



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date Friday 11 October 2013
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2013 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Declarations of interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted members or interested parties
6. Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's Policy Programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 7 - 38)
7. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 39 - 54)
8. Support for Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 55 - 58)
9. Notice of Key Decisions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 59 - 70)
10. Information update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 71 - 76)
11. Any other urgent business (subject to the Chairman's approval)

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
3 October 2013

To: **The Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)
Councillor P Stradling (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors B Alderson, A Batey, R Bell, J Blakey, A Bonner, D Boyes,
J Chaplow, R Crute, B Graham, D Hall, K Henig, A Hopgood, P Lawton,
J Lethbridge, H Liddle, E Murphy, T Nearney, C Potts, A Shield, M Simmons,
W Stelling, R Todd, J Turnbull and S Wilson

Faith Communities Representatives:

Revd K Phipps and Mrs M Sands

Parent Governor Representatives:

Mr R Patel

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke, Mr D Kinch and Mr A Kitching

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At a Meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 13 September 2013 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors P Stradling, B Alderson, A Batey, D Boyes, J Chaplow, R Crute, B Graham, K Henig, A Hopgood, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, M Simmons, R Todd, J Turnbull, S Wilson and D Bell (substitute for A Bonner)

Faith Community Representative:

Revd K Phipps

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke and Mr D Kinch

Also Present:

Councillor M Wilkes

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, A Bonner, D Hall, T Nearney, C Potts, A Shield, A Kitching and M Sands.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor D Bell substituting for Councillor A Bonner.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to item 6, the Head of Planning and Performance confirmed that she had relayed the comments about the new homes bonus to the Head of Economic Development to pass on to the LEP representative.

The Head of Planning and Performance advised that she had responded to Councillor R Bell with information requested in Item 7 about funding for the Big Lottery Project in Bishop Auckland. The Head of Planning and Performance clarified that Area Action Partnership (AAP) members would in future receive information from the County Durham Partnership Manager to share best practise from AAP's. Councillor Boyes requested other members receive this information also, as not all were representatives on an AAP.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted members or interested parties

There were no items from Co-opted members or interested parties.

6 Quarter 1 2013/14 Performance Management Report

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) and reported other significant performance issues for the first quarter of 2013/14. A presentation was given by the Head of Planning and Performance (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

Councillors Hopgood and Lethbridge referred to the summary of key performance indicators regarding housing providers, Dale and Valley Homes and Durham City Homes. They both felt that the quarter 1 figures were distorted as they included the work programme of improvements for the year, and the non decent homes level will be 0% by quarter 4. The Head of Planning and Performance would look into an alternative way of presenting the information.

In response to queries on performance appraisals, the Head of Planning and Performance informed the board that the appraisal target for next year would increase to 85%, then 90% the following year. The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the Corporate Management Team were looking closely at the level of appraisal recording. Surveys were being undertaken of staff and that Head of Services were in fact being appraised on the appraisals for their service areas. Reverend Phipps requested that individual appraisal data also be separated down to team levels.

Mr Kinch referred to the suicide rates and asked if the children and young people's suicide figures could be separated. The Head of Planning and Performance would enquire as to whether figures can be broken down when reporting to Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Wilson referred to employment contracts for young people and asked whether there was any information relating to the types of employment young people go into.

Referring to the smoking target, Councillor Hopgood asked if it was possible to have figures for young people who have started smoking to compare with the number of people who stop. The Assistant Chief Executive responded that the only way to gather this information would be through surveys. It had already been reported previously that there was a higher level of girls starting to smoke but she would refer the matter to the Head of Public Health.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

7 Welfare Reform Update and Review of Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Board considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which updated members on recent policy developments relating to the government's welfare reforms, the council's response and the expected impact on the county. The report also considers a review of the council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme and the requirement to agree the council's approach to Local Council Tax Support for 2014/15 as well as an early operational review of the Welfare Assistance Scheme and the Discretionary Housing Payments policy, which have been in place since 1 April 2013 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Policy and Communications highlighted the recent policy announcements relating to the following:

- a) Universal Credit pilots, pathfinders and roll-out;
- b) Benefit Cap roll-out;
- c) Personal Independence Payment toolkit and medical assessments;
- d) Employment Support Allowance;
- e) Discretionary Housing Payment guidance and changes to Housing Benefit reductions for specific groups;
- f) Welfare reform support services;
- g) Disability Living Allowance claims and Court of Appeal judgements;
- h) Social Fund loans budget allocations and guidance on discretionary payments;
- i) Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme;
- j) The government's response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on the implementation of welfare reform by local authorities;
- k) Work and Pensions Select Committee review of progress with the implementation of Universal Credit;
- l) Food banks;
- m) Spending review.

Members spoke at length about the impact that the reform has had on families and local business in County Durham. It was early days and the true effect of this agenda had yet to be seen. The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the Authority would continue to monitor and respond as appropriate.

Reverend Phipps asked if it was possible to provide a helpline for people affected by the Welfare Reform and economic downturn.

Referring to the arrears information, Councillor Hopgood asked if the information supplied had included retired people who were in arrears, if so, could this be separated out as they were not affected by the changes.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

8 Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 3

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the progress made at the end of June 2013 on the delivery of the 2013/14 to 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 3) (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Policy and Communications reported that the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2016/17 was £188m. Significant progress had been made on the savings target for the current year of £20.87m of which £15.12m had been achieved by 30 June 2013 which represents 72% of the 2013/14 target.

Councillor Wilkes explained that it was difficult to challenge and to make suggestions on savings when members were not aware of where the next savings were being proposed. In response the Assistant Chief Executive explained that there was a clear decision making framework and where to find the information.

Mr Cook referred to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and asked for the additional fly tipping cost associated with the HWRC changes. The Head of Planning and Performance responded that the fly tipping performance information would be reported to Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Mr Kinch mentioned that Teesdale Parish Council will be meeting to discuss the MTFP consultation and asked whether officers would be able to attend if invited.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and the progress being made in delivering the £20.87m of savings for 2013/14 where 72% of the savings had been delivered by 30 June 2013 be noted.

9 Notice of Key Decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided a list of key decisions which were scheduled to be considered by the Executive (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Hopgood was concerned that there had been no input from local members on the Durham City Regeneration Masterplan as this was the first time she had been made aware of the plan. The Assistant Chief Executive would relay Cllr Hopgoods concerns to the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Update in Relation to Petitions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided a quarterly update in relations to various petitions received by the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor K Henig requested that the number of e-petition signatures be included in future reports, to which the Committee Services Manager agreed.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted, and the number of e-petition signatures be included in future reports.

The Chairman agreed that in order to keep members informed, the next item of business could be reported.

11 Garden Waste Collection Service

Due to large reductions in Government grants, Cabinet would consider a report on the 18 September on the future of the Garden Waste Scheme proposing consultation on future charging. The garden waste collection service currently provides 16 free fortnightly collections for more than 150,000 households across the county between April and November. Introducing a yearly charge would mean that the service would be substantially funded only by those who use it and would deliver the necessary saving of £933,000.

Councillor Hopgood referred to the press release on the 10 September 2013 and expressed concern on the number of residents that would not 'opt-in' to the scheme and anticipated that garden waste would end up in household waste bins rather than being recycled.

Councillor Graham, Chairman of Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee advised that the policy and implications that could occur from the introduction of the scheme would be reported to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

11 October 2013

Cabinet

11 September 2013

Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme



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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 On 5 June 2013, Cabinet considered the most recent report on the implications of the Coalition Government's policy programme. This report provides Cabinet with an update on the major policy developments and announcements since then and analyses the implications for the council and County Durham.

Executive Summary

- 2 Since the last report, the government has maintained its focus on driving forward on the delivery of its major policy projects, with the emphasis in policy announcements shifting from policy development to the implementation and delivery of policy reforms outlined in the first half of this parliament.
- 3 The most significant announcements since the last report to Members relate to the following, outlined in more detail below:
 - Spending Review
 - Local government finance settlement consultation
 - Investing in Britain's Future
 - The Future of High Streets
 - Transport funding
 - Regional Growth Fund
 - European funding
 - NHS reform
 - Care and support reform
 - Integration of health and social care
 - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill
 - Children and Families Bill
 - National Curriculum Review
 - Primary education reform
 - Education qualifications reform

- WRAP funding review
 - Public services reform
 - Transparency
 - Local government pensions reform
 - Employment tribunals and Judicial review
- 4 Although the common themes of government policy around transparency, choice, community empowerment, localism and more diverse patterns of public service provision are still evident, there is evidence to suggest that they are being pursued to varying degrees in actual implementation.
 - 5 In response to the continuing slow rate of economic growth, the government has confirmed its intention to continue with its deficit reduction strategy to re-balance the economy and has placed more emphasis on stimulating growth.
 - 6 In the Spending Review, the Chancellor outlined how the government intends to reduce public sector spending by a further £11.5 billion in 2015/16, extending the deficit reduction programme into the next parliament.
 - 7 He also confirmed that public sector spending reductions would continue to be the major element of his strategy and that he did not envisage having to increase taxes to help alleviate the deficit beyond 2015/16.
 - 8 While the headline figure in the Spending Review was as 10 per cent reduction in funding for local government, the more recent technical consultation on the financial settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 points towards a much higher 15 per cent reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment, which provides the basic funding allocation for all authorities.
 - 9 Clearly, the various policy changes will have major implications for the council and the steps it is taking to develop an 'altogether better Durham'.
 - 10 The council and its partners are continuing to analyse the impact that government policy will have on local communities and on our ability to deliver the sustainable community strategy and are responding accordingly. Wherever possible, the council and its partners are working together to respond proactively to the government's policy changes.
 - 11 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and the actions taken to anticipate and respond to the government's reforms.

Background

- 12 Cabinet has considered a number of periodic reports on government policy since the general election in 2010, the most recent report being on 5 June 2013. Where necessary, Cabinet has also received further policy reports on specific topics, such as changes to the NHS, health and social care and welfare reform. This report builds upon these previous briefings.

Update

- 13 The most significant policy announcements since the last report to Members in June 2013, relate to the following, which are outlined in more detail below:
- Spending Review
 - Local government finance settlement consultation
 - Investing in Britain's Future
 - The Future of High Streets
 - Transport funding
 - Regional Growth Fund
 - European funding
 - NHS reform
 - Care and support reform
 - Integration of health and social care
 - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill
 - Children and Families Bill
 - National Curriculum Review
 - Primary education reform
 - Education qualifications reform
 - WRAP funding review
 - Public services reform
 - Transparency
 - Local government pensions reform
 - Employment tribunals and Judicial review
- 14 A more detailed report on recent policy announcements in relation to welfare reform is also included for consideration at this meeting of Cabinet.

Spending Review

- 15 On 26 June 2013, the government published its spending review, which outlined departmental spending targets for 2015/16. Overall, the government expects to spend £745 billion in 2015/16, which is £120 billion less than it would have been prior to the introduction of the deficit reduction strategy. In order to meet this target, a further £11.5 billion of savings are required in 2015/16, which in effect will extend deficit reduction beyond the Chancellor's initial timeframe of 2014/15 and into the next parliament.
- 16 In addition, it should be noted that the government has set a fiscal assumption that total managed expenditure (TME) will fall in real terms until 2017/18 at the same rate as over the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review period (2011/12 to 2014/15).
- 17 Public sector pay awards will be limited to an average of up to one per cent in 2015/16, which is expected to save at least £1.3 billion. Government departments will also put in place plans to end automatic time-served progression pay in the civil service by 2015/16, to complement substantial reforms to progression pay which will be taken forward or are already underway for teachers, the health service, prisons and the police.

- 18 In order to meet the £11.5 billion savings required in 2015/16, departmental budgets will be reduced as follows:

Department	Reduction
Communities and Local Government (local government)	10%
Communities and Local Government (civil service)	10%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	10%
Justice	10%
Cabinet Office	10%
Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales (national offices)	10%
Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales (devolved administrations)	2%
Work and Pensions	9.5%
Transport	9%
Energy	8%
Foreign Office	8%
Culture, Media and Sport	7%
Business, Innovation and Skills	6%
Home Office	6%
Home Office (policing)	Less than 6%
Home Office (counter-terrorism)	0%
Defence	Protected
Health	Protected
Education	Protected
International aid	Protected

- 19 In terms of core council funding, the government confirmed a 10 per cent reduction in funding for local government in 2015/16, however this does not take into account expenditure for schools and social care.
- 20 Funding will be made available for local authorities which choose to freeze their council tax in 2014/15 and 2015/16 and the government has subsequently confirmed that the value of the council tax freeze grant will be equivalent to a one per cent increase in both years. The 2014/15 grant will be paid in 2015/16 but there is no guarantee of either sum being paid in 2016/17.

- 21 In line with government controls on council tax increases, the government indicated that any local authority planning to increase council tax by two per cent or more in either of the years in question, would be required to hold a council tax increase referendum.
- 22 With regards to health and social care, the government intends to put £3.8 billion in a single pooled budget to encourage health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities.
- 23 The shared pot includes an additional £1.9 billion from the NHS and builds on the existing contribution of around £1 billion in 2014/15, with the aim of delivering better, more joined-up services to older and disabled people, to keep them out of hospital and to avoid long hospital stays. It is expected that payment of £1 billion of the £1.9 billion will be performance related.
- 24 To ensure that closer integration between health and social care can start immediately, the NHS will make an extra £200 million available in 2014/15 as an upfront investment in new systems and ways of working that will benefit both.
- 25 The government will also provide £100 million to help local authorities to cover the initial costs of working with each other, such as new IT.
- 26 £335 million is to be made available to local authorities in 2015/16 so that they can prepare for reforms to the system of social care funding, including the introduction of a cap on care costs from April 2016 and a universal offer of deferred payment agreements from April 2015. This will mean that no one will face unlimited care costs and no one will be forced to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for residential care.
- 27 With regards to education and children's services funding, the government is to consult on how best to introduce a fair national funding formula for schools in 2015/16 – supporting schools reform and addressing the historic differences in funding between schools in different local authorities.
- 28 In line with the changing nature of the schools system, the government will reduce central education support by reducing the Education Services Grant by around £200 million in 2015/16. The Department will consult in the autumn on the detail of how the reductions will be implemented through realising efficiencies and enabling local authorities to focus on their core role on schools.
- 29 A more detailed report on welfare reform was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 September 2013, but in summary, in the Spending Review the government announced that for the first time, it will introduce a cap on the country's welfare spending to improve spending control, support fiscal consolidation and ensure that welfare remains affordable. The cap will apply to over £100 billion of welfare spending. All other social security and tax credits expenditure will be included, however the basic and additional state pension will be excluded as will Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and any passported expenditure. Over the coming months, the government will consider whether it is appropriate to include other elements of Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) in the cap.

- 30 In addition, it announced that the period before a claimant is able to apply and eligible for support under the Job Seekers Allowance is to be extended from three to seven days.
- 31 Alongside the spending reductions, the government also announced a series of investments to stimulate economic growth and progress its wider public services reforms. These included:
- a) £100 billion of infrastructure investment over the next parliament, the details of which were announced in *Investing in Britain's Future*, covered below;
 - b) £9.5 billion of investment in the UK's transport network in 2015/16;
 - c) the creation of a Single Local Growth Fund in 2015/16, pooling departmental spending on enterprise, skills and training into a single pot worth £2 billion a year;
 - d) a 5.5 per cent real terms increase in capital provision for critical transport infrastructure;
 - e) a significant package of capital spending on housing, including £3.3 billion for 165,000 new affordable homes from 2015/16 to 2017/18, £160 million in 2015/16 for Decent Homes and £300 million in 2015/16 through the Build for Rent Fund to stimulate more private rented housing. In addition, the government is providing certainty that social rents will increase by Consumer Price Index plus one per cent a year from 2015/16 to 2024/25;
 - f) £430 million for the Renewable Heat Incentive, with proposed new tariffs and a higher budget cap to encourage increased take up;
 - g) funding to provide up to 180 new free schools, 20 studio schools and 20 university technical colleges a year;
 - h) £200 million to extend the Troubled Families programme and change the way that local authorities, health, education and criminal justice services work with a further 400,000 vulnerable families;
 - i) A drive to release more public sector assets to the value of £15 billion between 2015 to 2020 to stimulate economic growth and reduce public sector debt. The move includes the introduction of a new 'right to contest' where industry and local authorities can challenge government departments to release potentially surplus property where it can be put to better use and a new 'strategic land review' to identify where further public sector land can be made surplus and sold to support construction and local growth.
- 32 In addition, in July, the Department of Education announced the allocations for the extended rights to free school travel fund. Councils were originally due to receive the £50m funding in April 2013, for use in the 2013-14 financial year. Following the three month delay, the July announcement indicated that the fund is now going to be £62m over the next two years – a cut of 34% from

its £47m value in 2012-13, if the £62m two-year funding is counted as £31m per year.

- 33 As reported to Cabinet on 17 July 2013, the council is considering the implications of the spending review for the next iteration of its Medium Term Financial Plan, which will be the subject of a further report to Members on 9 October 2013.

Local government finance settlement consultation

- 34 On 25 July 2013, the government published *Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: Technical Consultation* to seek views on a number of technical matters relating to the next two year financial settlement for local authorities.
- 35 As outlined above, the spending review confirmed a 10 per cent reduction in overall funding for local government. However, the consultation document identifies that £1 billion has been set aside from the settlement for allocation outside the main business rates retention system to some authorities but not to others.
- 36 While the headline reduction announced in the spending review is 10 per cent, the government proposes to reduce the Settlement Funding Assessment (the basic allocation affecting all authorities comprising business rates and Revenue Support Grant) by 15 per cent. Authorities which do not receive any of the allocation set aside, will experience funding reductions of this scale.
- 37 In part, this is due to much of the 'new funding' for local government announced in the spending review, being contained within the Local Government Departmental Expenditure Limit, resulting in a reduction in Revenue Support Grant income, which in effect means that the government is funding a number of the new initiatives by top slicing local authorities' Revenue Support Grant. The government is also withholding an increased amount of funding for the New Homes Bonus to fund the Single Local Growth Fund and business rates retention safety nets.
- 38 Local authorities have until 2 October 2013 to respond to the consultation.

Investing in Britain's future

- 39 Alongside the spending review, the government published *Investing in Britain's Future*, which summarises the next stage of its infrastructure plan from 2015 onwards. This was an update to the National Infrastructure Plan 2010 and includes details of road, rail, energy, housing, broadband, and science programmes that were outlined in the spending review. The programmes in the North East include:
- a) New InterCity Express rolling stock (Hitachi);
 - b) Rebuilding 31 schools in poor condition as part of the Priority School Building Programme (including Durham Trinity School and Sports College, King James I Academy Bishop Auckland, Seaham School of

Technology, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, West Cornforth Primary School)

- c) A19 Testos flyover construction;
- d) A19/A1058 Coast Road near Newcastle improving access to Port of Tyne and major employment sites;
- e) A1 upgrade works at Lobley Hill;
- f) Increased rail capacity on East Coast Mainline and Newcastle.

The Future of High Streets

- 40 In July, the government published a summary of progress since the Portas Review, entitled *The Future of High Streets*. In total, 27 Portas pilots were granted a share of £2.3m of government investment to improve their local areas, attract more customers, tackle parking issues, and provide business rates support. Over the next six months, the government has committed to:
- a) launch a loan fund for towns wishing to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) and implementing regulations to allow BIDs to operate across a wider area or led by property owners;
 - b) consult on the relaxation of planning regulations to support the conversion of properties from retail to residential uses and to explore ways to improve the use of flats above shops;
 - c) investigate ways to support local areas to introduce flexible approaches to parking provision and enforcement.
- 41 Although several towns in County Durham submitted bids, none were selected as Portas pilots. However, the government has set up a website (www.townteams.org/) with free resources to help communities and businesses to understand the transition that town centres are in as well as sourcing support for establishing town centre management teams.

Transport funding

- 42 On 31 May 2013, the government announced its second tranche of funding from the £190 million Local Pinch Point Fund. Durham was awarded over £2.2 million to ensure congestion relief from A167 in Chester-le-Street between the junction with Park Road and Junction 63 of the A1(M). The award follows detailed discussions with the Highways Agency with regard to the County Durham Plan, after the Highways Agency identified improving Junction 63 as being a priority for successfully implementing the County Durham Plan. Work is scheduled to take place between January 2014 and November 2014 at a total cost of £3.1 million.
- 43 On 16 July 2013, the Department for Transport (DFT) announced the confirmed Local Major Transport funding allocations, with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) being allocated £31.1 million. This is a third less than the indicative allocation announced in January 2013, as the

government has chosen to redirect funding through the competitive Single Local Growth Fund bidding process.

- 44 On 17 July 2012, the North East Local Transport Body (NELTB) announced which projects had been shortlisted for the devolved Local Major Transport funding for the period 2015-19. A new rail station at Horden Sea View was shortlisted and will now progress for further business case assessment and approval. Unfortunately, the two other schemes from the county submitted – the Durham City Western Relief Road and the Durham City Bus Station and urban traffic control – were unsuccessful in the short listing process.
- 45 On 18 July 2013, the DfT confirmed a £1.2 billion follow-on order for further trains and rolling stock for the Intercity Express Programme. The announcement will benefit the Hitachi Rail Europe plant being developed at Newton Aycliffe, which won the order to build the 270 further trains, to enter service on the East Coast Mail Line from 2019. The order is in addition to the contract won by Hitachi for 596 trains last year.

Regional Growth Fund

- 46 Following the spending review, a further allocation of £600 million to the Regional Growth Fund was announced, with an expectation that there will be a further round of grant applications this autumn.
- 47 On 11 July 2013, the government announced awards totalling £506 million made under the latest round. In relation to the county, Thomas Swan and Co in Consett and carbon capture business Net Power Europe have received funding, while Sunderland City Council, subject to approval of the City Deal has been allocated funding to improve roads at key points around the A19, which will have a knock-on benefit for County Durham.
- 48 In addition, the North East LEP was awarded a £7.5 million to extend the resources available to support small and medium sized companies through loan and equity finance.

European funding

- 49 Following the spending review, the government announced the allocations to LEPs under the new decentralised EU Growth Programme, which will distribute €6.2 billion of European funding from the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The allocations are under a seven year programme running from 2014 to 2020.
- 50 The North Eastern LEP was awarded €539.6 million, which is equivalent to £239 per capita. The award was the third largest award by this measure, and although the exact split of funding has yet to be determined, the total amount owes much to Durham's status as a Transition Region.

NHS reform

- 51 Members received a comprehensive briefing on progress with NHS reforms at the meeting of Cabinet on 17 July 2013. Key national developments include:

- a) government focus on the integration of health and social care including:
 - a government commitment to make joined-up and coordinated health and care the norm by 2018 – with projects in every part of the country by 2015;
 - new “pioneer” areas around the country appointed by September 2013 – the projects will be selected by a panel of experts, who will be looking for the innovative, practical approaches needed to achieve change as quickly as possible. County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board supported an expression of interest for a pioneer project relating to intermediate care provision in County Durham. Intermediate care includes a range of short term treatment of rehabilitative services designed to promote independence, reduce the length of stay and to help avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.
- b) NHS safeguarding framework to promote partnership working to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, at both strategic and operational levels.

Care and support reform

- 52 Following the publication of the draft Care and Support Bill in 2012 and a pre-legislative scrutiny process, a Care Bill was placed before Parliament in May 2013.
- 53 The reform of care covers themes such as:
 - a) personalisation - one of the key principles driving the Care Bill is the delivery of greater personalisation of services. The Bill will require all eligible people to have a personal budget by April 2015, which will be part of their care plan;
 - b) integration - integrated care and support should mean person-centred coordinated and continuous care and support, tailored to the needs and preferences of the individual, their carer and family. It requires a whole system approach that includes primary care, community health, social care, the acute sector and wider partners such as the voluntary sector and housing providers;
 - c) prevention - the Care Bill includes a clause requiring local authorities to take steps to prevent, delay and reduce needs for care and support.
- 54 The Care Bill is currently going through Committee Stage of the House of Lords scrutiny process. In July 2013, the Government published a consultation seeking views on how changes to the funding system should be organised locally. It will inform the development of detailed policy, and subject to the successful passage of the Care Bill, regulations and guidance.
- 55 Views are being sought on policy design and technical implementation of deferred payment agreements and the new charging rules from April 2015 and suggestions sought regarding the cap on care costs and extended access

to financial support from April 2016. These are described alongside other relevant measures in the Care Bill.

Integration of Health and Social Care

- 56 The King's Fund has asked the Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England to consider whether the boundary between health and social care should be redrawn by revisiting the post-war settlement and asking fundamental questions about whether it is still fit for purpose. This includes examining how the NHS and social care are funded and organised, and what the alternatives might be to current arrangements. The Commission will also consider the different entitlements to these services, and whether now is the time for these to be changed.
- 57 An interim report will be produced by the Commission in early 2014 and a final report by September 2014. This will be in time to influence the thinking of political parties in the run-up to the 2015 election.
- 58 In the spending round, the government stated that to improve outcomes for the public, provide better value for money and be more sustainable, health and social care services must work together to meet individuals' needs. A £3.8 billion pooled budget will be introduced for health and social care services, shared between the NHS and local authorities, to deliver better outcomes and greater efficiencies through more integrated services for older and disabled people.
- 59 The NHS will make available a further £200 million in 2014/15 to accelerate this transformation. From 2015/16 the shared pool will include existing NHS funding for social care and the additional £2 billion set out above, alongside further funds for carers and people leaving hospital who need support to regain their independence. It also includes £350 million of capital funding which will be available for projects to improve integration locally, including IT funding to facilitate secure sharing of patient data between the NHS and local authorities, and to improve facilities for disabled people.
- 60 Precise implications and further detail on funding in terms of both new and existing arrangements have yet to be clarified.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

- 61 On 9 May 2013, the government published the Anti- social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, which subject to parliamentary progress, is expected to receive Royal Assent in spring 2014.

- 62 The Bill contains a variety of measures to tackle serious harm, including antisocial behaviour, forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms used by gangs and in organised crime. It also includes changes to improve the provision of services to victims and witnesses. In addition, the Bill will take forward further police reform, to enhance the public's confidence in police integrity and continue modernising police pay and conditions, as well as improving the efficiency of the criminal justice system.
- 63 The key provisions in the Bill include:
- a) giving landlords powers to deal swiftly with the most serious anti-social behaviour committed by their tenants and giving victims the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new community trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new community remedy;
 - b) strengthened powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership by extending to private places the offence of owning or being in charge of a dog that is dangerously out of control in a public place. It also provides that a dog attack on an assistance dog constitutes an aggravated offence and will enable the courts to take account of the character of the owner of the dog, as well as of the dog, when assessing whether a dog should be destroyed on the grounds that it is a risk to the public;
 - c) making forced marriage a criminal offence and criminalising the breach of a forced marriage protection order;
 - d) conferring on Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility for commissioning victims services;
 - e) providing for the independent inspection of the Serious Fraud Office by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate;
 - f) establishing in law a test of "clear innocence" for the purpose of determining eligibility for compensation for miscarriages of justice;
 - g) improving the speed and efficiency of the justice system's response to low-level offending by enabling the police to prosecute uncontested minor offences of shoplifting;
 - h) extending the scope of the statutory witness protection scheme to cover other vulnerable individuals;
 - i) ensuring that offenders sentenced to custody contribute to the costs of supporting victims by removing the power of magistrates' courts to add additional days to a sentence of imprisonment in lieu of the Victims Surcharge.

National Curriculum Review

- 64 Following a public consultation on the draft National Curriculum, which closed on 16 April 2013, the government announced plans in the Queen's Speech in May 2013 to take forward a new National Curriculum, incorporating the following:
- a) The new curriculum for all subjects will contain the essential knowledge that all children should learn, but will not dictate the majority of teaching time. It will be introduced in 2014.
 - b) Detailed programmes of study will be developed for primary English, mathematics and science, specifying the core knowledge which provides the foundations for all further learning.
 - c) Programmes of study in other subjects will be slimmed down by focusing only on the essential knowledge to be taught to give teachers more space and flexibility to design their lessons.
 - d) Languages will be made compulsory at key stage 2 to enable schools to be more ambitious about teaching languages in secondary school.
 - e) The discredited ICT curriculum will be replaced by a new, ambitious computing curriculum.
 - f) Aspects of the existing national curriculum will be disapplied for a limited period from September 2013, to give schools greater flexibility to prepare to teach the new National Curriculum.
 - g) From 2013 there will be no externally marked test of English writing. Pupils' ability in the composition element of writing will be subject to teacher assessment only. The new grammar, punctuation and spelling test will assess pupils' ability in these skills.
 - h) The first statutory phonics screening check for all year 1 pupils took place in June 2012. From 2013, pupils who have not reached the required standard at the end of year 1 should receive extra support from their school so their phonic decoding skills can improve. They will then retake the screening check in year 2.
- 65 In July 2013, the government published updated versions of the national curriculum framework, including the programmes of study for all national curriculum subjects at key stages 1 to 3 and for citizenship, computing and PE at key stage 4 and is now seeking feedback on the draft legislative order - Education (National Curriculum) (Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study) (England) Order 2014 - required to bring the changes into effect.

- 66 A formal consultation on the national curriculum for key stage 4 English, mathematics and science will follow in the autumn 2013 in line with the reform of GCSEs in these subjects.

Primary education reform

- 67 On 18 July 2013, the Deputy Prime Minister launched a consultation on a range of changes to primary school education. The aim is to improve the way in which schools are held to account and raise standards.
- 68 The consultation document has proposals for:
- a) higher floor standards. These would still be based on a combination of pupil attainment and progress. It is proposed that the attainment element is set considerably higher – with at least 85 per cent of a school’s pupils (except those with particular special needs) expected to reach a good level of attainment. However, progress will be a key element to reflect the challenging intakes of some schools, and schools will need to be below both measures to be below the floor standard;
 - b) updated tests for 11-year-olds, in line with the higher expectations of the new national curriculum. The tests would be in maths; reading; and spelling, punctuation and grammar. The science test for a sample of pupils would also remain;
 - c) higher expectations of what pupils should achieve. There would be a new “scaled score”, which would be the same for all tests and remain the same over years. It would be set at the level at which 11-year-olds would be considered “secondary ready”. The old system of levels – with level 4 the expected level – will be removed and will not be replaced;
 - d) new school-led systems of assessing pupil performance. Schools will be given the freedom to design their own systems of measuring pupil performance, and reporting this to parents, such as through clearer school reports;
 - e) a new reporting method which would see each pupil compared against their peers nationally. Each pupil would be placed in 10 per cent bands, or deciles. Pupils’ positions will only be made available to parents and schools;
 - f) a new benchmark. A baseline assessment is needed to measure the progress that has been made by 11-year-olds. The consultation makes no recommendations on this point, and invites suggestions from interested parties on when to take a baseline.
- 69 To help achieve these goals, the Deputy Prime Minister also announced an increase in the pupil premium for primary schools. The proposal is that the premium will be increased to £1,300 per disadvantaged primary school pupil in 2014/15, up from £900 per child this year.

Education qualification reforms

- 70 The process of reviewing and developing proposals for Key Stage 4 testing has been very high profile and controversial. Initially the Department for Education proposed the introduction of a new English Baccalaureate Certificate. However, on 7 February 2013, the Minister for Education announced that due to concerns raised by the exam regulator Ofqual about the risks involved that the proposed changes would not go ahead. Instead, the government is introducing revisions to existing GCSEs to make them more robust. The changes proposed include:
- a) reduction in course work with more assessments at the end of the course;
 - b) greater testing of writing in English and History;
 - c) greater focus on quantitative problem solving;
 - d) removal of higher and foundation tiers;
 - e) new GCSEs in the core academic subjects of English, maths, the sciences, history and geography ready for teaching in 2015.
- 71 The intention to carry through these amendments was confirmed in the Queen's Speech in May 2013. On 14 June 2013, the Department for Education launched a consultation asking for views on proposed subject content and assessment objectives for the new GCSEs. Specifically the document asks questions on the proposed content for English language, English literature, mathematics, science, history, geography, modern languages and ancient language. Alongside this consultation, Ofqual has launched a consultation on the regulatory aspects of proposed changes to GCSEs such as whether the reformed GCSEs should be tiered, and whether the default position should be that the reformed GCSEs are assessed by way of externally set and marked examinations.
- 72 'A' level reform, in line with the changes to GCSEs, will be linear with all assessment at the end of two years. January exams for AS and 'A' levels will be abolished from September 2013. AS levels will be a standalone qualification. Universities will be more involved in advising on 'A' level content, focusing on those subjects, which are most commonly required for entry to leading universities. The first 'A' levels in the facilitating subjects and some other high volume subjects will be developed for first teaching in September 2015.

- 73 Alongside the changes at Key Stage 4, the government introduced in April 2013 a new TechBacc for post 16 education. The TechBacc will be a performance measure, marking achievement by young people aged 16 to 19 in three areas:
- a) a specified level 3 vocational qualification;
 - b) a level 3 'core maths' qualification, including AS level maths;
 - c) an extended project.

Funding for Waste and Resources Action Programme

- 74 Between 3 and 24 May 2013, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consulted on the future funding of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in England.
- 75 WRAP is an independent not for profit company limited by guarantee, which operates at arm's length from government. The organisation receives approximately half of its funding from DEFRA and in effect acts as the department's principal delivery body for the provision of advice and technical and financial support on waste reduction and resource efficiency in England.
- 76 DEFRA's funding to WRAP has reduced from £56 million in 2009/10 to £26 million in 2013/14 and it is anticipated that this will be reduced further as the government makes further spending reductions.
- 77 The review aims to identify whether the WRAP delivery model continues to be the most appropriate way to deliver policy interventions in support of waste reduction and resource efficiency in England and to secure best value for public money.
- 78 The outcome of the consultation is awaited, now that the spending review has been published.

Public services reform

- 79 On 16 May 2013, the government published its second annual progress report on opening up public services, in line with the *Open Public Services* white paper published on 1 July 2011.
- 80 The most significant announcement was the publication of a 'choice charter', which sets out a number of principles people can expect when accessing and receiving public services. Initially, the government proposed introducing new legislation to enshrine an over-arching right to choice on individual services. However, following mixed consultation responses in which several respondents expressed the view that additional legislation was unnecessary, the government decided to introduce a choice charter under which all public services should operate. The key principles in the charter are:

- a) you can have a say in how a public service is provided to you;
- b) you will be given the opportunity to take up and exercise the choices available;
- c) you will be given clear, accessible and high-quality information and advice to inform your choices;
- d) you have clear avenues to complain if you do not receive the choices you are entitled to.

81 Alongside the choice charter, the government has published choice frameworks to outline and raise awareness of the choices available in a number of individual public services. The frameworks are intended to:

- a) set out what choices should be available to people as described in current policy or legislation;
- b) set out who will be responsible for providing this choice;
- c) set out (or signpost to) relevant quality standards, inspections and licensing requirements;
- d) signpost to sources of information to help people make informed decisions; and
- e) explain how people can make a complaint if they are unable to exercise their right to choose as set out in the frameworks.

82 So far, choice frameworks have been launched in NHS care, social housing, schools, funded early education and adult social care.

83 In addition, the government published its response to David Boyle's independent review into the barriers to choice in public services, especially for the disadvantaged. The government accepted virtually all of Mr Boyle's findings and his key recommendations relating to local government included:

- Make sure that plans for a national website of registered social care providers, currently under construction, will make it searchable by postcode. Such a national website should include:
 - a) comparable information about the quality of individual providers, according to measures that are meaningful to service users;
 - b) opportunities to leave user feedback on provider profiles;
 - c) access to online decision aids;
 - d) transparent information about pricing and navigation to other sources of information, local and national.
 - e) signposting to local information sources.

- Replace the current entitlement to an ‘assessment of needs for care and support’ with an entitlement to an asset-based assessment.
- Develop a more diverse social care market, by:
 - a) phasing out the use of preferred provider lists for buying social care services, and in the meantime making sure that they – and virtual marketplaces – are open to new entrants and are not used as the only menu of options in support planning;
 - b) giving local authorities a duty to signpost social care users to where they can access independent advice and support so that they can spend their personal budget to best meet agreed outcomes.
- Devise and publish a parallel ‘opportunity transformation’ league table, comparing the performance of schools in achieving the best outcomes for free school meal children and narrowing the attainment gap.
- Increase the diversity of schools, by:
 - a) trialling an annual online ‘Friends and Family’ test for schools, asking parents if they would recommend the school and why, with data collated by Ofsted, and made available, paid for by less frequent inspections of the more successful schools;
 - b) giving pupils a right to ask to study subjects which curriculum arrangements currently make difficult, with a responsibility for schools to comply or respond with good reasons if they are unable to.
- Pilot training for volunteers and mentors in ten existing peer support programmes, mainly but not exclusively in health settings.
- Pilot the idea of giving health and social care users the formal Choice to Switch providers, in extremis, and to go to another provider with capacity, using existing data, to the same position in the queue.
- Appoint an advisor to the Prime Minister on broader choice in public services.

84 In line with its drive to diversify the provision of public services, on 15 May 2013, the government published proposals to allow local authorities to delegate work for looked-after children to external social work providers. Following consultation in January 2013, the government will now allow local authorities to delegate some decision making and tasks around children in care and care leavers to external social work providers. The government plans to use existing legislation to let local authorities who are already using external providers to continue to do so, which will give local authorities greater flexibility around how to look after children in their care.

- 85 The government also intends to amend legislation so that social work providers do not need to register with and be inspected separately by Ofsted. Instead, Ofsted will consider the experiences of children receiving services under delegated arrangements as part of their new inspection framework. The government intends to make this change through a legislative reform order.
- 86 On 21 May 2013, the government published its response to the consultation on protecting the independent press from unfair competition. This proposed putting compliance with the Recommended Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity onto a statutory basis by providing the Secretary of State with a power to make a direction requiring compliance with some or all of the Code's recommendations.
- 87 This would enable the Secretary of State to intervene and prevent local authorities, considered to be in breach of the code, from issuing publicity including council newspapers and publications.
- 88 In spite of objections from many consultees, including the Local Government Association, the government has decided to press ahead with the move and included the necessary provisions in the Local Audit and Accountability Bill, which is currently before parliament.
- 89 Cabinet may wish to note that an amendment to no longer require the publication of statutory notices in local newspapers, has been introduced during the Lords' consideration of the bill.
- 90 On 21 March 2013, the government invited local authorities to express an interest in establishing a network to spread learning from the four 'whole-place' community budget pilots. Nine areas have been selected, including Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, Hampshire, Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark, Sheffield, Surrey, Swindon, the West London Alliance (Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow) and the Wirral. Three expressions of interest were submitted from consortia of local authorities in the North East including the county council but were unsuccessful.
- 91 Alongside the network, on 27 March 2013, the government launched the Transformation Challenge Award to support local authorities that are at the cutting edge for service transformation, re-engineering service delivery and achieving efficiency savings. £9 million is available in total for several 'major multi-authority awards' and up to 30 'authority awards'.
- 92 In line with the report to Cabinet on 24 June 2013, the council submitted a joint bid with Sunderland City Council in respect of the proposed joint ICT service. In addition, a bid for an authority award was submitted for the council's adult care transformation programme.

Transparency

- 93 In line with its transparency agenda, on 25 April 2013, the government launched a new care comparison website via NHS Choices. The site publishes care profiles which bring together information from a variety of

sources, including official information from the Care Quality Commission inspection reports on care services, information from care providers on the specialist services and facilities they offer, comments from the public, service users, residents and their families on their own experiences of the care provider, including links to other comment sites.

- 94 In due course, the public will be able to give services star ratings, which will sit alongside official Ofsted-style ratings for care services, when they are introduced.
- 95 On 15 May 2013, Stephen Shakespeare, the chair of government's Data Strategy Board and chief executive of YouGov, published his independent review of public sector information, which focused on the growth opportunities arising from widening access to information held by the public sector. The review made nine recommendations to government, around the themes of:
- a) defining the principles of ownership: it all belongs to the citizen, not to the government;
 - b) creating a national data strategy for maximising opportunity - a plan that is recognisable outside government, actionable, and auditable;
 - c) accelerating implementation so that delivery is broader and more reliable, and that data is utilized in commerce and public administration
 - d) strategic focusing of support for the new infrastructure (including strategic investment in basic data science);
 - e) ensuring trust in the system: confidentiality must be strengthened by fully deploying the available technology of data security, and imposing higher penalties for infractions.
- 96 Key recommendations include:
- a) adopting a twin-track policy for data-release, publishing data early even if imperfect, while committing to improving data quality to develop a 'high quality core';
 - b) developing a clear pragmatic policy on privacy and confidentiality that increases protections for citizens while also increasing the availability of data to external users;
 - c) investing in building skill-sets in basic data science through academic institutions, covering both genuinely unfettered 'basic research' and research of 'practical immediate value' to the national data strategy;
 - d) exploring new ways to gather evidence of the economic and social value of opening up PSI and government data, and how it can be further developed taking into account the latest innovations in technology;

- e) formally embedding the systematic and transparent use of administrative data and other types of PSI in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and adaptation of government policy and service delivery;
- f) developing a model of a 'mixed economy' of public data so that everyone can benefit from some forms of two-way sharing between the public and the commercial sectors;
- g) increasing transparency, where there is a clear public interest in wide access to privately generated data (for example in publishing all trials of new medicines and encouraging companies working with government in public-private partnerships to adopt open data policies, akin to the Freedom of Information Act).

97 On 14 June 2013, the government published guidance on *Your council's cabinet: going to its meetings, seeing how it works*. The guidance which is aimed at local people and gives practical information about the public attending meetings of a council's executive and obtaining council documents. It also includes advice on filming and tweeting from council meetings and suggests that councils should consider adopting a policy on the filming of meetings and be clear with people about what facilities can be provided for citizen journalists.

Local government pensions reform

98 A commitment was made in the Coalition's programme for government to review the long term affordability and sustainability of public service pension schemes. On 20 June 2013, a number of consultation documents were released looking at changes to governance arrangements, changes to scheme administration such as membership, contributions and benefits, removing the eligibility of councillors to the scheme. On 21 June 2013, a call for evidence was published to look into ways of reducing the costs of the Local Government Pension Scheme by increasing fund co-operation, transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

Employment tribunals and judicial reviews

99 On 14 March 2013, the government published new rules aimed at streamlining the employment tribunal process, to make tribunals easier to understand, more efficient and to help weed out what the government considers to be weak claims, including instances where claimants have little prospect of success and may be using judicial review as a delaying tactic.

100 The proposals the government have accepted include:

- a) new strike out powers to ensure that weak cases that should not proceed to full hearing are halted at the earliest possible opportunity;

- b) guidance from the Employment Tribunal Presidents to help ensure that judges deal with hearings in a consistent manner which ensures parties know what to expect;
- c) making it easier to withdraw and dismiss claims by cutting the amount of paper work required; and
- d) a new procedure for preliminary hearings that combines separate pre-hearing reviews and case management discussions. This will reduce the overall number of hearings and lead to a quicker disposal of cases saving time and costs for all parties.

101 In 2011, the Chancellor announced plans to introduced fees for employment tribunal hearings. The fees came into effect on 29 July 2013, from which point, claimants will now be charged £120 to lodge a claim for cases such as discrimination or unfair dismissal and £950 if the case goes ahead. If someone wishes to appeal against a decision, it costs £400 to lodge an appeal and £1,200 for a full hearing. Lower fees apply for other cases such as payment disputes and claimants who are unable to pay tribunal fees can apply to have them waived or reduced. Although the fees have now come into effect, the trade union Unison has been granted leave for a judicial review of decision to introduce them.

102 On 23 April 2013, the government confirmed proposals to reform the judicial review process. The changes aim to tackle delays and reduce the burden of Judicial Review by filtering out weak, frivolous and unmeritorious cases at an early stage, while ensuring that arguable claims can proceed to a conclusion without delay.

103 In announcing the measures, the government cited cases of attempts to block immigration decisions or to hold up development.

104 The measures include:

- a) introducing a £215 court fee for anyone seeking a hearing in person after their initial written judicial review application has been turned down;
- b) banning people from seeking a hearing in person if their initial written application has been ruled as totally without merit;
- c) halving the time limit for applying for a judicial review of a planning decision from three months to six weeks;
- d) reducing the time limit for applying for a judicial review of a procurement decision from three months to four weeks.

105 Alongside the new rules, the government is currently considering increasing the fee for a Judicial Review application from £60 to £235.

Consultations

- 106 Since the last report to Cabinet, the council has opened 71 consultations and calls for evidence.
- 107 The following consultations and calls for evidence are currently open (as at 5 August 2013):
- a) Consultation on the draft Electricity Market Reform Delivery (closing date 25 September 2013);
 - b) Supporting the employee-ownership sector (closing date 26 September 2013);
 - c) Refreshing the NHS Mandate (closing date 27 September 2013);
 - d) Childcare regulation (closing date 30 September 2013);
 - e) Caring for our future: implementing funding reform (closing date 25 October 2013);
 - f) New national curriculum: primary assessment and accountability (closing date 11 November 2013).
 - g) Tax free childcare: seeking views on the government's plans to introduce Tax-Free Childcare for working families and additional assistance with childcare for parents through Universal Credit (closing date 14 October 2013);
 - h) Assisted Areas Map 2104 to 2020: consultation on LEP economic priorities and disadvantaged local areas (closing date 30 September 2013);
 - i) DWP commissioning strategy 2013: consultation on commissioning strategy for welfare-to-work outcomes and services (closing date 27 September 2013);
 - j) Updated national waste planning policy: planning for sustainable waste management (closing date 23 September 2013);
 - k) Business rates retention scheme: pooling prospectus: invitation to local councils to come forward with pooling proposals (closing date 31 October 2013);
 - l) Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services: consultation on allowing local authorities some flexibility to use their receipts from asset sales to pay for the one-off revenue costs of service reforms (closing date 24 September 2013);

- m) New Homes Bonus and the Local Growth Fund: consultation on the suggested mechanisms for the pooling of £400 million of New Homes Bonus through local enterprise partnerships to support strategic housing and other local economic growth priorities (closing date 19 September 2013);
- n) Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation on a range of detailed and technical issues concerning the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Local Government Finance Settlements (closing date on 2 October 2013);
- o) Apprenticeship funding reform in England: consultation on government's response to Doug Richard's independent review of apprenticeships (closing date 1 October 2013);
- p) Draft noise action plan: consultation on the second round of noise action plans covering roads, railways and large urban areas (closing date 29 October 2013).

Implications

108 The government's policy proposals have many implications for the county and the council, its role and function and the way it works with and relates to local communities and strategic partners. Below, we provide a commentary against the strategic themes of the Council Plan and County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy.

Altogether better council

109 While the spending review outlined the government's headline spending targets, the council is still waiting for the detailed impact on individual spending streams.

110 The headline figure in the spending review was a 10 per cent reduction in funding for local government, however the more recent technical consultation on the financial settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 points towards a much higher 15 per cent reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA), which provides the basic funding allocation or all authorities.

111 It is also evident that a significant proportion of the 'new funding' identified for local government is in fact coming from existing local government funding streams and expenditure limits.

112 Our initial estimate is that a reduction in SFA of this order is likely to lead to a further reduction in funding to the council of £16 million by 2015/16 in addition to the £23 million previously forecast. The council will need to await the outcome of the consultation and the publication of the financial settlement before we learn the final figure. It is expected that this is unlikely to be before Christmas this year.

- 113 The council will need to consider carefully the proposal to freeze council tax in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The existing medium term financial plan is based on a modest two per cent a year increase, whereas the government has now confirmed that the value of the council tax freeze grant will be equivalent to an increase of one per cent based upon an adjusted tax base. The grant received would be £2 million, which would be a £1.2 million shortfall compared to the £3.2 million income received from a two per cent council tax increase.
- 114 The council also needs to be mindful of the impact of efficiency savings in other government departments, which may impact on local authorities. For example, the Department for Work and Pensions has to make substantial efficiency savings of £420 million which may impact on the Housing Benefit Administration Grant, which is currently worth £4.5 million to the council. More generally, the council needs to monitor the trend of government departments transferring responsibilities and functions to local government in order to make efficiency savings.
- 115 Substantial funding is being made available to encourage health and social care to work more closely together. While the amount of funding is significant - £3.8 billion in a single pooled budget in total – the detail on how the funding will be administered is awaited and confirmation of whether this will be new or existing funding.
- 116 £200 million is being invested to extend the Troubled Families programme and change the way that local authorities, health, education and criminal justice services work with a further 400,000 vulnerable families.
- 117 The proposal to consult on how best to introduce a new national funding formula for schools in 2015/16 is a key issue as schools in the county currently benefit from recognition of the high levels of deprivation in the county. The government wants to ensure that school funding is based on a fair and rational assessment of the needs of a school's pupils, including how many are deprived, as opposed to historic differences in funding between schools in different local authorities.
- 118 Within this regard, it is welcome that the government is protecting the Pupil Premium, which provides extra funding for disadvantaged pupils.
- 119 However, the decision to reduce central education support by reducing the Education Services Grant by around £200 million in 2015/16 will have a significant impact on the council as we currently receive £7.6 million a year from this grant. We therefore need to pay particular attention to the government's proposals for how the reductions will be implemented when it consults in the autumn.
- 120 The establishment of a Single Local Growth Fund to support economic growth and regeneration at a local/regional level is welcome, however, £2 billion a year falls well short of the recommendation in Lord Heseltine's original report.

- 121 While the government has celebrated the progress it has made in opening up public services to more choice, community influence and diversity of provision, the Institute for Government has called into question the progress made and the impact that this is having on service provision.
- 122 In its report, *Making public service markets work: professionalising government's approach to commissioning and market stewardship*, which focused on employment services, secondary education, care for older people and probation services, the Institute concluded that while the government had achieved some successes, there were significant weaknesses in the way departments and local commissioners approach the design and oversight of markets in public service provision.
- 123 In particular, the Institute highlighted that the design of contracts promoted 'gaming', where providers sometimes responded in undesirable ways to the reward structures created by commissioners and regulators. Such 'gaming' behaviours included excessive 'parking' of service users with complex needs and 'creaming' of users who are easier to support, and therefore more profitable to serve.
- 124 In addition, concern was expressed about the ability to tackle the performance of poorly run companies, because of a 'lack of confidence' in managing a switch to a new provider.
- 125 The decision to give the Recommended Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity statutory force is at odds with the government's commitment to decentralisation and the presumption of a general power of competence by local government. The Local Government Association and others have also argued that the decision is based on a false premise as council newspapers pose little or no threat to local newspapers, the decline of which has more to do with the proliferation of online media and marketing. With regard to the council, its publicity is guided by the code, with checks and balances provided by the monitoring officer and we do not envisage any instances where the Secretary of State could reasonably call into question what we do.
- 126 The amendment concerning statutory advertising introduced during the Lords' consideration of the Local Audit and Accountability Bill is interesting as the council spends in the region of £130,000 a year on statutory advertising in local newspapers.
- 127 Although the government is yet to respond to the Shakespeare review on public sector information, it reinforces existing government policy presumptions in favour of accelerating transparency and prompt disclosure of data and information.
- 128 The recommendation that private companies funded to deliver public services should have open data policies is echoed in David Boyles' report on the barriers to increasing choice and the Institute of Government's review of private sector contracting of public services. If followed through, the council may have to amend its procurement and commissioning policy and

procedures to take into account the open data policies of potential contractors.

- 129 Close attention will need to be given to the changes to pensions which are due to be made under the Public Services Pensions Act, 2013. The impacts will be wide ranging, and will need to be taken on board as part of the management of the current local authority scheme, as well as ensuring that the changes are effectively communicated to employees.

Altogether wealthier

- 130 The challenges for local authorities set out by the spending review are extensive and the council will need to continue to think innovatively and use what funding is available to its absolute maximum benefit.
- 131 With this in mind, it is encouraging that the notional EU funding allocation to the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) for the 2014-2020 programme (€539.6million) is greater than had been expected, £239 per capita represents the third biggest award of the 39 LEPs bettered only by Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. EU funding will play a crucial role in the council's investment planning process and the council is currently engaged with partners internally to determine and prioritise future funding opportunities and will work closely with NELEP to develop a European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy for the 2014-2020 programme. The strategy will outline the overall ambition for the LEP area in the next programme and will set the framework for the projects taken forward within the context of UK and EU objectives. Durham will feature heavily with Transition Region status and will possess dedicated resources above and beyond the rest of the LEP area.
- 132 The *Investing in Britain's Future* announcements made alongside the spending review highlight how the government intends to stimulate economic growth over the period of the next parliament.
- 133 The creation of a Single Local Growth Fund is welcome, though, the £2 billion a year set out by the Chancellor is significantly lower than the £8 billion a year called for by Lord Heseltine in his *No Stone Unturned* report.
- 134 It should also be noted that the fund is mainly made up of funding that local government already had via the Local Authority Transport Major projects fund, the Integrated Transport Block, Further Education capital, ESF skills match funding, the New Homes Bonus and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
- 135 In addition, a significant proportion of the single pot is made up of capital funding which in theory cannot easily be moved to fund revenue projects. Government guidance is therefore awaited on how the single pot will operate given that it is supposed to be an un-ringfenced fund.
- 136 To access funding, local areas need to produce strategic economic plans which will form the basis of sub-regional funding agreements with

government. The government has set the strength of governance arrangements as one of the key criteria it will take into account in making funding awards, which is encouraging given the recent progress made by the seven local authorities in the North East towards the establishment of a combined authority, which will be called the North East Leadership Board (Combined Authority).

- 137 The pooling of £3.8 billion of funding to enable the NHS and local authorities to work together and to support the delivery of more integrated services represents a significant opportunity. Though the funding must be used to support adult social care services in each local authority, which also has a health benefit, beyond this broad condition, the Department of Health wants to provide flexibility for local areas to determine how this investment in social care services is best used. This will be of great interest to our supported housing and registered social housing providers.
- 138 Of the announced changes to welfare benefits within the spending review, of significant note is the change to the three day waiting period which is currently applied to JSA claimants, before eligibility for benefits begins being extended to seven days. The extended waiting period will not be applied to those on contributory JSA and ESA, although it is likely to place additional strain on Hardship Funds and potentially lead to an increase in arrears among social and private sector tenants.

Altogether healthier

- 139 The drive to integrate health and social care will have major implications for the county. The Care Bill emphasises a whole system approach that includes primary care, community health, social care, the acute sector and wider partners such as the voluntary sector and housing providers. It places a duty on local authorities to carry out their care and support responsibilities (including carer's 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 services). The duty will apply where the local authority considers that integration of services would either promote the wellbeing of adults with care and support needs (including carers), contribute to the prevention or delay of developing care needs, or improve the quality of care in the local authority's area.

Altogether safer

- 140 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill if enacted would extend the power of the council to deal serious anti-social behaviour committed by council tenants. It also provides the necessary legislation for the introduction of the community trigger, where local communities can prompt the police and community safety agencies to take action on persistent anti-social behaviour, and the community remedy, where they can have a say on what sanctions should be placed on offenders.

- 141 The trend to extend the responsibilities of directly elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs) continues, with PCCs to become responsible for commissioning local victim support services.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 142 The proposed changes to the examination system at Key stage 4 will have significant impacts for schools and students in County Durham. The current aim is that first group of GCSE subjects to be reformed will be introduced in 2015 with the first awards made in August 2017. Ofqual believes that this programme is ambitious but overall should be achievable. Careful monitoring of the implementation of these changes will be needed to ensure that schools within County Durham are prepared for the changes.
- 143 Similarly, the TechBacc will be introduced for courses beginning in September 2014, and will be reported for the first time in the college and school sixth-form performance tables in January 2017.
- 144 The increase in the Pupil Premium is for primary schools only and will be a benefit to primary schools in the county, however at this early stage it is difficult to assess the impact of the proposed changes to primary education and careful monitoring will be required to ensure that schools in the county are prepared for the proposed changes. It is unclear at this stage if there will be any change for secondary schools.
- 145 The council are managing the in year reductions to the extended rights to free school travel fund. Durham County Council's allocation for 2013/14 is now £1,373,000 and for 2014/15 it is £1,086,000. This funding is non ring fenced however the statutory duties in relation to home to school transport are still in place.
- 146 Ofsted will introduce the single inspection framework for child protection and looked after children, including the inspection of local authority fostering and adoption functions, in September 2013. Until the new framework is implemented, Ofsted will continue to carry out separate inspections of local authority arrangements to protect children, and they will be re-introducing a small number of targeted inspections of services for looked after children, and will continue with the regulatory inspections of local authority adoption and fostering functions.

Altogether greener

- 147 The £430 million identified in the spending review for the Renewable Heat Incentive is welcome as it will provide incentives to the council, households and industry to reduce their energy consumption. The government has recently completed a consultation on proposed changes to non-domestic tariffs and the council will need to await the outcome before being able to fully assess the impact on its energy consumption.

- 148 While all corners of the public sector are subject to review due to the on-going spending reductions, the outcome of the review of funding for WRAP is awaited with interest given that WRAP has been a key partner in working with the council to promote domestic recycling and composting.

Implications for partnership working

- 149 Given the scope, scale and pace of government reforms, it is imperative that the council continues to work with partners to ensure that we work together to achieve the aims of the sustainable community strategy. This is particularly so in relation to stimulating economic growth and job creation, policing and community safety and health and social care, given the significant and profound nature of reforms in these areas and the emergence of new partners, with which the council will want to work.
- 150 The County Durham Partnership is currently in the process of reviewing its priorities as part of a refresh of the sustainable community strategy for the county. The refresh will take account of changing government policy and take on board changing local needs and priorities. A report on the review of the sustainable community strategy is expected to be brought to Cabinet by the end of this year.

Conclusions

- 151 Since the last report, the government has maintained its focus and emphasis on driving forward on the delivery of its major policy projects, with the emphasis in policy announcements shifting from policy development to the implementation and delivery of policy reforms outlined in the first half of this parliament.
- 152 Although the common themes of government policy around transparency, choice, community empowerment, localism and more diverse patterns of public service provision are still evident, there is evidence to suggest that they are being pursued to varying degrees in actual implementation.
- 153 In response to the continuing slow rate of economic growth, the government has confirmed its intention to continue with its deficit reduction strategy to re-balance the economy and has placed more emphasis on stimulating growth.
- 154 In the spending review, the Chancellor outlined how the government intends to reduce public sector spending by a further £11.5 billion in 2015/16, extending the deficit reduction programme into the next parliament.
- 155 He also confirmed that public sector spending reductions would continue to be the major element of his strategy and that he did not envisage having to increase taxes to help alleviate the deficit beyond 2015/16.
- 156 While the headline figure in the Spending Review was as 10 per cent reduction in funding for local government, the more recent technical consultation on the financial settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 points towards a much higher 15 per cent reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment, which provides the basic funding allocation for all authorities.

- 157 Clearly, the various policy changes will have major implications for the council and the steps it is taking to develop an 'altogether better Durham'.
- 158 The council and its partners are continuing to analyse the impact that government policy will have on local communities and on our ability to deliver the sustainable community strategy and are responding accordingly. Wherever possible, the council and its partners are working together to respond proactively to the government's policy changes.

Recommendations

- 159 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and the actions taken to anticipate and respond to the government's reforms.

Background papers

[Cabinet, 5 June 2013, Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme](#)

[Cabinet, 13 March 2013, Welfare reform update](#)

Contact: Kevin Edworthy Tel: 03000 268045

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The additional 10 per cent reduction in local government spending in 2015/16 confirmed in the spending review increases the financial pressure on the council, considering that it has already made approaching £100 million of savings since the beginning of the austerity programme in 2011/12. The council will need to consider carefully the proposal to freeze council tax in 2014/15 and 2015/16, as our existing medium term financial plan is based on a modest two per cent a year increase, whereas the government has confirmed that the council tax freeze grant will be equivalent to an increase of only one per cent, based on an adjusted tax base.

Staffing – No specific implications have been identified.

Risk – Individual assessments of the risks associated with specific policy proposals are undertaken as a matter of course in council project planning and management.

Equality and Diversity – Equality impact assessments will be undertaken on individual policy proposals the council develops in response to the government's reforms.

Accommodation – No specific implications have been identified.

Crime and Disorder – under the Anti-social Behaviour and Crime and Policing Bill if enacted, the local Police and Crime Commissioner will become responsible for commissioning local victim support.

Human Rights – No specific implications have been identified.

Consultation – No specific implications have been identified.

Procurement – No specific implications have been identified.

Disability Discrimination Act – No specific implications have been identified.

Legal Implications – A number of the government policy changes outlined above, place new statutory duties on the council and change the regulatory framework in which it operates. The council considers the legal implications of all decisions it takes.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

11th October 2013

Cabinet

18 September 2013

County Durham Partnership Update Report



Report of Corporate Management Team 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 update Durham County Council's Cabinet 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 includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County.

Summary

2. 2013 is a Year of Culture for Durham and there is a continued focus on a series of events taking place throughout the County. As well as the annual events such as the Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Book Festival and Brass, this year sees the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the city. These can be viewed until the end of September, as well as the recent fourth match in the Ashes test series at the Emirates Cricket Ground in Chester le Street, where England won the Ashes outright.
3. The final event for Durham's Year of Culture will be the return of Lumiere in November. Once again, Artichoke is working alongside the County Council to put on this spectacular exhibition of light over a four day period. Due to the increasing success of the event, this year's will be subject to a ticketing system that, although free of charge, will need to be obtained in advance.
4. The County Durham Partnership continues to focus on preparing for the impacts of the changes to the welfare system whilst analysing changes that are already becoming apparent. Through working with partners in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and within the AAPs to share information on what is taking place as well as identifying gaps in provision, the partnership is gathering a vast amount of information in order to continue to develop and implement appropriate programmes of support for the communities of Durham.

Strategic Partnership Priorities

5. County Durham Partnership held an event at the end of July focussing on welfare reform. The event brought together service providers, partners and the voluntary and community sector in order to build a good early understanding of the impact of welfare reform across the county to identify where additional support might be required. The feedback received, both on the day and on reading the written feedback collated at the event, was very positive. The main aim of the day was to share information on what is known to be taking place in order to help minimise the adverse impact of the various changes brought about by welfare reform and to seek other good examples of activities. Further information on the outcomes and required actions will feature in the next update report.
6. The AAP supported Welfare Champions project is specifically focussed on mitigating the impacts of welfare reform. The project has recruited and trained volunteers who provide advice and support to local people adversely affected by welfare reform and benefit changes. The Welfare Champions work within their community base (often with the Credit Union Development Officer) passing on their knowledge of potential signpost destinations and issues, including: Welfare Reform/Benefit Changes; Credit Union; Illegal Money Lending Unit; Welfare Rights; CAB; Priority/Non Priority Debt; Emergency Interventions (e.g. Emergency Food Parcels). Since the launch there have been over 400 interventions, with most beneficiaries being male, with the predominant age of beneficiaries in the 50 – 59 age range. Each intervention is recorded and there are examples of the benefits individuals and families have gained from this support.
7. Also linked to this area of work is the **East Durham AAP** Credit Union Development Officer, with the first phase of this project being seen by partners as a success. To date: 850 new accounts have been opened, loans in excess of £80,000 have been given and savings topping £135,000. Stage one also ensured that more than £100,000 remained in the local economy and collectively saved families and individuals in East Durham over £107,000 had they had used doorstep lenders and over £1.1 million had they used a loan shark.
8. East Durham AAP Board has recognised this success and, utilising the information gained through the first phase of the project, has decided to support the project for a second phase. Phase two will target areas of deprivation and look at further development of partnerships and networks across the area, recruiting further volunteers and increasing the number of companies who promote the Credit Union and offer payroll deduction facilities to their workforce and the development of a Credit Union Customer Group serving the people of East Durham. Membership of this Group will be drawn from East Durham Partners with the Group having direct input into the Credit Union's main Board of Directors.
9. A further priority will be to reduce the impact of payday loans, especially for those with minimum wage/temporary contacts; this will be achieved through the promotion of payroll deduction schemes throughout East Durham. The project will contribute to the County wide response to issues arising from welfare reforms, including access to a bank account. Durham County Credit Union propose to offer a pre-paid debit card (money would be downloaded onto the card for the member to use for shopping or at an ATM) and a simple bank account to accept tenants benefit payments and for the Credit Union to pay the landlord direct.

10. People across County Durham are to decide how thousands of pounds should be spent in their area and the county as a whole as part of the consultation on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. During October and November, the Council's 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) will each have an event where large numbers of people can get involved in a practical way to decide how money should be spent.
11. This is the first time that the Council has combined a number of different elements into local events to decide: How future savings can be made to the council's overall budget; which local community projects should get a share of a local cash pot of between £20,000 and £60,000 and AAP priorities for the next year.
12. Working across the partnership with our networks continues to be important for the partnership and one example of this through the AAPs is in the mid Durham area. **Mid Durham AAP** has completed a joint village 'surgery' exercise with its County Councillors and Parish Councils. During June and July 18 villages were visited with over 200 residents attending for a coffee and a chat about village assets, concerns and solutions. From this the AAP has been able to develop 18 village action plans.

2013 A Year of Culture

13. Durham has a vast amount to offer during 2013 to celebrate culture. The first major new event to celebrate Durham's heritage has been The Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition. On loan from the British Library, the Gospels have now arrived in Durham and are displayed in the Palace Green Library from 1 July to 30 September 2013.
14. The AAPs are also involved in supporting the cultural and heritage celebrations mainly focused on the Ashes test match. The Chester-le-Street & District AAP developed a coordinated package of projects with support from Durham County Cricket Club, the local Business Association and Beamish Museum. This included an entertainment package with the aim of entertaining visitors on the way to and from the Ground, together with a large town centre presence to ensure the local community who perhaps didn't have tickets for the Ashes match could feel part of the Ashes festival of cricket. This included street entertainment, bands, a temporary beach and also cricket nets to encourage people to pick up a bat and ball and have a go. This generated a lot of media coverage, particularly at a regional level and, as a consequence, businesses have reported increased takings.
15. Another project supported was the Volunteer Ashes Makers Project. Through this intervention 66 Ashes Makers were recruited and trained to support the Ashes and provide a friendly face to visitors and provide local information on routes to the ground from the town centre. Investec, the main Ashes sponsor, produced uniforms and included the AAP Logo on all of these. The T-shirts included the phrase 'Can I help you' on the reverse. In addition to AAP financial support, £10,000 from the Portas Pilot bid that the AAP Submitted in 2012 was used to meet the costs of these interventions.
16. This package of projects was further enhanced by the production of a 'Guide to Chester-le-Street' leaflet that included details of the walking routes into the town centre from the cricket ground. 25,000 of these were produced and all of them were handed out to cricket fans by our volunteer 'Ashes Makers'. This also included

details about the Gospels and Lumiere to ensure visitors had information on future events in County Durham.

17. The final event will be Lumiere. The festival, which runs from Thursday 14 until Sunday 17 November, will feature, amongst other instalments, a fish-filled illuminated phone box, an interactive exploration of the eye in all its beauty, and a consumerist Christmas tree amongst its new installations as well as the return of *Crown of Light* on Durham Cathedral. The full programme is due to be announced in the autumn.
18. Following the success of the 2011 festival, which attracted more than 150,000 visitors and generated £4.3m of economic benefits for County Durham, organisers Artichoke have been working with the County Council and Durham Constabulary on an event plan for new LUMIERE 2013, which includes a new crowd management system in the centre of the city, a larger footprint for the festival, extended operating hours, extended Park and Ride services, and improved communications before, during and after the event to help visitors to come and go more easily.
19. The website will be updated with news and information as it becomes available, before, during and after the event. The full artistic programme will be announced in the autumn on lumiere-festival.com

Participatory Budgeting

20. Following on from the visit of American delegates who were interested in our approach to Participatory Budgeting, the County Council recently hosted a visit by 18 Danish delegates on the same subject. Danish municipalities are looking for new ways to engage more actively with their local communities in order to maintain levels of service, save costs and particularly improve the relevance and quality of service delivery. The purpose of the visit was to learn from the practical experiences of introducing welfare reforms in the UK and new methods of co-producing welfare (service delivery). The Danish delegates requested examples of successful co-production methods and participatory budgeting projects from the perspectives of both local people and councils.
21. The delegates visited Future Leisure in Coxhoe (FLIC), a successful DCC asset transfer and were able to explore the DCC consultation methodology and the rationalisation of indoor leisure provision. FLIC's Chief Executive then gave a presentation on the asset transfer process, the role of the community and volunteers in the delivery of indoor leisure facilities. The delegation was introduced to Participatory Budgeting and the successful outcomes for voluntary organisations and the high levels of community participation. A presentation followed on procurement and Children and Adult Services development of voluntary sector consortiums enabling them to submit competitive bids to deliver Services on behalf of the public sector. The day was completed with a visit to Macrae House, a community building asset transfer. The delegates were impressed with the level of community involvement and use of volunteers and the commitment of Durham County Council to involve the local public at every stage of the process.
22. Following on from the **Three Towns AAP** 'IT'S UP 2 U' event which saw 1,353 people turn out in the snow in February this year in order to vote for the projects of their choice, the Three Towns AAP board has allocated the remaining £68k from the Elite Hall funding to the 11 projects which did not receive funding through the

public event. The projects include refurbishment and improvements to five community buildings and grounds, a new meeting room for an allotment project, a community gym, equine therapy and a pedal powered cinema.

Altogether wealthier

23. The **County Durham Economic Partnership** board met in July and Paul Woolston (North East Enterprise Partnership, Chair) joined the meeting to lead a discussion on prioritisation and future investment as a consequence of the Adonis Review and announcements through the Comprehensive Spending Review. This discussion was a continuing dialogue with local partners to ensure County Durham is maximising delivery opportunities.
24. '*This is amazing, this is Durham*' is Durham's current national marketing campaign and its second theme, '*Discover Durham's Heritage*' went live in May. Large advertising posters are being displayed in locations such as Kings Cross Station and the London Underground. Focusing on our heritage it features new imagery of Beamish Museum and in July is featuring the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition. The campaign is showcasing Durham as an extraordinary county, with award-winning attractions and enthralling events. This heritage focus gives the visitor a glimpse of times gone by and celebrates our social and industrial to spiritual and sporting heritage. Some of our key heritage assets include; Beamish – The Living Museum of the North, Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon, Durham Cathedral, The Lindisfarne Gospels, The Bowes Museum and Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. For further details please visit the official heritage website for Durham: <http://www.thisisdurham.com/heritage>.
25. To support the CDP's top priority of Altogether wealthier, a number of initiatives are being supported. The ongoing countywide Employability Project provides one to one tailored support for unemployed people in the South Durham area to achieve sustained employment. The principle of the model developed is to co-ordinate a programme of pathways into employment; enable unemployed people to access opportunities and build the skills that lead to sustainable employment and work with local employers to identify staffing needs to help fill vacancies from the target group. Through a partnership approach working with 2D Voluntary & Community Organisation and South Durham Enterprise Agency, the project is engaging with local training organisations including Jobcentre Plus, National Apprenticeship Service, One Point and Housing Associations to support residents back to work. There are 2.5 Mentoring Officers working across South Durham and the project provides a flexible fund to break down barriers to employment e.g. transport, skills, equipment and start-up costs (self-employment).
26. Linking into other County Council initiatives such as Targeted Recruitment Training (TRT) and the Apprenticeship Programme the project provides a holistic offer of support to both residents and employers. Outcomes for 2012/13 include: 1,624 residents have been made aware of the Employability Project; of which 425 clients have been referred for employment support; 365 residents have received intensive one to one mentoring support and 181 residents have moved into employment (conversion rate of 50%)
 - a. 102 people into paid work
 - b. 34 people into self-employment

c. 45 people into apprenticeships

27. In addition, the project has supported 94 residents gain new skills and 47 residents have gained work experience through volunteering/work placements. Financial support has been made available to both employers and potential employees with an aim to create apprenticeship opportunities and remove barriers to employment. Through this scheme 29 employers have provided opportunities for 30 apprentices utilising a wage subsidy allowance of £2,500. A further 39 residents have received financial support towards gaining new skills, starting a business/becoming self-employed as well as help with transport costs/work wear. £84,354 has been directly allocated through grants to both employers and residents to support the creation and take up of jobs over the last 12 months. Cost of delivering this project for a 12 month period is £312,000 which equates to £855 per resident receiving individual one to one mentoring support or £1,724 per job outcome achieved.
28. There are a number of positive examples coming from the employability initiatives taking place across the County. One, in the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** area, is of a woman who had not been in full time secure employment since 2001. She was very low in confidence and didn't recognise the skills and experience she had to offer. Through working with her Mentoring Officer, she updated her CV, practised filling application forms in and worked on her interview skills.
29. Her previous experience was in factory work but as she now had caring responsibilities and only wanted part time work this was no longer a realistic option. She was therefore encouraged to look at other options such as care work or supported services as these are often advertised as part time, local and would utilise her softer skills. She applied for two positions and was successful in both and is currently awaiting confirmation of her roles. The applicant has said that she is very grateful for the support the project has given her. She now recognises her abilities and has the confidence to approach employers. She has said that she finds it hard to recognise the shy person she was a few months ago, but now appreciated that in some situations a gentle and caring voice is the one that is right for the job.

Altogether better for children and young people

30. Due to the fact that County Durham has a higher rate of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to the England average a Peer Review was undertaken recently by Wakefield local authority which identified a number of areas for improvement:
- a. Understanding the needs of young people who are NEET
 - b. Determining priorities – developing a shared understanding and responsibility
 - c. Managing transition and tracking - improve understanding, tracking and engagement of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET
 - d. Establishing support mechanisms – including raising the profile of the One Point Service with schools/young people and developing the workforce used to support young people who are NEET and at risk
 - e. Identifying provision needs – matching services and provision to identified gaps and areas of need
 - f. Communicating the message – in relation to the knowledge and understanding of the raising of the participation age.

31. A Strategic Partnership Plan will be developed for NEET and a pilot will be undertaken in schools to identify children who are most likely to become NEET. In addition, work has been undertaken to address the high numbers of young people whose destination in terms of education, employment or training was 'not known'. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the 'not known' figures.
32. A lot of work is also being carried out by AAPs to support young people. The **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** is working with 'Young Enterprise', the United Kingdom's largest business and enterprise education charity. Every year they help 250,000 young people learn about business and the world of work in a classroom environment under the guidance of volunteers from 3,500 companies. Their mission statement is "to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise." Its guiding principle is to do this through 'learning by doing.' Their programmes cover a whole range of topics exploring the world of work, saving, earning, decision making, teamwork, presentations, skills needed for certain jobs, interview techniques, entrepreneurship and raising aspirations.
33. By including Livin in the discussions at the AAP Task Group, £7,700 of Area Budget (2012/13) and £9,500 from Livin funds were secured, along with £21,000 worth of volunteer time, £3,200 from School funds and £3,000 worth of Young Enterprise Local Funding; nine primary schools and one secondary school within the AAP area will be able to take part in this project. All schools within the AAP area were approached and all of those willing/ able to take part have been included. By providing quality materials and volunteers from the local community to deliver the programmes, the students will engage in fun interactive sessions that will help them achieve employability and key life skills that they will need in later life.
34. The AAP Co-ordinator and Community Development Project Officer volunteered to be trained and teach some of the sessions, as has a public representative Board Member; all Board Members will have the opportunity to go along and spectate at sessions. The volunteers have taught the sessions, and feedback is excellent. Pupils have engaged and have certainly learnt from the sessions, positive outcomes include the engagement of an autistic child who doesn't normally engage in lessons, and children now understanding the importance of work.
35. The **Three Towns AAP** is supporting young people through its Youth Counselling project. The young person's counselling support project based at Parkside Sport College aimed at improving the emotional wellbeing of some of the neediest students. During the 2012/13 academic year 34 students have received support from this voluntary project for a range of issues including bereavement, relationship issues, low self-esteem, eating disorders, self-harm and anger/emotional issues. This project has been supported additionally through the use of a counselling student placement line managed by the school counsellor for the first time which will be repeated again in the new academic term.
36. During the **Spennymoor AAP** supported community trips of 2011 and 2012 parents were asked if they would like to 'find out more' and help on future trips. Having completed training with CAVOS and working closely with Spennymoor Extended Services, Spennymoor Area Family Events, S.A.F.E for short, came into existence.
37. The SAFE Trip's project ultimate goal is to provide opportunities to bring the community together. It is hoped that by offering fun activities, events and trips,

which can be enjoyed by the whole family, a stronger and happier community will become a reality. Over the past few months SAFE have been very busy planning and organising events to bring the local community together. To date there have been two very successful events held, a Launch Party held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre attended by 792 people and Lightwater Valley Trip, held in the Easter holidays. Trips for this summer included Sunderland Air Show, South Lakes Animal Park and Beamish. It is hoped that the above trips will prove to be as successful as the aforementioned events.

Altogether healthier

38. The Shildon Health Express Project will tackle the health inequalities in the area of Shildon, improve access to services and increase healthy life expectancy. Ultimately Shildon will become a 'healthier town', a town that is conscious of health and strives to improve it. Health Express will create a local commitment to health by creating effective partnerships and networks to ensure local people are engaged with, have access to and understand the processes for accessing the Health support opportunities in their area. These partnerships will improve health equity and wellbeing for people who grow, live and work in Shildon and resources will be in place to enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and to therefore develop their maximum potential. Simply put; *'People of Shildon will lead healthier lives and have every opportunity to do so.'*
39. The Marmot Review, *'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'* synthesised the best available evidence on what works in reducing the social gradient in health. The Review presented evidence that demonstrated the importance of 'life course', in other words 'the conditions in which people grow, live and work' have a profound impact on health inequalities (Marmot 2009).
40. The Review highlighted the fundamental role that social networks play in improving the health of local communities. Social networks can provide friendship, close bonds, neighbours who look out for each other, promote trust and inclusion and access to local resources both human and material. The relationship aspects of social networks can provide a source of resilience, buffering against life's stressors and challenges. Communities with greater social capital have greater participation, involvement and control over local issues and have better social and health experiences. With this in mind it is envisaged that a major aspect of the project will be the establishment of a network of Community Health Champions (CHCs).
41. Commissioned by DCC's Public Health Team and supported by **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP**, this 'hands on' community level project will recruit and train local people to be CHCs. These individuals will be supported to volunteer and use their life experience, understanding and position of influence, to help their friends, families and work colleagues lead healthier lives. This aspect of the project is consistent with the findings of the Marmot Report around the fundamental role of social networks in improving health in local communities.
42. The **EDRC AAP** Healthy Hubs project aims to build strong, resilient, sustainable communities through increasing confidence, motivation, knowledge and skills. Using asset based community development approaches (focusing on a community's strengths/ assets not deficits) engagement will take place with local people (including young people), community needs will be explored, additional provision in communities will be established and local residents skills will be

increased. Preliminary work has already commenced in Bowburn Community Centre, including linkages with Wellness on Wheels (WOW) which was based at the Centre. A gym is now open in Fishburn Youth Centre for the community to use at a reduced rate.

Altogether safer

43. The **Safe Durham Partnership's** Women's Diversion Project has a focus on two areas: a custody diversion element with inclusion into Integrated Offender Management arrangements and a mentoring element offered to all females leaving HMP Low Newton who intend to reside within Durham and Darlington.
44. The project will aim to assess whether by identifying and addressing offending triggers we can reduce re-offending rates and victims, reduce the impact upon and safeguard dependants of female offenders and to reduce demand upon front line officers. The project went live in April 2013 and runs force wide. The project is supported by the Home Office and the Prison Reform Trust and part of a national Women's diversions pilot.
45. The Alcohol Seizure Procedure has been shortlisted for a Problem Oriented Policing Award and Neighbourhood Watch team attended the House of Commons to receive the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' at the June 2013 national Neighbourhood Watch Awards.
46. Junior Neighbourhood Watch is a fun informative multi-agency educational package being supported by the **4Together AAP**. It introduces primary school children to Neighbourhood Watch, the largest voluntary organisation in the UK, and its ethos of promoting safer and stronger communities. As part of the package pupils are invited to take part in a series of activities held at their own schools for 9 weeks with the last week being held at the dog support unit allowing the young people to experience a day in the life of a working police dog.
47. Each week will focus on a different agency that will have a different safety message to give to the young people. The funding will be used to pay the costs of running the programme, transport, and activity packs.
48. The project will include all seven primary schools 352 pupils in total - Cleves Cross, Broom Cottages, Ferryhill Station, Chilton, Bishop Middleham, West Cornforth and Dean Bank to participate in this experience as they will benefit from it greatly as young people often become aware of incidents but do not know what to do with the information they have. The pupils will be from year six and this will run for the next two years. The programme will start in September 2013 and 2014.
49. The above will be incorporated into the PACT meetings that will run in each school on a monthly basis by the PCSOs. This allows the young people to set out priorities for local officers and highlight any issues or concerns they have relating to their neighbourhood. We recognise the importance of empowering children from a young age to feel involved in matters affecting their community and building trust in young people to increase public confidence.
50. There is an identified need for Junior Neighbourhood Watch over the 4 Together AAP as crime has a detrimental effect on the children who are living in the area. The children are affected in more ways than one and will benefit greatly from this

experience. They will be able to discuss their own views and ideas within a controlled group and will be fully supported by their local PCSO and school.

51. Junior Neighbourhood Watch is about promoting good citizenship and greater public awareness through Neighbourhood Watch groups, increasing public participation in the prevention and detection of crime, reducing the fear of crime, improving police/community liaison and increasing community safety. Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. It's about people looking out for each other, crossing barriers of age, race and class to create real communities that benefit everyone.
52. This is not a statutory provision so therefore relies on external funding. It will provide opportunities for the children and young people to take part in an exciting new programme designed for them and their friends to learn and gain new skills learning:
 - a. Crime prevention and staying safe in thier home, school and community.
 - b. Staying safe online.
 - c. How to keep property safe and to security mark family belongings.
 - d. Alcohol awareness - learn about the dangers of alcohol by wearing beer goggles and taking part in a computer simulated driving game. Emergency Aid - learn the recovery position and CPR.
 - e. Animal welfare - learn how to protect our domestic animals (cats, dogs, hamsters etc) and wildlife.
 - f. Meet Jet and Ben, community safety dogs, earn and gain many more skills throughout the programme.
53. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is working in partnership with the Derwentside Health Network and local leisure provider, Leisureworks, to develop and deliver a programme of alcohol free events for young people. These events will take place bi-monthly in Derwentside College between November 2013 and May 2014 and will host two bands per event alongside a range of complimentary activities and workshops delivered by local partners / youth and health related organisations to include healthy eating, nail art, drama and dance clubs, alcohol awareness and sexual health. Durham Constabulary will also be supporting the events by running their StaySafe campaign alongside the programme.

Altogether greener

54. Over recent months, the **Environment Partnership** which delivers the 'Altogether Greener' theme has been reviewing and refreshing the existing Partnership structure. The remit is to ensure that the composition, terms of reference and the Partnership, remain fit for purpose and the key actions of focus which the Environment Partnership will deliver in future years are strategically aligned to the Sustainable Community Strategy refresh. The review of the Environment Partnership is scheduled to be completed by September 2013.
55. The Environment Awards were opened for entries on 28th May 2013 and work is underway to maximise publicity and ensure engagement with media partners. There has been a great deal of interest and sponsorship received from various organisations. Next year will be the 25th year of The Environment Awards and work is being carried out now in terms of attracting partners and funding. There will be two new award categories next year: Urban Green Space and Urban Green

Technology. Judging is currently taking place and the Environment Awards ceremony will take place in October 2013.

56. In addition the themed groups within the Partnership are involved with a range of environmental activity i.e.
- a. The Local Nature Partnership is strategically building further links with the Local Enterprise Partnerships within the North East.
 - b. The Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership bid for the Derwent Valley has been submitted by Groundwork and successful bids will be announced in October 2013.
 - c. Work is ongoing within the Partnership to review the County Durham Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - d. A wide range of community activity has taken place in relation to the Pride team; these include education work involving 1360 school children across the county, The Big Spring Clean, Slam Dunk The Junk and Blackhall Denemouth clean up (with over 7 tonnes of rubbish removed). Litter picking, the responsible dog owner scheme and fly tipping investigations continue.
 - e. Heritage Open Days are planned for 12th to 15th September with 46 venues already signed up to the national campaign.
 - f. The Climate Change group is actively working with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Environment Board and Altogether Wealthier Board to discuss how to tackle fuel poverty across the County.
 - g. A regional catering waste project is well underway which is led by the Environment Agency in partnership with Groundwork, Northumbria Water and the Authority. 40 waste audits of catering premises have been carried out across County Durham which has resulted in businesses taking the correct action in disposing of their waste.
57. The Environment Partnership is currently progressing plans with the AAPs to carry out and become further involved with environmental projects and improvements such as community clean-ups, tree planting, use of allotments, targeting litter and graffiti and providing a litter free coast. The use of the volunteer networks across the County play a vital part in this work and engaging further with these networks is a key priority area for the Partnership.
58. The **Stanley AAP** Area Budget funded Walking in Stanley project is to be launched by Groundwork North East in the next few weeks. The project will have two main aims: to engage local residents in walking activities which will improve the health of the individuals involved and to establish a group of volunteers who will monitor Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Stanley AAP area.
59. Groundwork Project Officers are working with community groups in the Stanley AAP area to help walk and assess 2-3 mile routes from central locations within the villages. Each walk will last about 1 hour, be fairly easy going and aimed at introducing people to walking as a form of exercise which is available to everyone for free. Those who take part will be encouraged to then progress onto other

walking programmes such as the County Council's countywide walks programme and Leisureworks weekly health walks across the former Derwentside area.

Area Action Partnerships Update

60. The AAPs continue to contribute towards the strategic priorities of the CDP, as shown in the previous sections of this report. They also, however, continue to support smaller, more local initiatives that have been chosen by people living in their communities, a selection of which is highlighted below.
61. Many of the AAPs over recent years have supported a variety of summer activity programmes and this year has been no different. The activities vary from trips to attractions and theme parks across the country to more locally focussed play schemes. These programmes offer the opportunity for parents to place their children in safe environments whilst continuing to work as well as giving children and young people the opportunity to mix with new people and gain valuable skills and experiences. Some of the activities are for the whole family such as bus trips to different locations. These are much more affordable than families having to make the trips independently and also offer an opportunity for parents to socialise. Due to some individuals' financial circumstances these are often the only opportunity that families have to take their children to different places.
62. An AAP success story that came about from funding to the Louisa Allstars by **Stanley AAP** and Stanley Town Council has recently come to light. Last year funding was awarded to the group to purchase landing mats for their Double Mini Trampoline area. Since then, one of the Club's members has become the U15 Girls British Champion at the National Championships. A coach within the Club stated that without the mats and support from the AAP, this would not have been possible.
63. Stanley AAP Board Members also allocated £5,000 of Area Budget funding to the Stanley Music Festival 2013 to cover part of the cost for the hire of the stage and PA system for the festival. The Music Festival took place on Sunday 25th August 2013 in the grounds of Oakeys Playing Fields in Tanfield Lea. It was an affordable, enjoyable and extremely beneficial event for the residents of Stanley and beyond. It allowed bands from the local area, County Durham and wider North East to perform in a large arena in front of an estimated crowd of 3,500 people. The event was headlined by Dodgy, boasting several top hits along with The Bowie Effect, Leesa Mae, Mitch Laddie Band and local youngsters Criptic Metaphor - this is an eclectic mix of music genres that were available throughout the Festival, thus increasing its overall appeal to music fans of all ages and tastes.
64. It also attracted visitors from outside the area who came to the festival as well as using the local amenities in the town. Large groups of people near and in the town centre will always add to the economic vitality of the area, thus contributing to the regeneration of the town.
65. The **Derwent Valley AAP** has also delivered a successful outdoor live music event on Sunday 14th July in Middle Street, Consett as part of its Consett Town Centre Events Programme. The music event was one of 27 held regionally as part of the

national 'Our Big Gig' campaign aimed at using creativity and music to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.

66. Over 400 residents came along to support the event, enjoying an afternoon of free activities and performances from local bands and music, drama and theatre based groups. The high street stores which opened on the day of the event saw a 50% increase in business.
67. The Derwent Valley 'Big Gig' was supported and sponsored by the Arts Council, Department for Communities and Local Government and Superact, a not for profit arts organisation, and was voted as one of the best gigs in the region at the debrief event in Birmingham. Residents are keen to support the AAP in hosting a second 'Big Gig' next summer.
68. Over the last four years **GAMP AAP** has not had a bespoke mechanism for gathering the views and ideas of children and young people (C&YP). A consultation has recently been completed to address this issue.
69. The consultation project was managed by the Extended Schools Co-ordinator and obtained the views of C&YP aged up to 16 years of age. The consultation was undertaken through the virtual platform Moodle at the secondary schools, face to face discussions and focus groups in primary and infant schools, focus groups and one to one discussions with Aycliffe Youth Council and Surestart. The consultations were carried out earlier in the year and were based around the nine GAMP priorities. A group of young people from Greenfield Community College worked on the project alongside the Extended Schools Co-ordinator to ensure that the project was C&YP focused from the beginning.
70. Specifically, the consultation sought feedback to identify the top three priorities for C&YP in the area. A total of 823 C&YP, parents, grandparents, carers and childminders participated. The consultation information will now be used to support the work of the GAMP and partners in addressing Children and Young people's issues in the area.
71. GAMP AAP is also supporting community safety initiatives, in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Police Team, by purchasing of crime prevention equipment for example, keypad shed alarms, warning signs to accompany the alarms, UV pens to mark property, dog fouling bags, bike locks and bike marking labels and pens, UV keyrings. The Police have used the resources at various locations across the GAMP area where they have identified either potentially vulnerable areas or areas where there have been reported burglaries/thefts from sheds.
72. Working with Cowshill Village Hall group, the **Weardale AAP** small grant fund has supported a "honey bee" project; working with other partners, new bee hives; protective bee suits and a colony of honey bees have been provided. The community group are working to increase the supply of bees to pollinate local wild flowers and crops. The fruits of their labour will be the supply of local honey harvested from the hives, to make the long term future of the project sustainable.
73. The idea of **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's** Youth Workers in Training project was to train six local people from the AAP area to Level three Youth Work status, to enable them to deliver youth work across the whole area. All of the places are full at the moment, and as well as being employed as Workers in Training throughout the

duration of the course, therefore adding value to existing provision, the workers are also equipped with the necessary skills, qualifications and experience needed to continue with a career in this field. They are all progressing and passing assignments, and have attended a weekend of training which looked at the practical and theoretical side of running a youth club.

74. **Durham AAP** Board is pleased to co-opt both the new Community officer from Durham University's Student Union and the Student Community Action group in its efforts to forge closer links with the student community. Now it is under way again, the Board has also agreed to continue with the Small Grants Fund for local community groups to apply for up to £500 and via Neighbourhood Budgets is supporting the refurbishment of several play areas including Allergate and St Oswalds.
75. Working with Councillors and communities **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** is supporting a number of projects that will develop the economic impact of the area as well as supporting those most affected by the current economic down turn. The work through the Rural Employability Programme continues and set targets have already been achieved with local people gaining employment (including apprenticeships), entering training or gaining additional experiences through volunteering
76. TAP's main thrust on economic development comes through its work on tourism. Attracting visitors is seen as vital for the economic survival of the area and TAP are currently looking at how tourism related activities on the ground can be more effectively coordinated. Other issues such as the refresh of the Barnard Castle Destination Plan have also been considered by TAP's Tourism Group. TAP's Tourism Small Grants fund has recently ended with 18 local projects benefiting. Projects supported include additional promotion for community fairs and carnivals, the production of a room browser for local accommodation and a market research exercise on tourism being carried out by Barnard Castle Business Guild.

Recommendations and reasons

77. Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Contact: Clare Marshall, Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer
Tel: 03000 263591

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

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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

11 October 2013



**Support for Children and
Young People with Mental
Health Issues**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present a joint report of Children and Young People's and Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny committees which looked at support for children and young people with mental health issues.

Background

- 2 The topic was identified from Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme. The topic is cross cutting with Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and therefore membership of the working group was taken from both committees.
- 3 The review focused on:
 - How early intervention and prevention methods can reduce the need for specialist services
 - How services are commissioned
 - How looked after children are served by mental health services
 - Current levels of support to children and young people with mental health issues and how quickly they can access services.
 - Transition to adult mental health services from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- 4 Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of the children and young people of County Durham is a priority which is detailed in the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan 2012-2016 and the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 which is under pinned by the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Detail

- 5 The findings from the review indicate that early intervention and prevention measures are working as there has been an increase in the numbers of referrals being made to the service. There is evidence of good partnership working between commissioners and providers. A holistic approach to commissioning services has been taken but post

April 2013 commissioning of services will be undertaken by Clinical Commissioning Groups.

- 6 The review found that Looked After Children are served well by CAMHS and that Durham County Council offers an excellent therapeutic service for looked after children and children in need and adopted children post trauma through neglect and abuse, Full Circle and is grounded in evidence based practice.
- 7 Referral waiting times to CAMHS continue to be reduced, with targets for first appointments being within 4 weeks of initial referral, however most are seen within 2 weeks and emergencies are seen within 24 hours.
- 8 CAMHS focus on all transitions in a child/young person's life which impacts upon their mental health including transitions to post 18 services. However the review found that for a small group of young people at 18 years there is no corresponding service in Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS) and therefore a potential gap in service.
- 9 The review report makes five recommendations including systematic review:
 - Cabinet note the importance of mainstream services (in this instance Youth Worker provision) in being aware of mental health issues in children and young people; that every opportunity is afforded to youth workers (ideally in the necessary appraisal process) to better understand the issues.
 - Cabinet request the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage Clinical Commissioning Groups in County Durham to:
 - a) Continue to work in partnership with providers, children, young people and their families to ensure the best possible outcomes for service users.
 - b) Continue the current commissioning intentions that have enabled children and young people to access mental health services via early interventions of universal services. By accessing services at this early stage, actions are taken that will prevent services being required at a later stage when more specialist interventions may be required.
 - c) Continue to evaluate and monitor services that are commissioned by them to measure their impact.
 - Cabinet request the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board encourage Clinical Commissioning Groups to continue to work in partnership with providers and service users as indicated in best practice and to take a Think Family approach to commissioning services.
 - Cabinet request that Durham County Council as corporate parents continue to recognise the importance of their role and in doing so ensure that all members of the Council attend all

necessary training courses including induction training for all members of the Council following the County Council elections in May 2013.

- Cabinet request the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley CAMHS and AMHS continue to follow best practice to ensure that the young people of County Durham receive effective transitions into AMHS through essential planning and delivery of services and stakeholder engagement.

- 10 The review report has been presented to Cabinet, March 2013, Children and Families Trust June 2013 and Health and Wellbeing Board Development Group, September 2013 and has been welcomed by each.

Recommendation

- 11 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are asked to note the content of the report and presentation.

Background Papers: Support for Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning & Performance 03000 268071
Jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –The review relates to the protected characteristics of age and disability in particular.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – During the course of the review evidence was provided from colleagues in Children and Adolescent Mental Health, Children and Adult Services and Investing in Children who consulted with young people to obtain their views of transitional arrangements when moving from child and adolescent mental health services to adult mental health services. Area Action Partnerships were also asked to provide information on their involvement of any projects that have helped/supported children and young people with mental health issues.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications - None

**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

11 October 2013



Notice of Key Decisions

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the list of key decisions that is scheduled to be considered by the Executive.

Background

- 2 New rules in relation to Executive decisions were introduced by The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 10 September 2012.
- 3 The regulations took away the requirement for the Executive to produce a Forward Plan of key decisions, however introduced that the decision maker cannot make a key decision unless a document has been published at least 28 clear days before the decision is taken, unless either a general exception or special urgency requirements have been met. The document which has to be published must state:
 - a) that the key decision is to be made on behalf of the relevant local authority
 - b) the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made
 - c) where the decision maker is an individual, that individual's name and title if any and where the decision maker is a decision making body, its name and list of its members
 - d) the date on which or the period within which the decision is to be made
 - e) a list of the document submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the matter of which the key decision is to be made
 - f) the address from which, subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure copies of, or extracts from any document listed as available

- g) that other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker
 - h) the procedure for requesting details of those documents (if any) as they become available.
- 4 The requirements also apply to an exempt matter as previously it did not strictly have to be included in the Forward Plan. Now a publicity document must contain particulars of the matter, but may not contain any confidential exempt information or particulars of the adviser or political adviser or assistant.
- 5 Notices of key decisions that are being produced meet the legal requirements of publication, as well as continuing to provide information for a four month period. Members will therefore be able to consider key decisions as previously for the four month period.

Current Notice of Key Decisions

- 6 The notice of key decisions that is attached to the report at Appendix 2, is the latest to be published prior to the papers for the Board being dispatched to members. The notice complies with the requirements for Cabinet to be able to take key decisions at meetings in October 2013. It also contained information on those key decisions that are currently scheduled to be considered by the Executive up to 31 January 2014.
- 7 The information in the Notice of Key Decisions provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information. Members are asked to note that this version of the Notice has been amended and includes a column which has been added to advise of the relevant Scrutiny activity.
- 8 In responding to the request of the Board for further information to be provided on any items that are removed from the previous notice without being considered by Cabinet, this information will be provided at the meeting.
- 9 If the Board wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated in the Overview and Scrutiny Work programme.

Recommendation

- 10 You are recommended to give consideration to items listed in the notice.

**Contact: Ros Layfield, Committee Services Manager Tel: 03000 269708
Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance, ACE
Tel: 03000 268071**

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance : Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Staffing: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Risk: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Accommodation: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Crime and Disorder Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Human Rights: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Consultation: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Procurement: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Disability Issues: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Legal Implications: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

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SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
CORP/R/13/04	To Cabinet 18 December 2013	To consider / approve the Council's Tax Base for 2014/15		Portfolio Holder for Finance		Paul Darby Head of Finance (Financial Services) 03000 261930	The CIOSC work programme includes consideration of the MTFP.

**SECTION TWO -
CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES**

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
CAS/04/13	20th November 2013	To seek Cabinet approval to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to close Delves Lane Infant School from 31st March 2014.	No background documents	Councillor Ossie Johnson	Portfolio Holders, Local Members, MPs, Governors of Schools involved, Staff, Parents, Pupils, Trade Unions, Diocese and the Local Community	Sheila Palmerley, Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions Tel. 03000 265 731	
CAS/05/13	20th November 2013	To seek Cabinet approval to change the age range of Sacriston Nursery and Infant School from 3-7 to 3-11 from 1 September 2014 to create a Primary School and to close Sacriston Junior School from 31 August 2014.	No background documents	Councillor Ossie Johnson	Portfolio Holders, Local Members, MPs, Governors of Schools involved, Staff, Parents, Pupils, Trade Unions, Diocese and the Local Community	Sheila Palmerley, Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions Tel. 03000 265 731	

SECTION THREE - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
R&ED/01/13	09/10/13	Shildon Regeneration Masterplan - to seek approval	Masterplan	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	The Economy and Enterprise OSC received at the meeting on the 19th November an overview of the various masterplans for County Durham. As part of the refresh of the work programme for the Committee an update on the progress of the various masterplans was received at the meeting on 24 June, 2013 with a further update scheduled for committee on the 9th December, 2013.
R&ED/02/13	09/10/13	Newton Aycliffe Regeneration Masterplan - to seek approval	Masterplan	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	See as Shildon above
R&ED/03/13	09/10/13	Peterlee Regeneration Masterplan - to seek approval	Masterplan	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	See as Shildon above

SECTION THREE - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R&ED/04/13	09/10/13	Energy Reduction Proposals for Chilton: Creation of a Social Enterprise	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267 334	An overview was provided at the Environment Osc on the 21st June, 2013 of the County Durham Climate Change Delivery Plan and it is intended that an update on the further development of the plan is provided to members at a future meeting of the Committee.
R&ED/08/13	15/01/14	Seaham Colliery Housing Masterplan - to seek approval	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	See as Shildon above.
R&ED/12/13	09/10/13	Adoption of Climate Change Strategy	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267 334	An overview was provided at the Environment Osc on the 21st June, 2013 of the County Durham Climate Change Delivery Plan and it is intended that an update on the further development of the plan is provided to members at a future meeting of the Committee.

SECTION THREE - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R&ED/13/13	09/10/13	Conservation Area Character Appraisals; Endorsement	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267 334	
R&ED/15/13	09/10/13	Auckland Castle Update	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	
R&ED/17/13	09/10/13	Camera Enforcement of Parking and Bus Lane Contraventions and Parking Strategy	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Adrian White Head of Transport & Contract Services 03000 267455	
R&ED/18/13	09/10/13	Assistance Given to Strategic Companies in County Durham	Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	The Economy and Enterprise OSC will receive an update report from Business Durham at the meeting on the 9th December, 2013. This will include reference to support offered to business within County Durham.

SECTION THREE - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R&ED/22/13	30/10/13	Financial Implications of Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing Stock by Durham County Council	Portfolio Holder for Housing	Key individuals and organisations by meeting and correspondence	Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development 03000 267 332	Regular reports have been considered by the Economy and Enterprise OSC regarding the Stock Options appraisal and Transfer project, the last of which was received on 24 September 2013. Ongoing updates will continue to be reported to that Committee.
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SECTION FOUR - NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
NS/24/13	09-Oct-13	To consider a review of the council's Statement of Licensing Policy for 2011 - 2014 and obtain approval to undertake a public consultation on the policy proposals		Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships	Consultation through a survey and other feedback mechanisms with key stakeholders	Joanne Waller Head of EHCP Tel 03000 260924	

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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

11 October 2013



**Information update from the
Chairs of the Overview and
Scrutiny Committees**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Members an information update of overview and scrutiny activity from July – October 2013.

Background

- 2 As previously agreed, a written report of Chairs' updates will be presented for information only to all Overview and Scrutiny Management Boards. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are encouraged to get involved in any area of Overview and Scrutiny activity via thematic committees and/or talk to Scrutiny Committee Chairs and OS Officers on areas of project/overview activity.

Updates

- 3 Updates from Overview and Scrutiny Committees from July to October 2013 are as follows:

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	CIOSC on 25 th July received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the recommendations of the light touch review of the Postal System within DCC.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	CIOSC on 25 th July received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the Medium Term Financial Plan (4), Council Plan and Service Plans 2014/15 – 2016/17.
<i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i>	CIOSC on 25 th July 2013 received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Corporate Asset Management Plan and Property Strategy. CIOSC on 19 th September received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (Q1) • A report on the Council Budget Consultation 2014-17 • A presentation on Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions Quarter 1 report 2013/14.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC)

<p>Update on Previous Reviews</p>	<p>SSC on 23rd September 2013, received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on recommendations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/S review of Use of Legislation to tackle Metal Theft • O/S review of Road Safety for Children and Young People. • Information on a Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which received Royal Assent in February 2013 • A presentation on metal theft incidents, partnership activity and implementation of new licensing powers from 1st October 2013. • A report by the Council's Road Safety Manager and Senior Public Health Specialist to inform Members that recommendations from the review are being delivered upon and a progress will be provided at future meeting.
<p>Scrutiny Review Activity</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Warden Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A SSC working group meeting on 18 July 2013 received an overview of the Neighbourhood Warden Service. • Further working group meetings have been arranged to provide a focus on partnership arrangements, tools and powers and communication. • Members have also undertaken field study activity to gain an insight into the wide range of work undertaken by the Service.
<p>Overview reports/ Presentations</p>	<p>SSC on 23 September received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on their Estates Improvement Programme • A report to provide information on the activity of the Police and Crime Panel. • A briefing to update the Committee on the work of the Safe Durham Partnership

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E & E OSC)

<p>Update on Previous Reviews</p>	<p>E & E OSC on the 24th September received an update on the progress against the recommendations contained in the Empty Homes Scrutiny Review Report.</p>
<p>Scrutiny Review Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting of the E & E OSC Members Reference Group held on the 18th July, 2013 received a joint presentation focusing on the scale of the impact of changes in Government funding . The next meeting of the group will be held on the 16th October, 2013.
<p>Updates/Overview Presentations</p>	<p>At a special meeting of the E & E OSC on the 10th September, 2013, the following presentations were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's approach to regeneration – an overview presentation focusing on the ambition and objectives of the Regeneration Statement, challenges, opportunities, the approach to regeneration and economic development within County Durham and key initiatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) • EU Structural Funds Programme - providing a summary of the programme. It was agreed that the Committee would receive further timely updates in relation to the progress of the funding programme. • Improving economic governance in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Area. It was agreed that the Committee would receive further updates on the development of the governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. <p>E & E OSC on 24th September, 2013 received the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Stock Transfer Project – an update on the progress with the transfer process, next steps and how stakeholders can get involved. Also the initial findings of informal consultation with tenants on the transfer proposal and plans for the establishment of governance arrangements. • Adult Learning Strategy – an overview presentation focusing on the Strategy, national priorities and moving forward the review of the Adult Learning Strategy.
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Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Environment OSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	There is no scrutiny review activity to report on for this period.
<i>Updates/ Overview Presentations</i>	<p>Environment OSC on 26th September, 2013 received the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone Landscapes – an overview of the Limestone Landscapes Programme together with details of a recent visit undertaken by the Committee to Thrislington and Raisby Quarries.
<i>Site Visit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 12th September, 2013 members of the Environment OSC carried out a visit to the SITA Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Tees Valley providing an opportunity for members to receive information on the cost, layout and capacity of the facility, the treatment process including emissions and information specific to the waste arrangements for County Durham.

Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	CYP OSC on 2 nd October agreed a scoping report on Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People. A series of working group meetings involving partners will take place during October and November.

Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>CYP OSC on 2nd October received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview presentation on Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People. • An overview presentation on Special Educational Needs.
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Adults, Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWBH O/S Committee)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	As part of an on-going consultation regarding proposals to reconfigure Emergency Medical and Critical Care services within North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT, a special meeting of the AWH OSC was held on 23 rd July 2013 to hear evidence from representatives of the Trust and DDES CCG. A formal response was agreed by members of the Committee and included in the response of the Statutory Joint Health Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Durham County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton on Tees Borough Council.
Overview reports/ Presentation	<p>AWH OSC on 3rd October 2013 received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview presentation on the Public Health service following its transfer back into Local Authority control. • An update presentation from North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCGs detailing progress against their 2013/14 commissioning plans and also the proposed consultation on the plans for 2014/15 • A report updating members on the consultation and decision regarding proposals to reconfigure Emergency Medical and Critical Care services within North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT

Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

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

Recommendation

- 5 Members are invited to receive the report and note the information contained therein.

Background Papers: Previous committee reports/presentations.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A

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