the CDOP Panel*; and
- Progress on priority issues (for example, early help, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and mental health).

It is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the Children and Families Partnership and reflects the County's on-going 'improvement journey' following the Ofsted Inspection in early 2012 that rated services as 'outstanding'. Embedding and sustaining best practice at the front line 24/7 and 365 days each year, across the agencies, presents considerable on-going challenge and commitment, particularly, in the current financial and organisational context. This requires a high degree of multi-agency collaboration at every level.

This year's report also builds on learning from national research¹ including guidance on what makes a 'powerful' annual report and the 'Facets of any effective LSCB'. It is intended to address three fundamental questions:

- What did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- What difference did we make to improve outcomes for children, young people and families?

It aims to show the link between "activity" and "outcomes and also the "capacity and coherence" of the Board's function, form and effectiveness.

A comprehensive review of performance, quality assurance and audit findings summarised in this report clearly outlines the breadth and depth of work being undertaken to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in County Durham. There has been more than a 10% reduction in the year of re-referrals and 13% reduction in children subject to CP Plans following introduction of the one point service, clearer guidance and training for staff about thresholds and risk factors and an increased focus on early help. Particular progress has been made to increase missing children return interviews and missing from care episodes have reduced. The engagement of GPs in child protection conferences has improved significantly and in some localities practitioners were able to achieve very good levels of attendance. Almost all agencies improved their performance in providing reports to review child protection case conferences. The majority of children now stay on a plan for less than six months, with most of these staying on for three months. No children have been on a plan for two years or more, following concerted efforts to review plans earlier. The percentage of first reviews carried out on time was very good at 98%.

¹ National Association of Independent LSCB Chairs

Challenges remain however, to increase the proportion of Initial and Core Assessments being completed on time and to further increase the number of CAFs being completed overall. There was an increase in percentage of children subject to a plan for a second/subsequent time and this has been an area where the LSCB requested further information from case file audits to understand the reasons for this and take any actions required.

Engaging children and young people about safeguarding matters and their own care has been a key priority this year. This has included specific meetings between Board members and groups of children and young people. Significant improvements continue to be made in obtaining the views of young people as part of the assessment and review conference process. There is scope for further work to be done in this area in the next year.

Testing the quality of front line services has also had a higher profile over the last year with an expansion of the Quality and Performance Framework to ensure a more coherent approach to quality. A number of multi-agency audits have taken place in areas identified by the Board as requiring further examination this has included quality audits of children subject to more than one child protection plan and a review of single agency practice audits has also been completed to ensure the Board is informed of the learning from these and issues requiring further attention. A further development has seen the introduction of an LSCB risk register where any agency can identify risks which may impact on LSCB business.

The LSCB's training strategy ensures that LSCB courses reflect national and local guidance around the importance of early help, the need for adult and children staff to collaborate and coordinate their actions and to "think family". 'Working together 2013' identifies the need to have a well trained workforce with an appropriate knowledge base. Durham LSCB have a range of courses that offer the partner agencies more specialist knowledge and the topics reflect the

Information received from local and national serious case reviews. Child Sexual Exploitation has been a high priority for the board. A series of multi-agency events across the county trained over 500 staff on the issues and on new procedures. Evaluation of the effectiveness of training remains high and this is now involving a closer focus on the 'impact' of training for both children and for the partner agencies.

The LSCB has also supported the raising of awareness and promotion of safeguarding standards in the voluntary, community and faith sectors through sponsorship of the local 'Never say Nothing' Campaign jointly with CAVOS and VCCS.

Significant service restructuring has and is taking place to respond to the changing circumstances of the public sector and to promote more effective ways of working with children, young people and their families. More quantitative and qualitative information is being actively used to help analyse where progress is being made and where further improvement is required. This report seeks to provide robust challenge to the work of the "Children's Trust Board" in driving improvements in the safeguarding of children and young people and in promoting their welfare. Also to give a clear account of progress that has been made in implementing actions from individual Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) completed during the year plans to evaluate the impact of these actions and how these improvements are being monitored and sustained over time.

Section 3: Local Background and Context

The 2011 population estimate for County Durham was 513,000 (251,000 males and 262,000 females), with 96% of the population from a white background. The adult population is ageing, however trends in the birth rate indicate that there will be many more children in the County in the future, with perhaps as many as 8,600 additional births by 2031 when compared to current projections. Across County Durham there are some very specific needs for services to support children, young people and their families, for example:

- An estimated 5% of the population in County Durham are believed to be dependent on alcohol, with a further 20% drinking at increasing risk levels
- Alcohol specific admission rates for under 18's are higher than the regional rate with County Durham ranked 12th worst out of 326 local authorities
- In 2012/13 alcohol was seized from 785 children across County Durham
- Teenage conception rates are 43.2 per 1,000 population of 15 – 17 year olds, which is higher than the national average (Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 and Public Health performance data)

Number of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan

The following chart plots the pattern of activity for 2012/13 compared to 2011/12 and previous years. As can be seen the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan has fluctuated over the last 12 months, reaching a high of 465 in September 2012 and stabilising to the year end to its lowest level since 2009/10. At the end of March 2013 there were 402 children on a CP Plan.

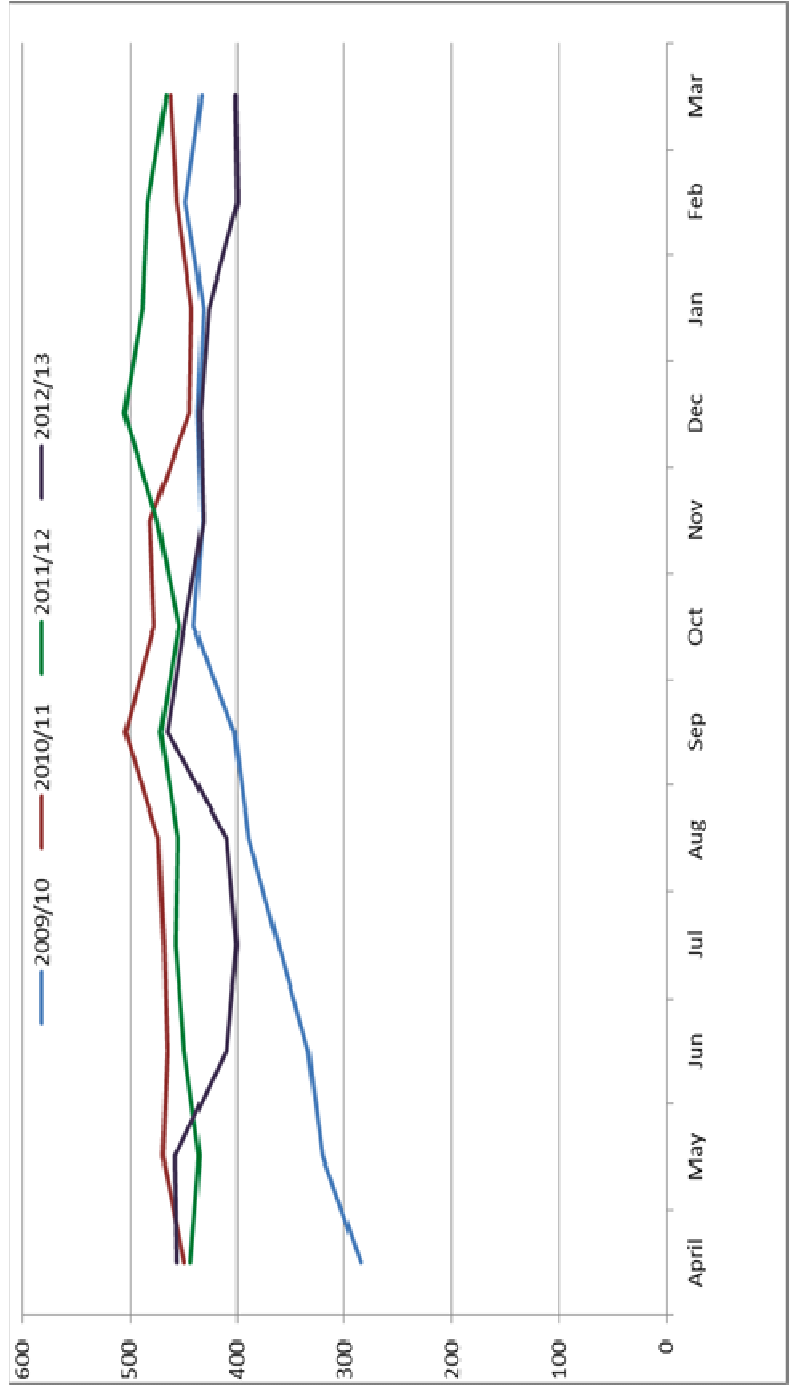
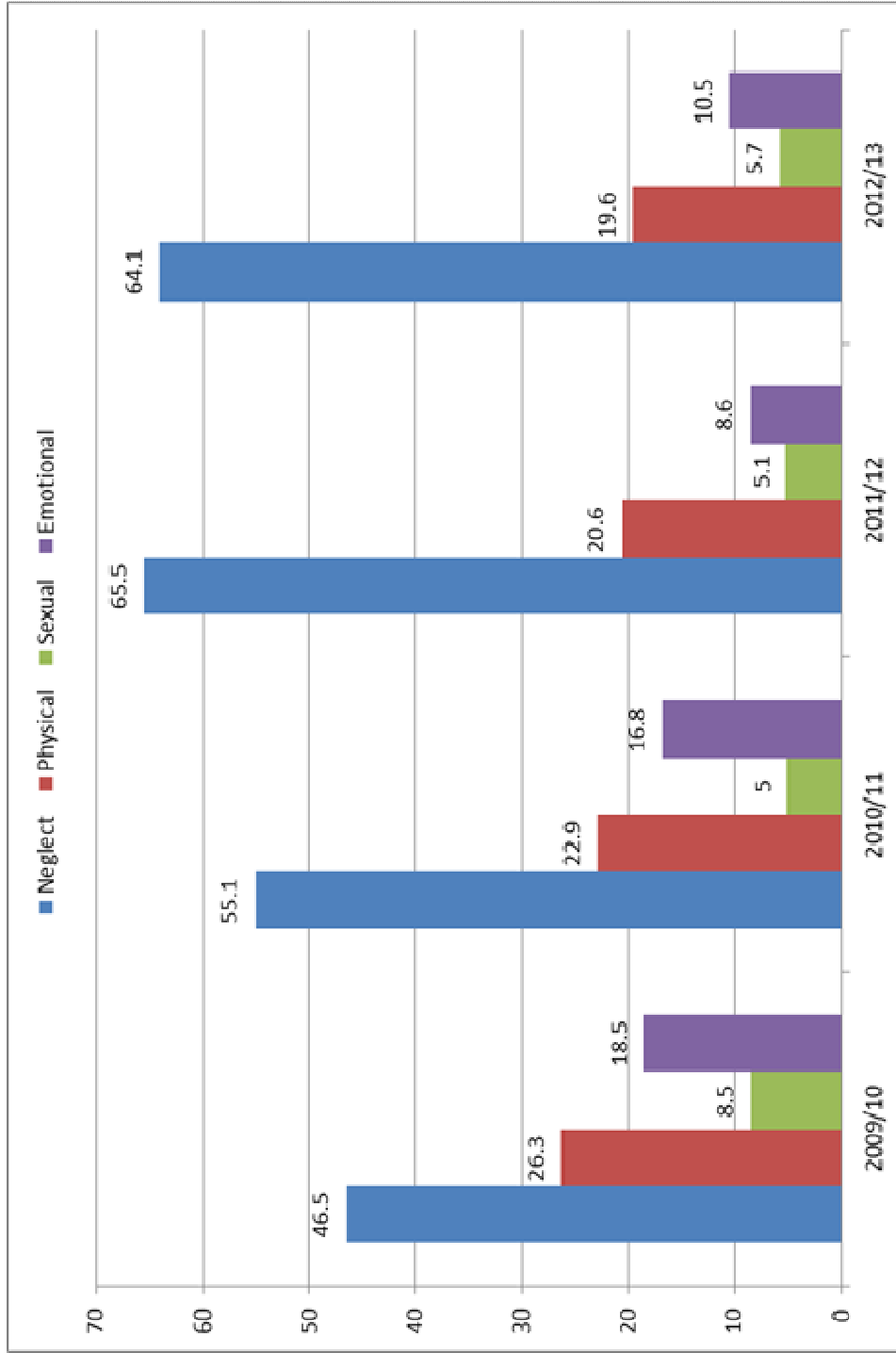
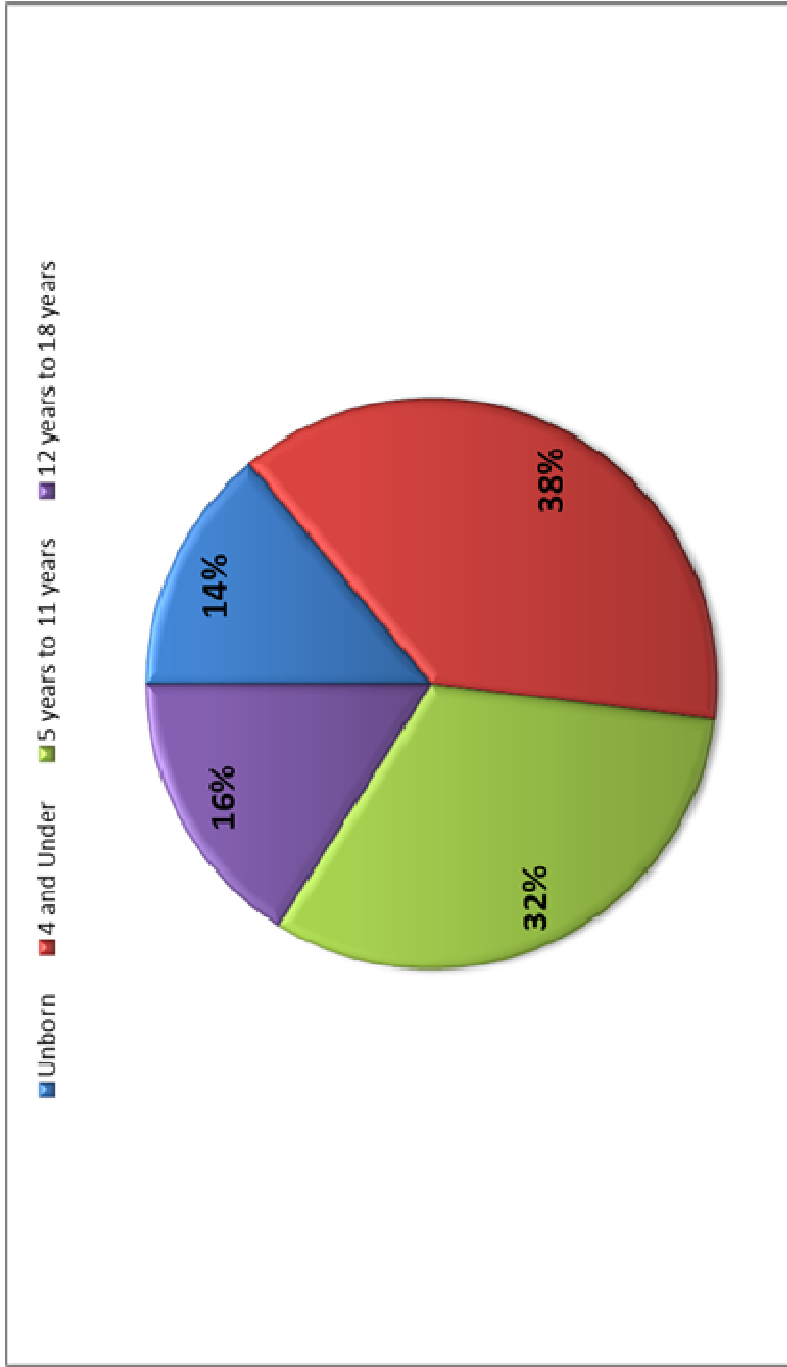


Figure - Children Subject to CP Plan by Category



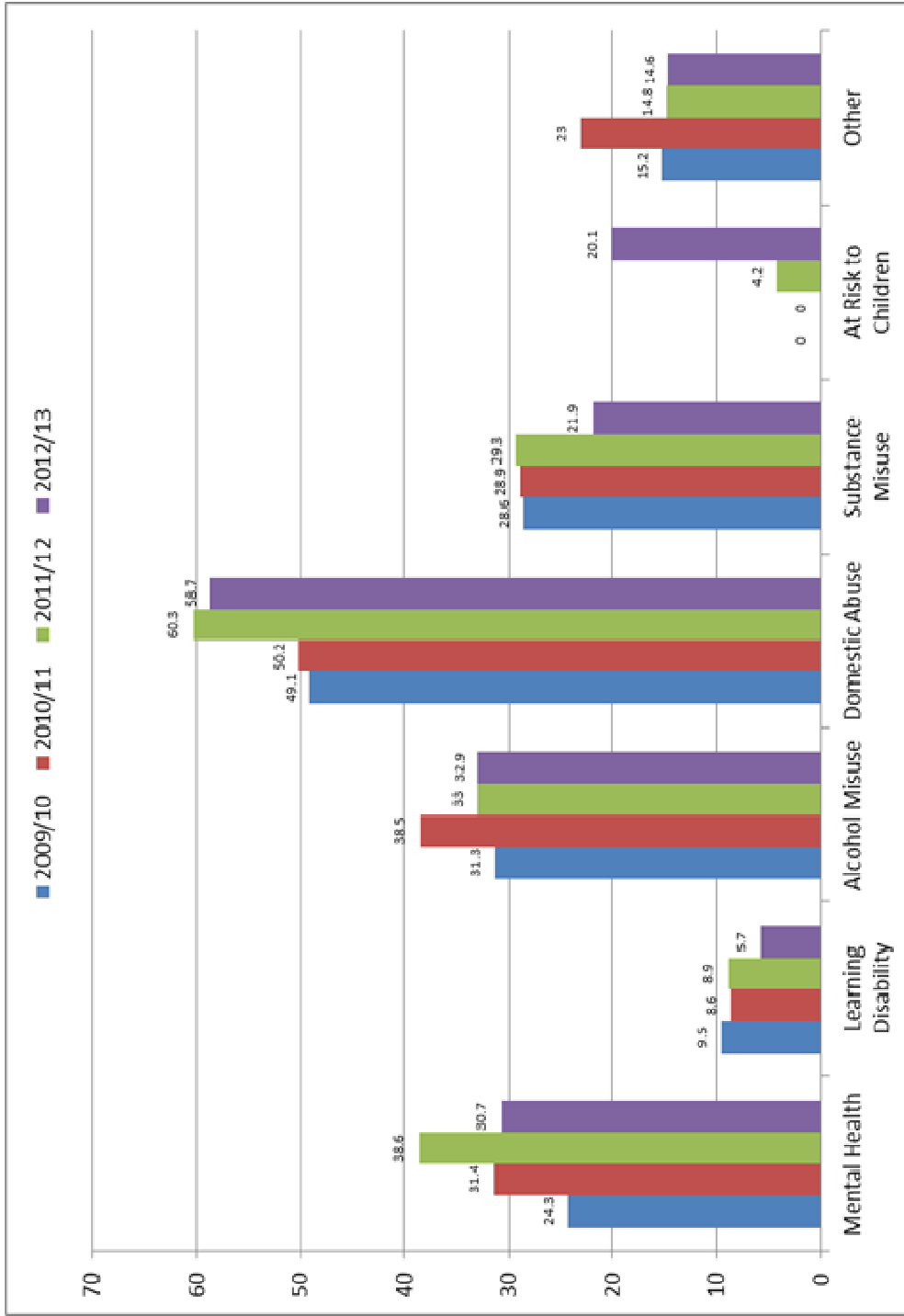
Neglect continues to be the main reason for children becoming subject to a plan. The percentage has been rising since 2009/10. Neglect has been a priority for the LSCB in previous years and during 2010/11 the LSCB developed a comprehensive strategy to respond to the issues of neglect and its impact on children and young people's wellbeing and outcomes. This included the provision of specialist training, assessment tools and new procedures for multi-agency practitioners to enable them to better support children identified as at risk or subject to neglect by their parent/carers. Specialist training continues to form a significant part of the LSCB training programme.

Figure – Ages of Children (%) 2012/13



During the year 2012/13 as in previous years, the majority of children who became subject to a child protection plan were aged under four and unborn – making up 52% of all plans, reflecting the national picture and the vulnerability of very young children and the need for early intervention services in the community to be targeted at this age group.

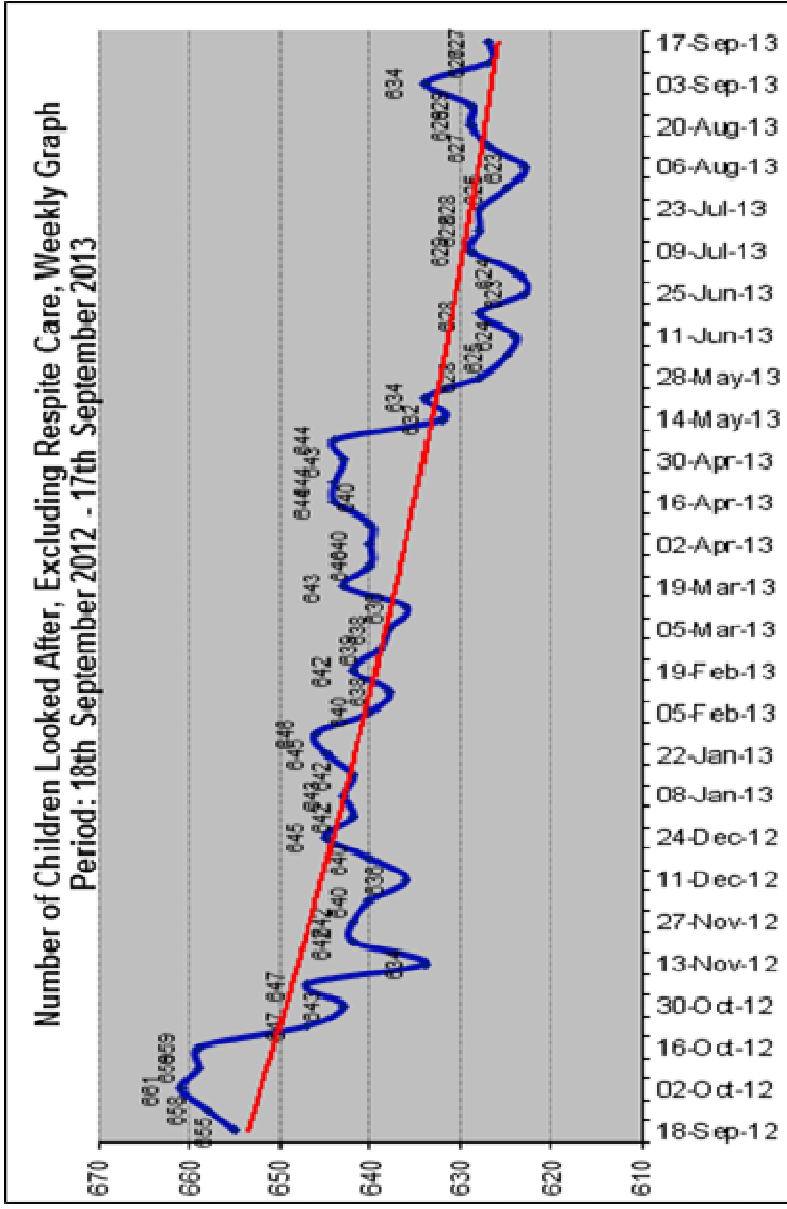
Figure - Parental Risk Factors Identified (%)



Domestic abuse is the main parental risk factor for the need for a child protection conference (58.7%) followed by Alcohol misuse (32.9%) parental mental health (30.7%) and substance misuse (21.9%) In 2011/12 domestic abuse was identified as a priority for the LSCB and is now embedded into the Board's day to day activities. Specialist training continues to be provided for multi-agency practitioners and includes awareness raising sessions as well as more in-depth specialist sessions presented by specialist workers.

Children in the Care of the Local Authority

Figure: Looked After Children (Source: County Durham Early Help Strategy 2013)



The numbers of children looked after has been reducing over recent years and continues on a downward trajectory. The LSCB has not traditionally reported on arrangements for looked after children but is well aware of the trends and challenges facing local services. The recent published Working Together places a stronger emphasis on early help to reduce the risk of family breakdown and as a consequence, the need for children to be looked after. When they become looked after there are significant challenges in providing them with placement stability and improved outcomes and in equipping for life beyond care. We know that by understanding the reasons children become looked after enables agencies to target better their early help and family support services. In 2014 the LSCB will be widening the range of data and performance information that it collects to include looked after children.

Early Help in Durham

The LSCB has had a strong focus on early help since 2011 when it set out a draft strategy in response to Professor Munro's Review of Child Protection (DfE 2011). Since that time more work has been done within the LSCB to understand how services are being delivered across Durham to enable the Board to be in a position to monitor and challenge the difference that services are making to the lives of vulnerable children and young people in the county.

What is Early Help?

Early help is about identifying risks and offering help early in order to prevent problems from occurring rather than responding later when risks have heightened and require action from intensive, high cost statutory services.

Munro Review of child Protection 2011

The case for preventative and Early Help Services is clear, both in the sense of offering help to children and families before any problems are apparent and in providing help when low level problems emerge. From the perspective of a child or young person, it is clearly better if they receive help before they have any, or only minor, adverse experiences." (Munro 2011)

Durham's Strategy for Early Help services

An Early Help Strategy has been developed for the Children and Families Partnership (formerly known as the Children and Families Trust). This was presented to the LSCB in October 2013. Transformation and service re-design within the council's children's services has already commenced with full implementation of new structures from January 2014.

Within the strategy there is acknowledgement that there has been a long standing commitment to the Think Family concept within County Durham and this clearly continues to underpin the Early Help Strategy's ambitions. Durham has made significant progress over recent years to build the foundations for providing early help to families through the development of the One Point Service, the Family Pathfinder Service, the continued investment in the Family Intervention Project, initiatives within Children's Care Services including Family Group Conferencing and the Pre Birth Intervention Service. More recently the ambitions of the Think Family Programme and the Stronger Families programme has aimed to transform a range of services to think more holistically about the needs of families at the earliest opportunity.

Durham's three ambitions for Early Help are to ensure that;

- Early Help is Everyone's Business
- Support will be seamless for families
- Help will be offered that is known to work.

Inherent in the strategy is the stated aim that Durham County Council will be focusing on targeted services. The following extracts from the ~Strategy sum up well the strategic aims

"In an era of decreasing resource services must be offered first to those who need them, when they need them. To an extent Universal services have already started to target needy populations, and children's centres are increasingly required to target individuals more than they have in previous years

The focus in Durham has been on battling with the symptoms of high need and risk rather than tackling cause at an earlier stage. In an era of decreasing resources we need to ensure that we target what we have at the families who need it most in the most effective and efficient ways."

"Services spend a lot of resource dealing with the consequences of poor parenting, family breakdown and crises, as well as the abuse and neglect that children experience. It is important to shift this professional focus to identifying the early signs that a family needs help and support and to a move to services which offer this help in a way which families want to access and which can make a real and lasting difference to their lives. This early help also needs to respond to the root causes of families' difficulties to ensure that changes that families make can be sustained".

The Durham Continuum of Needs Model

The Early Help strategy is underpinned by the local continuum of need framework which sets out clearly the agreed local understanding of levels of need. It is an integrated services pathway model designed to reflect the fact that children and young people's needs and those of their families exist along a continuum. The model recognises that needs may change over time and is based on the principle that children and young people's welfare and safety is a shared responsibility and should be a seamless positive journey. Regardless of which 'step' children, young people and families are identified on they will be supported at the earliest opportunity and continue to be supported by the relevant services as they move up and down the staircase. (Figure A):

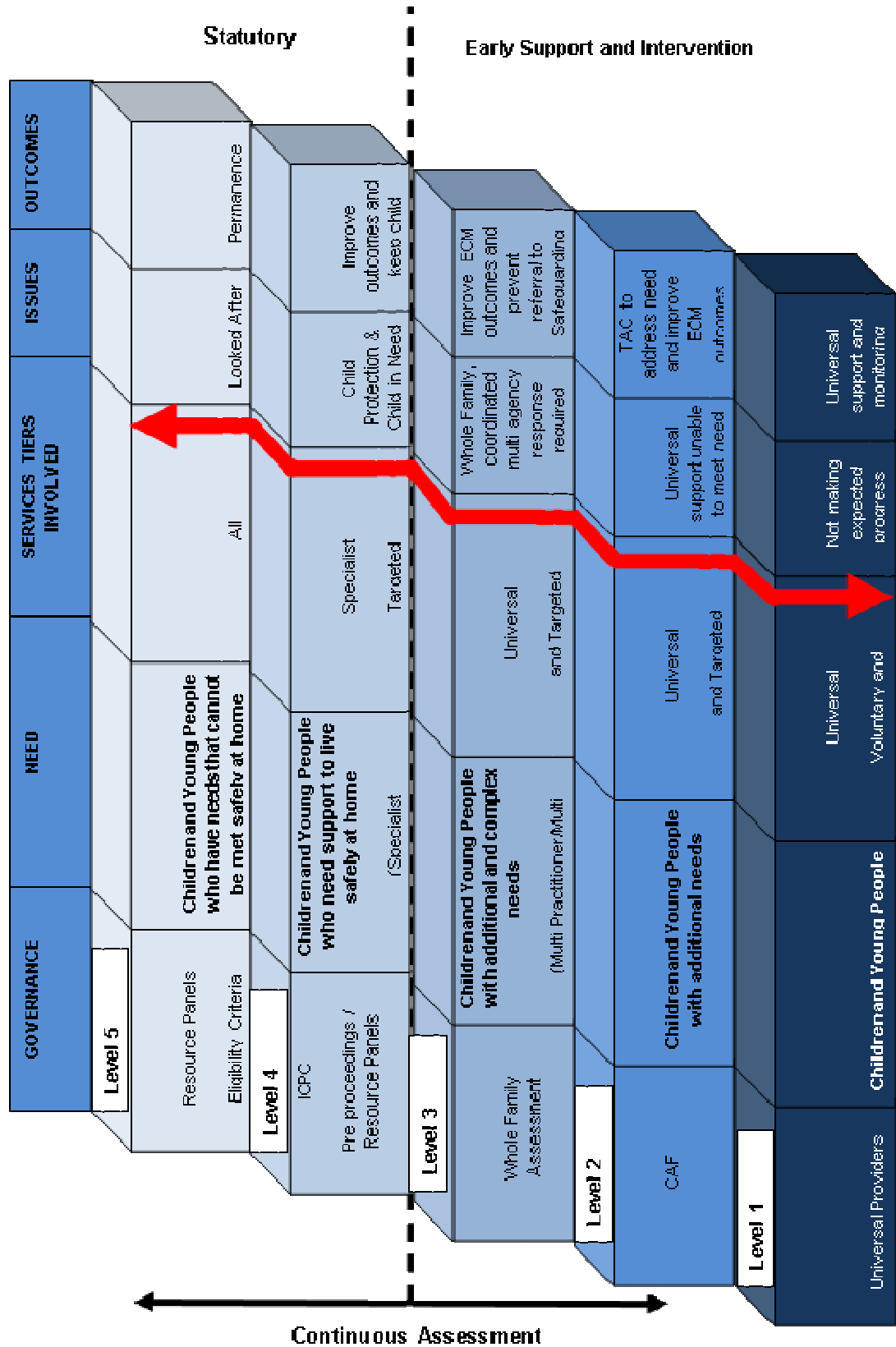
In order to deliver on the strategy a number of changes will be required including:

- Development of the single front door for families to access services
- Children's Services reshaped to meet need - this may necessitate a range of commissioning actions, including new service provision, restructuring of existing services and creation of new job roles, as well as workforce development.
- Service redesigned to ensure that there is sufficient capacity at all levels of need and that job roles and responsibilities are sufficiently flexible to be able to respond to the needs of whole families
- Development of new commissioning partnerships and effective joint commissioning to ensure the right services are available and that there is no duplication.

The strategy covers three years. If implementation is successful improved outcomes are anticipated for children and families. In terms of safeguarding arrangements these include:

- More families to have received help at an earlier point and be empowered to take control of their own lives, avoiding the need for statutory intervention.
- Reduction in the number of children in need and children subject to a child protection plan
- Reduction in the number of children Looked After by the Local Authority
- Reduction in the percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child protection Plan or looked after for a second or subsequent time.
- Increase in the number of assessments completed by a range of partners at levels 2 and 3
- Increase in numbers of assessments at the point of referral to Children's Care

Durham's Continuum of Needs Model



Section 4: Statutory & Legislative Context for LSCBs

The LSCB is established in accordance with Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and encapsulates the guidance contained in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006/2010/2013 and The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006. Each Local Authority that is a Children's Services Authority is required to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Working Together outlines the statutory objectives of an LSCB:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for these purposes

The functions of the LSCB are:

- To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the Local authority including:
 1. the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
 2. training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children
 3. the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
 4. the investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children
 5. the safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
 6. cooperating with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners

- To communicate to persons and bodies in the area of the authority for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and advising them on ways to improve.
- To participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
- To undertake reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learnt.

The Boards do not commission or deliver direct frontline services and does not have the power to direct other organisations, which retain their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding. However, the LSCB does have a role in making it clear where improvement is needed.

To discharge this role, the LSCB uses data to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training

Routinely, Durham LSCB prepares a research and development report which summarises national and regional implications following new statutory guidance, research and legislative change. The local implications for the LSCB are considered and progressed through business planning or the work of its sub groups.

Section 5: Governance & Accountability Arrangements

5.1 Local Partnership and Accountability Arrangements

The Local Authority and the Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services in Durham hold a key responsibility in ensuring that the Local Safeguarding Children Board is established and effective. Historically local agencies have shown a high commitment to sharing responsibility and accountability for the arrangements to protect and safeguard children from harm through previous Area Child Protection Committee and more recently, the LSCB arrangements. Durham LSCB has a robust Governance and Memorandum of Understanding in place that forms the formal agreement between the Board and all partner agencies. It outlines the accountability arrangements, key purposes, functions and tasks of the LSCB, membership and agreed standards and expectations of LSCB services. The document sets out the arrangements for the LSCB to link with key strategic groups such as the children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The LSCB Governance and accountability document was reviewed and updated in April 2013 to take account of Working Together 2013. Further consultation is planned to take account of wider engagement with strategic and operational groups.

In line with national expectations and requirements of Working Together, the Board continues to be chaired by an independent person, an arrangement that has been in place since 2011. The Chair meets at regular intervals with the Corporate Director for Children and Adults Services and also attends the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Chair has a crucial role in making certain that the Board operates independently and secures an independent voice for the LSCB.

One lay member has continued to support the Board throughout the year but recently stepped down due to other competing commitments. The Board is actively looking to recruit to the two lay members recognising the valuable contribution they make to the wider work of the Board in ensuring the public has a voice on the Board.

Durham LSCB meets every two months with all key partner agencies who make up the membership expected to attend. Where members are unable to attend they are required to send a deputy who is responsible for communicating to their agency any agreed decisions and recommendations of the Board. Attendance is monitored and reported annually to the Board as part of the Board's review of the governance and effectiveness arrangements. Throughout 2012/13 the Board has been well supported by partner agencies despite budget cuts, and reduced capacity potentially impacting on partner's ability to attend a range of strategic and partnership meetings including supporting a number of LSCBs cross-border. Health partners identified key personnel early on to ensure the Clinical Commissioning Groups had representation on the LSCB prior to the new arrangements being implemented in April 2013.

In recognition that more work needs to be done to enable local colleges to contribute effectively to the local safeguarding agenda, during 2013 actions are being progressed to strengthen links with their representative through regular meetings with the Board Business Manager.

Involving Young People

The LSCB has continued to actively to seek the views of children and young people on wider safeguarding issues. During the year the LSCB worked collaboratively with 'Investing in Children' to set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. The group has met with members of the LSCB on a number of occasions. Their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan to deliver priorities which include parental mental health and child sexual exploitation.

Working with other LSCBs

Durham LSCB works collaboratively with other LSCBs in the North East so as to share learning and agree safeguarding policies and procedures which impact on children and families for example in respect of cross border issues, child deaths and Serious Case Reviews.

Details of the LSCB membership are set out in the Governance & Memorandum of Understanding.

The Board has a clear structure in place which enables it to fulfil its statutory obligations and ensure children in Durham are safeguarded well. Strategic managers from several agencies who attend LSCB meetings also attend other key strategic meetings with responsibilities for contributing and leading on aspects of safeguarding children, these include the Children and Families Trust Executive Board, MAPPA Executive Board, the Safer Durham Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group. Managers attending these meetings routinely consider the contribution and work of the LSCB where there are cross cutting issues.

The LSCB has in place a well-established number of standing sub-groups which have clear terms of reference for taking forward the priorities of the Board. The Board meets every two months and each sub-group provides regular progress reports to the Board and is required to produce an annual report setting out progress on agreed actions. From time to time time-limited task groups are set up to take forward specific pieces of development work, for example parental mental health and child sexual exploitation. The work relating to child sexual exploitation has significantly contributed to the work programme for the Missing and Exploited sub-group. The structure of the Board, including links to key strategic groups is set out in the Governance & Memorandum of Understanding.

The LSCB is also represented at practitioner groups such as the Think Family Operational Group, Alcohol harm Reduction and Intelligence Groups and the Tackling Violence against Women and Girl's Strategic Group, with the LSCB taking an active involvement in planning and the development of policies procedures and strategies. There is also strong links with the GP practice group through membership and attendance at the Liaison group meetings. This enables the LSCB to support GPs in discharging their safeguarding responsibilities through the provision of training and guidance and dissemination of learning from reviews including Serious Case Reviews. Several members of the GP Liaison group contribute to various sub groups including the Performance Sub Group, Policy and Procedures and locality groups which provides a range of opportunities to disseminate learning, share good practice, challenge poor practice and to highlight any issues arising from how the

safeguarding system is working in Durham and looking at ways in which to make improvements.

The LSCB takes its responsibility for ensuring that the local safeguarding arrangements offers a fair and consistent service for families and over the last year has strengthened its arrangements in relation to responding to complaints. Outcomes from complaints panels have been used to influence changes in procedures and to challenge partners in terms of their practice.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the LSCB

The two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that cover Durham and some parts of Darlington are

- NHS Durham Dates, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES)
- NHS North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

The CCGs operated in shadow form from the latter part of 2012. Since their implementation they have;

- Both County Durham CCGs have increased senior support and leadership for safeguarding by introducing and increasing the number of sessions for Named GPs
- Increased capacity in terms of Directors of Nursing in each CCG with responsibility for safeguarding so doubling the amount of time available to support the LSCB

With the introduction of CCGs there is an increase in the amount of senior nursing support and leadership with 2 CCG Directors of Nursing now in place. Both sit on the LSCB and offer senior advice and support. This has pushed safeguarding up the priority list for CCGs, with good engagement in both CCGs. The CCG Directors of Nursing work closely together to ensure that there is no confusion or overlap but that the separate needs of each CCG are adequately addressed. The additional senior resource also means there is increased support for Designated Nurses from CCG board nurses

Increased focus on SCRs and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

The increased leadership listed above have led to an increased focus on serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews in health.

Assurance process for authorisation the new CCGs

Before being authorised as CCGs the organisations had to go through a significant independent assurance process led by other professionals. Each organisation was reviewed by a team of professional assessors, One of whom had a lead for safeguarding. The processes and arrangements were rigorously assessed. Both organisations passed The assessments and were authorised without conditions.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda items on Quality Review Groups for provider organisations as part of discussions about contracts. The purpose of clinical commissioning groups is to commission high quality services for the local population. As part of the process the CCG must assure itself that the provider organisation are delivering services in line with best practice and agreed multi agency standards. The CCGs hold regular quality review group meetings with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda for these meetings to ensure robust arrangements for assuring safeguarding arrangements in provider organisations.

5.2 Provision of Policies, Procedures and Guidance for Multi-Agency Arrangements to protect children and promote their welfare

The Policy & Procedures Sub-Group

The Policy and Procedures sub group has been in place since the LSCB was established with wide membership from partner agencies. It reviews and develops the local multi-agency safeguarding procedures to ensure they are current, up to date and address issues that have been identified through Serious Case Reviews, Learning Lessons Reviews and complaints as well as national and regional guidance. The work of the procedures sub-group was also shaped by the priorities that were agreed by the Board in June 2012.

Achievements 2012/13

During 2012/13 a number of revisions have been made to existing procedures with new areas introduced. These are detailed on the LSCB website to enable practitioners to have access to the changes made. These include:

- **Clarification of the role and contribution of students** attending child protection conferences
- **Updated the Assessment, Intervention and Moving On (AIM) which relate to children and young people who sexually harm other young people** – for example widening the context to include non-contact and contact behaviours such as the possession of indecent images and including the named nurse safeguarding in information exchange meetings
- **Amended and revised the criteria for convening an Initial Child Protection Conference** by revising the threshold to take account of situations where a person with 'At Risk to Children status' is seeking to return to a household where there are children
- **Strengthened the emphasis on the role that schools and Education welfare Officers** have to play in identifying early children who are **missing from education** and setting out clearly the central role the police play in taking responsibility for coordinating information about children who are missing
- **Updated the LSCB complaints procedures** to clarify the role of the Complaints panel and responsibilities for following up on any recommendations made as a result of complaints
- As a direct result of lessons from a local Learning Lessons Review, developed a new and comprehensive **guide for practitioners and managers in conducting multi-agency meetings and working direct with uncooperative and hostile families**. This focuses on identifying how and why families might be hostile and uncooperative including issues such as 'disguised compliance,' keeping children safe, undertaking clear and accurate assessments and managing risks.
- **Revision to the domestic abuse procedures** to take account of national guidance regarding the inclusion of younger victims
- **Strengthening procedures for social workers undertaking statutory visits to children and young people**

- **Updating the safeguarding children from sexual exploitation procedures** to reflect a wider list of risk indicators, clarification of the role of the multi-agency One Point early intervention service, the use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to assess needs to identify and support victims and those at risk and cross-boundary arrangements.
- Munro review of child protection: final report – a child-centred system, 2011
- Children Act 2004
- Durham LSCB Business Plan 2012/13
- Common Core of skill and knowledge for the Children Workforce DCSF 2010
- The Children Workforce Strategy 2012

Over the year the LSCB and partners has taken action to evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements in terms of adherence to procedures and practice standards and to check out if lessons are being learned from case reviews. Evidence has been gathered from a number of performance monitoring activity and thematic audits including from partners of the LSCB. These are detailed in section 5.5 below

5.3 Single and Multi-Agency Training Provision

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 (Department for Education) requires all agencies working with children either directly or indirectly to provide single agency training in order to carry out their own roles and responsibilities. This includes being able to recognise and raise concerns about children's safety and welfare.

Durham LSCB training builds on the training offered by individual partner agencies and organisations and in particular promotes the understanding that only by organisations and agencies working together can children be effectively safeguarded. Durham LSCB Training does this by promoting:

- A shared understanding of roles and responsibilities including common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action
- Improved communication between professionals and those working with children
- Effective working together based on sound working relationships
- Improved assessment and decision making.

The key drives for this are:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

Training Sub-Group

The Training Group's current work plan includes work to implement Working Together 2013. As part of this there is a requirement to monitor single agency training, undertake a training needs analysis and evaluate the impact of both single agency and multi-agency training. This work is on-going and due to be rolled out to partner agencies in November 2013.

All LSCB training is based on relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The standards will be monitored on behalf of the LSCB through the Training Sub Group.

All aspects of training will be based on the following principles:

- Child centred
- Rooted in child development
- Focused on the outcomes for children
- Holistic approach
- Ensuring equality of opportunity
- Informed by evidence/research
- Multi-agency in approach.

Achievements

In all 13 courses were delivered in the 2012/13 LSCB Training Programme with some due for completion in early 2014. They represent a good reflection of the many issues faced by those working in the broad field of safeguarding children and offers appropriate training to practitioners and managers working in a variety of roles including those working with adults who are parents.

In line with the 2012-2014 LSCB training strategy courses reflect national and local guidance around the importance of early help and the need for adult and children practitioners to collaborate and coordinate their actions and to “think family”.

Courses that provide an underpinning knowledge of multi-agency safeguarding processes around recognition, referral, assessment and intervention are:

- Safeguarding Processes
- Assessment and Intervention of Families with Multiple and Complex Needs
- Engaging with families

These courses offer the “core” for all those working with families in the continuum of needs and services.

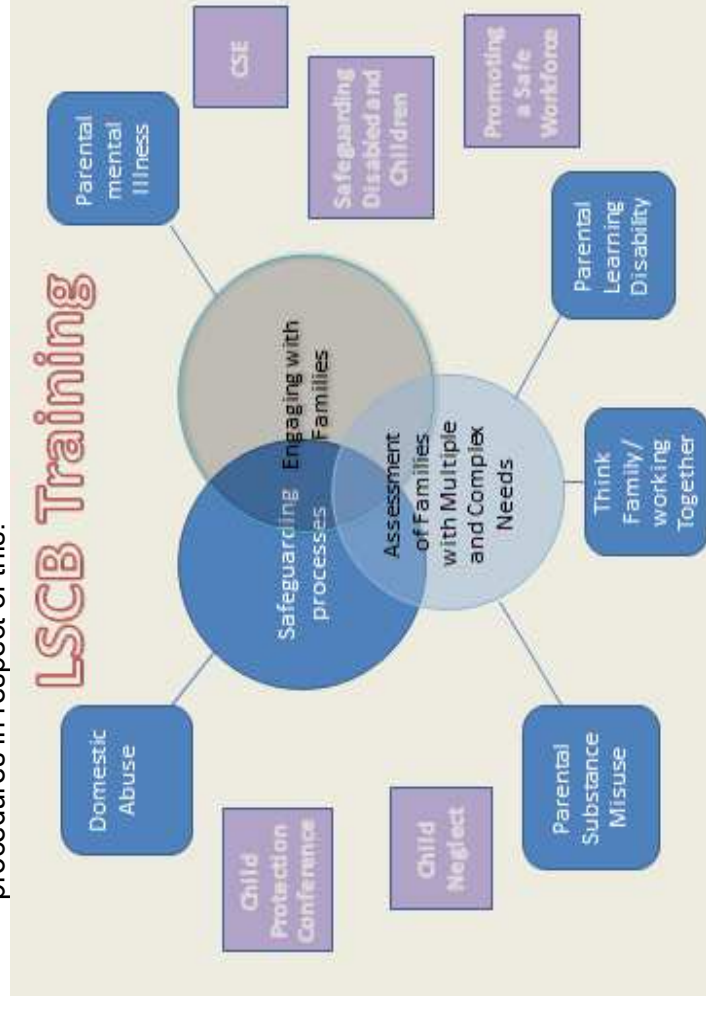
Along with these courses a Think Family / Working Together event has been facilitated four times throughout the year and offers practitioners and managers the opportunity to find out about services that provide support to children and adults and to build up a network for multi-agency partners.

Drawing on analysis of information and monitoring of performance including feedback from child protection conferences a range of courses have continued to be delivered throughout the year which offer a more **specialist content**. These include:

- Parental Mental Health
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Parental Learning Disability
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Neglect
- Child Protection Conference
- Safeguarding Deaf and Disabled Children
- Safer Workforce

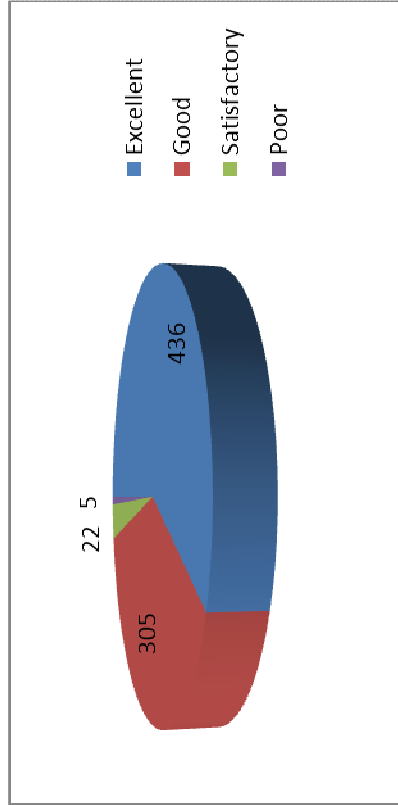
These can be seen a supplementary to the core courses on offer and seen as a whole, provide a comprehensive package of training to support multi-agency working in Durham to safeguard and promote children’s welfare.

- In addition to the above courses the LSCB development officer has worked closely with voluntary sector groups to provide individual basic awareness raising sessions in respect of sexual exploitation of young people and an outline of the LSCB procedures in respect of this.



All courses have been developed and are delivered with a strong commitment to multi-agency collaboration. This is very important to ensure that specialist knowledge can be drawn upon. It also mirrors good multi-agency working and has the additional benefit of co-presenters taking back messages and learning to their workplace.

Throughout 2012/13, courses have been attended by a good cross section of agencies. Out of a total of 781 evaluations completed in the 1st six months of 2013, the combined overall satisfaction for the courses was as follows:



Training for 2014/15 will be informed by the Training needs analysis but will continue to build on the importance of multi-agency working and continue to include more on intervention with families rather than an emphasis on raising awareness (improving skills as well as knowledge and understanding). It will continue to be informed by other work of the LSCB including multi agency audit activity and any lessons from reviews.

LSCB Bespoke Training – Early Year’s Providers

- Throughout 2012/13 the LSCB continued to provide bespoke safeguarding training through an additional LSCB trainer for local early years providers so that more staff in these settings can access child protection and safeguarding training at times that are more flexible and that meet their specific service needs. The training programme is highly regarded by the sector and was so successful that it led to further services being commissioned from the Board.

5.4 Performance Monitoring, Quality & Effectiveness of local arrangements and practice

The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to advise them on ways to improve. This includes monitoring performance and assuring practice through joint audits of casework and identifying lessons to be learned. By monitoring performance through data collection and analysis the LSCB is able to identify issues and look to partners to resolving them.

Durham LSCB has in place a range of activities to audit, monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements including the standard of multi-agency practice. Over the last year the LSCB has strengthened its challenge role its expectations of partners to bring to the Board’s attention the outcome of audits undertaken to assess the effectiveness of individual agency safeguarding arrangements. These have been timetabled into the LSCB annual agenda.

Performance Management Sub-Group

The Performance Management sub-group is responsible for overseeing the quality and standards of safeguarding practice across the partnership to ensure that the LSCB fulfils its statutory function under regulation 5 of The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations (2006).

Achievements – Audit of practice

Over the year action has been taken to evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements in terms of adherence to procedures and practice standards and to check out if lessons are being learned from case reviews. Evidence has been gathered from a number of performance monitoring activity and thematic audits including from partners of the LSCB. These included;

- An audit of cases deemed to need ‘No Further Action’ following referral to the Initial Response Team (IRT). Evidence from this audit led to a tightening up of recording within IRT, completing more thorough assessments as well as ensuring that the

outcome of referrals are shared with the referring agency/person where appropriate.

- An audit of the impact of the new Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing from Home procedures which identified that more children were being identified and supported but that specific work was needed to support practitioners to better identify those at risk and using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to identify those at risk at a much earlier stage.
- An audit undertaken by the PCT/Clinical Commissioning Group to assess the impact of training for GPs on responding to bruising to immobile babies and children. This followed the outcome of a Serious Case Review and learning lessons review which concluded that procedures were not being followed and referrals were not being made when an immobile baby had injuries. Following the audit further training and follow up activity is planned to ensure compliance with agreed standards. In addition further guidance, including leaflets for parents and professionals are also being developed in conjunction with the LSCB.
- A thematic review by Children's Care of cases of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second subsequent time so as to better understand the reasons, scrutinize decisions and assess impact of interventions on outcomes for children.
- An audit of multi-agency chronologies to check out the evidence that there is very good compliance with procedures

The performance subgroup and the LSCB receives quarterly performance reports which provides information and analysis of the effectiveness of the multi-agency child protection procedures relating to the operation of child protection conference and review arrangements. Agencies are challenged to improve performance through a number of recommendations which are monitored at each meeting and where necessary further scrutiny is provided through the LSCB audit programme which is detailed in the LSCB Quality and Performance Framework.

Alongside the Performance Management sub-group there are three Locality Performance Management groups, normally chaired by the LSCB Performance Manager. However due to the post being vacant for part of the year this was undertaken by the Board Business Manager.

Each locality group had a shared work plan to deliver the Board's priorities and to address practice and standards issues identified at a locality/practitioner level. Throughout the year it has continued to be a challenge for some agencies to maintain regular attendance at these meetings due to competing priorities. The meetings enable staff from a wide range of partner agencies to meet regularly to share information and good practice and to keep up to date with safeguarding issues as well as the work of the LSCB. The Board has high expectations of agencies to contribute to these meetings. There is close monitoring of attendance and with active encouragement from agency representatives on the LSCB attendance has significantly improved.

During the year the existing LSCB Performance Framework was reviewed and updated to cover the period 2013-15. The framework is comprehensive, with a greater emphasis on challenge and measuring impact. It covers a wider area including the functioning of the LSCB such as the effectiveness of governance arrangements, challenge and improvement/self-evaluation, the well-established Section 11 audit, learning from thematic reviews including Serious Case Reviews and other performance monitoring activity linked to the LSCB priorities. A stronger emphasis was placed on case audits with a number of themed audits undertaken as described above. A number of other audits are planned to include getting evidence from the experience of parents and carers and practitioners to get their views as to how well arrangements are working to safeguard children in Durham.

On an annual basis and as part of the Board's development day the LSCB reviews the progress made on the previous year's priorities and also examines the multi-agency dataset to support its priority setting activity and to raise particular issues of concern that impact significantly on children safeguarding and challenge partners within other strategic meetings and in particular the Children and Families Partnership. For example, the continued high incidence of domestic violence as the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject to child protection plans.

Performance in respect of an agreed set of the 'Top 10' indicators is monitored and examined by the Performance Management sub-group and reported to the LSCB at each of its meeting every Board meeting.

On a quarterly basis a detailed report providing a critical analysis of agency performance in respect of Initial and Review Child Protection was prepared for the LSCB and Performance Management Group by the LSCB Business Manager. The report is also shared with senior operational managers within agencies and also with the three locality groups to enable partners to take action to address recommendations made to improve performance. Progress on actions taken is followed up at each meeting and addressed via the agreed locality work plan.

A full annual performance report, setting out agency performance is presented to the LSCB each April. The annual report outlines the key areas that the Performance Management Locality Groups have been focussing on so that partners can see where performance needs to improved and where there is progress being made against agreed standards. The report provides relevant statistical information gathered over the year and draws on a range of data which has collected via the child protection conference and review services. Where relevant it draws on previous data to enable comparisons to be made about aspects of agency's performance and direction of travel.

Safeguarding Privately Fostered Children

There Board also monitors the local arrangements for safeguarding children who are privately fostered. The Board includes specific data in its 'Top Ten' performance indicator list and on an annual basis is provided with a full report setting out the local authority's arrangements to raise awareness in the community, monitor and support children and young people who are in such placements.

5.5 Case Review Function

There have been no Serious Case Reviews or Learning Lessons Review in the 2012/13 period. Two serious case reviews from previous years were however published in March 2013 and May 2013, both having being completed in timescale but having been delayed due to ongoing criminal proceedings. The actions required following these reviews have now been formally signed off as completed by the relevant agencies.

During 2012 a number of multi-agency awareness conferences were held to share the findings from the five cases that had previously been reviewed - two Serious Case Reviews and three Learning Lessons Reviews.

Recommendations from local Serious Case Reviews and Learning Lessons Reviews both in County Durham and nationally are robustly monitored on a quarterly basis by the Serious Case Review Monitoring Group and an escalation process is in place should progress on the actions is not being achieved in a timely manner.

5.6 The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings

County Durham is among a small number of councils who have secure services within its boundaries. As well as monitoring child protection activity across Durham the LSCB also monitors the use of restraint in two secure settings that provide services for children, many of whom are placed by councils outside the area and by the criminal courts.

Background to LSCB Monitoring

The issue of safeguarding young people within secure settings has been a priority for Durham LSCB since the death of Adam Rickwood in Hassockfield in 2005. In June 2009, it was agreed by Board members that the numbers of restraints to children which led to the child being injured in both secure settings in County Durham (Hassockfield Secure Training Centre and Aycliffe Secure Children's Home) would be collated and presented to the Board routinely. Figures relating to the number and circumstances of injuries caused by restraint have been monitored since August 2009. The first report outlining the numbers of restraints which led to injury was presented to the LSCB in February 2010. Since that time, a six monthly update has been submitted to the Board outlining any trends and issues identified. Since 2011 an annual report outlining the use of restraint in the two secure settings in relation to young people who have been placed by the criminal courts has been submitted by the LSCB to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Summary of LSCB Monitoring – Hassockfield STC

Hassockfield STC is one of four secure training centres in England. It offers secure provision for young people aged 12 to 17 years who meet the criteria for custodial sentence or secure remand. The centre caters for up to 58 young people of both genders. Young people live in four separate house blocks. Three of the house blocks each have two residential living units. The provision was last inspected in 2012 by Ofsted and was rated good overall for quality of provision.

In Hassockfield the use of restraint has reduced significantly. In the reporting period covering April 2012 – March 2013 there were 278 incidents which averaged 23.16 per month. This compares well with the previous twelve months (April 2011 – March 2012) when there were 588 incidents, which was an average of 48 restraints per month. There is effective use by staff of restraint minimising strategies which has contributed to this reduction. Greater focus on improved management of young people's behaviour and a focus on de-escalation processes including the use of Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) also contributed to the reduction in the number of restraints in Hassockfield.

The overall number of individual young people sustaining an injury as a result of restraint continues to fall and was 25 in total for the whole period, which was lower than in previous years – for example last year we reported that 81 young people had sustained an injury as a result of being restrained. All injuries sustained by young people were rated as level 1, which is a minor injury.

The main reasons for restraint being used were due to assaults/attempted assaults on staff and young people.

Hassockfield has a regular monthly meeting at which senior managers and key staff review a range of issues including critical incidents and the use of and the reasons for young people being restrained. Video recordings of every incident is reviewed regularly and at all monthly meetings three video recordings are chosen at random by the external YJB Monitor for critical review by the panel so that any so that lessons can be learnt. The LSCB Quality and Performance Manager/Business Manager regularly attends these meetings and is able to raise issues of

concern regarding the use of restraint or any wider issues that might be brought to the notice of the LSCB. A locality safeguarding team manager also attends the meetings and there is also representation from an independent advocacy service all of which provides a good level of transparency and external scrutiny. There are also regular meetings and discussions with the Local Authority Designated officer (LADO) to ensure that any allegations against staff are properly investigated.

Hassockfield staff have access to the LSCB multi-agency training programme and regularly makes use of it. The courses they have attended are wide ranging covering issues such as substance misuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, learning lessons from serious case reviews and domestic abuse.

Summary of LSCB Monitoring - Aycliffe SCH

Aycliffe Secure Children's Home is licensed to provide up to 42 places for young people offering integrated assessment, intervention, education, accommodation and leaving care facilities. There are four homes each accommodating eight young people, a specialist needs unit with integrated medical/detoxification facilities and a step down facility, each accommodating two young people. Aycliffe takes young people from a national referral base as part of a YJB contract as well as 'welfare' young people who are referred by individual local authorities who need a secure placement. The LSCB monitors the use of restraint across the whole population and receives regular updates with regard the whole population. However the LSCB is only required to report to the YJB on young people who are referred by the criminal courts.

The Secure Centre was fully inspected by Ofsted in September 2012 and the overall effectiveness was judged to be 'Good'.

During the period April 2012 – March 2013, there were 467 incidents of restraint, an average of 38.9 per month. This compares well to the previous year (April 2011 - March 2012) when there were 508 incidents of restraint, an average of 42.33 per month. This in the context of a significant reduction in YJB occupancy levels – in 2011/12 this averaged 26 per month, against an average of 17.92 for 2012/13.

In the same period 22 young people sustained an injury during restraint, an average of 1.83 per month. All but one of the 22 young people sustained a level 1 injury which is classed as minor and requiring no medical attention. This is similar to the figure for the previous 12 months which was 20 restraints in total which lead to injury – an average of 1.66 per month.

The number of restraints causing injury continues to reduce significantly with no reported incidents in October 2012 and none during January – March 2013. The main reason for a young person being restrained was chiefly due to assault/attempted assault on staff.

LSCB observations at meetings and discussions with staff indicate that use is made of available comparative data from across the secure children's homes estate.

Staff in Aycliffe and Hassockfield have access to the LSCB multi-agency training programme and have attended a wide range of courses throughout 2012/13

A The vice chair of the LSCB is a member of the Independent Restraint Advisory Panel (IRAP) Steering Group, which is supporting the current national review of restraint in secure children's homes

LSCB Monitoring the use of restraint in other settings

The LSCB has identified the need to identify other settings in which children and young people might be subject to restraint so as to ensure agencies of the Board are satisfied with arrangement's to keep children safe. A scoping exercise is to be conducted and a report provided to the Board in early 2014 to cover settings such as special schools, residential special schools and commissioned services for children and young people with specialist needs including hospitals. This will draw upon lessons learnt from the recent Winterbourne View enquiry and to ensure the safety of highly vulnerable children and young people is being effectively addressed and any potential risks reduced.

5.7 Child Death Review function

There are two interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths:

1. Rapid Response by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death; and
2. An overview of all deaths up to the age of 18 years (excluding both those babies that are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) in Durham and Darlington areas, undertaken by a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) panel

The LSCBs use the aggregated findings from all child deaths, to inform local strategic planning on how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Durham and Darlington.

28 children resident in Durham and 6 children in Darlington died between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013. Of the 34 child deaths:

- 14 were subject to the Rapid Response process.
- 14 deaths have been / will be considered at a Local Case Discussion meeting.
- 32 deaths were reviewed at Panels during 2012/13
- 29 child deaths remain outstanding (7 cases from deaths prior to April 2012) and will be taken brought forward to 2013/14.

Child Death Overview Panel

There is a joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) with Darlington LSCB. Between April 2012 and March 2013 there were three Child Death Overview Panels in which 32 cases were reviewed. Of the Child Death Reviews completed, 15 Local Case Discussions and 1 Serious Case Review reports were presented at the Child Death Overview Panel. There were a number of reviews that were delayed due to several factors:-

- The long delay for final results of post-mortems to be made available. Due to the complexity of the Police investigation, it takes many months after road traffic accidents for the final police report to be completed.
- There is an unacceptable delay by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in submitting information in a

timely manner which is currently being addressed on a regional basis.

- There are cross boundary issues and difficulty in ascertaining who will lead on the Local Case Discussion. We will continue to be more pro-active by improving communication.
- 2 case discussions from 2010-11 were subject to Serious Case Reviews which had not been published so impacted on the CDOP review process

Timescale for Child Death Review Completion

Out of 32 completed reviews, 25% were completed in less than six months. This is down by 4% and will be kept under review.

From the Child Death Reviews held in 2012-13 some of the learning points include;

- The doctor, who certifies after a child has died, should if at all possible speak to the Coroner's Officer in person and write to the Coroner to avoid delays in essential information reaching the Coroner.
- For babies with complex and ongoing health needs in whom the Specialist Nurses for Continuing Care will be involved, they should convene and chair the meeting to ensure that all the essential people are invited and can attend.
- A copy of the Care Plan must be sent to the Out of Hours GP Service as well as the child's regular GP. This should help to prevent inappropriate actions after the child's death.
- Paediatric staff to ensure that they copy letters about infants and toddlers to their Health Visitor.
- To remind staff of the importance of neurological observations in children with meningitis.
- Management Issues:
- Children are receiving high dependency care at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust yet the nursing compliment is not sufficient to delivery high dependency care to modern standards:
- North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to have at least 6-monthly Paediatric Mortality/Morbidity sessions where

cases can be discussed and any actions needed from lessons learned can be implemented.

Progress against actions 2012/13

With regard to the main actions listed in last year's report, we are very pleased and grateful that NHS County Durham & Darlington has agreed to continue funding the sessions for the Designated Paediatrician and the Rapid Response Nursing Team. This has provided security for the Rapid Response service, and allows us to continue to offer a much appreciated service for bereaved families.

We have not achieved our goal of increasing the proportion of cases finalised under 6 months from the time of the child's death. The reasons for the delays are listed above.

The review and update of the local multi-agency Sudden Unexpected Death of Children Procedure (SUDC) and Child Death Review procedures are ongoing and with the aim of completing this during 2013/14.

Child Death Overview Panel Work Plan 2013/14

1. To identify and train a successor to Dr Smith as Designated Paediatrician.
2. To review and update the local multi-agency SUDIC Procedures in conjunction with partner agencies and HM Coroner.
3. To ensure that the LSCB Child Death Review Procedures take into account any relevant changes identified in the Sudden Unexpected Death in Children procedures.
4. To host a Regional Child Death Review Conference.

A copy of the Child Death Review Annual report can be found at www.durham-lscb.gov.uk

5.8 Equality & Diversity

The LSCB has agreed an equality and diversity statement which strives to promote equal access to safeguarding services, particularly for those

children who are unable to communicate with those who are able to protect them, arising from their age or disability.

All policies and procedures of the LSCB are subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure that new policies and procedures do not discriminate on any basis.

Children and families who are the subjects of LSCB policies and procedures and need information summarised in another language or format, such as braille or talking tape, are encouraged to contact the relevant social worker who will then contact the LSCB to consider the request.

The LSCB has a complaints review system in place which is designed to ensure that where there is concern raised by parents and carers and young people, they will be listened to and their views taken into account. They will be treated with respect and will not be discriminated against.

Equality and diversity is considered at Board level meetings when an issue is identified and is a standing item at every LSCB sub group meeting. Where an issue is identified this is noted in minutes and action taken to address specific issues.

The LSCB is proactive in the audit of sexual exploitation cases and domestic abuse cases to ensure that there is no evidence of discrimination given the under-representation of male victims.

The needs of young carers have been recognised in the work of the LSCB around the impact of parental mental health to ensure that their needs as carers were represented.

The Durham LSCB training strategy has established a set of core values that underpins all training that it delivers, one of which is equality and diversity. Challenging discrimination and valuing difference is an underlying principle in all LSCB training. The training considers a broad range of issues such as parental mental illness, parental learning disability, substance misuse and children who are deaf or disabled. It also recognises the impact of social disadvantage such as poverty, poor housing and worklessness.

Durham LSCB also strives to ensure that its courses are open and accessible to all professionals who work with children and families in Durham and that training sessions create an environment where participants feel able to challenge and be challenged in a safe and constructive way.

5.9 LSCB Priority Areas 2012/2013

The LSCB held its annual development day in June 2012 and agreed a number of priorities based on a range of performance and quality assurance activity including analysis of child protection statistics, audits, case reviews, national development and guidance and taking into account the views of children and young people. These were:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Sharing Information
- Early Help/Think Family
- Mental Health – impact on parenting
- Hidden Harm – primarily substances but also recognising the effects of alcohol and links with domestic violence
- Implementing the Child Centred system – Munro recommendations

Summary of Achievements

Significant work has been undertaken to deliver on the Board's priorities particularly in relation to two pressing areas - Sexual Exploitation and Mental Health. The story boards included later in this section summarises what difference actions taken made and what the next steps are to further embed good practice across multi-agency partners. These should be read alongside the information contained within earlier parts of this annual report in section 5 which summarises the work of individual work groups.

Sharing Information

Information Sharing has been a priority for the Board since August 2010. A multi-agency strategy was developed to improve the quality and approach to information sharing to protect children. Key areas included:

- Importance of leadership in developing and maintaining a culture where relevant information is shared appropriately;
- Improved awareness and confidence of staff to share information;
- Publication of champions and contacts;
- Review of guidance and protocols and launch of multi-agency chronologies;
- Performance Management and monitoring

LSCB partner agencies completed the action plan in early 2011.

Information sharing information remains a priority for all agencies as aspects of this this came up in a number of Serious Case Reviews and Learning Lessons Reviews. The LSCB is also aware of the continued need to check that expectations are being met around sharing information including maintaining a strong focus through embedding the theme into training and awareness raising exercises.

During the year information sharing protocols have been updated in line with Data Protection requirements and information sharing has been included in LSCB audits and other audits undertaken by partners to assess the effectiveness of arrangements. This has led to specific recommendations for services to make improvements (for example audit of No further action cases and in the audit undertaken in relation to GPs.

Early Help/Think Family

The LSCB has identified this area as being a priority since the end of 2011. An action plan for the LSCB has been developed to take forward work to better understand the different services being provided across Durham County Council and to provide opportunities for the LSCB to provide challenge to partners to provide early help when needed. The LSCB receives regular feedback from the Children and Families Partnership about specific developments. In 2013 the Children and Families Partnership developed an Early Help Strategy setting out its vision and priorities for delivering early Help services building on what had been in place. The LSCB began a series of casework audits to assess how well arrangements are working from the point of referral to early help services through to child protection procedures. This includes

an audit of cases deemed as requiring 'No further action'. An audit is also planned to analyse what services are provided to children and parents once children come off a child protection plan so that the risk of being subject to further child protection procedures are minimised.

During 2011 and 2012 a major development was the implementation of multi-agency **One Point** Hubs based in 10 localities across Durham County Council. Locality Managers from One Point are members of the LSCB multi-agency Performance Management Locality Groups enabling the LSCB to hear directly about the challenges of delivering early help services at a local level and to challenge performance where necessary. An example of this is challenge around the relatively low level of CAFs being undertaken and arrangements for the completion of chronologies for child protection conferences as well as discussions around how One Point Hubs ensure that the most appropriate person attends child protection meetings given demands on resources.

The Single CAF/CIN procedures have been revised and integrated and published on the LSCB website

The LSCB is part of the Think Family Operational Board to enable better understanding of strategies, performance monitoring arrangements and delivery of services on the ground and to reduce the potential for duplication of actions.

Hidden Harm

This LSCB priority was carried over from previous years due to continued concerns about the continued prevalence and impact on children's safety and their welfare of substance misuse, alcohol (and domestic violence) known as the **'Toxic three'**.

Previous consultation with multi-agency practitioners and the LSCB about the key issues relating to 'hidden harm' identified issues and informed the original action plan. This was shared with the Think Family Operational Group in which the LSCB is represented to support the challenge work of the Board and to reduce the risk of duplication of actions.

The LSCB training programme was reviewed and resulted in a new course being delivered in 2013 which involved a variety of specialist services contributing to a whole day 'Think Family' training event. This is designed to assist in raising awareness and enables practitioners to better understand behaviours and the impact on parenting capacity.

The LSCB has stepped up its monitoring of the engagement of specialist services with the child protection conference and review process. This includes monitoring whether or not specialist services were invited where they were known to be involved, whether or not they provided a report and attended meetings.

Specific work planned by the LSCB particularly around audits to evidence effectiveness of arrangements have been included in the LSCB Performance Framework for 2013 – 15 and the LSCB Think Family Action Plan and will be cross-referenced in the Think Family Operational Group Think Family Action Plan. The LSCB audit will focus on assessing whether cases with a hidden harm component are offered effective early help within early intervention and safeguarding services

Implementing the Child Centred System – Working Together (WT) and Munro Review of child protection 2011

The Munro recommendations further strengthened national focus on early intervention and prevention – Early Help services. In Munro's view;

“Preventative Services can do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services.”

The LSCB's Early Help action plan was developed in response to Munro to enable the LSCB to challenge partners as to what changes they were making to the way they delivered services to children and families to make them more child centred, more responsive and available at a much earlier point to prevent problems escalating.

The new Working Together to Safeguarding Children came into effect on 15 April 2013 and an LSCB implementation plan was developed and agreed in April 2013. A number of work streams were identified and the LSCB will receive regular updates throughout 2013 and 2014. Links

have been made with regional LSCBs to reduce duplication and achieve consistency where needed. The main priorities in the Working Together implementation plan are;

- o Publication of an agreed referral pathway
- o Publication of a Threshold document outlining the process for early help assessment, they type and level of services to be provided and including the criteria for accessing children's social care statutory services
- o Development and publication of local protocols for assessment
- o Further review of LSCB information sharing protocol to ensure compliant with WT

As outlined in section 2 above, the Children and Families Partnership has developed an Early Help Strategy. At the same time the local authority has also re-designed its children's services to ensure a clearer pathway for families to access early help service through 'one front door.'

LSCB Priorities 2013/14

The LSCB held its annual development day in July 2013 to review progress on the priorities from 2012/13, consider key challenges and how to make best use of its resources. In setting the priorities for 2013/14 the Board considered a number of presentations and held in-depth group discussions and considered information from a range of sources including:

- Achievement against the 2012/13 priorities
- LSCB multi-agency Dataset
- Working Together Action Plan
- Performance Framework
- Early Help Action Plan
- National Government drivers
- Local knowledge (e.g. Serious Case Reviews, learning lessons reviews)
- Outcome of self – assessments such as Section 11
- Performance management reports
- Outcome of LSCB and partner agency audits

- Feedback from work of the LSCB subgroups and Locality groups
- Young people's views
- Budget and Resources

Following small group discussions members considered where the LSCB should focus its efforts and resources. Members acknowledged that a lot of work was being undertaken to deliver on a range of important areas and needed to be mainstreamed into the Board's day to day work but that the number of priorities should be reduced to two main areas;

- It was agreed that there should be continued focus on **Information sharing** as this remained a critical issue from case reviews both national and local and that further work was required to ensure that practitioners across all agencies were aware of their responsibilities to share information where appropriate and that a focus needed to be maintained ensure lessons were being learnt and agreed procedures were being followed.
- The second area identified as a priority was **Early Help** which the Board recognized as the key priority area for making significant impact on outcomes for children. Working Together identifies this as an area where LSCBs need to challenging local services.

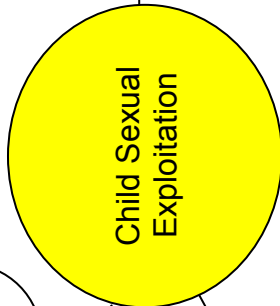
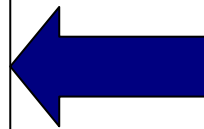
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Work has been driven by the Missing and Exploited Sub-Group (MEG) which has developed policies and procedures including an information sharing report and CSE risk assessment matrix. A number of training/awareness sessions have been delivered to a wide range of staff including community safety and voluntary sector staff and more programmed has been for 2013/14.

A case audit and profile analysis was completed of children including 'missing' and returned to assess if local procedures are working and children are safeguarded. Recommendations included the need to improve the number of return interviews being completed; better identification of those at risk; training to be delivered to specific schools and the LSCB Young People's Reference Group to be consulted regarding the training and suitability of training materials and approach.

What is the extent of the problem in County Durham?

Multi-agency analysis undertaken by Durham Constabulary has confirmed that CSE is linked to child risk taking in areas such as going missing, use of alcohol, use of social media and inappropriate relationships. The offender profile tended to be one of "street grooming" although as more intelligence becomes available our understanding of risk will be enhanced. Prior to June 2012 there was limited opportunity to monitor the incidence of CSE. LSCB child protection procedures now measure referrals of the **potential risk** to children of CSE rather than actual exploitation. Between June 2012 and March 2013 there were 43 children presenting with risk indicators. This is monitored by the Missing and Exploited group (MEG). During 2012/13 there were 550 missing children reports, going missing is a significant vulnerability factor for CSE. Performance is monitored by the Missing and exploited group.

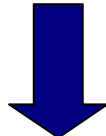


What are the next steps?

- Redraft of Missing children procedures in line with new police category of "absent"
- Further LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents to assess child protection practice
- Audit of responses for named suspects
- Development of a CSE toolkit of consistent resources to be used by schools and youth settings across the County
- Review of implications for practice following Government review of care placement regulations
- Further develop prevention and awareness advice on CSE to children, parents and carers

What difference have we made?

- Improved training of professionals about CSE and expected practice
- Audit of practice and procedural compliance
- Regular analysis of CSE profile in County Durham to identify trends/emerging risks to inform training and practice
- Analysis of national findings to inform local practice

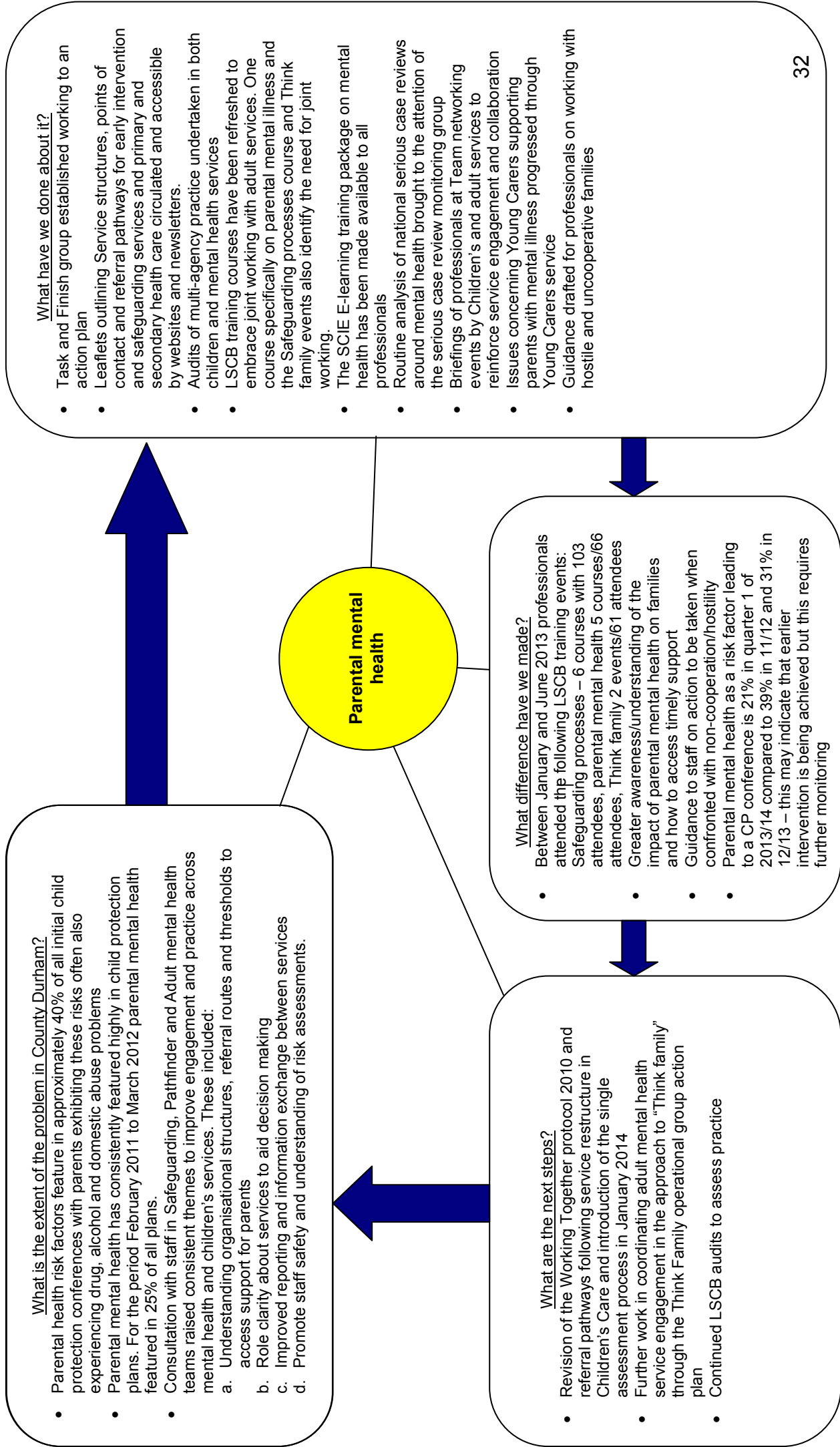


What have we done about it?

- On-going analysis of CSE vulnerability factors through police analysis and the Missing and Exploited group performance framework to identify emerging risks
- MEG use of a self-assessment tool to examine Durham position following Ofsted and national publications around CSE and missing children
- Production of tactical toolkit and criminality notices for use in tackling suspected offenders in CSE and missing incidents
- Refresh of the CSE risk assessment matrix to capture emerging risks from local and national research
- Audit of cases to examine practice through the LSCB child protection procedures
- Refresh of the CSE child protection procedures recognising CSE audit findings and practice around cross border and local partnership engagement
- Developed IT process for CSE coding on police and Children's care systems to aid identification and analysis
- Durham LSCB representation on the National CSE Strategic coordinators group
- Marketing of work in Durham through use of the ERASE brand and production of leaflets/posters added to websites
- Produced LSCB guidance on conditions to be attached to alcohol licences
- 135 professionals trained in CSE through 7 courses between Jan – June 2013
- 509 professionals received training around teenage risk taking and risks from CSE during June to November 2012
- Further training to sexual health services around information sharing and CSE
- Briefing to the County Council Overview and Scrutiny committee on work undertaken on CSE
- Progress local work on CSE in line with the ACPO police national action plan recommendations

Mental Health- impact on parenting

The Task and finish Group no longer meets but a number of actions have been completed during 2012/13.



5.8 LSCB Effectiveness, Contribution & Challenge

Section 5.4 sets out the approach and framework used by Durham LSCB to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of arrangements and practice. This section provides further information about how the LSCB determines its own effectiveness as well as the effectiveness of the collective effort. It also describes and evaluates priorities that relate to maintaining and improving LSCB effectiveness

Durham LSCB has made use of the national challenge and improvement tool (DFES) since 2011 and findings reported to the board. The tool was intended to assist LSCB's in analysing effectiveness through good governance and includes the view of partner agencies on each of the guiding principles in the tool. The findings have been discussed at the Board and also at the annual LSCB development workshops. This work links with the development of an LSCB challenge and improvement action plan on the matters to be taken forward. This action plan is now considered to be completed. . An action plan has also been agreed to impelent the changes required by Working Together 2013 which also includes activity to further strengthen Governance and Accountability. These tool have been incorporated in the Durham LSCB quality and performance framework

Resource Utilisation

The LSCB Budget is regular item on Board agenda's and a pro-active approach is taken to matching Board priorities with available resources. In the last year there was no inflationary increase and the budget remained the same as for 2011/12. This includes contingency funds for any potential serious case review. As in previous years there has been a modest budget surplus which has been returned to the partner agencies in the form of a rebate. Options for different levels of cuts were considered by the Board in June 2013, ahead of budget setting for 2014/15. A modest reduction is planned for 2014/15 and this will be delivered through careful budget management and reduction in use of external consultants.

Board process

An indicative annual agenda for Board meetings is shared with Board partners who are invited to suggest topics for inclusion. Individual Board meeting agendas are carefully prioritised to ensure time for discussion and effective challenge within the meetings. A balance is also sought between core safeguarding business items and those relating to wider issues such as early help. Agencies are also encouraged to report the findings of service inspections and audits to the LSCB so that any actions required by partners can be agreed. Most recently this included the inspection of Hassockfield YOI which has now been rated as Good from a previous unsatisfactory outcome. A further development has seen the introduction of an LSCB risk register where any agency can identify risks which may impact on LSCB business.

Capacity and Performance

Despite some changes in LSCB personnel, a pro-active approach has been taken to ensure sustaining of capacity in the LSCB Team. This year the Board has not had a Quality and Performance Manager following departure of the post holder to a new area. However, recruitment to this post is now in hand along with a temporary Board Admin Co-ordinator to cover maternity leave. The retirement of the lay member has left a gap as they made an important contribution to the work of the Board; however, action is in hand to recruit two new lay members,

Impact on safeguarding and children

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The Ofsted inspection in 2012 rated safeguarding arrangements in Durham as 'outstanding'. Since this time significant further work has taken place to strengthen direct engagement of the Board with children and young people, to implement the requirements of Working Together 2013 and to bring a stronger focus to work around early help and troubled families.

There is strong evidence to show that the actions of the Board have had an impact on safeguarding children in County Durham. Examples of this include the much improved engagement of GPs in child protection conferences and the involvement of young people in their child protection reviews. Significant work has also been completed to update and expand information for young people and their families who become subject to child protection proceedings.

The LSCB has taken a lead role in relation to work on sexual exploitation and child trafficking and feedback from front line staff across statutory and voluntary sector partners has confirmed the importance of this work

Work led by the LSCB to embed the learning from serious case reviews, learning lessons reviews and homicide reviews has been well received. Work is currently underway to assess the effectiveness and impact of the LSCBs multi-agency training programme.

Impact on partners

For the last year each Board meeting has made time for partner agencies to share their challenges and concerns with other Board members, this was in response to an issue which arose in the last Section 11 Audit which indicated that partners were unclear about each other's work and priorities.

Impact on community awareness

The LSCB now produces a quarterly newsletter which is widely disseminated. The Board's support for the 'Never Say Nothing' campaign has also helped increase awareness across the voluntary, community and faith sectors. This is involving the common use of safeguarding standards and protocols and has been supported by effective training with the sector which has been positively evaluated. This will continue to have an impact over the next year.

Section 6: Issues & Challenges facing Safeguarding Services

6.1 Issues and Challenges

Over the next year and beyond the LSCB and partners providing safeguarding services face a number of challenges including:

- Ensuring services are provided where they are most needed in the context of continued reductions in the council's budget, financial constraints on other key partners. For the Board this could also have implication in terms of levels of financial contributions from partners.
- Implementing the Single Assessment Framework , Single Front Door and the new Threshold Document
- New Inspection Framework for Safeguarding children, those looked after and care leavers
- Inspection/review of LSCBs – ensuring the LSCB is ready for inspection and can provide good evidence of effective multi-agency arrangements and evidence of impact on improving safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Durham
- Responding to and assessing the challenges to safeguarding arrangements posed by the reform of the Probation service
- Funding of sexual violence and advocacy (ISVA) /CSE Worker to provide support around sexual health and in particular work with young people at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Responding to Government recommendation re CSE Co-ordinator in every LSCB area - an LSCB audit of child sexual exploitation cases coincided with a recommendation that the identification of a CSE Co-ordinator would achieve consistency in applying practice, information sharing and accountability. The importance of the coordinator role is being recognised nationally. The challenge is as to whether such a role can be resourced and if not how the benefits of the role can be achieved through existing arrangements
- Responding to the new 'absent' category for missing from home – the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has agreed a new definition of “absent” within the policing response to missing children. Under certain circumstances this could result in no immediate police response. The LSCB will need to be satisfied that the risk assessment process that is in place is robust and that children's care plans and vulnerability factors are taken into consideration when police deployment decisions are made.
- LSCB Early Help Strategy & Action Plan – Early Help identified as a LSCB priority. Major service transformation is being rolled out across children's services with the single front door approach. The challenge will be how the LSCB and partners evidence the impact on outcomes for children in particular those who are most vulnerable to ensure they receive the help they need before things escalate into child protection.
- Agencies finding ways of resourcing the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme.
- Information Sharing was identified as a LSCB priority in previous years and for 2014/15 due to lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews and Learning lessons Reviews. The issue will continue to be to be raised at annual workshops and be integrated into all training. The LSCB will also need to audit whether information sharing is happening to agreed standards and that agency are following agreed protocols.
- LSCB having a greater focus on looked after children in its performance monitoring activity to evidence how well they are safeguarded

Section 7: Measuring Success – Facets of An Effective LSCB

This year the LSCB has made use of a new tool 'Facets of an Effective LSCB' to measure how successful it is. The following table outlines the evidence to show where the LSCB assesses its performance to be and where action further is required to ensure its success and effectiveness:

Board Effectiveness	Actions Required	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Evidence of Progress/Success
Range of constitutions, executives, sub-groups, task and finish groups	No action required as all subgroups established with flexibility to set up task and finish groups as and when required		LSCB Business Manager and Independent Chair	Complete All subgroups established with flexibility to set up task and finish groups as and when required
Exemplar terms of reference	Some ltd action required All sub-groups have groups have TOR except CDOP Child Death Overview Panel to develop Terms of Reference in line with governance arrangements and seek approval from LSCB	December 2013	Chair of CDOP and CDOP Coordinator	Meeting planned to progress this work
Member roles and responsibilities including exemplar job/role descriptors	No action required roles and responsibilities clearly set out in Governance and Memorandum of Understanding. Independent chair post has		LSCB Business Manager	Complete Evidence of regular attendance at LSCB meetings and sub-groups through use of monitoring tool

	clear Job description in place				
Lay Members	Appointment of at least one lay member	January 2014	Independent Chair and Business Manager	Action in place to follow up interested parties via an interview process	
Relationships to other partnership forums	Update of governance framework. Ensure that the links with the children and families partnership and other partnerships remains clear Publish Updated Governance document on LSCB website	Review April 2013 November 2013	LSCB Business Manager LSCB Admin Coordinator	Complete Review completed, Governance and Memorandum of Understanding agreed by LSCB April 2013 and Updated following further consultation August 2013 There are established links to feedback between the LSCB and other fora through the LSCB members who sit on various Boards (e.g. Children and families Trust Board, Health and Wellbeing Board)	
Log of effective challenge exerted by the Board	Develop a framework to provide a clear audit trail Develop a system for feeding back to the LSCB evidence of impact of challenge activity – e.g. follow up on recommendations from audits, complaints review	In place In place	Quality & Performance Manager with LSCB Business Manager LSCB Business Manager & Quality and Performance Manager	LSCB has in place a comprehensive quality and performance framework which outlines a range of challenge activity to influence change. Indicators, annual performance report, Quarterly Performance report, LSCB top 10 Score Card. There are regular reports to the Board and these are shared with the subgroups	

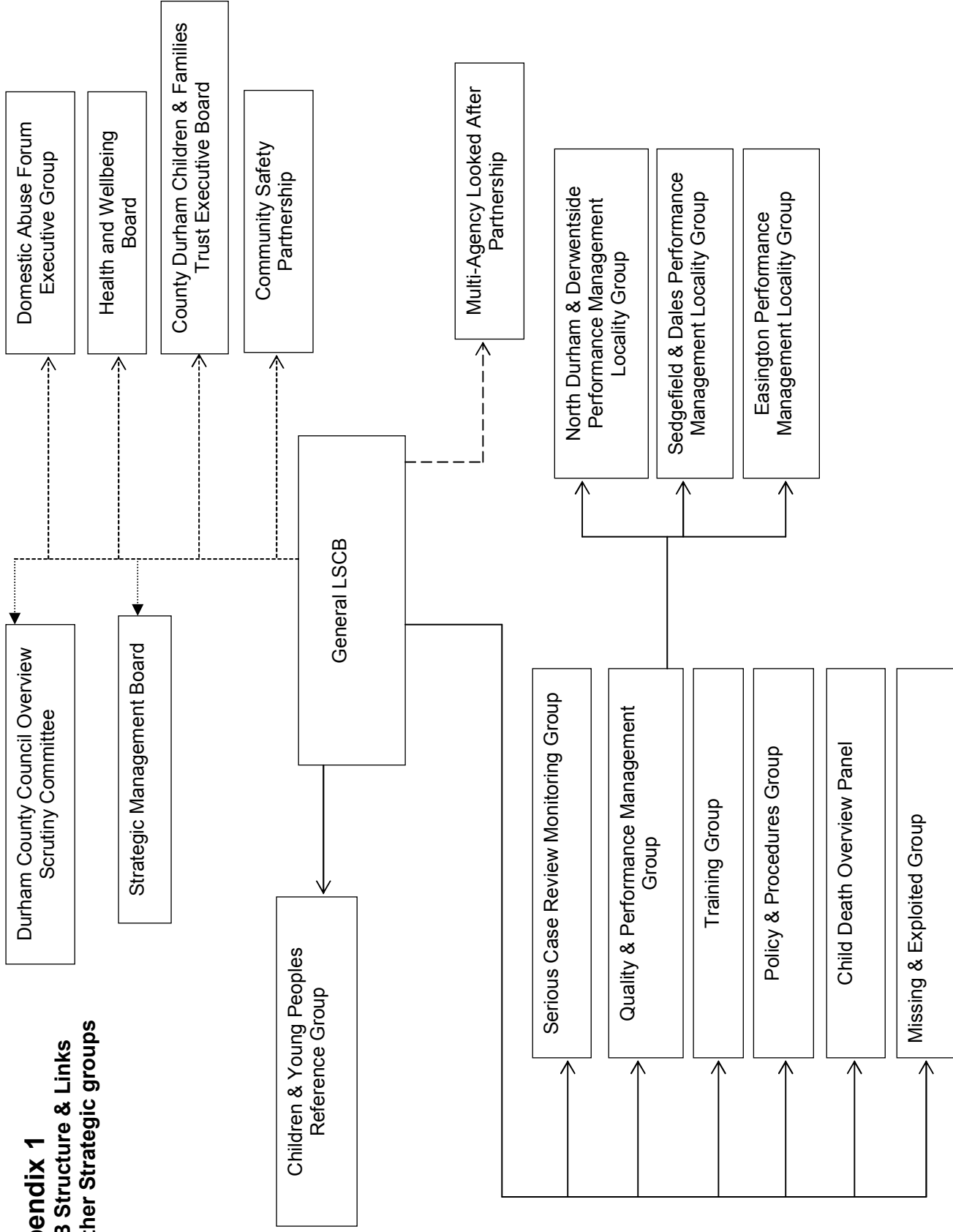
<p>Visibility and influence</p>	<p>Board role and function, achievements, chair to make presentations at key strategic meetings – e.g. launch of the Annual report and Business Plan</p> <p>LSCB to make more use of local publications and including partner agency publications to raise the profile of the Board and awareness about its work and achievements</p> <p>LSCB Newsletter to be used to promote the Board and its work</p> <p>LSCB to consider holding a local safeguarding event to showcase to range of activities undertaken by local partners to protect and safeguard children including contribution from the children and Young People's</p>	<p>Storyboards to be used to evidence impact and stored in a folder for ease of access?</p> <p>For SMT (DCC)– November 2013</p> <p>Children & Families Partnership – December 2013</p> <p>Scrutiny - December 2013</p> <p>Key partner Agency Executive Board meetings – CCG/Police – January 2014</p> <p>Health and wellbeing Board January 2014</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>LSCB chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>LSCB Chair and Vice Chair Agency reps who are members of the Board</p> <p>LSCB Development Officer</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager with Training Coordinator & Admin Coordinator</p>	<p>Partially completed. Some storyboards already developed and stored in specialist areas.</p> <p>Established links already in place with Durham CC 's meeting cycle</p>
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<p>Audit tools to assess Board effectiveness</p>	<p>Reference Group and Children and Family Trust</p> <p>Section 11, self-assessment of issues such as safe recruitment standards</p> <p>LSCB Challenge Tool to be re-run and comparisons made with previous assessment. Findings to be shared at annual development day to inform priorities</p>	<p>Section 11 Self- assessment to be completed and reported to Board May 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p>	<p>LSCB quality and Performance Manager</p> <p>LSCB Business Manager</p>	<p>Last Section 11 audit completed and reported to Board June 2012. Reassessment to be undertaken early 2014 and report to Board May 2014</p> <p>For 2014 development day agenda</p>
<p>Quality Assurance & Performance Management</p> <p>The role of LSCBs: how to assume a scrutiny and challenge role</p>	<p>Actions Required</p> <p>Further discussion at LSCB to test members view re how effective present arrangements are and to identify any further actions required</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>February 2014</p>	<p>Lead Responsibility</p> <p>LSCB Chair</p>	<p>Evidence of Progress/Success</p> <p>Evidence from e.g. LSCB minutes December 2013, February 2014</p>
<p>Quantitative data – exemplar scorecards</p>	<p>Developed and reviewed / updated in August 2013</p>	<p>August 2013</p>		<p>Following revision of list action taken to collect data. Some issues identified in collecting specific information. Further refinement needed. Final set of indicators to be agreed and implemented April 2014</p>

Qualitative Evidence: Section 11 audits, multi-agency audit framework, research, etc.	LSCB Performance Framework developed, reviewed October 2013			
Engagement and participation of children and young people	Joint work with Investing In Children – resulted in the Young People’s Reference Group being established in December 2012.		LSCB Business Manager	Young People’s Reference Group set up and meetings held with Board Reps to influence activity including setting of LSCB priorities Young people’s Reference Group worked actively with LSCB trainer to lead safeguarding work in schools
Engagement and participation of frontline staff	Performance Management Locality groups established, multi-agency representation from front line managers Plans in place to engage front line staff in audits undertaken by LSCB	Ongoing as detailed in quality and Performance framework	Quality and Performance Manager	Ongoing as detailed in quality and Performance framework
Readiness for regulatory inspection	Ofsted consultation framework be shared with presented to Board members for individual agency response due to tight time scales for responding to Ofsted Final framework to be presented to the Board setting out actions the Board needs to take to be ready for	October 2013 December 2013	LSCB Business Manager LSCB Business Manager	Framework for consultation shared with LSCB at October 2013 meeting Final framework and actions required presented at Board meeting December 2013

	<p>inspection.</p> <p>LSCB Chair over next year to lead work to support the Board in ensuring readiness for inspection</p>	<p>At each Board meeting Throughout 2014 beginning Feb 2014</p>	<p>LSCB chair and Business Manager</p>	
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Appendix 1 LSCB Structure & Links To other Strategic groups



The LSCB has direct relationships with, but is not sub ordered to and members of the LSCB are represented on the strategic group. Multi-Agency groups which report direct to the LSCB

Appendix 2

Independent Chairing Arrangements

The LSCB appointed Fran Gosling-Thomas as the independent chair in 2011 for a three year period.

Responsibilities of the Chair of LSCB

- To ensure the board safeguards and promotes the safety and welfare of children and young people in Durham.
- To ensure that all organisations participate to effectively co-ordinate and promote safeguarding.
- To agree the contents of the LSCB agenda and chair both General and Extra-Ordinary Board meetings.
- To ensure meetings are conducted efficiently in order to manage the business of the Board in an effective manner.
- To represent the LSCB at the Children's Executive Board and other appropriate settings.
- When appropriate, challenge and hold the Board and agencies to account.
- To be the LSCB spokesperson for media requests for information.
- Publish the LSCB annual report

The new Working Together 2013 clarified that it is the responsibility of Chief Executive, after consultation with the Board partners, to appoint or remove the chair. The Durham County Council Chief Executive holds the Chair to account for the effective working of the LSCB and where appropriate, the Lead Member will also fulfil this role.

During 2012/13 the Chair met at regular intervals with the Head of Children's care and Corporate Director for Children and Adult Services. The chair has a crucial role in making certain that the board operates independently and secures an independent voice for the LSCB.

The Chair has annual appraisals to which Board members are invited to contribute.

Appendix 3 LSCB Staffing and Budget 2013/15

Staffing - LSCB Officers:

The LSCB is supported by the following officers:

- LSCB Business Manager
- LSCB Admin Co-ordinator
- LSCB Training Co-ordinator - this is a temporary post funded by a time limited grant to July 2014
- LSCB Development Officer
- LSCB Quality & Performance Manager, incorporating LADO duties (deputises for Business Manager) - Vacant since October 2012
- LSCB Administrator (does not attend Board meetings).

LSCB Budget

The level of investment from partner organisations determined by August of each calendar year for the forthcoming financial year on the basis of the responsibilities and tasks identified in the business plan. The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March in each year. Budget management are direct responsibility of the Manager of the LSCB and a current financial report will be presented to Board meetings at 6 monthly intervals. The majority of the budget is used to fund staffing costs including the independent chair costs, training. Part of the budget is always set aside for any Serious Case Reviews that might be needed.

Allocations 2012/13

Durham County Council	£180,636
Clinical Commissioning Groups & Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£100,100
Durham Constabulary	£29,285
Further Education Colleges	£2,800
Haddockfield STC	£2,680
Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
Cafcass	£550
Total	£327,891

Appendix 4 Durham LSCB Membership

- The Board is chaired by an independent person commissioned by the Durham County Council Chief Executive
- Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust – Durham represented by a Director of Offender Services.
- NHS Commissioning Board – representation via the local Area Team
- North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group represented by Board Nurse Lead
 - Chair of County Durham & Darlington Child Death Overview Panel
 - Durham, Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Board Nurse Lead
 - Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust represented by the Designated Doctor
 - County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust represented by:
 - Associate Director of Nursing (Patient Experience & Safeguarding) , Head of Children & Families
 - North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust will be represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
 - Cafcass (County Durham) will be represented the Service Manager – Early Intervention Team.
 - Hassockfield Secure Training Centre will be represented by the Director.
 - County Durham Children & Adults Services represented by:
 - Director, Children & Adults Care
 - Head of Children's Care who will also act as Vice-Chair of Durham LSCB
 - Head of Adults services
 - Head of Education
 - Strategic Manager - Youth Offending Service
 - Durham Constabulary will be represented by the Force Lead for Safeguarding.
 - The Voluntary & Community Sector - represented by the Lead Officer for Communities of Interest
 - Housing - represented by the Housing Solutions Manager

- Schools represented by:
- Durham Association of Secondary Heads
- Durham Association of Primary Heads
- Further Education will be represented by the Principal and Chief Executive of New College Durham
- Lay Members – will be represented by two members of the community whose role is to support stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and to challenge the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures
- The Lead Member will receive the papers and minutes of the Board meetings.
- Faith Communities - represented by the Child Protection Advisor, Durham Diocese and will be co-opted on to the Board when required.

LSCB Advisors

The Board is advised by:

- A member of Durham County Council Corporate & Legal Services nominated as the Board's legal advisor.
- Director of Public Health
- The Designated Nurse
- The Designated Paediatrician
- Local Authority Designated Officer

LSCB Meetings

Meetings

Board meetings are normally held every two months. Standard agenda items alternate from one meeting to the next. Matters arising from the previous meeting are raised at each meeting to ensure continuity and monitoring of progress.

Extra-ordinary meetings:

- The Chair may call an extra-ordinary meeting at any time;
- A LSCB member may call an extra-ordinary meeting by submitting to the Chair a written request which is supported by the written agreement of any two voting members;
- Such extra-ordinary meetings will normally be held within 28 days of the request being received by the Chair.

The LSCB annual report for 2013/14 has been coordinated by the LSCB Business Manager Pixley Clarke.
If you have any queries about the report please contact pixley.clarke@durham.gov.uk

