



## **Local Government Act 1972**

**I Hereby Give You Notice** that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 17 September 2014** at **10.00 am** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2014 (Pages 1 - 10)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chairman's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from the Public
6. Petitions
7. Report from the Cabinet (Pages 11 - 32)
8. Update Housing Strategy following the outcome of Stage 2 formal consultation in relation to Housing Stock Transfer - Joint Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director. Resources (Pages 33 - 36)
9. County Durham Plan: Supplement to Consultation Feedback Reports - Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (Pages 37 - 58)
10. Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014/2017 - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (Pages 59 - 82)
11. Independent Remuneration Panel: Appointments to Panel - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 83 - 86)

12. Treasury Management Outturn 2013/14 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 87 - 96)
13. Motions on Notice
14. Questions from Members

**And** pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 9th day of September 2014



Colette Longbottom  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**To: All Members of the County Council**

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor J Robinson in the Chair**

Councillors E Adam, B Alderson, J Allen, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, L Armstrong, B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, R Bell, J Blakey (Vice-Chairman), G Bleasdale, A Bonner, D Boyes, P Brookes, C Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, J Clark, P Conway, J Cordon, K Corrigan, R Crute, M Davinson, K Dearden, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, S Henig, D Hicks, J Hillary, G Holland, A Hopgood, K Hopper, E Huntington, I Jewell, O Johnson, C Kay, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lee, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, N Martin, J Maslin, O Milburn, B Moir, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, R Ormerod, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L Pounder, G Richardson, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, M Simpson, T Smith, B Stephens, P Stradling, A Surtees, L Taylor, O Temple, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, M Wilkes, M Williams, A Willis, C Wilson, S Wilson and R Young

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Alvey, A Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, J Brown, J Buckham, J Charlton, P Charlton, P Crathorne, K Davidson, D Freeman, B Glass, S Guy, D Hall, B Harrison, K Henig, M Hodgson, L Hovvells, S Iveson, J Lethbridge, H Liddle, R Lumsdon, P May, P McCourt, J Measor, S Morrison, A Napier, P Oliver, A Savory, A Shield, W Stelling, D Stoker, P Taylor, K Thompson, R Todd, R Yorke and S Zair

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman informed Council that the Consett Brass Band had been invited to play outside of the Chamber to commemorate the 130<sup>th</sup> Durham Miners Gala and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the miners' strike.

The Chairman formally reported the death of Newcastle United supporters John Alder and Liam Sweeney in the Malaysian Airline tragedy in Ukraine. Members stood in silence in respect while the Consett Band played Gresford.

**1 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda.

### **3 Chairman's Announcements**

#### **Kirk Merrington and Greenland Community Primary Schools**

The Chairman congratulated Councillor O Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services, on the opening of Kirk Merrington Primary School in Spennymoor and Greenland Community Primary School in South Moor, Stanley.

#### **Belmont School**

The Chairman congratulated Belmont Community School Year 8 pupils on winning the 2014 Future Business Magnates competition, organised by Business Durham, with an app to tackle cyber bullying.

#### **Historic County Flag Day**

The Chairman informed Council that Historic County Flag Day was the day of the meeting, and to commemorate this, the flag of County Durham would be flying from the DLI Museum building.

#### **World War I**

The Chairman informed Council that a service would be held in the Council Chamber foyer at 11.00 a.m. on 4 August 2014 to commemorate the beginning of World War I and the 120 County Council workers who were killed in that War.

### **4 Leader's Report**

Councillor Henig provided the Council with an update report which included the following:

The Leader had attended an event with the Chairman of the Council to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of NetPark at Sedgefield. Since NetPark opened in 1994 120,000 ft<sup>2</sup> had been developed. NetPark was the only science park in the North East and was a highly regarded facility. NetPark was currently 95% occupied with 23 businesses, including two PLCs, providing 400 direct jobs and an estimated 1,000 indirect jobs. There were currently 10 companies looking to locate to NetPark from outside of the County, and the County Council had agreed to support further development at NetPark.

The Leader was pleased to inform the Council of the decision by Atom Bank, a newly announced digital banking service, to locate their headquarters at Northumbria House at Aykley Heads, Durham. Over the next two years, Atom planned to build new offices on a five acre site beside the nearby Rivergreen Centre where it would employ more than 400 people by the end of the decade. The

Leader congratulated all those involved in working to ensure this development took place.

Finally, the Leader congratulated all those involved in this year's Brass Durham International Festival. The Festival, attended by approximately 30,000 people, saw 119 events take place over 10 days, featuring fun-filled, brass inspired performances and sold out concerts at the Gala Theatre and Durham Cathedral. The Festival hosted three world premieres in British Sea Power's Sea of Brass, Fractal Sparks featuring music from Jo Hamilton and a brass-inspired set from Lanterns On The Lake, and Steamsong, a multimedia opera from award-winning composer John Kefala Kerr.

The Festival also provided the opportunity for children and young people to experience performances at local schools, and towns and villages were treated to concerts from world class musicians as part of a community tour.

## **5 Questions from the Public**

A number of questions had been received from the public, briefly summarised as follows:

- Governance arrangements, policies and procedures, staff recruitment and codes of conduct at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- Responsibility for former garages owned by Easington District Council, the last review of council policy regarding the sale of garages and East Durham Homes working towards becoming a private company
- The demolition of garages without consultation and why garages in the Seaham area were likely to be demolished when parking problems exist.

A response to the first question (referring to the PRU) was made by the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder. With reference to the other questions received, the questioners were unable to attend the meeting and would receive written responses following the meeting. Councillor Tomlinson, Cabinet Portfolio for Housing and Rural Issues offered to meet with Mr Liiv, the second questioner, to discuss the issues he had raised.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Council that all those who had submitted questions would receive a written response to their questions and both the questions and responses would be published on the Council's website, following the meeting.

## **6 Petitions**

There were no petitions for consideration.

**7 Report from the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council provided the Council with an update of business discussed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 June 2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**8 Community Governance Review of Barnard Castle**

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided details of the outcome of the consultation undertaken as part of the community governance review of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area and made draft recommendations in this regard (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Moved** by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor R Bell and

**Resolved:**

That the report be approved.

**9 Request for Reduction of Council Size: Greencroft Parish Council**

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which made final recommendations arising from the request from Greencroft Parish Council to reduce the number of Parish Councillors on the Parish Council from 11 to 8 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Moved** by Councillor Johnson, **Seconded** by Councillor Henig and

**Resolved:**

That the report be approved

**10 Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Delegations to the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, and Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services**

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution to the Delegations of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services to reflect working practices (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Moved** by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Stephens and

**Resolved:**

That the report be approved.

## **11 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided details of the implications for the Council following draft regulations relating to the openness of Local Government Bodies having been laid before Parliament and presented a protocol for reporting of meetings for approval (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Head of Legal and democratic Services informed Council that the regulations would come into force on 6 August 2014.

**Moved** by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Stephens and

**Resolved:**

That the report be approved.

## **12 County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2014/16**

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director Children and Adults Services which presented the County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 for approval (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Plan had been approved by the County Durham Youth Offending Service Management Board on 19 May 2014 in line with Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice requirements, by Cabinet on 16 July 2014 and would be submitted to the Youth Justice Board at the end of July 2014.

**Moved** by Councillor Johnson, **Seconded** by Councillor Gunn and

**Resolved:**

That the Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 be approved.

## **13 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14**

The Council considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2013/2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny informed Council that the Annual Report contained details of key Scrutiny activity and achievements during 2013/14 and also the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The key activity and achievements included the following:

- Contribution to the budget process through consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan
- Establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils to formally engage and respond to proposals to reconfigure emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

- Responding to the NHS Quality Accounts for 2012/13 for the North East Ambulance Service, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
- Responding to consultation exercises and engagement activity in respect of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Responding to consultation on the Children, Young People and Families Plan.
- Involvement in the refresh of the Customer First Strategy through a Task and Finish Group

Overview and Scrutiny had also carried out reviews throughout 2013/14, including the following:

- Neighbourhood wardens – a review highlighting the work of the warden service within a partnership context and developing service delivery.
- The impact of public sector funding and policy changes on the economy of County Durham.
- Flooding within County Durham
- A major review on alcohol and substance misuse by young people looking at the number of referrals to County Council specialist services.

Councillor Wilkes, while praising the work of Overview and Scrutiny during 2013/14, expressed concern that issues were not called-in. Councillor Armstrong replied that there was a rigid, adopted procedure for call-in and that any request for a call-in would be considered on these criteria.

**Resolved:**

That the Council receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2013/14.

**14 Audit Committee Progress Report for the period October 2013 to May 2014**

The Council noted a report from the Audit Committee which detailed the work undertaken by the Committee during the period October 2013 to May 2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor E Bell, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported as follows:

The report covered the work of the Audit Committee during the period December 2013 to May 2014 and concluded the first full year of activity following the appointment of new Members to the Committee after the May 2013 elections.

During the period the Council had appointed Paul Bradley as the Council's Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager and created the Council's Corporate Fraud Team following the consolidation of the Housing Benefit Fraud Team in January 2014.

There were 3 key areas of the Committee's work in this period that Councillor Bell particularly drew Council's attention to:



## **The Annual Audit Letter from the External Auditor.**

In November last year the Audit Committee received the first Annual Audit letter from its external auditor, Mazars. This was the first financial year Mazars had completed an external audit on:

- The Council's Financial Statements
- The Pension Fund's Financial Statements; and
- An assessment of the Council's Value for Money arrangements.

It was very pleasing to receive an unqualified opinion on both sets of financial statements for both the County Council and the Pension Fund.

The auditors also concluded that the Council had proper arrangements in place to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources whilst also commenting that due to significant funding restrictions the Council had risen to all its financial challenges well.

## **Refresh of the Internal Audit Charter**

This was the first year that Internal Audit had to be compliant with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

As a result of these new standards the Internal Audit service had refreshed its Charter.

The charter explained the role of Internal Audit, Senior Management and the Audit Committee and ensured the Council was compliant with the new standards.

## **Revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Confidential Reporting Code**

The Committee approved revised versions of both the Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the Confidential Reporting Code policy.

The Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy focused on the Council doing all it could to prevent fraud occurring and made it clear how the Council adopted a zero tolerance upon detection of any frauds.

The Confidential Reporting Code explained how any individuals could and should report any perceived wrongdoing.

Both of these documents had been brought into line with best practice and guidance.

## 15 Draft Annual Governance Statement for the year April 2013-March 2014

The Council noted a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which presented the draft Annual Governance Statement which had been approved by the Audit Committee on 26 June 2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

## 16 Motions on Notice

In accordance with a Notice of Motion, it was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilkes, **Seconded** by Councillor N Martin:

*Durham County Council resolves:*

- a) to become a Living Wage Employer at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than the start of the next financial year;*
- b) to use these positive steps to promote the introduction of the Living Wage for all County Durham employees in both the public and private sector; and*
- c) to urge the government to increase the minimum wage to the level of the living wage as soon as is practicable*

In moving the Motion Councillor Wilkes referred to a report to Cabinet in July 2014 which showed that the Council's reserves had increased by £53m, with reserves being higher at the end of the spending cuts than at the beginning. The County Council now held 50 different reserves and the implementation of this motion would cost less than ½% of these reserves. A recorded vote was requested in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4.

Councillor N Martin **Seconded** the Motion.

Councillor Henig informed the Council that it was expected the Authority would be subject to Government cuts of £30m for the next three years, and it was therefore prudent to build up reserves in advance of these anticipated cuts. Discussions were taking place within the Labour Party to correct the current unfair funding formula for Local Government. Councillor Henig reminded Members that it was the current Government which had given tax cuts to the highest rate tax payers.

Councillor Watson informed Council that the current economy punished those on benefits or low earnings, and the introduction of the living wage would boost activity within then local economy.

In **Moving** the following Amendment, Councillor B Stephens informed Council that it was a more practical Motion and he hoped all in the Chamber would support it:

- a) to **aim to achieve becoming** become a Living Wage Employer at the earliest possible opportunity **so long as the associated costs are both affordable and sustainable** and ~~no later than the start of the next financial year,~~*

- b) ~~to leave use these positive steps to promote the introduction of the Living Wage for all County Durham employers in both the public and private sector, and to make their own decisions with regard to the introduction of the Living Wage~~
- c) **to urge the government to increase the minimum wage to the level of the living wage and for the government to recognise the associated costs to local government within the annual revenue support grant settlements as soon as is practicable**

The Amendment was **Seconded** by Councillor O Johnson.

Councillor Stephens informed the Council that the Amendment was linked to affordability and sustainability of introducing the living wage, which would be at a cost of £400,000 a year to the Council and would add £1m a year to the schools bill. If external employers were to introduce the living wage this could result in increased prices for goods, some of which the Council would purchase. The Government should be urged to increase the minimum wage to the level of the living wage, while at the same time recognising the cost implications of this for local government.

Councillor M Dixon informed Council that following his Motion to Council in December 2012 to explore the affordability of introducing a living wage a Working Group was established which had shown that this would not be a straight forward policy to implement. One of the biggest beneficiaries of the introduction of the living wage would be the Treasury, with increased tax revenues and decreased benefit payments, and it was important to ensure any economic gain from the introduction of the living wage was returned to the local economy. The introduction of the living wage needed to be accompanied by Government regulation and safeguards and not on a piecemeal basis.

Councillor Brookes informed Council that the Working Group referred to by Councillor Dixon had identified that it would cost over £1m a year to implement the living wage. In Moving the Motion, Councillor Wilkes had focussed solely on Council reserves rather than on the £124m cuts to the Council's budget. Only 10 local authorities outside of London had currently implemented the living wage.

Councillor N Foster, in supporting the Amendment, informed Council that if central Government was to increase the revenue support grant to cover the cost of implementing the living wage, then the Council would do this.

Councillor N Martin informed Council that there was no evidence that the introduction of the living wage would not provide a boost to the local economy. The Motion did not refer to local employers being obliged to introduce the living wage but may encourage them to do so if the Council led by example. Although reference had been made to the cost of £1m to schools to implement the living wage, Councillor Martin informed Council that schools had recently received an extra £4½m funding. The introduction of the living wage could be done and should be done as soon as possible.

Councillor R Bel informed the Council that the living wage was primarily an issue which should be dealt with on a national level. The introduction of the living wage would result in decreased benefits for some, which would be a saving for Government. Additionally, the introduction of the living wage could have a cumulative impact on pay differentials within the Authority.

Councillor Wilkes informed the Council that while Councillor Stephens had not disagreed with the living wage, he was refusing to support his Motion by submitting an Amendment. The Council had £134m in 50 reserves and therefore had the ability to introduce the living wage for its employees.

Councillor Wilkes withdrew his request for a recorded vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4.

Upon a vote being taken, the Amendment was **carried**.

Upon a further vote being taken the substantive motion was **carried**.

## **17 Questions from Members**

### **Councillor O Temple**

By whom was the decision taken that Labour members would be briefed on proposed changes to Children's Centre provision three weeks or more before the same briefings were provided to opposition members, and what was the logic behind that decision?

Councillor O Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services thanked Councillor Temple for his question. Officers were requested to provide detail in relation to a proposal to consult on changes to children's centres at a meeting of the ruling group. This resulted in a request for further information which formed the basis of a briefing provided to members of that group. Briefings were also provided for members of the opposition. The briefing sessions aimed to ensure that all elected members had the opportunity to understand the implications of the proposals for their own locality prior to the start of formal consultation at the end of July.

Councillor Temple asked whether this had breached the Council's Constitution regarding the discussion of any matters of significance or sensitivity with local members prior to their discussion at Cabinet and whether it was contrary to the employee's code of conduct to serve the Authority as a whole.

Councillor Johnson referred Councillor Temple to his previous reply.

17 September 2014

Report from the Cabinet



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**Purpose of the Report**

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet on 16 July 2014 to enable Members to ask related questions.

Members are asked to table any questions on items in this report by 2 pm on 16 September 2014 in order for them to be displayed on the screens in the Council Chamber.

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**16 July**

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- Item 3      Customer First Strategy Refresh 2014-2017  
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- Item 4      Proposal to change the age range of Chester-le-Street C of E  
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- Item 8            Transfer of Land Held in Trust at Peases West, Crook
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- Item 13           Review of Children's Centres in County Durham

**1.    Housing Stock Transfer – Outcomes of Formal Consultation Stage  
Key Decision R&ED/07/14  
Cabinet Portfolio Holders – Councillors Alan Napier, Neil Foster  
and Eddie Tomlinson  
Contact – Marie Roe 03000 261 864**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development concerning the outcome of the first stage of formal consultation on the council's proposal to transfer ownership and management of its homes to its existing housing management organisations via the County Durham Housing Group Limited.

Under Schedule 3A of the Housing Act 1985, the council is required to consider representations made by its tenants during Stage 1 of formal consultation on its proposal to transfer ownership and management of its homes. The Act requires the council to use the outcomes of the first stage of consultation to decide if any changes are required to the offers it has made to tenants as part of the transfer proposal; and whether to move to a ballot of all secure and introductory tenants.

The council applied to the Government for agreement and financial support to transfer ownership of its homes to a new group structure of its existing housing management organisations in December 2012. The council's application to transfer its homes was approved by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2014. Following this approval, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) confirmed that the Council was able to proceed with formal consultation with all of its secure and introductory tenants on its transfer proposal throughout the summer of 2014.

Statutory guidance outlining the process the council should follow to consult with all of its tenants on its transfer proposal is provided in the Government's publication "Statutory Guidance: The Housing Act 1985 - Schedule 3A". The

guidance sets out a formal two stage consultation process that the council must demonstrate it has followed if the Secretary of State is to grant final consent to the transfer by the end of March 2015.

The key requirements of consultation are that tenants should be fully involved in all plans and decision making over the future ownership of their homes. The council must provide all affected tenants with sufficient information for each to express a fully informed opinion about the proposal in a statutory ballot on the proposal.

During the first stage of the consultation the council must serve a notice on its secure tenants and those with an introductory tenancy setting out:

- The details of the transfer proposal including the identity of the prospective new landlord.
- The likely consequences of the transfer for the tenants.
- The effect of the provisions of Schedule 3A (i.e. the consultation requirements and the period over which tenants can make their representations to the council).
- The provisions relevant to the Preserved Right to Buy.

The notice is usually referred to as the Stage 1 notice of formal consultation or the Offer Document. The notice and Offer Document must invite representations within a reasonable period (usually 28 days). Once the representation period has ended, the council must consider any representations received and may then wish to revise its transfer proposals and offers accordingly.

Durham County Council's Offer Document was prepared in partnership with a Customer Working Group (a group of thirty tenants from across the County); the Boards of the proposed new Group of landlords including the County Durham Housing Group Limited, Dale & Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes. Staff members and other key partners were also included in the development of the Offer Document. The Offer Document was endorsed by all proposed Boards and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and was finally agreed by us at our meeting on the 7 May 2014.

Under Section 3A of the Housing Act 1985 Cabinet is required to consider the representations made by its tenants during the first stage of consultation on its transfer proposal. Cabinet should review the outcomes of consultation and decide if any changes are required to the offers it has made to tenants and whether to move to a ballot.

The council developed its transfer proposals in partnership with tenants, staff, Board members, Councillors and other key partners. All key groups endorsed the Offer Document.

The first stage of formal consultation began in early June 2014 when the Offer Document and a package of supporting information (including a DVD, an easy read guide and a covering letter) were hand delivered to tenants by staff

members. Tenants then had a 28 day period to make their representations to the council on the transfer proposal and the offers made.

Leaseholders were provided with an Offer Document and a pack of information. The HCA also asked the council to ensure that leaseholders are made aware of a condition on the availability of Government financial support for the transfer which requires that service charges for leaseholders for the capital works enabled by the transfer are capped over any five year period at £10,000. Leaseholders had a 28 day representation period during which they could make their views known to the council. Two leaseholders acknowledged receipt of the information and one made comment on the proposal.

Over a thousand (1374) representations were received from tenants with over 87% in support of the transfer proposals. The comments expressed by tenants indicate that the council's transfer proposal and offers made in the offer document should not be changed or amended. The number of representations and support of respondents should not be regarded as a clear indication of the potential outcome of the ballot. The formal consultation process followed by the council meets the criteria set out in Schedule 3A Housing Act 1985 and has been endorsed by Open Communities (Independent Tenant Adviser).

As a result the council is in a position to proceed to the second stage of formal consultation and issue a Stage 2 Notice to secure and introductory tenants, followed by a ballot in summer 2014, which would be managed by Electoral Reform Services.

## **Decision**

We have:

- Considered the representations made by tenants and leaseholders on the transfer proposal and Offer Document during Stage 1 of formal consultation.
- Agreed that in the light of the representations received, no changes should be made to the offers made in the council's Offer Document.
- Agreed to proceed to Stage 2 of the formal consultation process and issue a Stage 2 notice to the council's secure and introductory tenants and proceed to a ballot in September.
- Provided delegated authority to the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development and the Corporate Director, Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Finance to take the actions necessary following the ballot result to issue any notices to tenants as required.



**2. Adoption of North Pennines AONB Management Plan**  
**Key Decision R&ED/11/14**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holders – Councillors Neil Foster and Eddie Tomlinson**  
**Contact – Stuart Timmiss 03000 267 334**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which proposed the adoption of the North Pennines AONB Management Plan. The Council, along with other relevant local authorities has a statutory duty as set out in Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to prepare and review Management Plans for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This work is delivered on the Council's behalf by the AONB staff unit. The latest Management Plan for the North Pennines AONB has recently been reviewed and finalised to guide the management of its protected landscapes for the period 2014-19. The Council needs to adopt these Management Plans to continue to meet its statutory duties.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are statutory land use designations made under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities.

The purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to highlight the special qualities of the North Pennines and present an integrated vision for its future in light of national, regional and local priorities. Acknowledging the importance of its character and natural features, the Plan sets out agreed policies or outcomes to secure the vision; identifies what needs to be done, by whom, and when and states how the condition of the AONB and the effectiveness of its management will be monitored. The Plan will enable the development of projects and facilitate cooperation with statutory agencies, landowners, businesses and the local community. Annual action plans will be produced to monitor and measure success and achievement. The work will be guided by the AONB Partnership, which includes a County Councillor, and its Working Groups.

The adoption of the Management Plan will help with the development of a range of projects and assist with securing external project funding for project implementation.

**Decision**

We have adopted the Management Plan in keeping with the Council's statutory duty under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

**3. Customer First Strategy Refresh 2014-2017**  
**Key Decision: NS/22/13**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Brian Stephens**  
**Contact – Alan Patrickson 03000 268 165**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which reported on the results of the consultation process for a new Customer First Strategy and sought our approval of the new Customer First Strategy for the Council for 2014-2017.

At our meeting in January 2014, we agreed to a 12 week public consultation on a revised Customer First Strategy for the Council to replace the existing one agreed in 2010 following LGR.

The main focus of the strategy document encompasses the main contact channels used by customers; streamlined service delivery and the council's approach to use of feedback, intelligence and data to inform service development. It set out a future direction for delivery of effective customer service in the light of reduced budgets and MTFP savings.

In line with the 'whole council approach' to Customer Services, the Customer First Strategy seeks to broaden accessibility to information and increase online capability relating to transacting with the council. This approach will ensure best use of existing resources and buildings to provide a network of service access points which is instantly recognisable through a single branding. When implementing this approach clarity will be provided in relation to where key transactions will be offered, such as benefits. By evolving this approach customers will have greater access to services and information in an economically efficient way.

Delivery of the Strategy will result in changes not only internally in relation to integration of services also through enabling "channel shift" so that customers are able to access services through digital means at a time and location convenient to them. Achieving an improved Customer First ethos across the Council requires constant attention and a transformation programme requiring commitment and resource from all Council services. It is a transformation programme which will take some time to deliver and the proposed strategy covers a three year period. The process has already begun however through the development and strengthening of a cross council Customer Focus Board, chaired by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and with Heads of Service representing each Service Grouping. The Board is focussed on identifying and delivering the key projects within the revised strategy.

Members of Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee have reviewed the process surrounding the development of the Customer First Strategy. The draft strategy has been updated, post-consultation to reflect the feedback from the consultation.

The Council has recently embarked on a large scale transformation programme to successfully deliver the outcomes of the Customer First

Strategy and the commitments contained within it. One of the areas considered through the consultation process was to implement an appointments based system for all appointments for benefits / Council Tax interviews in all CAPs. This system was introduced at the new Customer Access Points and operates for all the surgery type face to face arrangements. This was well received in those areas and increases efficiencies in the service.

## **Decision**

We have:

- Considered the results of the consultation and approved the new Customer First Strategy for the Council.
- Approved an appointments system to be implemented across all CAPs for Benefits and Council Tax interviews.

- 4. Proposal to change the age range of Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior School from 7-11 to 4-11 from 1 January 2015 to create a C of E (Controlled) Primary School and to close South Pelaw Infant School as a separate school from 31 December 2014**  
**Key Decision: CAS/01/14**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Ossie Johnson**  
**Contact – Sheila Palmerley 03000 265 731**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought approval to change the age range of Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior School from 7-11 to 4-11 from 1 January 2015 to create a C of E (Controlled) Primary School and to close South Pelaw Infant School as a separate school from 31 December 2014, taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient school places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local area.

Officers within the Education Service believe that the long term viability of separate Infant and Junior Schools is uncertain due to changes in school funding which will come about as a result of the introduction of the National Funding Formula in 2015. Officers believe that, combining separate Infant and Junior Schools is in the best interests of children and their families. Attending an 'all through' Primary School reduces breaks in children's learning and eliminates the need for additional transitions in a child's schooling. Discussions with the schools and Church of England Diocese about amalgamating South Pelaw Infant School and Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior School began in February 2014.

Following these initial discussions, using delegated powers, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved the commencement of consultation on the proposal Consultation documents were distributed widely across the local area on 10 March 2014. A series of meetings were held

between 12 to 17 March 2014 so that Governors, staff, Parish Councils, parents, pupils and the local community could share their views with the Local Authority. Details of these meetings are included in Appendix 2 to the report. Consultation was undertaken between 10 March and 4 April 2014. A full summary of the consultation responses was attached to the report. The large majority were in support of the proposal. A statutory notice was therefore published on 1 May 2014.

There followed a statutory 4 week representation period during which comments on the proposal could be made. No objections or comments were received by the end of the 4 week statutory notice period. Once the representation period had closed, a decision on the proposal had to be made within 2 months, i.e. by 24 July 2014.

The proposed C of E (Controlled) Primary School will be on the sites of the current South Pelaw Infant and Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior Schools with a capacity for 418 pupils. A school of this size would be large enough to accommodate the current and future pupils expected to attend the proposed C of E (Controlled) Primary School. The maximum number of pupils anticipated to be at the school up to 2020 is 348 therefore no pupils will be displaced by the proposal. The proposed C of E (Controlled) Primary School will be on the sites of the current South Pelaw Infant and Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior Schools. Consequently there would be no increases to travel or journey time and no changes to the current accessibility of both schools.

Capital funding in the region of £20,000 will be required to upgrade the ICT provision and provide appropriate signage. The School Capital Maintenance Grant allocated to the LA from the DfE would provide this funding.

In the view of officers in the Education Service, amalgamating Infant and Junior schools is in the best interests of children and their families. A single Primary School can reduce the potential for disruption, which some children experience, when they transfer from Infant to Junior School.

## **Decision**

We have agreed:

- (i) that the age range of Chester-le-Street C of E (Controlled) Junior School should be changed from 7-11 to 4-11 from 1 January 2015 to create a C of E (Controlled) Primary School; and
- (ii) that South Pelaw Infant School should close as a separate school from 31 December 2014.

**5. Draft Corporate Tree Management Policy**  
**Key Decision: NS/25/13**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holders – Councillors Neil Foster and Brian Stephens**  
**Contact – Oliver Sherratt 03000 269 258**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services providing details of a draft countywide tree policy for the management of all trees under Durham County Council's ownership and for those trees in private ownership which pose a safety risk to the public highway, following public consultation. On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 we considered a report and draft policy document which brought together a number of tree management policies and practices inherited from the former Districts and County Council. Whilst the day to day works on the ground are already in keeping with the draft policy, it was felt that having a written document is helpful so that service requests can be consistently responded to and there is a clear basis for decision making. The policy also encourages others responsible for trees to take a positive approach to management as well as outlining ways in which the Council will help ensure its own tree stock is in a safe condition.

Tree related complaints can be highly emotive, and in some circumstances can cause polarised views relating to their maintenance. For this reason, Members approved the recommendation to consult widely on the draft policy. Consultations began on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and ended on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, with a wide variety of organisations contacted and residents all invited to respond either directly or using a questionnaire format on the County Council's website.

A total of forty nine responses were received. Thirty one were from residents (63.3%) and eighteen were from organisations (36.7%). These organisations included six Town & Parish Council's, County Durham Association of Local Councils, three Residents Groups / Community Partnerships, a community newspaper, Access & Rights of Way Team, Countryside Service, DCC Senior Forester, The Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The survey was open ended and allowed respondents to answer freely on any aspect of the policy.

The consultation has revealed an overall strong endorsement of the draft proposals with the majority of respondents supportive of a new countywide policy. Some Parish Councils felt that they would want to adopt similar policies themselves, which is welcomed in bringing a consistency of approach.

The suggestions / comments made by respondents were considered and some changes were made to the draft proposals in light of the feedback. None has substantially changed the original draft proposals and in many cases have enhanced them or led to greater clarification. The main changes were detailed in the report.

**Decision**

We have adopted the draft tree management policy.

**6. Medium Term Financial Plan (5), Council Plan, Service Plans 2015/16 – 2017/18 and Review of the Council’s Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

**Key Decision: CORP/R/14/02**

**Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillors Simon Henig, and Alan Napier**

**Contact – Jeff Garfoot 03000 261 946**

We have considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the development of the 2015/16 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (5)) and Council Plan/Service Plans 2015/16 to 2017/18 and a review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which has been in place since 1 April 2013.

The financial outlook for the Council continues to be extremely challenging. Although the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s March 2014 Budget did not announce any additional specific funding cuts for local government, it confirmed that funding cuts to the public sector will continue until at least 2018/19. Future funding cuts are expected to be of the same scale and scope as those experienced over the last four years although this is conditional upon an additional £12bn of savings being identified against the national Welfare budget.

In terms of future forecasting, the Council has only received indicative Government funding allocations for 2015/16. Indicative funding allocations beyond 2015/16 have been extrapolated from the chancellor’s budget statements and estimates of the impact on the Council made against these. For 2016/17 and beyond, the cuts will only be known after the May 2015 General Election, which means there will be significant uncertainty and risk to planning across years 2016/17 and 2017/18 of the MTFP (5) period. With this in mind, it is prudent for detailed savings plans in MTFP (5) to be focussed upon 2015/16 only at this stage.

There can be no doubt that the achievement of savings across the three years of the MTFP (5) period will become ever more challenging. The emphasis since 2011/12 has been to minimise savings in front line services protecting them wherever possible whilst maximising savings in management and support service functions. This will become much more difficult in the future however as the scope for management and back office efficiencies are increasingly exhausted.

The Council has utilised reserves of over £10m in 2014/15 to balance the budget in order to reduce the immediate impact of savings upon the public and it is likely that this policy will become a constant feature of budget planning in the MTFP (5) period and beyond as the Council continues to deal with the uncertainty of future financial settlements, and seeks to delay where practical, the impact of service cuts.

Between 2011/12 and the end of 2014/15 the Council will have delivered £136.9m of savings. It is forecast that by the end of the MTFP (5) period

2015/16 to 2017/18 additional savings of £87.5m could be required, resulting in a cumulative savings total between 2011/12 and 2017/18 of £224.4m.

The development of MTFP (5) will utilise the public feedback the Council received during the extensive consultation process in the Autumn of 2013. It is recommended that this consultation feedback continues to drive the development of MTFP (5).

Similarly the results of the extensive consultation process in the Autumn of 2013 are reflected in the Council Plan and Service Plans which will be updated in the final draft Council Plan presented to us, and Council for consideration following agreement of the final MTFP(5) proposals.

The Council is one of only two local authorities in the North East to have retained entitlement levels for Council Tax discounts via the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with that which applied under the Council Tax Benefit regime prior to 2013/14. This policy has protected vulnerable residents at a time when Welfare Reform changes have had a significant adverse impact. This report is recommending that the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is retained for 2015/16. Should we agree, the Council will need to formally adopt this proposal at Full Council by 31 January 2015.

## **Decision**

We have:

- (i) Noted the updated 2015/16 budget position with the requirement for £16.362m of savings to balance the budget at this stage;
- (ii) Noted the current budget shortfall of £61.111m for the two year period 2016/17 to 2017/18;
- (iii) Noted the option to create a Planned Delivery Programme Reserve and utilise £10m in 2016/17 and 2017/18 to delay savings and to smooth savings implementation;
- (iv) Agreed the proposed approach to preparing the Council Plan and Service Plans;
- (v) Agreed the approach outlined for consultation;
- (vi) Agreed the high level MTFP (5) and Council Plan timetable;
- (vii) Agreed the proposals to build equalities considerations into decision making;
- (viii) Agreed that we recommend to Full Council that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme should remain unchanged for 2015/16, with a review to be undertaken in quarter 1 of 2015/16 to inform budget options for 2016/17 and beyond.

**7. 2013/14 Final Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Collections Fund**

**Deputy Leader of the Council – Councillor Alan Napier**

**Contact – Jeff Garfoot 03000 261 946**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the revenue and capital outturn for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2013/14 and also provided details of the outturn for the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax collection and Business Rates Collection.

In setting the 2013/14 budget, the Council continued to face unprecedented levels of reductions in Government grants. Over the period of the current Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period to 31 March 2015 the expectation for local government was a 28% cut in Government grant for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15. Since then, the position has deteriorated further for local government and in total the Council is forecasting that Government support over the six year period 2011 to 2017 will reduce by £139m, which equates to a 36% reduction in Government support over this period.

The Council agreed a net revenue budget of £457.814m for 2013/14. Factoring in cuts in Government grant, inflation and other budget pressures required the delivery of £20.900m of savings in 2013/14 in order to deliver a balanced budget.

Quarterly forecast outturn reports have been considered by us throughout the 2013/14 financial year.

This final outturn for 2013/14 has been determined as part of the production of the Annual Statement of Accounts. During the process of finalising the Statement of Accounts, the Corporate Director Resources will be required to make a number of technical decisions in the best financial interests of the Council. Such decisions will be fully disclosed in the Statement of Accounts.

**Decision**

We have noted:

- (i) the addition to the Cash Limit Reserves of £3.032m in the year. These sums will be held as Earmarked Reserves and be available for Service Groupings to utilise to manage budgets effectively.
- (ii) the closing General Reserve balance of £28.132m.
- (iii) the closing balance on Earmarked Reserves (excluding Cash Limit Reserves) is £143.013m of which £31.051m relate to school and DSG balances.
- (iv) the closing HRA balance of £7.155m.
- (v) the closing balance on HRA Earmarked Reserves of £1.043m.



- (vi) the position for the Collection Funds in respect of council tax and business rates.

We have approved:

- (vii) that capital budget carried forward of £22.341m for the General Fund is moved into 2014/15 and that Service Groupings regularly review capital profiles throughout 2014/15 reporting revisions to MOWG and Cabinet as necessary.

**8. Transfer of Land Held in Trust at Peases West, Crook  
Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Neil Foster  
Contact – Gerard Darby 03000 267 024**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought our approval, in their capacity as Trustees, to disposing of an area of land held on trust by the Council at Peases West Crook to Crook Community Leisure.

In 2012 the Council took the decision to hold a participatory budget event in Crook to allow the community to decide where they would like to see a resource of £500,000 allocated to assist community groups and associations to develop locally based initiatives and schemes. The funding had been originally earmarked for Elite Hall in Crook, but had become available as the increased costs for the refurbishment of that building had made such a scheme unviable.

Following the public vote in 2013, Crook Community Partnership were awarded in principle, subject to the project fulfilling a number of requirements set as part of the bidding process, the full funding provision of £500,000 towards the first phase of a three phase project to develop new leisure provision in the town. Phase one of the project is to develop a fitness suite and dance studio for the residents of Crook and the surrounding area. Phase two will include a sports hall and the final phase a swimming pool. The latter stages are subject to further funding being obtained. The partnership has created a charitable organisation known as Crook Community Leisure (CCL) and it is this organisation that seeks the necessary land to deliver this project.

The initial proposal was to develop the project on a former school site situated at Croft Street, however, after detailed consideration of the scheme it was concluded that this location was not a viable option for the proposal and alternative sites were considered with a site at Peases West, shown on the plan attached to the report, considered the most suitable alternative.

In order to gauge public opinion on the potential relocation of the proposed leisure facility, a survey was sent out to 696 email addresses and to 784 postal addresses, a total of 1480. 449 people responded (30.3%) and a large majority of nearly 70% were in favour of relocating the leisure facility to the Peases West site.

The delivery of the project meets the overall objectives of the Council in working towards its Altogether Healthier objective through the increased participation in physical activity the new facilities will provide. It also contributes to both the children and young people and altogether wealthier objective through the provision of both opportunities to play sport and to be employed in sport

## **Decision**

We have, acting as Charity Trustee, approved the transfer of the site at Peases West to Crook Community Leisure subject to:

- any necessary approvals being obtained from CISWO and the Charity Commission, and,
- the provision of a satisfactory Business Case from Crook Community Leisure for the project, as supported at the participatory budget event, with this decision delegated to the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development.

### **9. World War 1 Centenary Activity: Victoria Cross Winner's Commemorative Paving Stone Project Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Neil Foster Contact – Stephen Howell 03000 264 550**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which outlined the Council's involvement in delivering the Department of Communities and Local Government's Victoria Cross Winner Commemorative Paving Stone Project. The report proposed a process for determining where the paving stones will be permanently located.

In August of 2013 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced an open competition for a design to be put on to commemorative paving stones to honour Victoria Cross recipients throughout the UK. It is intended that individual stones will be given to the relevant participating local authority so that they may determine their location. Durham County Council was among the first authorities to confirm it would take part in supporting the scheme and would place the commemorative stones within the County. On Monday 4 November 2013 the Communities Secretary unveiled the design of the paving stone. The winning design uses the material, form and lettering of the family of memorials used by the War Graves Commission. The stones will be unveiled across the country in a rolling programme exactly 100 years after each individual won the Victoria Cross.

County Durham has seven Victoria Cross winners appearing on the DCLG list and each of these will be allocated a paving stone. The first stone will be placed on 4th November 2015. The Council will take charge of the stones in late 2014 and will need to store them until they are required for placing in their final location; the first stone not being installed in its permanent location until November 2015. It is proposed that rather than place them in store that they

are placed on temporary public display in the Durham Light Infantry Museum. In order to facilitate the display of the stones within the Museum, it would be appropriate that they are displayed properly and complimented with interpretive information. The cost of producing a temporary exhibition of the stones is estimated to be circa £10K.

The permanent location of the stones is for the Council to determine. The basic cost of placing the stones will be met by the Council. This is estimated by Technical Services as being £300 per paving stone. Additional costs will be dependent upon the needs of the community. It is therefore proposed that the Council meets the £300 installation costs of each stone and the communities source the funding for any commemorative events and/or additional landscaping that may be desired. Each community will be advised to contact the Council to arrange a quote on delivery of any associated work.

The Council's financial commitment to the installation of the paving stones is £2,100. It is anticipated that the majority, if not all, of this will be in staff time and use of existing resources from within Direct Services and Culture and Sport. In addition, £10,000 is requested for exhibiting all stones at the Durham Light Infantry Museum prior to installation. This takes the total cost from the Council to £12,100.

### **Decision**

We have agreed:

- That arrangements are made to display all County Durham paving stones at the Durham Light Infantry Museum prior to permanent installation.
- The process of determining the permanent location of stones as set out in the report.
- That funding of £12,100 is identified from Neighbourhood's cash limits to fund the project.

### **10. Durham County Council's Festivals and Events Programme Development Cabinet Portfolio Holders – Councillors Neil Foster and Maria Plews Contact – Stephen Howell 03000 264 577**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which reviewed the current position regarding the Council's involvement with festivals and events and provided a framework to ensure the best use of existing resources to create a vibrant and diverse programme of events and festivals.

Until recently the Council's event programming, content and delivery was spread across a number of service areas. As a result, events and festivals

emerged from a number of individual initiatives including the City of Culture bid. Whilst in many instances these festivals and events addressed the economic needs of the county, in ongoing austere times it is recognised that a programme that offers best value for the Council's investment is required. The report focused upon the development of a coherent structure for activity within the available resources and proposes a framework of three programmes of work. This should lead to a clearer plan and process for the future development of festivals and events.

The newly created Culture and Sport revenue budget for events incorporates all festival and events related costs. This identifies a total resource of £698,000 for 2014/15, which is split between direct delivery and support, £350,000 and £348,000 respectively.

Following the merger of Sport and Leisure and Culture, Heritage and Libraries into a combined Culture and Sport service, the strategic development and delivery of events is now carried out by a single service. A Festivals and Events Project Team has been developed to provide an overview of all activities. Any events and festivals programme needs to be promoted to external audiences in a consistent, coherent and compelling way. This requires a single agreed approach and clear brand recognition. Within the Council there are a range of specialist skills in areas such as destination marketing, and it is vital that they are utilised to best effect and play a major role in determining the approach both to individual events and as a collective programme. Consideration will also need to be given to the resource implications in supporting this work.

In order to understand the value of each event or festival there needs to be a robust and consistent evaluation framework. There are no common performance measures (social and economic) and currently each event commissions its own evaluation making it harder to compare the value of supporting individual events. It is proposed that evaluation of events is centralised and an evaluation model developed via a single provider. This would allow for a range of indicators, social, economic, health etc that could be consistently applied to all events against pre-agreed outcome profiles. In order to achieve this, individual events would be top-sliced proportionately and the evaluation resource moved to a central pool in order to facilitate a single contractor appointment. In order to ensure the Council maintains an overview of its Festival and Events Programme across it is proposed that an annual review is carried out. Given the nature of this programme and the need to plan in advance, consideration would need to be given up to five years in advance. It is envisaged that an initial review will take place in time to agree a refreshed programme for 2015/16.

## **Decision**

We have agreed that:

- i. The proposed budget alignment for the future delivery of Festivals and Events is approved.

- ii. DCC Festivals and Events programme is managed by the Culture Board under a framework of:-
  - a. Annual Programme
  - b. Investment and Development
  - c. Signature Events
- iii. The Festivals and Events Project Team continue to review and develop the programmes for consideration by the Culture Board.
- iv. Individual reports are prepared to bid against funding from outside cash limits for the Signature Programme of festivals and events as appropriate.
- v. An annual review of Festivals and Events is undertaken by the Culture Board to agree the continuation of the Annual Programme, approve the Investment and Development Programme and provide full evaluation feedback on the years' activities.
- vi. A single evaluation process and provider for the Festivals and Events programme is established.
- vii. A marketing and promotion plan is established encompassing all Festivals and Events programmes.

**11. Lumiere 2015**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Neil Foster**  
**Contact – Stephen Howell 03000 264 577**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which informed us of the evaluation of the 2013 Lumiere festival and to consider whether a similar event should be held in 2015.

The report 'Durham County Council's Festivals and Events Programme Development' also considered by us at our meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 sets out a framework for the Council's involvement in festivals and events focusing on three stands of programming which include; an annual programme, investment and development programme and a signature event programme.

Signature events are recognised as those which provide the Council with the opportunity to participate in or stage events of a scale that are unachievable from existing revenue budgets and for which it would be necessary to seek funding from outside the Culture and Sport budget envelope. Having considered this approach to resourcing festivals and events, Lumiere is the first 'Signature Event' to be put forward for consideration.

Following the extremely successful light festivals in 2009 and 2011, Artichoke was again commissioned by the Council to produce and deliver a third festival

in 2013. Whilst commissioned by the Council, the festival was supported by over eighty partners and funders, including Arts Council England (ACE), Durham University, Durham Cathedral, East Coast Trains and Carillion. The Council also had a significant role in the delivery of the event. Artichoke was primarily responsible for generating the non-Council income for the festival.

The popularity of Lumiere has grown dramatically since the first festival held in 2009. In 2013 more than 175,000 visitors attended the festival compared to 150,000 in 2011 and 75,000 in 2009. It is now considered to have become an important event in the North East cultural landscape. These challenges were addressed in the delivery of Lumiere 2013, with significant improvements made in the areas of crowd and traffic management.

As in previous years, the 2013 event was subject to a detailed evaluation. A report has been produced by Public Knowledge Evaluation Consultancy, an independent organisation with a proven track record in the events and festivals sector. The report concluded that Lumiere 2013 had been a considerable success. It particularly highlighted: the significant beneficial economic impact; the substantial value of media coverage and the high profile enjoyed by Durham as a consequence; the high satisfaction amongst people who had filled in questionnaires; and the considerable return on investment for the Council. It is clear from the evaluation of the 2013 event that Lumiere makes a significant contribution to all of the proposed criteria and that it was able to deliver a range of outcomes in line with the Council's aspirations and objectives. It would appear that there is public demand for the Council to deliver an equally spectacular event again. If the biannual pattern previously adopted was followed, this would see a further Lumiere event in 2015. The wider consideration of the evaluation of the festival has re-enforced the view that there is a compelling case for commissioning a further Lumiere festival for 2015. In order to meet the growth in demand and increased expectations of the public and to fully maximise the economic benefit to the County, the report proposed that the Council commissions a 2015 Lumiere event.

## **Decision**

We have agreed that:

- i. Artichoke be re-commissioned to plan and programme a Lumiere festival for delivery in 2015, in consultation with relevant stakeholders
- ii. The Council provides a cash contribution of £500k from remaining Performance Reward Grant and £100k of in-kind assistance.
- iii. The terms of the contract are delegated to the corporate Director of Neighbourhood services in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio for Culture.
- iv. Further reports providing an update on progress in relation to the 2015 event will be presented to Cabinet.

**12. Dog Control Order – Seasonal Exclusion of Dogs from Seaham Beach**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Brian Stephens**  
**Contact – Oliver Sherratt 03000 269 258**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which requested us to consider the making of a Dog Control Order which would prohibit dogs from Seaham Beach for the summer months (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September). This would be effective from 2015 onwards.

In August 2009 the Council introduced its first countywide Dog Control Order for the 'failure to remove dog faeces'. This harmonised the arrangements which had previously been in place in the former district councils (under the Dogs 'fouling of land' Act 1996) and extended the Order to apply to all areas of land that are open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) and this includes Seaham Beach.

Before making or amending a Dog Control Order, an authority must consult any other primary or secondary authority within the area in which a Dog Control Order is being made. Authorities must also publish a notice describing the proposed order in a local newspaper circulating in the same area as the land to which the order would apply and invite representations on the proposal. The legislation sets out regulations for the introduction of any proposed dog control order (Appendix 2). It is a legal requirement that, where practicable, signs must be placed summarising the order on land to which a new order applies, thereby informing the public that land is subject to an order. Where orders are made that apply only at certain times of the day or year, any signage must also make clear the periods in which the Dog Control Order will apply.

Seaham Town Council has requested the implementation of a ban on dogs along the stretch of beach at Seaham highlighted on the plan attached to the report at Appendix 3. The proposal would be to ban dogs from this area of the beach from 1<sup>st</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> September each year. This ban would not include the promenade or the area of beach to the north of the Seaham Hall car park. People may still walk their dogs along the remainder of the beach at Seaham, not included within the highlighted area, and would also be able to walk their dogs on the highlighted stretch of beach between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> March. The requirement to remove any dog fouling would of course remain in force at all times.

The introduction of a seasonal dog exclusion order at Seaham beach is in keeping with the ambition of encouraging tourism and regeneration. It is also in line with the practice of neighbouring authorities in addition to being at a location where alternative dog walking areas are readily available. There is local support from Seaham Town Council to introduce a seasonal dog ban. They have indicated that their two environmental wardens would provide education and guidance for the beach during the summer months. This will

help with the education of the order along with the general compliance of the population.

## **Decision**

We have:

- Approved consultation on the proposed dog control order for Seaham Beach in line with legal requirements.
- Delegated the confirmation of the order to the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships.

### **13. Review of Children’s Centres in County Durham Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor Ossie Johnson Contact – Carole Payne 03000 268 983**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which detailed a review of the current service delivery model in view of the new Early Years Strategy and the role/requirement of Children’s Centre buildings to deliver improved outcomes.

The outcome of the review proposes a new model of service delivery for children and families in the early years and gives consideration to the implications for the existing stock of Children’s Centre buildings in the implementation of the new model.

The proposals put forward for consultation as a result of this review are intended to improve service delivery while at the same time reducing the cost base of the service. This will be achieved by retaining as many front-line staffing posts as possible, reducing the number and cost of fixed buildings and making more use of community venues to improve access and use of these services.

Proposals outlined within this report sets out an approach that will:-

- Shift emphasis from the provision of buildings to the provision of services;
- Deliver services closer to where families live;
- Concentrate resources where deprivation levels and needs are highest;
- Deliver services that are directly linked to local needs and outcomes;
- Retain the flexibility to move points of delivery as community needs change;
- Make better use of existing buildings in the heart of communities such as libraries, leisure centres, youth centres, community centres and schools, and



- Reduce the financial, managerial, administrative and regulatory burdens faced by the council linked to the current children's centres.

This report sought our agreement to consult on the proposals contained in the report, namely:

- The proposed Community Delivery Model
- A proposed change to the number of children's centres from 43 to 15

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan requires savings of £224 million over the period 2011 to 2017. The Council must review all services to ensure they are cost effective and fit for purpose.

The report proposes a reduction in the number of Children's Centre buildings from 43 to 15. The centres proposed for retention and transfer have been identified following detailed analysis of a range of data.

A new service model is proposed that will reduce the cost base of the service and at the same time increase access to services and protect service delivery. This will be done by shifting the emphasis from the provision of buildings to the provision of services and by making better use of existing buildings in the heart of communities to deliver services close to where children and families live.

In undertaking this review, the following were considered:-

- The evolution of Children's Centres;
- An analysis of need relating to deprivation;
- The impact of Children's Centres in relation to social, economic and learning outcomes;
- OfSTED inspection outcomes;
- Views of service users;
- Required efficiency savings.

The report requested us to agree to a full 12 week public consultation exercise, during which it is proposed to consult on the following:-

- The community delivery model
- The 43 Children's Centres and the 15 it is proposed to retain

Following the consultation period, a further report will be provided to us, in Spring 2015, which will make final recommendations with regard to retention and transfer of Children's Centre buildings.

## **Decision**

We have agreed to:

- A public consultation commencing 31 July 2014 for 12 weeks until 23 October 2014 which will present the proposals to all key stakeholders, paying particular attention to current and potential service users.
- That the consultation will seek the views and opinions of all key stakeholders on:-
  - The community delivery model
  - The 43 Children's Centres and the 15 it is proposed to retain
- The presentation of a final report to Cabinet in Spring 2015, making recommendations following consultation and including a full Equality Impact Assessment.

**Councillor S Henig**  
**Leader of the County Council**

9 September 2014

**County Council**

**17 September 2014**

**Update Housing Strategy following the outcome of Stage 2 formal consultation in relation to Housing Stock Transfer**



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**Report of  
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development  
Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration  
Don McLure, Corporate Director, Resources  
Councillor Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance**

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**Purpose of the Report**

To propose to council that the Housing strategy be updated to reflect the outcome of the Stage 2 formal consultation ballot in relation to the housing stock transfer.

**Background**

- 1 The Housing Strategy 2010-2015 proposes the achievement of three objectives including:
  - Altogether better housing markets
  - Altogether better housing standards
  - Altogether better at housing people
  
- 2 As part of the third objective (altogether better at housing people) one of the key activities to be completed is to carry out a stock option appraisal of the Council's 19,000 retained social housing units and implement the findings.
  
- 3 The stock option appraisal was completed in December 2012 when the Council decided to transfer the ownership and management of its homes to a group structure of landlords that would be made up of its existing housing services providers – Dale & Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes.
  
- 4 Since then, the Council has worked with key stakeholders including tenants, staff, Board members, Councillors, local Registered Providers, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop its transfer proposal. The Council was instrumental in supporting the DCLG in developing a national transfer policy in 2013 and it subsequently prepared

and submitted an application to the Government to transfer its homes and access funding to write off a substantial proportion of its housing debt to support the transfer.

- 5 DCLG approved the Council's application to transfer its homes in March 2014 and also made a commitment to provide the financial support required to support the transfer on condition that the transfer process be completed by the end of March 2015.
- 6 The council proceeded to formal consultation and completed a ballot of all its secure and introductory tenants on its transfer proposal in August 2014. 51.2% of tenants (11,316 tenants) voted in the independent ballot (which was managed by Electoral Reform Services) with 82% (9149 tenants) voting in favour of the transfer proposal.
- 7 Cabinet received a report on the 10 September 2014 recommending that the County Council update the Housing Strategy 2010-2015 to reflect the developments set out in this report.

### **Recommendations**

The County Council is asked to:

- i. Authorise officers to update the Housing Strategy 2010-2015 to reflect the new developments set out in this report.

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**Contact: Marie Roe Housing Directions Manager**

**Tel:03000 261 864**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

The Council is currently operating within a HRA self-financing debt cap of £245m (as of April 2012). This debt cap has almost been reached and the Council is therefore unable to borrow any further to invest in areas such as new build housing development. The proposed housing stock transfer will enable the new group of landlords to borrow additional funds to invest in housing, regeneration and support services for tenants. In order to qualify for debt write-off, Government have however directed that the transfer must be completed by 31 March 2015.

Transfer will come at a cost to the Council and previous reports have identified an annual cost to the General Fund of £3.6m. Provision for this cost has been built into the latest MTFP Model which identifies this loss of income from 2015/16 onwards. Failure to proceed with the transfer process would mean that the Council would continue as landlord which would mean a continuation in the Council's borrowing abilities which would affect investment in homes, neighbourhoods and services.

Implementing stock transfer will incur costs for both the Council and the proposed new housing group in the development of the Transfer Agreement and the establishment of the proposed new group landlords, which is estimated to be in excess of £4million.

### **Staffing**

Detailed work continues on the impact of the proposed transfer on the Council's services and staff associated with Council housing and its support. This work is being undertaken by Human Resources and Legal Services in full consultation with potential staff affected. Staff potentially affected by a TUPE transfer either from the Council or within the proposed new group of landlords will be fully informed and consulted with as part of the formal TUPE consultation.

### **Risk**

The transfer of the Council's homes must be planned and managed effectively by both the Council's transfer team and the transfer team of the proposed new group of landlords to ensure the challenging deadline is achieved by the end of March 2015.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The formal consultation process has provided all individuals and organisations with an interest in the future of the Council's housing stock with the best opportunity to express their view on the transfer of the Council's homes in County Durham. The formal consultation process has been delivered through the implementation of a communication and consultation plan and active tenant engagement in the development of the Offer Document.

The Offer Document makes specific provisions for:

- Tenants with a disability
- Elderly tenants

- Young tenants
- Tenants experiencing problems with managing money and debt
- Improving quality of life for tenants across the county

According to the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on the proposed transfer it will impact on protected characteristics. Impacts in terms of stock transfer are positive, as accessing additional funding will improve housing, neighbourhoods and services and will stimulate the local economy. This may be particularly beneficial for women who have an increased demand for social housing and disabled and older people who require homes to meet specific housing needs. Younger people and people raising a family will also benefit from an improved social housing offer resulting from stock transfer. Transfer may also enable access to additional funding to strengthen and improve tenancy support services to mitigate the effects of welfare reform.

### **Accommodation**

The proposed new group of landlords will continue to work with the Council to identify suitable accommodation for the proposed new County Durham Housing Group Limited ahead of the transfer deadline.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Consultation**

Formal consultation has been undertaken with all secure and introductory tenants, providing an opportunity for 21,908 tenants and 193 leaseholders to comment and vote on the Council's transfer proposal.

### **Procurement**

None.

### **Disability Issues**

None

### **Legal Implications**

There is a clear process for the transfer of homes set out in the Government's Housing Transfer Manual. The transfer of homes can only go ahead if the Council observes the outcome of the ballot that a majority of tenants voting in the ballot voted in favour of the proposal.

The transfer process will continue to be supported by the Council's legal advisers for stock transfer and the proposed new group of landlord's legal advisers. The Council's Legal Services will work closely together to ensure the Council's interests are protected throughout negotiations with the proposed new group of landlords and that any commercial deal agreed with the proposed new group is properly documented in a Transfer Agreement.

County Council

17<sup>th</sup> September 2014



**County Durham Plan:  
Supplement to Consultation Feedback  
Reports.**

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

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report advises Full Council on comments received as part of the final statutory consultation on the Pre Submission Draft version of the County Durham Plan (the Plan) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule, that have not previously been subject to consideration by Full Council and were not submitted alongside the Plan for Examination on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

### **Background**

2. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2014, a report was presented to Full Council. The report advised on:
  - The content of the Submission Draft County Durham Plan;
  - The Content of the CIL Draft Charging Schedule and Regulation 123 List;
  - The nature and outcome of the Pre Submission draft stage Consultation;
  - The Supplementary Planning Documents;
  - An overview of the supporting evidence base;
  - Compliance with the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Directive;
  - Soundness of the Plan; and
  - Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate.
3. Full Council endorsed the recommendations, and accordingly the County Durham Plan, CIL Draft Charging Schedule and the supporting evidence base was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This included the submission of the Consultation Feedback Report (document reference C1 and C2).
4. Following the submission of the Plan, in August 2014, the Council revisited all of the representations made as part of the Pre Submission Draft Consultation undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 and the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013. As an outcome of this process, the Council has identified

an additional 32 items of correspondence that were not correctly processed. This correspondence contains a total of 86 representations across a number of Plan Policies. As a result of this oversight, these representations were not considered during the production of the Consultation Feedback Report (document reference C1 and C2)

5. The Council is taking the necessary steps to ensure that these additional representations are treated consistently with representations reviewed by Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2014 and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This report sets out:
  - The steps taken to ensure that those submitting the additional representations identified have not been prejudiced; and
  - The content of the additional representations.

### **Steps taken to ensure that those submitting the representations have not been prejudiced**

6. It is considered that the Council has undertaken measures with a view to ensuring that none of those persons who have submitted representations, which were not submitted alongside the Plan, have been prejudiced in terms of their participation in the Examination in Public.
7. Following the identification of the additional representations, this correspondence was reviewed and added to the County Durham Plan consultation database in August 2014. This process has ensured that both the Programme Officer and therefore the Planning Inspector have full access to the content of the representations through the objective consultation system. In addition, hard copies of the additional representations were provided to the Programme Officer. This consisted of a set to provide to the Planning Inspector and a set to retain within the Programme Officer's Examination Library, which is open to the public.
8. In processing representations, consultee identification numbers and comment identifications numbers were generated for each additional representation. This enabled the Programme Officer to write directly to each person responsible for submitting the additional representations. This correspondence set out that the Plan had been formally submitted for Examination and offered the opportunity to participate in the Examination in Public to represent their comments. This has ensured that all of those persons submitting the additional representations will have had an opportunity to declare an intention to speak at the examination. A copy of the Programme Officer's letter is attached at Appendix 2.
9. In addition, it is of note that many of those who submitted the additional representations are planning professionals who have made representations on other matters in the County Durham Plan and who would therefore be well aware of the process and procedures for the public examination hearing sessions.



10. As part of processing the additional representations, all of the additional representations were published on the County Durham Plan External Consultation Portal, alongside the other representations.

### **The content of the additional representations**

11. As set out in the Full Council report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, the representations made at Pre Submission Draft Stage have been reviewed and carefully considered. The outcome of this process was the Consultation Feedback Report (document reference C1 and C2). The additional representations have now been subject to the same process. As a result of reviewing the additional representations, it has been concluded that there are no matters arising from the representations that call into question the soundness of the Plan that would have prevented it being submitted to the Secretary of State on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
12. The Council has given careful consideration to the content of the additional representations. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the content of the additional representations. The table sets out a determination as to whether or not the comments made are considered to be a 'main issue' for consideration. The table then gives consideration as to whether any main issues raised duplicate existing main issues within the Consultation Feedback Report (C1 and C2).
13. Where main issues have been raised, which duplicate existing main issues within the Consultation Feedback Report (C1 and C2), Full Council have had the opportunity to consider these main issues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2014. The majority of the additional representations raise main issues which have already been subject to consideration by Full Council.
14. In addition, it is important to note that in some instances, where main issues have been raised, the Council has given due consideration to these main issues in other parts of its evidence base including the SHLAA (which has been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal) or as part of the Development Management process.
15. Where the additional representations have set out main issues which were not included within the Consultation Feedback Report (C1 and C2), these main issues have now been included within a Supplement to the Consultation Feedback Report (C1a and C2a). This supplement is attached at Appendix 4.
16. Having carefully considered all of the main issues raised in the additional representations it is considered that there is not a requirement to change the Submission Draft version of the Plan.

### **Recommendation**

17. Full Council is recommended to:
  - 1) Approve the:

- Supplement to the Consultation Feedback Report in Appendix 4;
- 2) Authorise the formal submission of the Supplement to the Consultation Feedback Report and the additional representations to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and Section 212 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 19 of the CIL Regulations (as amended) 2010.

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**Contact: Mike Allum Tel: 03000261906**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – None

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** – The CDP risk assessment has been updated to accommodate for the additional representations. All risks have been considered in the preparation of this report.

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – None

**Accommodation** – None.

**Crime and Disorder** – None.

**Human Rights** – None.

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

**Procurement** – None.

**Disability Issues** – None.

**Legal Implications** – Legal opinion has been sought from the Council's in-house legal team and the appointed Barrister on the approach to considering the additional representations, and in particular ensuring that no one is prejudiced as a result of the representations not being submitted alongside the Plan for examination. The approach set out in this report accords with that advice.

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## Appendix 2: Programme Officers Letter

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### THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

### EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Programme Officer: Jayne Knight Telephone: 03000 263400 email:  
[jayne.knight@durham.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.knight@durham.gov.uk)

Programme Officer Assistant: Richard Bennett Telephone: 03000 261923 email:  
[richard.bennett@durham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.bennett@durham.gov.uk)

Programme Office address: Room 3.46-47, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ

14 August 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

Due to a delay in logging entries in Spatial Policy some of the submissions to the Durham Local Plan had not been initially entered into the council's system.

This has now been rectified; I am contacting you to ensure that you have had chance review the relevant documentation, as well as have the opportunity to include these submissions in the Examination hearings process.

If you do wish to participate on any of the matters please email Jayne Knight directly including; your "ID number", the "comment ID" of the submission, relevant "Policy number" and "Matter" (as found in the attached programme).

All documents are available on Durham Council's Consultation Website;  
<http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>

In the Examination library part 2; <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/elp2/>

On the Programme Officer's page; <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/prog/>

Summaries of your submissions are available through the "Who Said What" feature of the consultation website;

A quick reference guide to the "Who Said What" feature of the website has been added to the Programme Officer's Page, we hope you find this useful to help identify key information for your submissions and communications.

NB: there is now a Programme Officer mailbox [ProgrammeOffice@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ProgrammeOffice@durham.gov.uk) to which statements may be sent, in addition to the 4 printed copies to be sent to;

Room 3.46-47

County Hall

Durham

DH1 5UQ

All statements are to be received by the 29 August at the latest.

Yours faithfully

Richard Bennett

Programme Officer Assistant

**Appendix 3: Summary of the additional representations not included within the Pre Submission Draft Consultation Feedback Report (Documents C1 and C2).**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
<b>Little Lumley Parish Council (Consultee ID 365766)</b>				
30	4450	Objection to H37 (West of Woodstone Village) site on grounds of loss of greenbelt. Also felt that they wanted to see clearer plans in order to facilitate a valid consultation exercise.	No. Site not actually in greenbelt.	Comments could correlate to other objections made in Feedback Report regarding loss of green open amenity space.
14	4451	Objection to H37 loss of greenbelt land	No. Land not in the greenbelt.	N/a
49	4452	Would like to better understand how H37 site is going to be accessed and the traffic impact on village	No. This is not a representation on Policy 49.	N/a
5	4453	Parish Council "would like to understand more" about contingency arrangements the Council are proposing in order to ensure school place provision.	No. Not an objection	N/a
<b>Susan Brooks (Consultee ID 854015)</b>				
30	4454	Objection to Cadger Bank, Lanchester.	No. This is a non-allocated site.	This has been picked up in the Feedback Report – Objections to Non Allocated Sites.
<b>NLP (Jennifer Nye) Agent ID: 715672 on behalf of Story Homes Ltd (Consultee ID 806564)</b>				
30	4455	Support for H57 (South of Eden Drive, Sedgfield).	Yes	Yes. One other respondent thought the allocation was sound.
1	4456	Strong support for policy as pro sustainable	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the

Policy	Comment Id	Content of representation	Considered to contain a Main Issue	Issue addressed in Feedback Report
		development and in accordance with NPPF.		FEEDBACK REPORT - bullet 1.35 other respondents found policy sound.
2	4457	Supports core principles of spatial approach.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in Feedback Report – bullets 1-4. Majority of respondents found policy sound.
3	4458	Endorse DCC housing requirement as a minimum.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 4.
4	4459	Broad support for distribution of development.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 1.
5	4460	Policy should align further with NPPF paras 203-206. Support for Developer Contributions SPD but concern that this is not being tested through Local Plan Process.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 5. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 10.
16	4461	Criteria (h) in policy overly prescriptive and conflicts with policy 34.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 1.
31	4462	<u>Affordable Housing</u> In order to align with NPPF flexibility should be built into this policy. Important that Council does not deter landowners	Yes	No. All comments addressed in Feedback Report, except for support for

Policy	Comment Id	Content of representation	Considered to contain a Main Issue	Issue addressed in Feedback Report
		<p>from releasing land. Support three year review but should be carried out with housing needs assessment through SHMA. Support for 10% in South Durham</p> <p><b>Older Persons</b> Greater clarity required behind threshold of 10% older persons housing. Viability concerns raised. Policy should more flexible worded by referring to lifetime homes.</p>		10% affordable housing in South Durham.
34	4463	Policy supported.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 1.
40	4464	Generally support policy but proposed change of wording.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 1.
41	4465	Suggest 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph should be more flexible.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 1.
48	4466	Policy should align with paras 203-206 of the NPPF and provide more certainty and clarity.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 22.
Signet Planning (John Wyatt) Agent ID 549537 on behalf of Story Homes Ltd (Consultee ID 806564)				
3	4467	<p>Housing requirement of 31,400 is too low.</p> <p>Plan does not allocate sufficient sites to meet 31,400 target and does not make provision for buffer of sites.</p>	Yes	<p>Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 2.</p> <p>Not picked up in Feedback</p>



Policy	Comment Id	Content of representation	Considered to contain a Main Issue	Issue addressed in Feedback Report
		Revised housing trajectory shows less commitments and completions than last draft. Therefore further sites actually needed.		Report against this policy but is picked up against policy 30 bullet points 7 and 8.  Not picked up in Feedback Report against this policy but is picked up against policy 30 bullet points 6 and 7.
4	4468	Proposed housing numbers for 'rest of Central Durham' too low. Further site allocation required. This is in part picked up in the Feedback Report – Central Durham bullet 3.	Yes	Yes.
30	4469	Allocate land north of Newbiggin Lane, Lanchester. (Parcels 1/LA/06 a-e in the SHLAA).	Yes	No.
GVA (Richard Newsome) Agent ID 548812 on behalf of John Gibson and Son (Consultee ID 854389)				
3	4470	Housing requirement of 31,400 is too low.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 2.
4	4471	Until overall quantum of development is increased then the spatial distribution cannot be found sound.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – General bullet 6.
6	4472	Welcome the identification of Durham City as a key location for new housing. When overall quantum of development required is	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – bullet 3.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
		increased then housing should be accommodated in Durham City.		
8	4473	When overall quantum of development required is increased then site 4/DU/107 should be allocated as a strategic site, either in part or in full.	Yes	Yes. Not picked up in Feedback Report against Policy 8 but picked up in Feedback Report against Policy 30.
14	4474	When overall quantum of development required is increased then site 4/DU/107 should be released from the greenbelt.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report –bullet 1.
30	4475	When overall quantum of development required is increased then site 4/DU/107 should be allocated in the Plan.	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – Additional Housing Sites submitted at the pre-submission draft stage.
30 Proposal Map	4476	Removal of site from the greenbelt. Either in full or part depending on housing requirement. If no additional housing required in Durham City, or only part of the site is required then the whole site should still be removed from the greenbelt on the proposals map and safeguarded for future development beyond the plan period.	Yes	Yes. Picked up through Feedback Report for policy 30.
14 Proposal Map	4477	Removal of site from the greenbelt. Either in full or part depending on housing requirement. If no additional housing	Yes	Yes. Picked up through Feedback Report for policy 30.

Policy	Comment Id	Content of representation	Considered to contain a Main Issue	Issue addressed in Feedback Report
		required in Durham City, or only part of the site is required then the whole site should still be removed from the greenbelt on the proposals map and safeguarded for future development beyond the plan period.		
Great Willington Town Council (Consultee ID 852872)				
2	4445	Willington / Crook together should be designated as one of the 12 no. Main Towns identified by Policy 2 as supporting the sub-regional centre of Durham City.	No	N/a – comment on settlement study evidence base rather than Policy.
30	4446	Seek the reinstatement of the allocation of land located opposite West Road - Preferred Options Document Site HA/104 (SHLAA 3/WL/01).	Yes	Yes. This is picked up in the Feedback Report – Additional Housing Sites submitted at the pre-submission draft stage.
25	4447	Seek the allocation for retail development of the site accommodating an extant planning permission (Reg Ref: CMA/3/33) for the construction of a supermarket at 45 High Street, Willington.	No	N/a – site is a commitment.
26	4448	Seek the identification of Crook / Willington as a Small Town Centre in Policy 26.	No – relates to Settlement Study Evidence Base	N/a
9	4449	Strong support for the proposal to construct the Durham City Western Relief Road.	Yes	Yes. 6 respondents found the policy sound
Mineral Products Association MPA (Consultee ID 364871)				
60	2231	Object to the MSA not being shown on the	Yes	Yes. Comments

Policy	Comment Id	Content of representation	Considered to contain a Main Issue	Issue addressed in Feedback Report
		proposals map. Object to the thresholds detailed in criteria E of Policy 60. Object to methodology for defining safeguarding area for sand in Appendix D. They require changes to Appendix E. These issues are picked up in the Feedback Report –bullet 4.		included in Feedback Report.
PAR Petroleum (Consultee ID 797310) –Mark Smith, Wardell Armstrong LLP (Agent ID 797302)				
14	4442	Request for Land adjacent to the west of Lumley Sixth Pit Industrial Estate to be removed from the Green Belt.	Yes	No.
23	4443	Request for Land adjacent to the west of Lumley Sixth Pit Industrial Estate to be removed from the Green Belt.	Yes	No.
Prof Timothy Clark (Consultee ID 502907)				
Sustainability Appraisal Report & Non-technical summary	211	Raised concern over the approach to the SA and that it doesn't consider the potential residual effect of mitigation proposals	Yes	Yes - Identical rep to that made by Roger Cornwell for City of Durham Trust (Comment ID 176).
Mrs L Rippon (Consultee ID 712756)				
30	4527	Objection to Cadger Bank.	No. This is a non-allocated site.	This has been picked up in the Feedback Report – Objections to Non Allocated Sites.
Mr Mark Willett (Consultee ID 854987)				

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
9	4540	Objects to new roads around Durham	Yes	Yes – in detail
10	4542	Objects to new roads around Durham	Yes	Yes – in detail
<b>Ian Waterstreet (Consultee ID 855024)</b>				
14	4554	Support for non-strategic green belt release at Fencehouses	Yes	Yes - specifically
<b>Tom &amp; Caron Herron (Consultee ID 855023)</b>				
30	4556	Objects to allocation H26 at Consett	Yes	Yes – Other reps to site raising same issues
<b>Mr John Harrison (Consultee ID 439744)</b>				
30	4564	Objects to allocation H26 at Consett	Yes	Yes – Other reps to site raising same issues
<b>J K Gale (Consultee ID 855055)</b>				
2	4574	Objecting to lack of Plan proposals for Tow Law and the focus on Main Towns	Yes	Not specifically in relation to Tow Law but the issues of focus on main towns and of not considering the needs of smaller settlements is noted
23	4575	Objecting to lack of Plan proposals, addressing employment issues Tow Law	Yes	As above
<b>Ms Gillan Gibson for CPRE (Consultee ID 365574)</b>				
Para 3.1	4596	Detailed rep covering a number of Plan matters but focusing upon the Vision	Yes	An identical rep has been recorded as unknown respondent and responses prepared.
23	4599	Objection to removal of land south of Drum from green belt	Yes	Yes – specifically referenced

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
<b>Mr John Garrod (Consultee ID 707709)</b>				
30	4601	Supports removal of Plcktree housing allocation.	No. This is a non-allocated site.	This has been picked up in the Feedback Report – Objections to Non Allocated Sites.
<b>Jane Walker (Consultee ID 855155)</b>				
6	4619	Objects to the amount of development in Durham City.	Yes	Yes - in detail
32	4621	Too many students in Durham City.	Yes	Yes - in detail
<b>Anne Stead (Consultee ID 855175)</b>				
30	4642	Object to East of Mill Lane	Yes	Other objections have been made to this site.
<b>Dawn Dodds (Consultee ID 855195)</b>				
8	4664	Object to Sniperley Park Strategic Housing Allocation	Yes	Yes – in detail
<b>Roger and Susan Hudspith (Consultee ID 716735)</b>				
32	4667	Too many students in Durham City.	Yes	Yes - in detail
6	4668	Objects to the amount of development in Durham City.	Yes	Yes - in detail
7	4669	Uncertainty over end users of Aykley Heads.	Yes	Issues included in Feedback Report.
9	4670	Object to Western Relief Road.	Yes	Yes
10	4672	Object to Northern Relief Road.	Yes	Yes
<b>Alan Hayton (Consultee ID 855201)</b>				
30	4677	Support allocation of Whinney Hill housing allocation.	Yes	Support
32	4682	Failure to treat Policy 32 as strategic is unsound.	Yes	Yes – in detail
<b>J M Spalding (Consultee ID 855204)</b>				
30	4678	Object to Stockton Road, Sedgfield housing	Yes	Other objections have

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
		allocation.		been made to this site.
<b>Maze Planning (Consultee ID 714809)</b>				
30	4708	Proposes site allocation at English Martyrs School.	Yes	Although not an allocation and not captured in the Feedback Report this site would be acceptable for housing development under existing and future plan policy.
<b>Richard Smith (Consultee ID 800989)</b>				
30	4712	Object to East of Mill Lane	Yes	Other objections have been made to this site.
<b>Ian Lyle (Consultee ID 855182)</b>				
2	4655	Support the Spatial Approach.	Yes	Support
3	4657	Support the housing requirement.	Yes	Support
4	4658	Too much housing in Central Durham and not enough in West Durham.	Yes	Issues included in feedback report.
6	4659	5200 houses in Durham City is not achievable.	Yes	Not specifically mentioned but very similar comments included.
9	4660	Object to Western Relief Road.	Yes	Yes
10	4661	Object to Northern Relief Road.	Yes	Yes
15	4662	Support approach on unallocated sites.	Yes	Support
30	4663	Support approach of policy.	Yes	Support
35	4665	Changes required to Policy 35 because of confusion on how it works with Policy 15 and policy needs to be	Yes	Issues included in Feedback Report.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
		more flexible.		
<b>T Manners Sons (Consultee ID 715681)</b>				
5	4730	Object to level of CIL in the Durham charging zone.	Yes	Yes in Feedback Report for CIL Charging Schedule.
15	4728	Policy overly restrictive	Yes	Issue included in Feedback Report.
30	4726	Proposed additional housing allocation at Vicarage Farm Close, Escomb	Yes	Not included in Feedback Report however the information provided is a resubmission of that submitted at the Preferred Options stage and has been fully considered.
35	4729	Changes required to Policy 35 because of confusion on how it works with Policy 15 and policy needs to be more flexible.	Yes	Issues included in Feedback Report.
<b>Stephen Hudspith (Consultee ID 798441)</b>				
9	4734	Believes the Western Relief Road would be ineffective in reducing congestion.	Yes	Yes – in detail
<b>Mr Boon (consulee id 710164) Andrew Moss (agent ID 459107)</b>				
30	4748	Support housing allocation but objects to phasing of site.	Yes	Issue included in Feedback Report Sites (C2)
<b>Story Homes (Consutee ID 806564) John Wyatt Signet Planning (agent id 549537)</b>				
25	4754	Proposed that the identified retail need should to be accommodated on the housing allocation H55 together with housing.	Yes.	No. However this proposal has been known to officers through Development Management.



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
4	4753	The yield proposed for housing allocation H55 is too low and should be allocated for an additional 91 houses.	Yes.	Yes issue included in Feedback Report Sites (C2).
23	4752	Suggests that the County's housing requirement is too low. Should include a 10% allowance for under delivery.	Yes.	Yes issue of the quantity being too low is reflected in Feedback Report against Policy 3. No specific mention of a buffer.
25	4751	Reduced yield for site allocation H55 should be higher at 291 houses. H55 placed in the "medium" term phasing option but should be "short" term.	Yes.	Yes both issues included in Feedback Report Sites (C2).
B Glassford (Consultee ID855937) Sarah Worthington Peacock and Smith (agent id 855934)				
30	4758	Land west of Thorpe Road, Easington should be allocated as an additional site in Easington because of the land supply and build out rates across East Durham.	Yes.	No. However the site was made known through the Development Management process.
12	4759	The executive housing allocation at Lambton exceeds the 1% target and thus diminishes the potential effectiveness of Policy 13. Land west of Thorpe Road could assist in a more dispersed approach to executive housing.	Yes.	Yes. The issue of a more dispersed approach to executive housing is included although land west of Thorpe Road was not included for consideration as an alternative executive housing site.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Comment Id</b>	<b>Content of representation</b>	<b>Considered to contain a Main Issue</b>	<b>Issue addressed in Feedback Report</b>
13	4760	The criteria included in Policy 13 is too onerous particularly the final criterion.	Yes.	Yes. Specific mention is made regarding each of the criterion.
Gleeson Homes (Consultee id 855930) John Wyatt Signet Planning (agent id 549537)				
30	4756	H54 can accommodate a potential yield of 130 units. The phasing should be "short" term.	Yes.	No. Although reference is made to a larger parcel of the site which could accommodate a greater number of units.
30	4757	Chilton could support a higher distribution. It is currently too low.	Yes.	No.

**Appendix 4: Supplement to the Consultation Feedback Report (C1a and C2a).**

<b>Relevant of the Pre-Submission Draft Plan</b>	<b>Summary of Main Issues Raised</b>	<b>Council Response to Main Issues</b>
Policy 2 (Spatial Approach)	Specific reference should be made to Tow Law.	Other than the sub-regional centre Durham City, no specific mention is made to any settlement.
Policy 3 (Quantity of Development)	Plan does not allocate sufficient sites to meet 31,400 target and does not make provision for buffer of sites.  Revised housing trajectory shows less commitments and completions than last draft. Therefore further sites actually needed.  A 10% buffer should be applied.	The Plan allocates sufficient land to meet the 31,400 housing requirement.  A discount approach is enshrined in the trajectory to ensure a realistic approach to existing commitments is applied.
Policy 4 (Distribution of Development)	Additional housing should be proposed for Chilton.	The proposed level of housing for Chilton is considered to be appropriate.
Policy 6 (Durham City)	5,200 new homes for Durham City is not achievable.	The proposed level of growth for Durham City is evidenced as achievable.
Policy 14 (Green Belt)	Request for Land adjacent to the west of Lumley Sixth Pit Industrial Estate to be removed from the Green Belt.	All alternative sites proposed will be put to the Inspector at Examination in Public for consideration.
Policy 23 (Employment Land)	Specific reference should be made to Tow Law.	General employment allocations at Tow Law are specifically mentioned.
Policy 25 (Retail Allocations and Town Centre Regeneration Areas)	The retail need identified for Ferryhill could be accommodated, together with housing, on allocation H55 (South of Dean Road).	All known sites in Ferryhill were assessed. Land at Dean Road is considered as suitable for housing but not retail given it would constitute out of town retail development.

Policy 30 (Housing Land Allocations)	Alternative site proposed at Newbiggin Lane, Lanchester (SHLAA refs 1/LA/06a, b, c, d, e).	The Newbiggin Lane site, Lanchester was deemed unsuitable for development within the SHLAA. The site is currently subject to a live planning application.
	Support for the site H4 (Whinney Hill).	Support welcomed.
	Alternative site proposed at English Martyrs School.	The English Martyrs School site will be subject to Policy 15 (Development on Unallocated Sites in the Built Up Area).
	Alternative site proposed at Vicarage Farm Close, Escomb (3/ES/02).	Vicarage Farm, Escomb - whilst this site was deemed suitable for housing purposes through the SHLAA there are sustainability concerns due to the limited facilities within Escomb.
	Land West of Thorpe Road, Easington should be considered as an additional allocation.	Land West of Thorpe Road, Easington - whilst was not considered through the SHLAA process, the site was discussed through the DM process and deemed to be unsuitable for residential.
	Site H54 (West Chilton Farm), a higher yield and short term phasing.	West Chilton Farm was minded to approve at planning committee subject to the agreement of the Section 106. The permission was for 136 units rather than 118 as estimated within the Plan.
Policy 31 (Addressing Housing Need)	Support for the 10% affordable housing target for South Durham.	Support welcomed.

**County Council**

**17 September 2014**

**Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17**



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**Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director for Children and Adults Services**

**Councillor Lucy Hovvels, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Safer and Healthier Communities**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present Full Council with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17 for agreement (attached as Appendix 2).

**Background**

2. The development and implementation of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is a statutory requirement for Durham County Council and other responsible authorities, including the Police and NHS.
3. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (known in County Durham as the Safe Durham Partnership Plan) is part of the Policy Framework in the Council's Constitution.
4. The purpose of the Plan is to demonstrate how the responsible authorities will work together to reduce crime and disorder across County Durham. It has informed the development of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-30 and is aligned to the "Altogether Safer" section of the Strategy.
5. Following the completion of the 2013 Strategic Assessment in November 2013, no change was made to existing strategic objectives.
6. In January 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership strategic objectives and outcomes were agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board.
7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the strategic objectives in the Plan, but within the context of current resource and funding implications.

**Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17**

8. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan has been informed by the Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2013, local views collated through Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings (these are public meetings with local neighbourhood police teams) and national policy developments; including Transforming Rehabilitation which is the government's programme for reforming the delivery of

offender services in the community to reduce reoffending rates whilst delivering improved value for money.

9. The Partnership Plan 2014-17 describes the progress and achievements of the Safe Durham Partnership over the lifetime of the previous 2011-14 Partnership Plan and demonstrates how the Safe Durham Partnership will continue to deliver sustainable improvements. The Plan describes why the objectives have been prioritised, the key challenges to meeting the objectives, an understanding of how the objectives will be delivered and how we will know if we have been successful.

### **Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework**

10. The Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is provided below:

#### **Strategic Objective: Reduce anti-social behaviour**

- ❖ Increase public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to communities
- ❖ Reduce anti-social behaviour - including low level crime and secondary deliberate fires
- ❖ Create high quality, clean, green, attractive, accessible environment

#### **Strategic Objective: Protecting vulnerable people from harm**

- ❖ Provide protection and support to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children - whilst working towards preventing its occurrence within County Durham
- ❖ Tackle sexual violence and the negative impact it has on individuals and families.
- ❖ Reduce the impact of Hate Crime

#### **Strategic Objective: Reducing re-offending**

- ❖ Prevent inter-generational offending
- ❖ Prevent repeat offending

#### **Strategic Objective: Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction**

- ❖ Reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities
- ❖ Reduce the harm caused by drugs / substances - through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery

#### **Strategic Objective: Embed the Think Family approach**

- ❖ Embed 'Think Family' and 'Stronger Families' into offender and victim services as part of the prevention and early help approach

#### **Strategic Objective: Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism**

- ❖ Implement CONTEST (national strategy)
- ❖ Challenge extremism and intolerance

#### **Strategic Objective: Road Casualty reduction**

- ❖ Improve education and raise awareness

- ❖ Improve health and wellbeing of communities through road casualty reduction
- ❖ Develop a safer road environment

11. Thematic groups of the Safe Durham Partnership are engaged in the refresh of their thematic strategies to take forward actions to meet the strategic objectives and outcomes which includes the:

- Drug Strategy 2014-17
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2014-17
- Contest Delivery Plan 2014-17
- Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2014-17

12. At the end of the 2014-15 period, both the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will be refreshed and will cover the period 2015-17

13. Thematic groups have developed their action plans to support the delivery of thematic strategies.

#### **Recommendations and reasons**

14. The Council is recommended to:

- a) Agree the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17.
- b) Note the Safe Durham Partnership Plan will be publicised on the Durham County Council website following agreement from Durham County Council.

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**Contact: Peter Appleton, Head of Planning & Service Strategy**  
**Children and Adults Services**  
**Tel: 03000 267381**

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#### **Background papers**

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17 report to Corporate Management Team  
Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17 report to Cabinet

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

Delivery/Action Plans will be developed to support the delivery of the Partnership Plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated funding to support the delivery of those action plans.

### **Staffing**

The Plan will be implemented using existing resources. Durham County Council will contribute to the delivery of the plan in partnership with other responsible authorities.

### **Risk**

No adverse implications.

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

An impact assessment in relation to Equality and Diversity implications has been undertaken as part of the development of the Partnership Plan.

### **Accommodation**

No adverse implications.

### **Crime and disorder**

The Partnership Plan outlines the Safe Durham Partnership priorities for tackling crime and disorder in County Durham.

### **Human rights**

No adverse implications.

### **Consultation**

Statutory consultation with the community and stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the Strategic Assessment process.

### **Procurement**

No adverse implications.

### **Disability Issues**

No direct adverse implications. An impact assessment will be undertaken on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

### **Legal Implications**

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that Durham County Council, along with the other responsible authorities (Durham Constabulary, NHS Commissioning Groups, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust), develop and implement a Partnership Plan.



Altogether  
**safer**

Safe Durham Partnership

# Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014 - 2017



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## 1. Foreword

### Welcome to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2014-17.

**Our vision is for a county where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe. Working in partnership is essential to achieving our vision.**

Partnership working across County Durham continues to go from strength to strength. When introducing our previous Partnership Plan in 2011, we explained how our commitment to working in partnership had ensured real and tangible improvements to the quality of life of our communities; so much so that in 2011 crime in County Durham was at its lowest since 1983.

Crime levels continued to reduce in County Durham between 2012-13, however, in line with the national picture we experienced an increase in recorded crime in County Durham during 2013-14. Despite this increase we continue to have one of the lowest crime rates in the country and during the last three years we have built upon our previous success and experienced further reductions in anti-social behaviour, fewer young people in the criminal justice system and reduced rates of re-offending. We continue to strengthen the support for victims of domestic abuse and provide more opportunities for offenders to recover from drug and alcohol misuse.

Working in partnership is crucial if we are to meet existing and emerging challenges and work towards achieving our vision in this time of significant change in the public sector. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2014-17 demonstrates how partner organisations will work together to tackle those issues that are of most concern to the people of County Durham, in order that our communities feel safe and have confidence in those agencies delivering services to them.

We will involve a wide range of agencies, members of our communities, voluntary and community sector, social enterprises and charities in our Partnership working and respond to the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this Plan in order to deliver an 'Altogether Safer' and 'Altogether Better' Durham.



**Rachel Shimmmin**  
Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and Portfolio Director of Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council



**Councillor Lucy Hovvels**  
Vice Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and Portfolio Holder for Safer and Healthier Communities, Durham County Council

## 2. Introduction

The Safe Durham Partnership has a statutory duty to develop and implement a Partnership Plan which describes how responsible authorities will work together to tackle crime and disorder. The Plan is refreshed at the beginning of each financial year and as part of that 'refresh', the Safe Durham Partnership will demonstrate its progress over the previous year.

The Plan describes the 'Altogether Safer' priority objectives outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy, which provides the vision for the local area and is the umbrella strategy for all the other strategies devised for County Durham. It is the Safe Durham Partnership's strategy for tackling crime and disorder and responding to those priorities, outlined within the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment.

The Plan provides a clear picture of how the Safe Durham Partnership will continue to work towards creating a safer and more socially cohesive county and contribute to an 'Altogether Better' Durham.

The purpose of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is to build on the significant achievements of the last five years since the Partnership was formed as part of Local Government Review. It will continue to demonstrate new and innovative approaches as we respond to an ever changing and more challenging landscape. In this way, we will provide ourselves with the best opportunity to maintain our history of strong performance and deliver the outcomes needed to achieve our vision.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

The Plan also identifies how the partnership will respond to the impact of national policy changes and new and emerging risks, such as the impact of Welfare Reforms and austerity measures. Despite significant reductions in crime and disorder since 2009, levels of crime in the county have increased during 2013-14, with a particular increase in theft, violence against the person, sexual offences and criminal damage offences.

An annual refresh of the Plan will take place to ensure that any new and emerging policies, risks and consultation feedback are identified and responded to. This will also provide the opportunity to keep the people of County Durham up to date with our progress and identify new government requirements and new opportunities identified within the previous year.

**Altogether  
safer**

Safe Durham Partnership

### 3. National Policy Context

Since 2010 the Safe Durham Partnership has operated in a time of significant change in the public sector. Key statutory partners who make up the Safe Durham Partnership Board have faced reductions in expenditure and resources. Home Office grants to the Safe Durham Partnership have also significantly reduced.

In 2011 some legislation and performance requirements relating to the Safe Durham Partnership were repealed, however, many of the statutory requirements placed on the responsible authorities remain. The Partnership no longer operates in the context of a National Community Safety Strategy but there are key thematic policy drivers which influence our strategic direction.

#### Key Policy Drivers

##### Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Act introduces new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. The new Community Trigger and Community Remedy will empower victims and communities, giving them a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour and in out-of-court sanctions for offenders. The Safe Durham Partnership is working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to implement the new measures contained within the Act which commence in Autumn 2014.

##### Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform

The Transforming Rehabilitation Programme sets out the Government's plans to transform the way in which offenders are managed in the community, in order to bring down re-offending rates.

The key aspects of the reforms are:

- The creation of a new public sector National Probation Service to manage high risk offenders
- Every offender released from custody will receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community
- A nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service will be put in place, meaning most offenders are given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community. Offenders are held in a prison designated to their area for at least three months before release
- The market will be opened up to a diverse range of new rehabilitation providers (Community Rehabilitation Companies)
- New payment by results incentives for market providers to focus on reforming offenders will be introduced

##### Police and Crime Commissioners

In November 2012 the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington was elected, replacing Police Authorities who were a responsible authority on the Safe Durham Partnership. A range of funding streams were transferred from the Safe Durham Partnership to the Police and Crime Commissioner in April 2013. The Safe Durham Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner work collaboratively on shared strategic objectives within the Police and Crime Plan including domestic abuse, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, tackling the harm caused to individuals by alcohol and drugs, and improving road safety.

### 4. The Safe Durham Partnership

The Safe Durham Partnership was formed in April 2009 following Local Government Reorganisation to a single unitary local authority for County Durham. There are currently six 'responsible authorities' on the Safe Durham Partnership, who have a legal duty to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and to reduce re-offending.

The six responsible authorities are:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Safe Durham Partnership also brings together a range of interested parties from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to help deliver the outcomes in the Safe Durham Partnership Plan through our strategic and operational structures.

The Safe Durham Partnership has a duty to develop an annual strategic assessment of the risks and threats that crime and disorder poses to the communities of County Durham. The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Identify its priorities for the forthcoming year
- Highlight performance, progress and achievements against the commitments made in the 2011-14 Partnership Plan
- Identify key crime and disorder risks and threats to the community

As part of the strategic assessment process we consult with stakeholders and communities on community safety issues that matter to them. Community priorities have been fed into this Plan through the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, public confidence surveys and through consultation with bodies such as the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



**NHS**  
Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield  
Clinical Commissioning Group

**NHS**  
North Durham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## 5. Progress and Achievements

### Reduced levels of crime

Since the Safe Durham Partnership was formed in 2009 there have been reductions in overall crime. At the end of March 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership reported that the number of crimes was 25,210, a reduction of 20% compared to 2009-10. However, the period 2013-14 showed a 9.7% rise compared to the previous year. This is in the context of a rise nationally and rates per 1,000 population remain lower than other areas of the region and nationally.

### Fewer complaints of anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Durham Constabulary reduced from 25,496 in 2012-13 to 24,234 in 2013-14. This represents a 4.9% reduction.

### 81% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system

There has been a continuous reduction, year on year, in first time entrants into the youth justice system in County Durham. Since 2007-08 we have achieved an 81.4% reduction from 1,129 young people in 2007-08 to 210 in 2013-14.

### Reduced re-offending by young people

Data from the Ministry of Justice shows we have reduced re-offending by young people by 15.6% (frequency rate) in 2011-12 compared to the same period the previous year. This includes all offences and all young people offending (pre and post court).

### Reduced the number of young people offending and offences committed

We have achieved a 47.7% reduction in the number of offences committed by young people (from 2,464 offences in 2010-11 to 1,289 in 2013-14) and a 50.5% reduction in the number of young people offending (from 1,270 in 2010-11 to 629 in 2013-14).

### 65% reduction in the rate of adult re-offending

In 2013-14 the Partnership experienced a reduction in re-offending of 65%, for those offenders managed within the Integrated Offender Management programme, compared to their offending in 2012-13. The total number of offences committed in 2012-13 by 238 offenders identified for Integrated Offender Management was 1,173. The number of offences committed by the same cohort once receiving Integrated Offender Management intervention in 2013-14 was 416 offences.

### Repeat cases of domestic abuse is half that of the national target

Domestic abuse is under-reported and part of our work involves encouraging victims to seek support. This means that we will not target a reduction in the number of reports of domestic abuse. However, when victims are encouraged to seek help we are able to work towards preventing those victims suffering a repeat of their experience. 8.9% of domestic abuse victims at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference were repeat victims of domestic abuse against a national target of 25%.

### 7% reduction in road casualties in County Durham

In 2012 the number of casualties on County Durham roads reduced by 7% and in 2013 reduced by a further 11%. This means that the total number of road casualties has reduced from 2,011 to 1,368. This represents a long term reduction of 32%. The number of children aged 0-15 reduced at an even greater rate; by 44%.

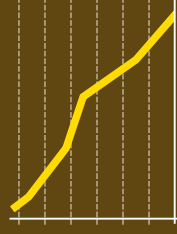
### 821 people successfully left drug and alcohol treatment

269 people successfully left drug treatment in the 12 months up to June 2013, while, in the 12 months up to December 2013, 552 people successfully left alcohol treatment in County Durham.

### County Durham is in the top 10% for turning around 'Troubled Families'

Troubled Families are those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector. In October 2013 County Durham was ranked 15th highest, of 152 Troubled Families programmes nationally, based on the total number of families 'turned around' at 312. By May 2014, that number rose to 676.

**81%**  
reduction



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Repeat cases  
of domestic  
abuse is

**1/2**

that of the  
national target

Fewer complaints  
of anti-social  
behaviour



Down **4.9%** from  
previous year

County Durham is in the top

**10%**

for turning around  
'Troubled Families'



## Part 6

### 6. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

The 2011-14 Safe Durham Partnership Plan demonstrated an approach aimed at maintaining strong performance. Key improvement areas included an early intervention approach to tackling problem families and locations, tackling the harm caused by alcohol and supporting our police service in its drive to disrupt and bring to justice organised criminals. This approach proved successful. For example, after two years of targeting areas of the county that presented the greatest challenges, anti-social behaviour was reduced by 4.7% in those areas.

In a rapidly transforming landscape, built around reform, sustaining such strong performance will become increasingly challenging. The Safe Durham Partnership continues to anticipate and shape its response in a way that mitigates potential risk and takes full advantage of new opportunities. Our approach to the transforming rehabilitation programme and our vision for a restorative County Durham are examples of our proactive approach to change and opportunity. Reshaping our multi-agency problem solving model means we will be able to take a 'whole family' approach and apply 'Think Family' principles.

Between 2011 and 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership delivered an extensive programme of initiatives, including:



#### Restorative approaches

In 2012 the Safe Durham Partnership Board proposed a framework for the introduction of partnership integrated restorative practice, with the aim of creating a culture of restorative approaches throughout our communities and within partner agencies and services. A restorative approach brings people harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm together, enabling everyone affected by the incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

The willingness of partners to adopt restorative approaches into working practices was clear; however there was a need to co-ordinate practice into an overarching strategy. The Partnership convened a task and finish group to bring about whole systems change, connect existing work, align working practice and terminology, use efficiencies and best practice to expand the reach and scope of restorative approaches and to do this within existing funding and resources.

Today, some of our schools are using this approach to improve the learning environment and developing important skills for learning; reducing exclusions and improving attendance. Neighbourhood police teams are applying restorative approaches to every day policing and our Youth Offending Service has expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources. Restorative approaches now underpins everything the Youth Offending Service does.

A comprehensive training programme is being delivered across a number of agencies to embed restorative approaches in an ever widening range of services. Our approach means fewer victims, fewer crimes and reduced demand on the criminal justice system.

'Looked After Children' Services have used restorative approaches for some time as it has proved to contribute to placement stability (consistently around 98%), low staff turnover, dealing with conflict without damage to individuals and promoting wellbeing. From a starting point of being three times more likely than other children or young people in County Durham to offend, they are now only marginally more likely to offend than children and young people not living in care.

#### Reducing re-offending

In 2011 the Safe Durham Partnership Plan described how the Partnership had developed and implemented the 'Integrated Offender Management' programme (known as the Castle Project) for adult offenders.

The programme provides all agencies engaged in local criminal justice with a single coherent structure for the management of repeat adult offenders. Development and refinement of the programme is continuous and the Safe Durham Partnership consistently explores new ways to manage offenders.

New resources and projects have been introduced with some positive results. They include mentoring, drug intervention, volunteering, diverting women offenders from prison and restorative approaches.

#### Fully integrated pre-court system for young people who offend

County Durham continues to be lower than the North East region, and its statistical neighbours, for first time entrants to the youth justice system. Two programmes have been crucial in delivering sustainable reductions in the number of young people entering the youth justice system in County Durham. The award winning fully integrated pre-court/out of court system provides early assessment of need and intervention. The Pre-Caution Disposal provides an alternative to a formal sanction.

It improves young people's life chances by ensuring that their needs are identified and met and that they avoid being criminalised. It has reduced first time entrants by 81.4% and reduced re-offending – resulting in a 47.7% reduction in offences committed and a 50.5% reduction in the number of young people offending (2010-11 – 2013-14).



### Alcohol seizure project

In 2011 we developed a multi-agency alcohol seizure procedure which was highlighted as national good practice by the Home Office Alcohol Team. Our aim was to reduce anti-social behaviour, understand more about how children and young people access alcohol and engage them in early intervention services.

The benefits of this approach are clear when examining the outcome for a 12 year old child who was referred to the 'Brief Interventions Team' (who provide advice and support) after being found with alcohol. The child was found to be living with a grandmother. During the intervention it became apparent that the child was consuming strong cider on a regular basis. The child admitted a pattern of drinking and it was clear that the grandmother was in desperate need of support. The child was referred to the County Durham young people's drug and alcohol service, 4ReaL. The child received specialist support while additional support was provided to the grandmother and the wider family.

Such cases may raise safeguarding issues. The Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are committed to ensuring that children and young people are kept safe and feel safe at all times, no matter what their background.

### Building Recovery

Our 'Building Recovery' objective demonstrates our aim to deliver effective treatment and recovery services to help individuals achieve abstinence from illicit drugs, to ensure that recovery is sustained and to help people successfully re-integrate into their communities and wider society. A range of services are used to deliver this approach, including the 'Recovery Academy Durham'. The total abstinence based recovery service delivers a proven comprehensive 12-step model to enable recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. The Recovery Academy works with a maximum of 14 clients, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The model includes a course of intensive 12-step study, on a one-to-one and group basis with trained peer therapists who have had similar experiences. It offers a secondary programme after graduation to help with education, employment, training and ongoing recovery support. Since opening in December 2011, 22 individuals have successfully graduated from the academy and have been involved in shaping the new County Durham Drug Strategy.

### Neighbourhood Watch

In June 2011 the Safe Durham Partnership developed and implemented a strategy to modernise Neighbourhood Watch in County Durham, which was later developed across the Durham Constabulary Force area. Our aim was for a bigger, stronger and more active movement; contributing to increased feelings of safety. Today, Durham Constabulary Force area has a higher percentage of households in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme than any other Force area in England and Wales. A range of initiatives have been put in place by Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, achieving demonstrable success.



### Home Safety

The Total Home Safety project played an important part in our drive to reduce house burglaries and house fires across County Durham. The project drew external funding of £300,000 to deliver safety and security measures to over 4,000 risk assessed households. Over the period of the project the Safe Durham Partnership experienced a reduction of 398 house burglaries and 21 house fires generating savings of £832,000. 93% of clients reported that they felt safer, 88% felt more independent in their home and 36% said they were referred to other services as a result of their referral to Total Home Safety.

The Safer Homes Scheme was established in 2013. Funded and supported by Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary, it is delivered by volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. Our 19 volunteers are trained to deliver crime prevention advice to provide reassurance to those who need it in their community. Volunteers are able to provide safety and security equipment such as lighting and locks and specialist packs when householders are away from home. Our co-ordinators have given 452 volunteer hours and visited 213 homes. One volunteer raised £2,500 for the scheme operating in Billy Row, Crook. The total number of homes receiving support has now reached 4,563.

### Children and road safety education

County Durham's children and young people benefited from a wide range of education and awareness raising as part of a series of initiatives delivered in 2013/14. A total of 10,000 accessed courses in driver, pedestrian and cycle training along with education in schools, colleges, children's centres and nurseries took place.

### Stronger Families

Our Stronger Families programme focuses on a particular group of families who will receive targeted help, support and intervention delivered with a 'Think Family', multi-agency approach. A Single Lead Professional/Key Worker is assigned from a service across the Partnership and a 'team around the family' is put in place to coordinate the support. The Programme is a payment by results scheme and has nationally set identifiers and targets.

The government expects local authorities to not only get to grips with and support families with multiple and complex needs, but also to change the way services are delivered to them. The intention is for Durham County Council to work with and turn around 1320 families by 31 March 2015 who:

- Have children who don't attend school or who are excluded
- Are involved in anti-social behaviour or crime (including domestic abuse)
- Are not in work
- Have locally identified problems that result in high cost services

The aim is to ensure the children in these families have the chance of a better life, and at the same time bring down the cost to the taxpayer. By formally embedding this programme within the activities of the Safe Durham Partnership we will work with families to ensure they achieve the required 60% reduction in anti-social behaviour and a reduction of 33% in the offending rate by all minors. As of May 2014, the Stronger Families Programme has 'turned around' 676 families, equating to 51.2% of our target 1,320 by April 2015.



### Building resilience to terrorism and extremism

In addition to being one of the safest places to live in England, County Durham has benefited from resources and expertise used to build our local resilience against terrorism.

Since 2008 partner organisations have been working together to prevent people from becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism; strengthen our overall protection against any form of terrorist attack and prepare to mitigate the impact of a future incident.

Our university, colleges, health services, prisons, council, police, fire service and many other agencies work to the national strategy CONTEST and understand how their work connects with regional, national and international efforts.

Our local plans reflect the national strategy which requires us to deliver a response proportionate to the risks we face and to only engage in activity which is necessary to address those risks. Our most recent self-assessment scores the Partnership as 4 out of 5 for building resilience to terrorism.

### Organised crime

Organised crime is serious crime planned, co-ordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain.

In 2012 the Safe Durham Partnership began work to build upon the achievements of Durham Constabulary which included establishing an Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel. This work resulted in the involvement of a range of services, making available new resources and legal powers. The scope of the panel increased and it now provides interventions, such as raising community awareness of issues such as loan sharks, through our Area Action Partnerships.

The publication of the new national Serious and Organised Crime Strategy demonstrates how County Durham is at an advanced stage of development, with Durham Constabulary already providing advice to other areas of the country in terms of 'lessons learnt'.

Education and awareness continues to be a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership; helping people recognise serious and organise crime and encouraging them to report it. Staff and service awareness programmes have been put in place and specialist training provided to Fire Officers in terms of the dangers presented by the cultivation of cannabis in dwelling houses.



### Area Multi-Agency Problem-Solving Groups (MAPS)

In 2013 we changed our approach to local problem-solving, at a geographical level, and rationalised our meetings structure from 11 Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups to three groups across County Durham.

The groups operate a Tasking and Coordinating approach. This involves reviewing recent intelligence and performance, examining key issues raised by partners and multi-agency problem solving. Our approach is driven by intelligence from partner agencies, the community and 'Police and Community Together' meetings. Our Area Action Partnerships also have an opportunity to feed information in to the three groups.

The Safe Durham Partnership will work closely with Elected Members to ensure that community intelligence is fed into the multi-agency problem solving approach and to provide local leadership involvement in any neighbourhood problem-solving activity.

### Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS)

The Safe Durham Partnership has developed a new and innovative Multi-Agency Intervention Service. The full implementation of the new model will take place across the county using a phased approach and will be completed in October 2014.

The purpose of the service is to enhance partnership working and problem solving through an efficient and consistent approach that ensures crime and disorder interventions occur at an early stage. This involves improving the capture and sharing of information so that issues can be prevented from turning into a crisis. It includes improved analysis, a new model of case management and alignment with the 'First Contact Service' model which makes it easier for people to report issues of concern and ensures more children will be helped at an early stage.

A centrally based multi-agency team will respond to individuals and households who have been identified as being in need of a partnership response due to being victims or perpetrators of a range of crime and disorder issues. In addition, staff from any agency will be able to refer individuals and families who require a multi-agency approach into the team so that an assessment can be made in terms of implementing a case management approach or referring to a specialist service.

This service also provides another example of the way in which the Safe Durham Partnership is embedding the 'Think Family' approach. Think Family is an approach that requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it.

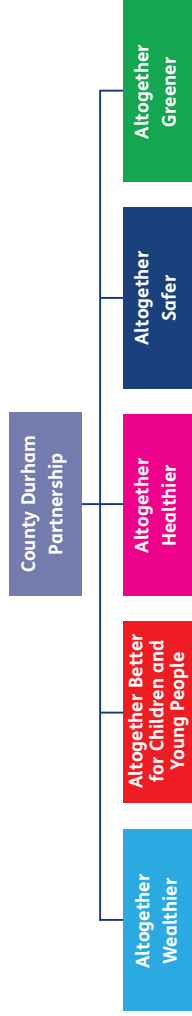
It encourages a broader view of need than that normally adopted. So, for example, the employment and housing needs of parents may be the key to unlocking improvements in mental health or parenting capacity. Social workers, health professionals, employment advisors and housing services will need to co-ordinate their efforts in order to secure long term improvements.



7. Cross-Cutting Themes

**Altogether Better Durham**

The Safe Durham Partnership contributes to the vision of an ‘Altogether Better Durham’. The Safe Durham Partnership is an integral part of this wider vision and is responsible for delivering an ‘Altogether Safer’ Durham. As such it sits alongside four other thematic partnerships, represented in the diagram below. Their combined efforts, described within the Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham, demonstrate how this wider vision will be achieved.



The County Durham Partnership has identified six key cross-cutting areas for all the ‘Altogether’ thematic partnerships and the Area Action Partnerships to jointly focus on to shape and deliver cross-cutting issues. These cross-cutting issues already feature in thematic plans but partners recognise that a more collective approach will have a bigger impact, bringing about lasting change that could not otherwise be achieved. We believe that this work will bring added value in the longer term.

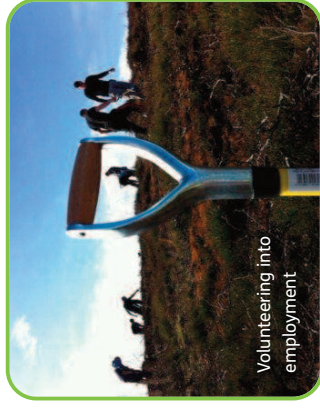
These are:

- Job creation
- Volunteering
- Mental wellbeing
- Stronger Families
- Alcohol
- Reducing inequalities

This section describes some of the key cross-cutting issues and how the Safe Durham Partnership will contribute to these six themes and shared priorities of the other Thematic Partnerships.

**Altogether Wealthier**

The focus for the County Durham Economic Partnership is improving the county’s economy. The ambition is to create sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit. This ambition requires a vision and commitment to the fundamental transformation of place, shared across public and private stakeholders and supported by residents. The Altogether Wealthier Delivery Plan illustrates the County Durham Economic Partnership’s collective effort, responsibilities and key activities to deliver a step change toward its long term vision.



**Increased employment**

Increased employment is a recurring intended long term impact of the Altogether Wealthier delivery plan. It is also an important issue in terms of offenders and job creation is a cross-cutting issue for the County Durham Partnership. We know that unemployment is a key risk factor to offending and re-offending and that increasing employment is a protective factor, particularly for those who re-offend. Therefore, helping offenders into employment is an important part of their rehabilitation. Exactly the same scenario exists for those in drug and alcohol recovery.

Not being in education, employment or training is a future predictor of later unemployment, involvement in crime and poor mental health for young people. Our Youth Offending Service’s Intensive Employability Programme has exceeded its targets to get young people who offend (some with extensive offending histories) into training and employment, and helped to reduce their re-offending. The success of the programme was recognised by a national award – winning the Youth Justice Award, Children and Young People Now Awards 2013.

As part of a Neighbourhood Watch regeneration project, designed to reduce anti-social behaviour in Chilton, a local company was selected to carry out the work because it provides apprenticeships to young people ‘Not in Education Employment or Training’. Twelve young people, local to Chilton and its surrounding areas learnt new skills and the local Area Action Partnership presented the young people with the tools to deliver the regeneration work and help them in their pursuit of employment in the building trade.

**Altogether Healthier**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to meet the needs identified in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The vision for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to ‘improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities.’

One of the objectives in the strategy is to ensure that children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life. This includes reducing the availability of illicit tobacco and alcohol to children and young people and reducing negative risk-taking such as smoking and drinking alcohol.

This work will have a clear impact on the objectives of the Safe Durham Partnership in terms of alcohol related offending by young people, negative public perception about underage drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour; ultimately contributing to fewer children and young people entering the Criminal Justice System. County Durham Youth Offending Service has achieved a 53.3% reduction in the number of alcohol related offences committed and a 39.4% reduction in the number of young people committing them (2010-11 to 2013-14).

### Illegal Tobacco

More children and young people are being offered illegal tobacco than adults. Dealers encourage young people to visit 'tab houses', putting them in risky situations with people who may also sell drugs and alcohol. Illegal tobacco has strong links to organised crime, so many of the people smuggling, distributing and selling it are involved in drug dealing, money laundering and other crime. The work of the Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel will support actions linked to the 'Smoke Free County Durham Tobacco Control Action Plan'.

### Drugs and Alcohol

The Health and Wellbeing Board recognises the need to work together to reduce the number of people who misuse drugs and alcohol. Both the County Durham Alcohol Strategy 2012-15 and the County Durham Drug Strategy 2014-17 have been jointly developed between the Healthier and Safer agendas. Alcohol is a key cross-cutting theme for the County Durham Partnership.

### Mental Health

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a commitment from organisations to prevent crises through prevention and early intervention. National organisations who have signed the concordat include NHS England, the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services, the Association of Directors of Children's Social Services, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Home Office.

In County Durham this work will be delivered through the Mental Health Framework Implementation Plan and is currently being developed by the Mental Health Partnership, a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Mental Health Framework Implementation Plan is the overarching mental health strategy for children and adults in County Durham and includes the County Durham Public Mental Health Strategy 2013-17. The Mental Health Framework Implementation Plan is also the local implementation plan of the national No Health without Mental Health strategy.

Reducing risk factors that are directly associated with crimes and their causal factors is a key part of the Mental Health Implementation Plan. Cross-cutting issues include drugs, alcohol, violence, child abuse, homelessness and unemployment. Safe Durham Partnership analysis of offender and victim mental health has taken place to improve understanding of the impact of mental health on offending and pathways through the criminal justice system.

Dual Diagnosis is defined within the County Durham and Darlington Dual Diagnosis Strategy as people with concurrent mental health, learning disabilities, behavioural diagnosis and substance misuse problems. The County Durham Dual Diagnosis Strategy has identified that 'Offenders' is one of its priority groups.

Autism is a condition which is characterised by impaired social and communication skill. The County Durham Adult Autism Strategy: 2014/15 Action Plan aims to ensure adults with autism are dealt with appropriately and effectively in the local criminal justice service.

Vulnerable people suffering from mental health and/or alcohol issues with hoarding behaviours pose a specific fire death risk and a multi-agency approach is becoming increasingly important in tackling such issues within local communities. The Vulnerability Group will work with Housing providers and other agencies to strengthen policies, identify key points of contact and establish clear roles and responsibilities in relation to accidental fire prevention.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises that all adults should be able to live free from fear and harm and have their rights and choices respected. Safeguarding Adults is a key priority for Durham County Council and partner agencies. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy describes how the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are committed to ensuring that children and young people are kept safe and feel safe at all times. Both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safe Durham Partnership work in alignment and have a joint strategic objective to Protect Vulnerable People from Harm.

### Suicide Prevention

The development of effective strategies across partnerships to reduce the incidence of suicide in the general population is a priority in County Durham. The Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee the progress of suicide prevention and we will strengthen links to the Safe Durham Partnership Vulnerability Group to monitor the effectiveness of interventions in relation to vulnerable groups.

### Altogether Better for Children and Young People

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17 is the single overarching, multi-agency plan for the delivery of priorities for children and young people in County Durham. It is therefore important that the Safe Durham Partnership aligns its own outcomes with those of the Children and Families Partnership. Examples of issues that contribute to those outcomes include education and awareness in terms of risk taking, keeping children and young people out of the criminal justice system, reducing their re-offending, protecting them from drugs, alcohol and illicit tobacco, protection against child sexual exploitation, and early intervention and help through the Think Family approach.

The Early Help Strategy for Families demonstrates the importance of offering help to families at the earliest opportunity and as soon as needs are identified. It refers to help both in the early years of a child's life (including prenatal interventions) and early in the emergence of a problem at any stage in their lives. It incorporates the concept of 'prevention' and the importance of anticipating problems and taking action to prevent them.

Early help must include the concept of building resilience in families so that they are able to meet their own needs in the longer term and are not reliant on services. Help must include reinforcing a family's own skills and strengths and empowering them. It also means harnessing community resources as this will help to break cycles of dependency and improve outcomes in the long term for families, as well as ultimately reducing costs.

This is an important strategy for the Safe Durham Partnership as it relies upon all partners and rather than being targeted at a single problem or issue it is designed around delivering the best outcome for the family. This model is already being integrated into the new Multi-Agency Intervention Service for Safer Communities.



### Altogether Greener

The 2013 Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment identifies that 'Dog fouling' and 'Rubbish and litter' are two of the top four issues affecting public confidence across County Durham.

The top four categories of environmental anti-social behaviour complaints, recorded by Durham County Council, are fly-tipping, dog fouling, stray dogs and litter. In 2013-14 these four issues accounted for 80% (17,188) of all recorded anti-social behaviour complaints received by Durham County Council. Rubbish/litter is a significant cause of secondary deliberate fires which provides additional concerns in terms of public safety. Such cases of anti-social behaviour are detrimental to health and to the environment.

The Altogether Greener Action Plan directly contributes to the Safe Durham Partnership's objective to 'Reduce anti-social behaviour, low level crime and secondary deliberate fires.' It also directly contributes to tackling Organised Crime by addressing illegal waste activity. The two plans also share an objective that includes a desire for a cleaner, greener environment.

### Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Communities

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities are one of the biggest ethnic minority groups in County Durham. Durham County Council's vision is to provide a co-ordinated approach to the provision of services to Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and to tackle inequalities and ensure good community relations for all residents across County Durham.

The Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Strategic Action Plan 2014-17 has been developed across a range of services within Durham County Council in co-operation with key partners such as Durham Constabulary, with the aim of embedding a cohesive, partnership approach. The GRT Strategic Action Plan outcomes align with 5 of the County Durham Partnership's Thematic Partnerships: Altogether Wealthier; Altogether Healthier; Altogether Better for Children and Young People; Altogether Greener and Altogether Safer.

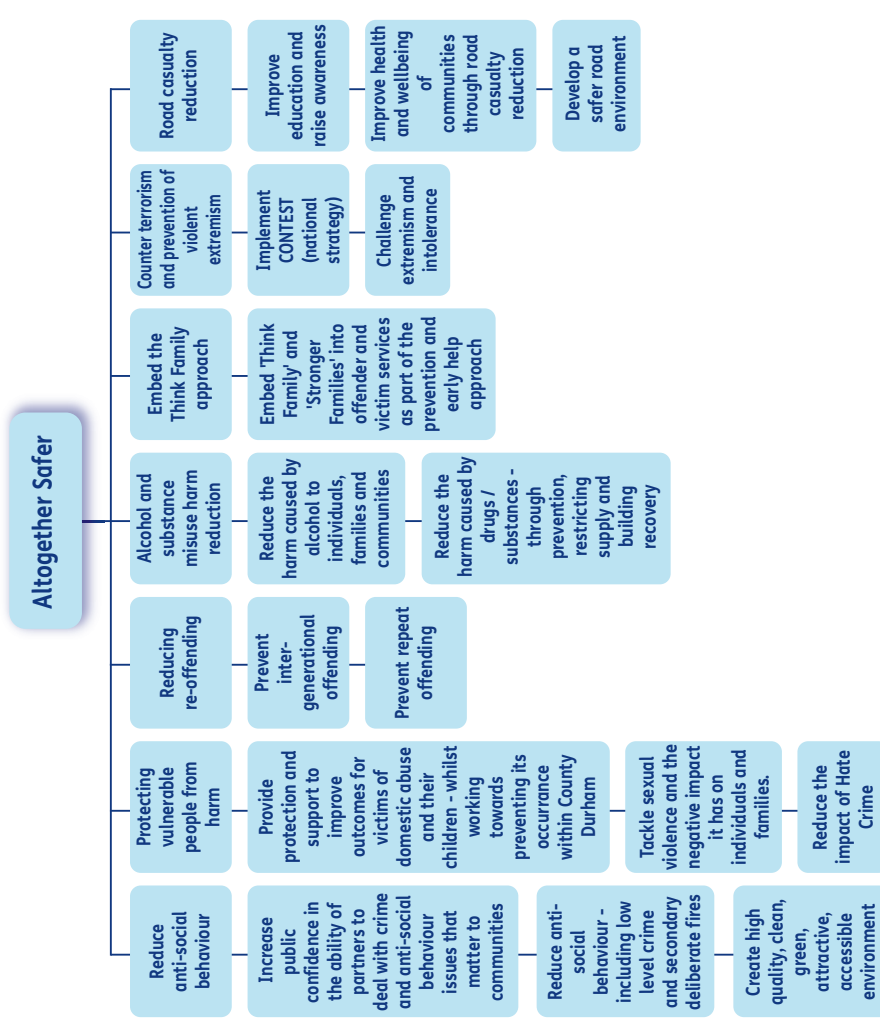
The work undertaken against the Altogether Safer Priority Theme - Creating a safer and more cohesive county - is supported by the Safe Durham Partnership as follows:

- Improve community cohesion by increasing awareness and understanding between Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and residents of County Durham
- Tackling Hate Crime against Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- Breaking down cultural barriers in order to improve access to services such as police and community safety services
- Ensure the effective management of Unauthorised Encampments and events, including the increase of Temporary Stop Over Areas
- Ensure the effective management of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller events in County Durham

By working in partnership we will continue to celebrate the diversity and richness of all communities and support a co-ordinated approach to deliver a high level of service to the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities.

### 8. Summary of Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

The Safe Durham Partnership Board has agreed the priority objectives that will deliver an Altogether Safer County Durham. These objectives and outcomes are designed to help focus on the key issues facing County Durham and be problem oriented in structure (i.e. focusing on how offending can be reduced, victims made less vulnerable and how places can be made safer).



## 9. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

### Reduce anti-social behaviour

#### Why this is a priority objective

Since forming in 2009, the Safe Durham Partnership has reported a reduction in reported anti-social behaviour incidents each year. However, anti-social behaviour is a key issue in terms of public confidence and is still the issue that the people of County Durham most want the police and partners to tackle.

#### Our key challenges

Evidence from the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment shows a significant number of incidents are reported to the council.

Despite reductions in levels of reported anti-social behaviour to the police, the public still perceive anti-social behaviour to be a problem. Latest figures (Q1 2014-15) show that 43.7% of people perceive anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area.

Specific issues which the public have raised include dog fouling, speeding traffic and rubbish lying around. Dog fouling was the third highest category of anti-social behaviour recorded by Durham County Council. Fly-tipping accounts for about a third of all incidents; street litter is also problematic with over 2,397 complaints to the council in 2013-14.

'Underage drinking' and 'using and dealing drugs' are two issues that have also been identified as issues the public would most like the police to tackle.

Our key focus over the next three years will be to tackle those issues of greatest concern to the public, reduce public perception of anti-social behaviour and increase confidence in the police and partners to deal with anti-social behaviour.



## Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

### Increase public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to communities

- Develop awareness of, and increase community involvement in the Police/Partners and Community Together (PACT) meetings
- Deliver awareness raising campaigns through positive messages about how Police/Partners are working with the community on issues of concern to them
- Raise public awareness of opportunities, and benefits from, getting involved in improving their area through initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch
- Reassure the public about issues of underage drinking, drug use and drug dealing by informing them of action taken and outcomes of those actions
- Examine anti-social behaviour and crime issues compounded by deprivation, worklessness and other issues within targeted areas of the county



### Reduce anti-social behaviour, low level crime – including secondary deliberate fires

- Utilise intelligence and analysis to target measured reductions in anti-social behaviour, low level crime and secondary deliberate fires
- Target increases in the number of families referred to, and turned around by, the 'Stronger Families' programme
- Deliver a partnership approach to reducing the number of secondary deliberate fires during targeted periods such as Bonfire Night

### Create a high quality clean, green, attractive and accessible environment

- Deliver a range of campaigns targeting issues that are of most concern to the public; namely 'dog fouling', 'fly-tipping' and 'rubbish/litter lying around'
- Work with the Road Casualty Reduction Forum to tackle public concern about those who drive at inappropriate speeds

### How we will measure success

- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (Police confidence survey)
- Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police
- Total number of secondary fires
- Total number of deliberate and 'not known' secondary fires
- Total number of criminal damage and arson offences
- Number of police and council reported incidents of anti-social behaviour

## Protect vulnerable people from harm

### Why this is a priority objective

Vulnerability has been identified as a priority as it covers a range of important issues in relation to protecting vulnerable people from harm, including domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime. Other cross-cutting issues such as suicide prevention and hoarding and the risk of accidental dwelling fires are covered by this priority objective.

'Violence against Women and Girls' is a key national priority. The Government has highlighted that it is determined to support victims to report crimes of this type and bring perpetrators to justice. The Government has also identified the need to do more to prevent violence against women and girls.

The Government has set a clear strategic direction for hate crime. Victims of hate crime must be encouraged to report hate crime so that we can target our work more effectively and provide protection and support. The national Hate Crime Action Plan identifies under-reporting by Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities and the Safe Durham Partnership will support the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Action Plan in tackling this issue.

### Our key challenges

The detection rate for serious sexual offences was 36% in 2012-13 compared to 45.8% the previous year.

Accidental dwelling fires in County Durham increased from 220 in 2010-11 to 227 in 2011-12, however there were no accidental deaths from fires in 2012-13. During this period practitioners made 208 referrals to the Fire Service in line with the Fire Death Protocol.

Levels of domestic abuse related incidents reported to the police have seen a continuous but small increase since 2009-10. Protecting vulnerable people from harm presents some complex challenges. Domestic abuse remains under-reported and the Safe Durham Partnership works towards increasing the number of victims who contact both the police and outreach support services. It will be important that victims have the confidence to report domestic abuse so that they can benefit from effective support.

The Government has identified that more needs to be done to prevent violence against women and girls. Our focus will need to be on men as well as women through 'Provision, Prevention and Protection'; in line with national plans.

Under-reporting of hate crime is significant. In order to meet this challenge the Safe Durham Partnership will support the Police and Crime Commissioner's Hate Crime Action Plan and target increases in hate crime reporting. Addressing the under-reporting of hate crime will remain at the heart of our approach. However, the long term goal is to see evidence of a reduction in the actual incidence of hate crime in County Durham.

## Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

### Provide protection and support to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children - whilst working towards preventing its occurrence within County Durham

- Prevent abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early to prevent it
- Take action to reduce the risk to people who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice
- Provide adequate support where abuse does occur and work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families

### Tackle sexual violence and the negative impact it has on individuals and families

- Prevent sexual violence and sexual exploitation and reduce the associated harm
- Ensure that all victims of sexual violence have the access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs
- Improve the criminal justice response to tackling sexual violence and sexual exploitation

### Reduce the impact of hate crime

- Improve confidence to report
- Provide support for victims of hate crime and incidents
- Raise awareness of the issue across organisations and the general public

### How we will measure success

#### Domestic Abuse

- Percentage of domestic abuse victims at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference who are repeat victims

#### Vulnerability

- Number of deaths in accidental dwelling fires identified as being within a vulnerable area
- The number of adult safeguarding referrals fully or partially substantiated
- Proportion of people who use services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure
- Number of hate motivated incidents reported
- Suicide rate per 100,000 population
- Detection rate for serious sexual offences



## Reduce re-offending

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### Why this is a priority objective

The Government objective for reducing crime and reducing the number of victims shows a continued focus on re-offending.

For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.

There is still more to be done to address the needs of offenders before they become prolific and fixed in their attitudes and behaviours. With reducing resources and ongoing reforms, more emphasis must be placed on joining up service delivery to provide more robust support.

### Our key challenges

Adult offender health assessments show mental health has become the issue of greatest need, while a recent assessment of young people who offend has identified a range of health needs and in particular that of Speech, Language and Communication.

The Strategic Assessment described how nationally identified risks associated to women offenders are reflected locally. These include abuse, anxiety and depression, substance misuse, safe accommodation, vulnerability from male offenders and leaving behind dependent children when entering prison.



The Strategic Assessment also raised a concern about the potential impact of Welfare Reform on offending, with the recent increase in theft offences a possible early indication of this.

Although County Durham has the lowest rate across the region for the national 'all proven offending' measure it remains higher than the national average. The task to provide an offender profile is challenging. Most offenders in this cohort are not managed by any formal offender management.

The Safe Durham Partnership will continue to provide strategic level co-ordination of partnership issues relating to the Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme during the transition of probation services across County Durham. A Task and Finish group will work through 2014-15 to mitigate risks and issues that include the speed of change for planned reforms, reduced funding, offender access in resettlement prisons, management of the Community Rehabilitation Company contract post award and the working arrangements for statutory and non-statutory partnership responsibilities.

## Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

### Prevent intergenerational offending

- Maintain and develop pre-court assessments and interventions for young people
- Reduce First Time Entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduce alcohol related offending by young people
- Improve exit strategies after statutory supervision and pathways into mainstream services, particularly for young people aged 16 to 18 years
- Develop pathways and access for identified health needs of young people who offend (with a focus on Speech, Language and Communication needs)
- Continue to improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for identified offenders (both adults and young people who offend) and their families

### Prevent repeat offending

- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways\*) of prolific adult offenders in order to stop their offending
- Expand our integrated offender management approach to lower level offending using alternatives to custody
- Maintain and develop support for women offenders and women vulnerable to offending
- Conduct further mental health research to enhance our understanding and ability to respond to offender needs and links to health support services
- Ensure adult offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence
- Develop and promote victim involvement within restorative practices
- Reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence
- Improve partnership performance of the single re-offending measure
- Continue to provide strategic level co-ordination for Safe Durham Partnership issues relating to Governments Transforming Rehabilitation programme to improve the management of offenders
- Continue to implement Association of North East Councils and National Offender Management Service recommendations on 'Reducing Re-offending in the North East: Improving joint working between local authorities and prisons'
- Analyse the impact of Welfare Reform; monitor this in the Force Threat and Risk Group and assess against regional neighbours and most similar Forces

\* The critical pathways for adults are: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour, Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Violence.

### How we will measure success

- Percentage change in detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort over the last 12 months
- Local Adult Re-offending rate
- First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

## Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

### Why this is a priority objective

The cost of dealing with alcohol harm in County Durham is estimated at £211.72m each year.

Alcohol and substance misuse contribute to a significant proportion of crime and anti-social behaviour, especially violent crime, and is a cross-cutting theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Alcohol is a contributory factor in many incidents of domestic abuse and sexual violence and has strong links to child sexual exploitation in the county. It is also a significant factor in child neglect and child protection. Alcohol consumption plays a substantial part in homicides and domestic homicides in County Durham. Alcohol misuse causes harm to people's health, mental health and can impact on the ability of individuals to access or sustain employment.

Drug misuse is a serious issue not only to the health and wellbeing of the individual that is affected by it, but that of their families and the wider community. Tackling drug misuse requires a co-ordinated approach involving a whole range of partners. It is not just the responsibility of organisations however; individuals and the wider community all have a role to play in reducing and preventing drug misuse.

People in County Durham have told us that underage drinking and drug use/abuse are two of the top three issues they want the police and partners to tackle.

### Our key challenges

County Durham experiences significantly higher alcohol specific admission rates to hospital than England for men and women.

County Durham is well below the national rate in terms of alcohol related crime with 8.7% of crime and 14% of anti-social behaviour being alcohol-related in 2012-13. The challenge is to ensure alcohol related crime is recorded effectively as this will be an important part of delivering our outcomes. Alcohol related crime and disorder is now less focused around our town and city centres and is more dispersed in its nature, this has significant implications for how we control and prevent alcohol related harm.

Alcohol related crime and disorder is problematic and our ability to make a significant impact is compounded by national factors such as Welfare Reform, changes in commissioning structures and limited resources. Increasing opposition from the alcohol industry to any form of initiative to control the availability and affordability of alcohol, such as 'Early Morning Restriction Orders', and the failure to secure a minimum unit price for alcohol are two additional barriers to achieving our outcomes.

The Safe Durham Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board are in the process of developing a Drugs Strategy aimed at preventing harm, restricting supply and sustaining a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact on communities and families. The development and implementation of the strategy, and its action plans, will be a key focus for the two partnerships over the life time of this Plan.

### Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

#### Reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities

- Raise public awareness of alcohol related harm in County Durham
- Carry out training and education to support individuals, professionals and the community
- Engage with children and young people to develop information, activities, services and education
- Increase intelligence to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents and offending
- Engage with licensees and ensure licensed premises are managed responsibly
- Co-ordinated approach to policy development, planning and adoption of legislation
- Commission and deliver effective treatment and recovery services and undertake work to identify the needs of particular groups
- Involve and support young people, families and carers living with alcohol related issues to break the cycle of alcohol misuse

#### Reduce the harm caused by drugs/substances - through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery

- Increase awareness and understanding of drugs in order to reduce drug misuse across the population
- Have fewer people taking up drug use and break the inter-generational path to drug use and dependency
- Reduce the supply of drugs and number of drug related incidents impacting upon communities and families
- Ensure recovery is understood and visible in the community
- Support people to successfully recover from their dependency, addressing both their health and social needs arising from their drug misuse
- Involve and support families and carers living with drug related issues



#### How we will measure success

- Rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm
- Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment
- Percentage of alcohol related anti-social behaviour incidents
- Percentage of alcohol related violent crime
- Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment – opiates
- Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment – non opiates



## Embed the 'Think Family' approach

### Why this is a priority objective

This is a joint priority objective with the Children and Families Partnership.

A small number of families require a disproportionate amount of support. In the case of families facing multiple challenges, they often receive services from several separate agencies in response to a range of needs. Think Family focuses specifically on the needs of these families.

Think Family is an approach that requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. It encourages a broader view of need than that normally adopted. To 'Think Family' is to understand that children's problems do not sit in isolation from their parents, and that parents' problems impact on their children.

This approach ensures that all family members are able to get the support they need, at the right time, to help their children achieve good outcomes. All agencies are encouraged to 'Think Family' and to coordinate their efforts. This means making sure that families receive co-ordinated, multi-agency, solution focused support.

For many families their complex needs can result in offending behaviour or victimisation and so it is important that Think Family is embedded and integrated into the service models used by the Safe Durham Partnership. Equally, this approach can have a significant impact on crime and disorder outcomes and presents an opportunity to improve performance.

The 'Think Family' approach is intrinsically linked to our Stronger Families Programme.

This programme is known nationally as 'The Troubled Families Programme' and the Government estimates County Durham has around 1320 'Troubled Families' with a range of multiple and complex needs. These are not new families but families who have been known to services, often for many years, and despite numerous interventions their problems persist, and are in many cases intergenerational, leading to cycles of disadvantage for such families.

### Our key challenges

It will be important to ensure offender management service staff utilise Think Family as part of their mainstream role.

The process of integrating Think Family into Multi Agency Problem Solving comes at a time when Multi Agency Problem Solving is undergoing significant transformation. It will be important to ensure that national targets for nominations into the Stronger Families programme are met and that the number of referrals are increased.

#### Think Family Worker

Supporting the whole family to overcome difficulties together

"We provide early help to families who are experiencing a range of issues which place outcomes for their children at risk, these include, but are not limited to: worklessness, crime, anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance, domestic abuse and substance misuse."



### Our outcome and how we will deliver it

**Embed Think Family into offender and victim services as part of the prevention and 'early help' approach**

- Integrate Think Family into Multi-Agency Problem Solving
- Build and develop the 'Stronger Families' programme into the anti-social behaviour interventions protocol
- Continue to improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach to identified offenders and their families
- Increase the whole family approach to the delivery of drug recovery services
- Integrate Think Family into Domestic Abuse services in order that existing services providing intensive family support draw upon additional support networks
- Work with the Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention panel to support those vulnerable to the influence of organised crime

### How we will measure success

- Percentage of families where a successful intervention for crime/anti-social behaviour is achieved (of those allocated a Lead Professional)

## Youth Worker

Supporting young people to develop through enjoyment, challenge and learning



"Youth workers work with young people to enable them to enjoy, achieve and realise their potential by providing opportunities for personal and social development."



one point



## Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism

### Why this is a priority objective

CONTEST, the UK's Counter Terrorism strategy, aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

There is a clear structure in place that supports the delivery of the CONTEST Strategy which provides oversight of a multi-agency agenda and performance. Gold (Chief Executive), Silver (Strategic Delivery) and Bronze (Operational) multi-agency groups are in place and are represented by all key sectors that understand the risk of radicalisation and their obligation to ensure terrorist ideologies, and those that promote them, do not go uncontested. It will be important to maintain such a response in order to align with all elements of the national CONTEST strategy.

### Our key challenges

Maintaining a strong understanding of the 'Prevent' objectives, the drivers of terrorism and a strong, tried and tested Safeguarding Referral Programme, called 'Channel', will be the three important elements of stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It will be important that all key sectors are delivering a range of tools to ensure key members of staff, and others, have a good understanding of how to recognise those vulnerable, or subject, to radicalisation and know how to respond. These challenges have formed part of a wider review to be implemented over the life of this plan. Key sectors include: Schools, Further and Higher Education, Prisons, Probation, Health, Youth Offending, Faith Establishments and the Internet.

### Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

#### Implement the 'CONTEST' (national strategy)

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with key sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address
- Improve Preparedness for the highest risks in the national risk assessment
- Deliver Griffin events to professional security operatives and forward facing security employees within all business sectors in County Durham

### Challenge extremism and intolerance

- Implement a cohesion action plan in cases where a community presents risks from extremist groups

### How we will measure success

- Building Resilience to Terrorism Self-Assessment Score (The PREVENT Self-Assessment is the formal mechanism through which the Safe Durham Partnership will manage objectives and enables the partnership to arrive at a score for each criterion that is a fair reflection of where local partners are in terms of delivery on the basis of clear evidence. A self-assessment matrix is used to assess the level of performance of the Safe Durham Partnership against position statements that progress from 1 to 5; where 5 is a high score.)

## Road casualty reduction

### Why this is a priority objective

Although there has been a considerable reduction in the number of road casualties over the last 10 years, the county still has a higher than average rate of child casualties; 166 in 2012. However, County Durham has a significant roads network which present risks that many other areas do not have to contend with.

Speeding vehicles has been of particular concern to people in County Durham for many years and opportunities exist to reduce that concern as this issue cuts across both the anti-social behaviour and road casualty objectives.

### Our key challenges

The county still has a higher rate of child casualties than most other English local authorities. However, this is offset by higher levels of vehicle traffic. There are peak times in the day for child road casualties and these will be targeted by the Safe Durham Partnership. Over 50% of people surveyed had a high perception of speeding vehicles and raising public confidence is an issue.

### Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

#### Improve education and raise awareness of road safety

- Deliver road safety education in schools, colleges, youth centres, children's centres and nurseries
- Deliver road safety training including child pedestrian training, Bikeability Training and EXCElerate young driver training in schools and colleges
- Produce and deliver a partnership road safety publicity campaign
- Continue to deliver driver training courses for business drivers, young drivers and older drivers
- Deliver a rider training programme for motorcycle riders
- Undertake an audit to ensure that children and young people in high prevalence areas are receiving road safety education

#### Improve health and wellbeing of communities through casualty reduction

- Deliver road safety initiatives and events linked to road safety themed weeks
- Develop road safety standards through Road Safety GB and the National Staff Training group
- Deliver a programme of car seat checking clinics across all major conurbations

#### Develop a safer road environment

- Deliver community speed watch and camera enforcement programme
- Develop road safety action plans in response to PACT priorities
- Develop and implement a Speed Management Strategy to address both excess and inappropriate speed
- Implement physical changes to the road environment in response to road casualty data
- Target the problem of inappropriate speed as part of public confidence plans led by the anti-social behaviour thematic group
- Target a reduction in child road casualties

### How we will measure success

- Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on our roads
- Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on our roads

## 10 Monitoring Success of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan

The Safe Durham Partnership Board has put in place a Performance Management Framework structured around the strategic objectives. In addition to performance measures linked to the strategic objectives, the framework includes key indicators of crime for the Safe Durham Partnership Board to monitor activity trends in this area. This includes:

- The overall crime rate per 1,000 population
- The number of reported crimes categorised as stealing
- The recorded level of victim based crime
- The number of serious or major crimes

Selected indicators from the Performance Framework are reported to the Durham County Council Cabinet, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the County Durham Partnership to help monitor performance against the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

The Performance Management Framework is refreshed on an annual basis ensuring it is relevant to the objectives and outcomes in the Partnership Plan, thematic strategies and action plans. On a quarterly basis an escalation report is submitted to the Safe Durham Partnership Board highlighting achievements and areas for improvement.

Performance management arrangements of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan will be incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership Performance Management Framework. This will ensure responsibility and accountability of the strategic actions within the Plan. A supporting delivery plan will be implemented and monitored on a quarterly basis by the Safe Durham Partnership Board.



Safe Durham Partnership

# Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014 - 2017

Partnership working across County Durham continues to go from strength to strength. When introducing our previous Partnership Plan in 2011, we explained how our commitment to working in partnership had ensured real and tangible improvements to the quality of life of our communities.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17 will continue to demonstrate new and innovative approaches as we respond to an ever changing and more challenging landscape. Working in partnership is crucial if we are to meet existing and emerging challenges and work towards achieving our vision where every adult and child in County Durham will be, and will feel, safe.

Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together and responding to the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this Plan in order to deliver an 'Altogether Safer' and 'Altogether Better' Durham.

If you have any questions or comments about this document please contact us:

**Email: [community.safety@durham.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@durham.gov.uk)**

**Telephone: 03000 26 00 00**

**Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.**

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**County Council**

**17 September 2014**

**Independent Remuneration Panel-  
Appointments to Panel**



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**Report of Don McLure, Corporate Director, Resources  
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to make appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Background**

2. Under The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ("The Regulations"), the Council must make a Scheme of Allowances for Members each year.
3. The Regulations also provide that before the beginning of each financial year, the authority shall review the Scheme and before it confirms or amends the Scheme, it shall have regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel ("the Panel"). The Scheme may be amended at any time during the financial year.
4. Also provided for in the regulations is that the Authority shall establish an Independent Remuneration Panel which must consist of at least three members none of whom:-
  - (a) is also a member of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority; or
  - (b) is disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.
5. Authorities are to have regard to guidance that was issued on the regulations and to ensure that their appointments process commands public confidence. The guidance states that the Panel should be:
  - truly independent,
  - well qualified to discharge the functions of the Panel; and
  - representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority's area.
6. Local authorities may advertise for candidates in local newspapers or may ask particular stakeholders, for example that voluntary sector or local business community to put forward candidates. In all cases the local authority will need to ensure its appointments process is open to public scrutiny.

7. Guidance indicates that to maintain credibility of its Panel a local authority will need to consider the extent to which some if not all of its Panel members are recognised members of the local community. Political appointments and any appointments which are made through friendship or any other personal association with members of the Authority should always be avoided.

### **Independent Remuneration Panel**

8. In July 2009, full Council was advised that a new Panel of seven members had been appointed as the Independent Remuneration Panel, following resignation of the previous Panel to allow the new unitary Council to establish a new Panel. Delegation had been granted by Cabinet to the County Treasurer in consultation with the Leader to make arrangements to appoint up to seven people.
9. A Panel comprising no more than seven people provided for a good range of individual views whilst keeping the members on the Panel to a reasonable number. The current situation is that two vacancies have arisen, and there remain in office five members.
10. The seven members originally appointed and those remaining in office are as follows:-
  - Lady Ann Calman (resigned)
  - John Cuthbert
  - John Hitchman
  - Professor Ray Hudson
  - Gill Stephenson
  - Andrew Sugden (resigned)
  - Kate Welch
11. Authority is sought to appoint a new Panel of seven, offering positions to the existing five members if they would be willing to continue in this role, and to determine the length of office of members on the new Panel. Guidance suggests that appointments are made for several years, perhaps 3 to 5 years.
12. It is suggested that advertisements in the local press be made to seek candidates for appointment, and any appointments would be made by the Corporate Director, Resources in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, and any future vacancies that arise within the term of office of the Panel be appointed through the same procedure.
13. Panel members do not receive an allowance, however they are reimbursed for reasonable expenses.

## **Recommendations and reasons**

14. (i) That a new Panel of up to seven members be established, with the term of office of its members being for a five year period.
- (ii) That the Corporate Director, Resources in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council be given authority to:-
- make appointments to establish a Panel of seven, offering appointments to the five existing members if they would be willing to continue.
  - make arrangements to fill any vacancies that arise within the term of office of the Panel.

## **Background Papers**

The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

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**Contact: Colette Longbottom Tel: 03000 269 732**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – Advertising costs of seeking applicants.

**Staffing** – None specific within this report.

**Risk** - None specific within this report.

**Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty** – None specific within this report.

**Accommodation** – None specific within this report.

**Crime and Disorder** – None specific within this report.

**Human Rights** – None specific within this report.

**Consultation** – None specific within this report

**Procurement** – None specific within this report.

**Disability Issues** – None specific within this report.

**Legal Implications** – None specific within this report.



**County Council****17 September 2014****Treasury Management Outturn 2013/14****Report of Corporate Management Team****Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources****Councillor Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The regulatory framework of Treasury Management on the Council's cash management, loans and investments requires that the Council receive, comment upon and agree Treasury Management review reports. This report is therefore to update Council with the annual treasury management report for the year ended 31 March 2014.
- 2 As well as meeting the regulatory framework, the report also incorporates the needs of the 'Prudential Code', which can be regarded as being best operational practice, to ensure adequate monitoring of the Council's capital expenditure plans and prudential indicators (PIs). The treasury strategy and PIs for 2013/14 were previously reported to Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17 on 20 February 2013.
- 3 The report also supports the objective in the revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance. These state that Members should receive reports and scrutinise the Treasury Management service.

**Background**

- 4 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. It is concerned with how the Council manages its cash resources and its scope covers borrowing, investment and hedging instruments and techniques. Risk is inherent in all treasury management activities and it is necessary to balance risk against return on investment.
- 5 The financial year 2013/14 continued to be the challenging investment environment of previous years of low investment returns, although levels of counterparty risk had subsided. The original expectation for 2013/14 was that Bank Rate would not rise during the year and for it only to begin to gradually rise from quarter 1 of 2015. Bank rates did stay the same and this forecast rise has now been revised to a delayed start of quarter 3 of 2015.

- 6 Economic growth (GDP) in the UK had been virtually flat during 2012/13 but it grew strongly during 2013/14. Consequently, there was no additional quantitative easing during 2013/14 and Bank Rate ended the year unchanged at 0.5% for the fifth successive year. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained high and substantially above the 2% target during 2012, but by January 2014 it had fallen below the target rate to 1.9% and then fell further to 1.7% in February. It is also expected to remain slightly below the target rate for most of the two years ahead.
- 7 Gilt yields had been on a sharply rising trend during 2013 but volatility had returned in the first quarter of 2014.
- 8 The Government's Funding for Lending Scheme, announced in July 2012, resulted in cheap credit being made available to banks which resulted in money market investment rates falling significantly in the second half of that year and continuing into 2013/14. That part of the Scheme which supported the provision of credit for mortgages was terminated in the first quarter of 2014 due to concerns over the impact on rising house prices.
- 9 The UK Government maintained its tight fiscal policy stance but recent strong economic growth has led to a cumulative, (in the Autumn Statement and the March Budget), reduction in the forecasts for total borrowing of £97bn over the next five years, culminating in a forecasted £5bn surplus in 2018/19.
- 10 The EU sovereign debt crisis subsided during the year and confidence in the ability of the Eurozone to remain intact increased substantially. Perceptions of counterparty risk improved after the European Central Bank statement in July 2012 that it would do "whatever it takes" to support struggling Eurozone countries; this led to a return of confidence in its banking system which has continued into 2013/14 and led to a move away from only very short term investing. However, the problems of the Eurozone, or its banks may not have ended as the zone faces the likelihood of weak growth over the next few years at a time when the total size of government debt for some nations is likely to continue rising. Future stress tests of Eurozone banks could also reveal some areas of concern.

## Treasury Position

11 The Treasury position at the beginning and end of 2013/14 is shown in the table below:

	31-Mar-13 (Restated)	Rate/ Return	Average Life	31-Mar-14	Rate/ Return	Average Life
	£m	%	yrs	£m	%	yrs
<b>Total Debt</b>	440	4.61		437	4.49	
<b>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)</b>	603			607		
<b>Over / (-) Under Borrowing</b>	-163			-170		
<b>Total Investments</b>	112	1.72	0.3	152	0.71	0.3
<b>Net Debt</b>	328			285		

12 Investments increased by £40m across the period as a result of re-profiling of the capital programme and a lower than anticipated use of reserves. Due to the reduction of interest rates offered by high quality counterparties by 1.00%, the average rate earned on those balances fell during 2013/14.

13 The Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

14 As a result of the favourable cash balances position, no new borrowing was raised during the year.

## Capital Expenditure and Financing

15 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants or revenue contributions), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need, or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

- 16 Actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows actual capital expenditure in 2013/14 and how this was financed.

	<b>2012/13 Actual</b>	<b>2013/14 Estimate</b>	<b>2013/14 Actual</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Non-HRA Capital Expenditure	117.09	135.74	107.11
Non-HRA PFI and Finance Lease	5.09	-	2.48
HRA Capital Expenditure	43.92	50.31	45.70
<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>166.10</b>	<b>186.05</b>	<b>155.29</b>
Resourced by:			
Capital receipts	9.12	16.59	8.15
Capital grants	76.44	81.72	91.64
Capital reserves and Revenue	39.25	31.82	35.38
<b>Unfinanced capital expenditure</b>	<b>41.29</b>	<b>55.92</b>	<b>20.12</b>

### Overall Borrowing Need

- 17 The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and what resources have been used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2013/14 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 18 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the Corporate Director Resources' treasury management team organises the Council's cash position to ensure sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements.
- 19 This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies (such as the Government, through the PWLB or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 20 The Council's (non HRA) underlying borrowing need known as its capital finance requirement (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR).
- 21 The Council's 2013/14 MRP Policy, as required by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) guidance was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2013/14 on 20 February 2013.
- 22 The Council's CFR for the year is shown in the following table, and represents one of the key prudential indicators. The 2012/13 CFR has been restated as follows:

- To correct the opening CFR, which was overstated.
- To recognise the impairment in 2012/13 of the Durham County Waste Management Company loan; this has reduced the CFR.
- To recognise HRA non-dwelling impairment, which can no longer be reversed to the Capital Adjustment account, and which has the effect of reducing the CFR.

<b>CFR</b>	<b>31-Mar-13 Actual (Restated)</b>	<b>31-Mar-14 Estimate</b>	<b>31-Mar-14 Actual</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Opening balance	579.135	604.828	603.431
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	41.293	55.921	20.117
Less MRP/VRP	-15.600	-16.005	-16.018
Adjusted for:			
Restatement of Opening Balance	-0.573		
Impairment of Loan	-0.801		
HRA non-dwelling impairment/revaluation losses	-0.023		-0.270
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>603.431</b>	<b>644.744</b>	<b>607.260</b>

- 23 The borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit. In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing, net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.
- 24 The authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level.
- 25 The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.
- 26 The table below demonstrates that during 2013/14 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

	<b>2013/14 £m</b>
Authorised limit	746.000
Operational boundary	693.000
Maximum gross borrowing position	440.389
Average gross borrowing position	438.625

## Investment Strategy

- 27 The prime objective of the Council's Investment Strategy is to ensure prudent investment of surplus funds. The Council's investment priorities are therefore the security of capital, liquidity of investments and, within those objectives, to secure optimum performance. The Council has regard to the CLG Guidance and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code when making decisions.
- 28 Therefore the primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration.

## Selection Criteria

- 29 The criteria for providing a pool of high quality investment counterparties are:
- i. Banks 1 – the Council's strategy requires the use of UK banks only which have, as a minimum, the following Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors credit ratings (where rated):

	<b>Fitch</b>	<b>Moody's</b>	<b>Standard &amp; Poors</b>
Short Term	F1	P1	A-1
Long Term	A	A2	A
Viability/Financial Strength	BB-	C-	-
Support	3	-	-

- ii. Banks 2 - Part nationalised UK banks – Lloyds Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland. These banks are included so long as they continue to be part nationalised or they meet the ratings in Banks 1 above.
- iii. Banks 3 – Co-operative Bank - The Council's own banker for transactional purposes. If the bank falls below the above criteria balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.
- iv. Bank subsidiary and treasury operation. The Council will use these where the parent bank has provided an appropriate guarantee or has the necessary ratings outlined above.
- v. Building societies. The Council only uses building societies which meet the ratings for banks outlined above.
- vi. Money Market Funds.
- vii. UK Government (including gilts, Treasury Bills and the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility).
- viii. Local authorities and parish councils.

## Time and Monetary Limits applying to Investments

- 30 The time and monetary limits for institutions on the Council's Counterparty List for 2013/14 were as follows:

	Long Term Rating	Money Limit	Time Limit
Banks 1 category high quality	AA	£50m	1 year
Banks 1 category medium quality	A	£25m	3 months
Banks 2 category – part-nationalised	n/a	£60m	1 year
Banks 3 category – Council's banker	BBB+	£25m	3 months
DMADF/Treasury Bills	AAA	unlimited	6 months
Local Authorities	n/a	£10m each	1 year
Money Market Funds	AAA	£10m each (overall £50m)	liquid

## Icelandic Deposits Update

- 31 In October 2008, the Icelandic banks Landsbanki, Kaupthing and Glitnir collapsed and the UK subsidiaries of the banks, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander went into administration. The authority had £7m deposited across three of these institutions, with varying maturity dates and interest rates as follows:

Bank	Date Invested	Maturity Date	Amount Invested	Interest Rate
			£	%
KSF	30/10/07	28/10/08	1,000,000	6.120
Landsbanki (1)	12/04/07	13/10/08	1,000,000	6.010
Landsbanki (2)	12/04/07	14/04/09	1,000,000	6.040
Glitnir Bank (1)	25/10/06	24/10/08	3,000,000	5.620
Glitnir Bank (2)	18/12/07	16/12/08	1,000,000	6.290
<b>Total</b>			<b>7,000,000</b>	

- 32 All monies within these institutions are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The amounts and timing of payments to depositors such as the Council will be determined by the administrators / receivers.
- 33 The current situation concerning the recovery of sums deposited varies between each institution.

## **Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd**

- 34 The current position on actual amounts received and estimated future receipts are as shown in the table. The Council has recognised an impairment based on it recovering 85.75p in the £ compared to 85.25p in the £ at 31 March 2013.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Repayment</b>
	<b>%</b>
Received to 31 March 2014	81.50
Received in June 2014	2.00
June 2015	2.25

- 35 Recoveries are expressed as a percentage of the authority's claim in the administration, which includes interest accrued up to 7 October 2008.

## **Landsbanki**

- 36 Landsbanki Islands hf is an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Landsbanki) with the management of the affairs of Old Landsbanki being placed in the hands of a resolution committee.
- 37 The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board making a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in December 2011. Further distributions were made in May 2012, October 2012 and September 2013 respectively.
- 38 An element of the distribution was in Icelandic Krona which was placed in an escrow account in Iceland and was earning interest of 4.17% as at 31 March 2013. This element of the distribution was retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result was subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.
- 39 During 2013/14, the Council sold its claims against the insolvent estate of Landsbanki through a competitive auction process. The price at which the claims were sold was based on a reserve price set by the Council, on the basis of legal advice received through the Local Government Association and its lawyers Bevan Brittan.
- 40 The administration of the insolvent estate of Landsbanki is likely to continue for several years given the complexity of the on-going issues in Iceland, which created uncertainty around the timings of future recoveries. The sale of the Council's claims has removed this uncertainty.
- 41 The sale included the Icelandic Kronur which had been held in an escrow account in Iceland since it was paid with the first distribution to priority creditors in December 2011.
- 42 The proceeds of the sale were paid in Pounds Sterling and were received in February 2014 so the Council is no longer a creditor of Landsbanki.



## **Glitnir Bank hf**

- 43 Glitnir Bank hf is also an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Glitnir) with the management of the affairs of Old Glitnir being placed in the hands of a resolution committee.
- 44 The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board made a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in March 2012.
- 45 An element of the distribution is in Icelandic Krona which has been placed in an escrow account in Iceland and earned interest of 3.4% up to 22 June 2012 and thereafter is earning 4.2%. This element of the distribution has been retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result is subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.
- 46 The distribution has been made in full settlement, representing 100% of the claim.

## **Recommendations and Reasons**

- 47 It is recommended that Council:
- Note the Treasury Management Outturn position for 2013/14.

## **Background Papers**

- 16 July 2014 – Cabinet - 2013/14 Final Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund.
- 20 February 2013 – County Council - General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan, 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2013/14
- 26 February 2014 – County Council - General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan, 2014/15 to 2016/17 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2014/15

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**Contact: Jeff Garfoot Tel: 03000 261946**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

The report details of the overall financing of the Council's anticipated capital expenditure, along with forecast borrowing and investment income returns are provided in the report.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

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

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.

### **Disability Issues**

None.

### **Legal Implications**

None.