



**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date Monday 23 June 2014
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held 7 April 2014 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties, if any
6. Media Relations
7. Quarter 4, 2013/14 Performance Management Report: (Pages 9 - 34)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Performance and Improvement Team Leader, Regeneration and Economic Development.
8. Update on the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership:
(Pages 35 - 38)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.
 - (ii) Update on the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership – presented by Professor Brian Tanner, Chairman, County Durham Economic Partnership.
9. Update on the Development of the Tourism offer within County Durham:
(Pages 39 - 48)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Chief Executive, Visit County Durham.

10. Transport - Update on LTP3 and Transit 15: (Pages 49 - 58)
Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development – presented by the Sustainable Transport Manager and Traffic Management Section Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development.
11. Update - Empty Homes Scrutiny Review: (Pages 59 - 74)
Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development – presented by the Housing Improvement Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development.
12. Council Plan 2014-2017 - Refresh of the Work Programme: (Pages 75 - 84)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
13. Minutes of the County Durham Economic Partnership meetings held on 24 February 2014 and 19 May 2014 (Pages 85 - 96)
14. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
13 June 2014

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

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)
Councillor A Batey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, J Bell, J Clare, J Cordon, I Geldard, D Hall, C Kay, J Maitland, P McCourt, H Nicholson, R Ormerod, A Patterson, J Rowlandson, M Simpson, P Stradling, O Temple, A Willis and S Zair

Co-opted Members:

Mr E Henderson and Mr I McLaren

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Monday 7 April 2014** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Bell, J Clare, C Kay, P McCourt, H Nicholson, A Patterson, M Simpson, P Stradling, O Temple and N Martin (as substitute for R Ormerod)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, A Batey, J Cordon, D Hall, J Maitland, A Willis and S Zair and Mrs O Brown and Mr P Robson (JobCentre Plus).

2 Substitute Members

Councillor N Martin substituted for Councillor R Ormerod.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 27 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy of slide see file of minutes) namely: The County Durham Plan, the upcoming launch of the Combined Authority; Hitachi moving rail business to the UK; and the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) at NETPark, Sedgefield being the home of £14 million of work on the material graphene.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Quarter 3, 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Outturn

The Chairman introduced the Principal Accountant, Resources, Ed Thompson who was in attendance on behalf of the Finance Manager, Resources, Azhar Rafiq to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2013/14 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Accountant reminded Members of the areas reported upon, the General Fund Revenue Account, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme for the RED Service. Members noted the service was reporting a cash limit spend being over budget by approximately £273,000 for 2013/14, based on the Quarter 3 forecast outturn, against a revised General Fund Revenue Budget of £43.212 million. Members noted the major variances fell within Planning and Assets, with the detailed explanations as set out within the report including an increased income due to a small number of major applications generating extra income such as the Hitachi site at Newton Aycliffe and the Dalton Park site. The Committee were informed that relating to Traffic, specifically to parking services and enforcement activities, the area continued to be over budget.

The Committee noted that the HRA for 2013/14 had no major issues; with a forecasted balanced position after using a projected surplus of £861,000 towards the Capital Programme.

As regards the Capital Programme, the Principal Accountant explained that subsequent to revisions to take into account grant additions/reductions and re-profiling the budget now stood at approximately £87.099 million split between the General Fund (£37.280 million) and HRA (£49.819 million). Members noted that the spend to the end of December 2013 had been approximately £53.377 million.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Accountant and asked Members for their questions on the finance report.

Councillors asked questions in respect of: the potential impact of Welfare Reform, Right to Buy (RTB) sales and void properties; promoting the quality of Council owned properties; management of the Durham Key Options (DKO) bidders lists and the ease of bidding; and traffic enforcement spend.

The Principal Accountant, Resources, John Hughes noted that RTB sales were approximately 30 above the target of 50 properties, and that a sustainability group was looking at issues of rents, council tax, with a wider group looking at the impacts of welfare reform. It was added that there was perhaps a perception that renting a property from the Authority was more difficult than the private sector, and other issues beyond the property itself, for example the nearby built environment such as car parking, can be an issue for prospective tenants. The Housing Directions Manager, Marie Roe noted that within the Stock Transfer process, issues were being looked at in respect of sustainability of the stock and the impact of welfare reform. Members noted feedback they had received from local residents, with several noting that there was a move to properties with fewer bedrooms in light of welfare reform changes. The Housing Directions Manager and the Performance and Planning Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development, Graham Tebbutt noted that further details as regards DKO statistics could be provided for the Committee.

The Principal Accountant, Resources, John Hughes explained that in relation to Traffic being over budget, specifically relating to parking services and enforcement activities, it was anticipated that this would be partly resolved at the retendering stage as this was the final year of the current contract for the service.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Quarter 3, 2013/14 Performance Management Report

The Chairman thanked the Performance and Planning Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development, Graham Tebbutt who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 3, 2013/14 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Performance and Planning Manager reminded Members of the different types of indicators reported, Tracker indicators and Target indicators.

Councillors noted that some of the key achievements in Quarter 3 included: the number of empty properties being brought back into use exceeding target; the number of private sector homes improved as a consequence of Local Authority intervention exceeding target; and the number of homes being brought up to the decent homes standard being ahead on track for the year end.

Members noted progress with Council Plan actions, such as: the delivery of Durham City projects including Freeman's Reach and North Road Bus Station; awards received in respect of Tourism projects, namely the Lindisfarne Gospels and Lumiere; the Housing Stock Transfer Project; and the renewal/refurbishment of 4 Gypsy Roma Traveller sites.

It was added that key performance issues going forward included the number of major planning applications being determined within 13 weeks, noting the implementation of new planning software.

It was added that Council Plan actions behind target included: the County Durham Plan (CDP), with the pre-enquiry meeting being moved from June to July 2014; works at the A167 roundabout at Chester-le-Street now to take place between April and August 2014; the revised completion of the Bishop Auckland rail station, albeit only in respect of broadband access in a passenger waiting room; and revised timescales relating to the East Durham rail station, now March 2015. It was noted that one action had been deleted in respect of traffic signals in Durham City relating to lack of grant funding.

Members noted the Tracker Indicators set out within the report including: a slight fall in the employment rate, with a continued decrease in the number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24; and an increase of those accessing JSA for one year or more. It was explained that there was a decrease in the number of apprenticeship starts for young people in comparison to the previous year, however, the number of starts for the 19-24 year old cohort had a small increase of 3% in comparison to the previous year. It was added that there had been a slight improvement in child poverty figures and there had been a significant increase in the number of housing completions. Members learned that homelessness figures had remained static, however the new triage process in place could be responsible for preventing figures increasing, noting 1 in 4 being prevented. The Committee noted the increase in families rehoused via DKO and the figures in relation to young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs), as also reported at the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Performance and Planning Manager explained that new developments in relation to the "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme included: work ongoing in relation to the draft European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP); the draft North East Strategic Economic Plan, developed by a number of partners; and the Combined Authority.

The Chairman thanked the Performance and Planning Manager and asked Members for their questions on the report.

The Committee asked questions in relation to: the reduction in the number of young people claiming JSA, were they finding work of moving to another benefit; the number of "not knowns" in relation to NEET figures; the decrease in apprenticeships and information breaking down the types of apprenticeships starts; the homelessness statistics, specifically if 1 in 4 are preventions, does it follow that 3 in 4 result in a person being homeless; information in relation to the number of people accessing food banks; and information not being available via the new planning portal.

The Performance and Planning Manager explained that destinations of young people was not always known, it may be possible to speak to JobCentre Plus as regards and data they may have and further information on "not knowns" could be sought. It was noted that there was not a decrease in the number of apprenticeships available, rather a decrease in the places being taken up and that the names of the employers that had taken on apprenticeships was known, therefore the types of apprenticeships should be able to be ascertained. It was explained that the homelessness figures related to those at risk of becoming homeless, and Councillors N Martin and J Clare noted work that had been undertaken in reducing the numbers of rough sleepers, the "no second night out" policy and the Authority not using bed and breakfast style accommodation, rather using appropriate accommodation.

The Committee noted that 3 food banks reported their figures, at Chester-le-Street, Durham City and Ferryhill and it may be possible to obtain this information for Members. The Performance and Planning Manager noted that the new planning portal was online, moving from 3 systems to the new single system, with historic data was being transferred to the new system.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Combined Authority - Update

The Chairman thanked the Spatial Policy Team Leader, Regeneration and Economic Development, Maria Antoniou who was in attendance to give a update as regards the Combined Authority for the North East (for copy see file of minutes).

The Spatial Policy Team Leader reminded Members that she had attended the Committee previously to explain the proposals for a Combined Authority (CA) and reminded Members that a requirement of the Government's consultation was to demonstrate local support. It was noted that online surveys had been set up, focus groups organised and stakeholders consulted, including the Overview and Scrutiny functions at the 7 Local Authorities involved. Members noted the responses received, with approximately 75% of respondents being supportive of the proposals. It was explained that Government consultation ran from 7 November 2013 to 2 January 2014 and the 7 Local Authorities, Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority and NELEP had responded in support of a CA. Members noted the name for the CA would be publically "rebranded" from its formal technical name, similar to other CAs that had been set up in the Country, to be known as the "North East Combined Authority". It was explained that the Constitution and Operating Agreement for the CA were being drafted and discussed and Members were reminded that the North East Leadership Board was chaired by the Leader of Durham County Council, Councillor S Henig. Members were given information in relation to the Committees of the CA and noted the next steps were: for both Houses of Parliament to consider the Order to establish the CA, 7 March 2014; for the Order to be signed April 2014, the first public meeting of the CA to be held in April 2014; and Local Growth Deal negotiations to take place between April and July 2014.

The Chairman thanked the Spatial Policy Team Leader and asked Members for their questions on the report and presentation.

Councillors asked questions in relation to the risk in relation to the Integrated Transport Authority boundaries; and the constitution for the CA.

The Spatial Policy Team Leader noted that in respect of transport delivery, it was complex issue, though the risk in relation to liabilities such as the Tyne Tunnel and the Metro had been mitigated as changes to transport arrangements would require a unanimous vote by the CA. It was added that the Order was being considered by Parliament and was the starting point for a CA, noting that other CAs already established had then developed their constitutions accordingly.

It was added that the appropriate Legal Officers relating to the CA would be contacted as regards further information. The Chairman referred Members to the recommendations within the report, noting they were to note progress and receive further information on the CA at future meetings of the Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information within the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee receive further updates on the development of the Combined Authority at future meetings of the Committee.

10 Housing Stock Transfer Project - Update

The Chairman thanked the Housing Directions Manager, Marie Roe who was in attendance to give an update presentation in relation to the Housing Stock Transfer Project (for copy see file of minutes).

The Stock Transfer Project Manager noted that the application to Government had been submitted in December 2013, taking into account the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) guidance that had been published 12 November 2013. It was noted that the Council received notification on 24 March 2014 that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had approved the application for stock transfer and Government would inform the Council as regards the formal consultation stage involving all tenants. It was added that this would be a two stage process, firstly to issue an "offer document" to tenants, then to conduct a ballot of all tenants. Councillors noted that the timescale for completing the transfer was challenging, by the end of March 2015. It was explained the offer document was being developed with the Parent Board for the new group of landlords being established in shadow form, named the County Durham Housing Group, and the formal consultation would commence Summer 2014.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Members' Reference Group Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the update report as regards the Members' Reference Group (MRG) looking at the implications of changes in Government funding and policy on the economy of County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Members were referred to the draft report of the Members' Reference Group which had incorporated the comments made by the Committee at the last meeting. It was added that the response from the Regeneration and Economic Development service grouping and therefore the Committee were asked for any final comments prior to submission of the report to Cabinet.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the report of the Members' Reference Group.
- (ii) That the report of the Members' Reference Group be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

12 Council Plan 2014-2017 - Refresh of the Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the report relating to the Council Plan 2014-2017 - Refresh of the Work Programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that the report was the first stage in the usual annual process of setting the work programme for the Committee, in the context of the "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme as set out in the Council Plan 2014-2017. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Committee would consider a draft work programme and project plan, based upon the comments from Members brought forward at the meeting today. Councillors were informed that the meeting of Council, 2 April 2014 had considered and approved the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan with the "Altogether Wealthier" section attached at Appendix 2 to the report in the agenda pack.

The Committee noted that the work undertaken by the Committee over the last year was set out within the report and it was for Members to suggest topics for further investigation, taking on board issues raised from performance reporting, upcoming legislation and issues discussed at the Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and asked Members for their questions.

The Chairman noted the issue of the Strategic Economic Plan for the NELEP and Councillor P Stradling reminded Members of the need to keep in mind the implications of Medium Term Financial Plan savings that were required and to consider the resources and capacity available in order to carry out reviews.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2014-2015 at the meeting on the 23 June 2014.

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



23 June 2014

**Quarter 4 2013/14
Performance Management Report**

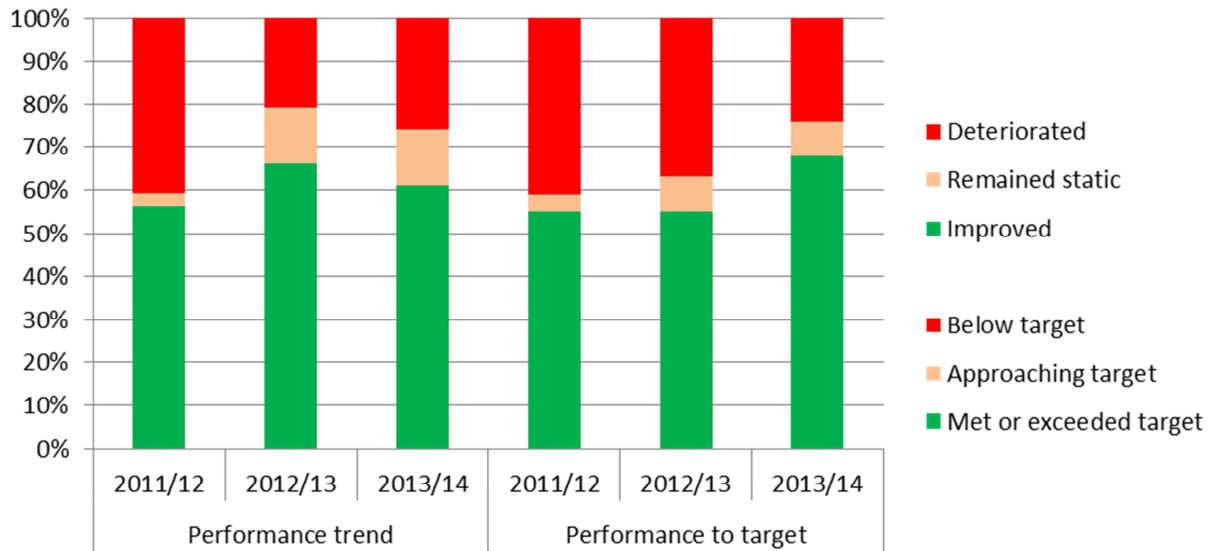
**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) for the Altogether Wealthier theme and report other significant performance issues for the 2013/14 financial year.

Overall Council Performance

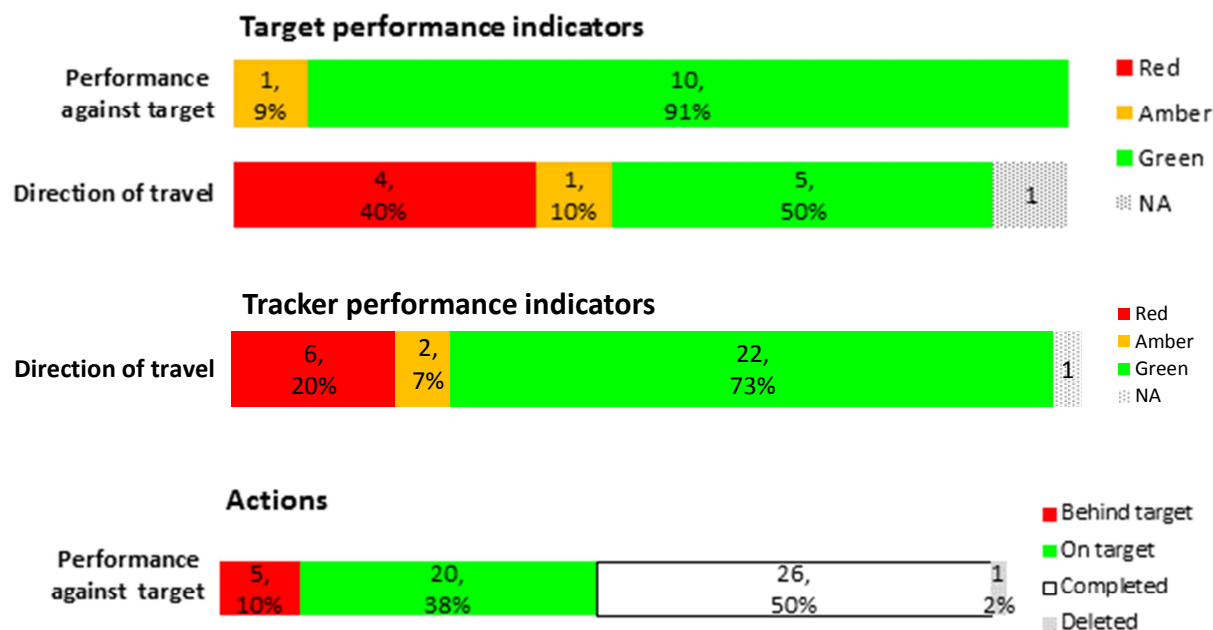
2. Since 2010, the council has been required to make significant financial savings following reductions in government grants. We have delivered just under £114million savings to date and have plans in place to make a further £23million of reductions in 2014/15.
3. At the same time, the council has also had to cope with a very changing environment over this period and manage the introduction of new legislation which has fundamentally changed the shape of public services in areas like health, policing and crime and welfare reform.
4. Demand has increased over the previous year for key services such as children in need referrals and residents using our customer access points in addition to an increase in people being rehoused through the Durham Key Options scheme.
5. It is critical that against this backdrop of reducing resources, increasing demand and level of change that we continue to actively manage performance and ensure that the difficult decisions we have had to make do not have a detrimental effect on the services that we provide and that we are focusing on what matters.
6. The following chart shows that we have improved or maintained performance in 74% of our key performance indicators over the last year. It is this strong focus on service performance that was a key factor that the judges highlighted when they awarded Durham County Council as LGC Council of the Year 2014.



Altogether Theme Performance

7. This is the end of year corporate performance report for the Altogether Wealthier theme for 2013/14. The report contains information on key performance indicators, risks and Council Plan progress.
8. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence.
9. A summary of key performance indicators is provided at Appendix 3. More detailed performance information and Altogether theme analyses are available on request from performance@durham.gov.uk.
10. Work has been carried out by officers and members on developing the proposed indicator set and targets for 2014/15 (see Appendix 5) to ensure that our performance management efforts continue to stay focused on the right areas.

Altogether Wealthier: Overview



Council Performance

11. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. A further 301 private sector properties have been improved as a result of local authority intervention, bringing the total for 2013/14 to 984, exceeding the annual target of 893. Significant progress has been made in relation to the acquisition/demolition, group repair and facelift schemes through working with Area Action Partnerships, ward members and community safety enabling the identification of further funding sources.
- b. This quarter 30 additional empty properties have been brought back into use through the targeted approach and partnership work with registered providers and community/voluntary organisations. This brings the total for 2013/14 to 110, exceeding the target of 75 and performance for 2012/13 (56). Discussions with owners regarding their options for returning the properties back into use continue to be progressed.
- c. There has been a significant increase in the number of affordable homes this quarter with 316 homes delivered, exceeding the target of 88. Performance shows improvement from last quarter (176) and the corresponding quarter last year (172). Overall, 630 affordable homes were delivered during 2013/14 against a target of 350, representing an increase of 84% from 2012/13 when 387 were delivered. An affordable home includes: new build; rented homes; empty homes brought back into use and assistance schemes such as homebuy.

- d. All three housing providers have met their annual targets for non-decent homes, with Durham City Homes and Dale and Valley Homes achieving 0%. East Durham Homes has improved from 41% at quarter 4 2012/13 to 18% this quarter (1,494 homes), against a target of 25%. Work will continue during 2014/15 to ensure that all stock meets the Decent Homes Standard by 31 March 2015.
- e. Between April 2013 and March 2014, 182 apprenticeships started through Durham County Council phase 2 funded schemes, following change of the criteria and pro-active employer engagement. Performance has exceeded the target of 130. Since the programme began in November 2011 there have been 472 starts, of which 80% have stayed at least 6 months and 65% have stayed at least 15 months.
- f. The proportion of overall planning applications determined within deadline remains the same as last quarter, at 85%, achieving target, although performance is not as good as quarter 4 2012/13 (91.1%). The average outturn for 2013/14 (87.2%) has improved from 2012/13 (85.4%). The annual number of overall planning applications increased from 3,031 in 2012/13 to 3,091 in 2013/14 (see Appendix 4, Chart 1).
- g. The proportion of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks also remains static at 72.7% this quarter. Performance exceeds the target of 71. The average outturn for 2013/14 is 72.3% compared to 75.6% last year. Performance is similar to national benchmarking (73%), however is worse than North East (81%) and nearest statistical neighbour (86%) averages. During 2013/14, 137 major planning applications were received compared to 119 in 2012/13.
- h. Good progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Developing the Durham Key Options and Choice Based Lettings scheme to increase the number of landlords operating within the scheme. The Durham Key Options Board has agreed to the expansion of the Durham Key Options Scheme through a pilot with a registered provider who is not currently a partner in the scheme following interest from three organisations. The board will run the pilot for three months starting in June/July 2014 and if successful, the registered provider will become a full partner. Work is also ongoing to expand the scheme to include a greater number of low cost home ownership properties.
 - ii. Development of the County Durham Plan and supporting supplementary planning documents. The submission documents for the County Durham Plan are complete and have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate will soon confirm the start date of the examination in public. This is the largest and most significant suite of policy documents created since the council was set up and will make Durham County Council one of the first in the country to have a plan adopted.

- iii. Pursuing the preferred option for the future of council housing across County Durham. The housing transfer application was approved by Government. Work continues on the offer document with regular updates given to the Homes and Communities Agency. A new governance structure has been agreed and the shadow parent board held its inaugural meeting on 14 January 2014.

12. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. At March 2014, 73.9% of council owned business floor space was occupied. This is slightly below the target of 75%, although it is above the same period last year (73%). Business Durham continues to implement improvements in the way in which it interacts and manages its clients and stock, for example through pro-active debt management, which has helped Business Durham to exceed its target for rent income for the end of the year.
- b. Key Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme include:
 - i. Sector specific pre-employment training to prepare clients for employment and meet employers needs and requirements, due to be developed by March 2014, has been delayed until June 2014 as a decision for potential Youth Contract funding is awaited from Job Centre Plus Flexible Support Fund.
 - ii. Opportunities for funding and work with employers to develop and deliver sector specific qualifications within the workplace, due to be sought by March 2014, has been delayed until June 2014 as there has been a lack of time and resources due to meeting other contractual requirements on other externally funded contracts.
 - iii. A co-ordinated events programme for the county, providing cultural engagement and encourage participation in sport and leisure, was due to be developed by March 2014. The development of this programme is now reliant on National Portfolio Organisation funding, which replaces our regular funding programme. A bid has been submitted for three years funding however the outcome will not be known until July 2014.
 - iv. Delivery of a programme of transport capital works across the county:
 - Bishop Auckland rail station, due for completion by February 2014 will not be completed until May 2014 due to problems with the installation of a fibre optic broadband cable. An alternative option is now being sought.
 - Transit 15 bus priority improvements on key transport corridors, relating specifically to Gilesgate bus lane. Initial consultation has been completed and following discussions with Cabinet Members it was agreed that this action be deleted.

13. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:

- a. The employment rate has improved from 65.7% last quarter to 66.1% this quarter, with the number of people employed increasing by 200 to 224,700. The employment rate remains better than the corresponding period last year when 65.1% of the working age population were employed. The rate however remains worse than national (73.3%), regional (66.7%) and nearest statistical neighbour (69.3%) rates.
- b. The proportion of the working age population not in work who want a job has worsened from 14.39% reported last quarter to 14.58% this period (January to December 2013). This represents 48,000 people. Although this is better than the corresponding period last year (16.45%), the County Durham figure is worse than national (11.17%), North East (13.66%) and nearest statistical neighbour (11.91%) rates.
- c. The proportion of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants claiming for one year or more has fallen slightly from 36.35% last quarter to 34.75% this quarter, although the actual number of long term claimants has improved significantly, from 5,055 in March 2013 to 3,980 in March 2014. The rate remains higher than at the corresponding period last year (32.33%) and national (25.5%), regional (34.5%) and nearest statistical neighbour (31.6%) rates in spite of the reduction in numbers.
- d. The number of 18 to 24 year olds claiming JSA has also improved, falling from 3,525 last quarter to 3,415 in March 2014. Youth unemployment has fallen 31% from March 2013, when there were 4,955 18 to 24 year olds claiming JSA.
- e. Homeless indicators generally show a positive year on year trend.
 - Homeless presentations have decreased from 1,761 at the corresponding period last year to 1,646 this quarter (see Appendix 4, Chart 2). The triage is having an impact on the number of presentations to Housing Solutions, which is lower at the year end compared to 2012/13, as housing providers are doing more pro-active work.
 - In relation to statutory applications, the proportion has improved from 14.03% (247 applications) at quarter 4 last year to 13.79% (227 applications) this year.
 - The level of acceptances of a statutory duty has also improved, falling to 2.61% (43 acceptances) this quarter from 3.69% for the corresponding period last year.
 - The level of preventions has fallen slightly to 18.17% (299 preventions) this quarter from 19.53% at quarter 4 2012/13, although there were more preventions during 2013/14 than there were in 2012/13. Links with appropriate services have been created to improve support for clients, enabling them to be assisted into alternative/appropriate accommodation and ensure access to financial support services.

- f. There has been a significant increase in the annual number of people rehoused through Durham key options, from 3,983 in 2012/13 compared to 5,045 in 2013/14. This quarter, 1,363 people registered on the Durham Key Options scheme have been rehoused compared to 1,024 in quarter 4 2012/13 (see Appendix 4, Chart 3).
- g. During quarter 4 there have been 179 net new homes completed bringing the total for 2013/14 to 986. Although this is lower than last quarter (352 homes) and same period last year (354 homes), the annual number of completions is higher than last year, when 852 homes were completed. In Durham City the number of completions fell from 18 last quarter to 8 this quarter to give an annual total of 51, which is higher than last year's figure of 27. The proportion of homes completed near major settlements (108 homes) increased from 44.86% last quarter to 48.86% this period. Between April 2013 and March 2014, 52.62% of homes completed were in and around major settlements which is a decrease of 14.43% from the previous year (67.05%). Although net completions have increased, permissions have been implemented in smaller settlements, with sites in larger settlements beginning to be implemented in quarter 4 this year.
- h. The percentage of children in poverty at November 2013 has improved slightly, falling from 24.1% last quarter to 23.5%. The rate remains worse than the national rate (18.5%) but is better than the regional rate of 24.4%.
- i. As reported under the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme, data for November 2013 to January 2014 show 7.1% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET), 1,167 young people. Durham's performance is better than the North East average (7.6%) but worse than the national rate of 5.3% and the statistical neighbour average of 6.6%. The Improving Progression Team and One Point Service are continuing to implement the action plan that was developed following the Peer Review by Wakefield. Actions undertaken include:
- Implementation of risk of NEET indicators across schools so that measures can be put in place to support young people at key transition points.
 - Enhanced information about NEET and not known performance is shared on a monthly basis to key partners e.g. schools, colleges and other learning providers.
 - Information about young people who are eligible for support from the Youth Contract is shared with the provider on a monthly basis in order to engage with those NEETs and help overcome barriers to progression.
- j. The percentage of 16-18 year olds whose status in relation to education, employment or training is not known was 7.5% for November 2013 to January 2014, which relates to approximately 1,316 young people. Durham's performance was better than the England average of 9.2% but worse than the North East and statistical neighbour averages of 6.4%.

14. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendations and reasons

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

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance
Tel: 03000 268071 E-Mail jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

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

Risk

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

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Accommodation

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

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

Human Rights

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Disability Issues

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

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

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

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel

Performance against target

Latest reported data have improved from comparable period

GREEN

Performance better than target

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period

AMBER

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period

RED

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:

WHITE

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

GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline

RED

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

Benchmarking:

GREEN

Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

AMBER

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

RED

Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier										
1	Apprenticeships started through Durham County Council funded schemes	182	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	130	GREEN	New indicator	Not comparable [1]			
2	Percentage achievement rate of all enrolments on adult learning courses	92	2012/13 ac yr	92.0	GREEN	96.5	RED	91.7 GREEN		2010/11 ac yr
3	Number of affordable homes delivered	316	Jan - Mar 2014	88	GREEN	172	GREEN			
4	Number of private sector properties improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention	984	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	893	GREEN	1183	RED			
5	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention	110	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	75	GREEN	56	GREEN			
6	Proportion of Dale and Valley Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	0.0	As at Mar 2014	0.0	GREEN	0.6	GREEN	36.4 GREEN	4.4** GREEN	2011/12
7	Proportion of Durham City Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	0.0	As at Mar 2014	0.0	GREEN	0.0	AMBER	36.4 GREEN	4.4** GREEN	2011/12
Page 19	Proportion of East Durham Homes properties currently not meeting decency criteria	18.0	As at Mar 2014	25.0	GREEN	41.0	GREEN	36.4 GREEN	4.4** RED	2011/12

Page 20	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
9	Percentage of council owned factories and business support centre floorspace that is occupied	73.9	As at Mar 2014	75.0	AMBER	73.0	GREEN			
10	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	72.7	Jan - Mar 2014	71.0	GREEN	94.3	RED	73.0	86**	Oct - Dec 2013
11	Overall proportion of planning applications determined within deadline	85	Jan - Mar 2014	85.0	GREEN	91.1	RED			

[\[1\] Due to changes to the indicator previous year's data is not comparable](#)

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier										
98	Number of the top retailers represented in Durham City	13	As at Mar 2013	13	AMBER	13	AMBER			
99	Percentage of households within County Durham that can access Durham City market place by 8.30am, using public transport with a total journey time of 1 hour, including walking time	73.76	As at Mar 2014	71.08	GREEN	76.35	RED			
100	Number of visitors to the main tourist attractions in Durham City.	298,698	Jul - Sep 2013	99,687	<u>Not comparable [2]</u>	121,626	GREEN			
101	Number of passenger journeys recorded by the operator of the 3 Durham City Park and Ride sites	258,703	Jan - Mar 2014	317,904	RED	251,925	GREEN			
102	Number of all new homes completed in Durham City	8	Jan - Mar 2014	18	RED	2	GREEN			
103	All homes completed in and near all major settlements, as defined in the County Durham Plan, as a proportion of total completions	48.86	Jan - Mar 2014	44.80	GREEN	45.40	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
104	Proportion of properties within the county that are within council tax band D and above as provided by the District Valuation Office	14.89	As at Dec 2013	14.86	GREEN	14.79	GREEN			
105	Total number of planning applications received against all categories	819	Jan - Mar 2014	712	GREEN	712	GREEN			
106	Total number of major planning applications received	22	Jan - Mar 2014	33	RED	35	RED			
107	Number of apprenticeships started by young people resident in County Durham as recorded by the National Apprenticeship Service	1,372	2012/13 ac yr	1,659	RED	1,659	RED			
108	Proportion of the working age population defined as in employment	66.1	Jan - Dec 2013	65.7	GREEN	65.1	GREEN	73.3 RED	66.7* RED	Jan - Dec 2013
109	Number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24	3,415	As at 13 Mar 2014	3,525	GREEN	4,955	GREEN			
110	Proportion of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that have claimed for one year or more	34.75	As at 13 Mar 2014	36.35	GREEN	32.33	RED	25.50 RED	34.5* RED	As at Mar 2014
111	Percentage of children in poverty (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	23.5	As at Nov 2013	24.1	GREEN	24.6	GREEN	18.5 RED	24.4* GREEN	As at Nov 2013

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
112	Percentage of children in poverty (national annual measure) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	23.0	2011	23.0	AMBER	23.0	AMBER	20.6 RED	24.5* GREEN	2011
113	Proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job	14.58	Jan - Dec 2013	14.39	RED	16.45	GREEN	11.17 RED	13.66* RED	Jan - Dec 2013
114	Proportion of the working age population who are qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent	47.4	2012	46.5	GREEN	46.5	GREEN	56.9 RED	50.9* RED	2012
115	Number of net homes completed	179	Jan - Mar 2014	352	RED	354	RED			
116	Total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)	1,363	Jan - Mar 2014	1,370	RED	1,024	GREEN			
117	Number of preventions as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	18.17	Jan - Mar 2014	25.29	RED	19.53	RED			
118	Number of statutory homeless applications as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	13.79	Jan - Mar 2014	13.1	RED	14.03	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
119	Number of homeless acceptances (of a statutory duty) as a proportion of the total number of housing solutions presentations	2.61	Jan - Mar 2014	3.4	GREEN	3.69	GREEN			
120	Total number of housing solutions presentations	1,646	Jan - Mar 2014	1,443	RED	1,761	GREEN			
121	Number of passenger journeys made by concessionary bus pass holders	3,074,807	Jan - Mar 2014	2,513,309	GREEN	3,052,279	GREEN			
122	Number of passenger journeys made on the Link2 service	8,167	Jan - Mar 2014	8,351	RED	7,773	GREEN			
123	Number of trips made using council funded community transport	10,000	Jan - Mar 2014	10,500	RED	24,515	Not comparable [1]			
124	Number of local passenger journeys on the bus network	5,932,007	Jan - Mar 2014	6,210,395	RED	5,923,981	GREEN			
125	Number of visitors to the main attractions in County Durham	1,665,324	Jul - Sep 2013	1,326,220	Not comparable [2]	1,433,272	GREEN			
126	Number of tourism businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham	Not reported	Not reported	89	NA	47	GREEN			
127	Businesses engaged with/assisted (all sectors)	111	Jan - Mar 2014	77	GREEN	104	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
128	Number of new business start-ups as a result of receiving business assistance	11	Oct - Dec 2013	9	GREEN	3	GREEN			

[\[1\] Due to changes to the indicator previous year's data is not comparable](#)

[\[2\] Due to seasonal changes data is not comparable with the previous quarter](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Planning applications

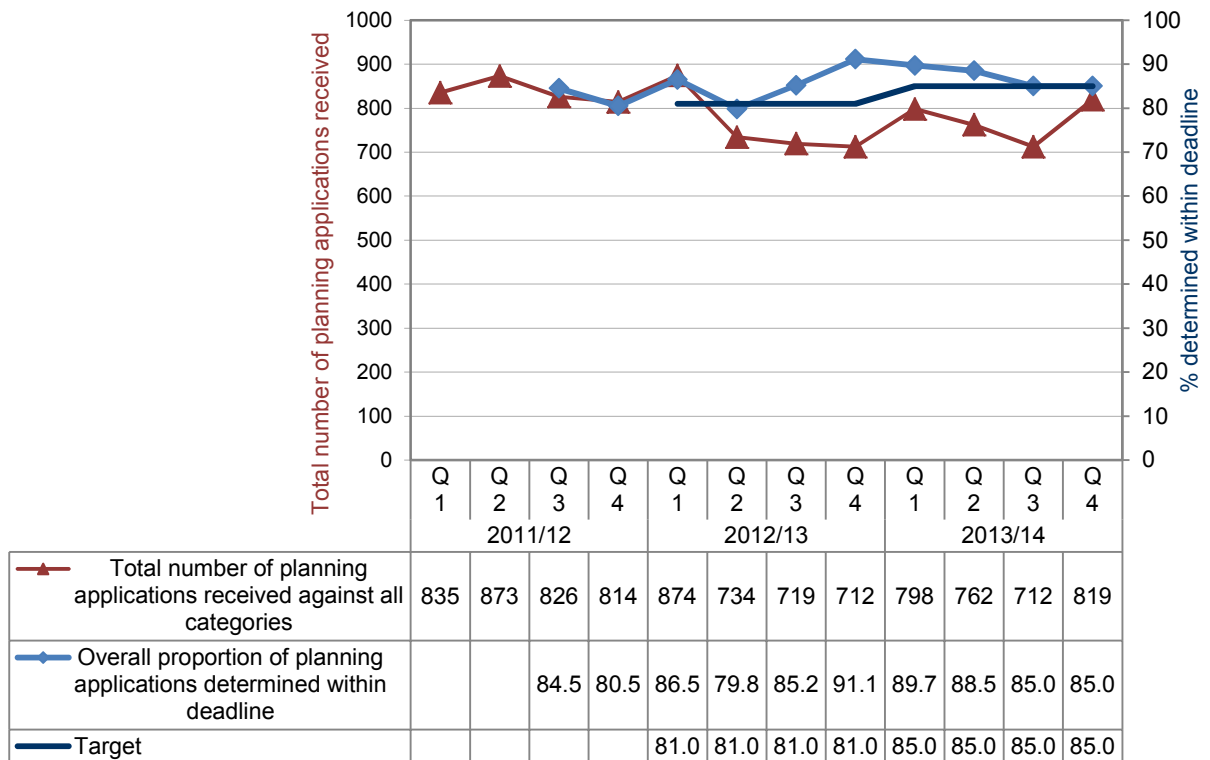


Chart 2 – Housing Solutions presentations

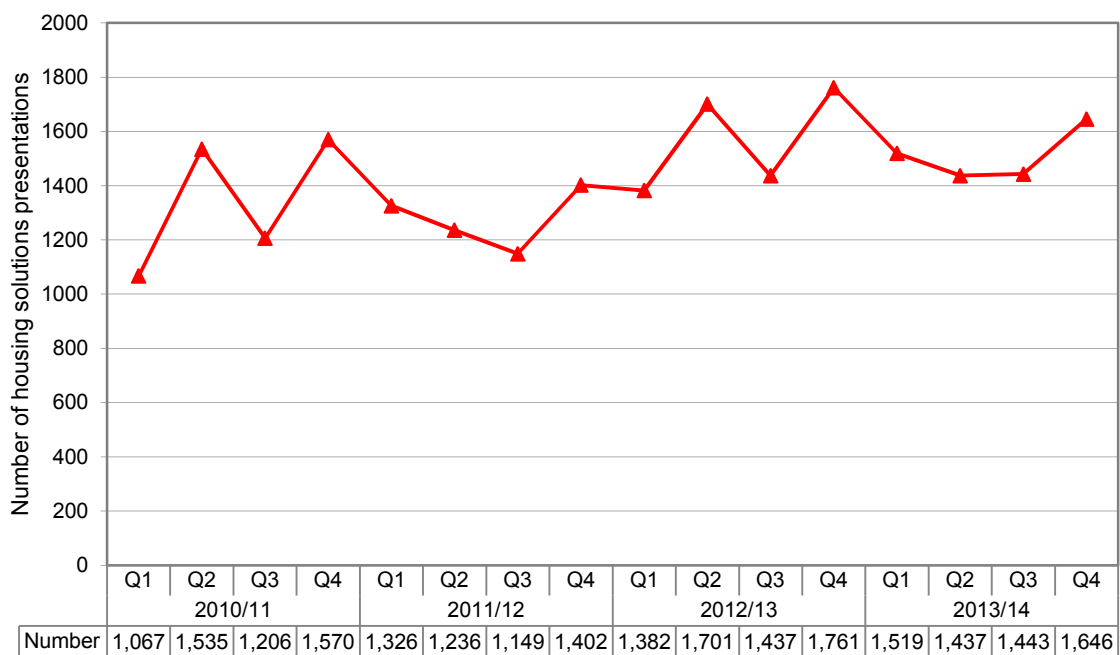
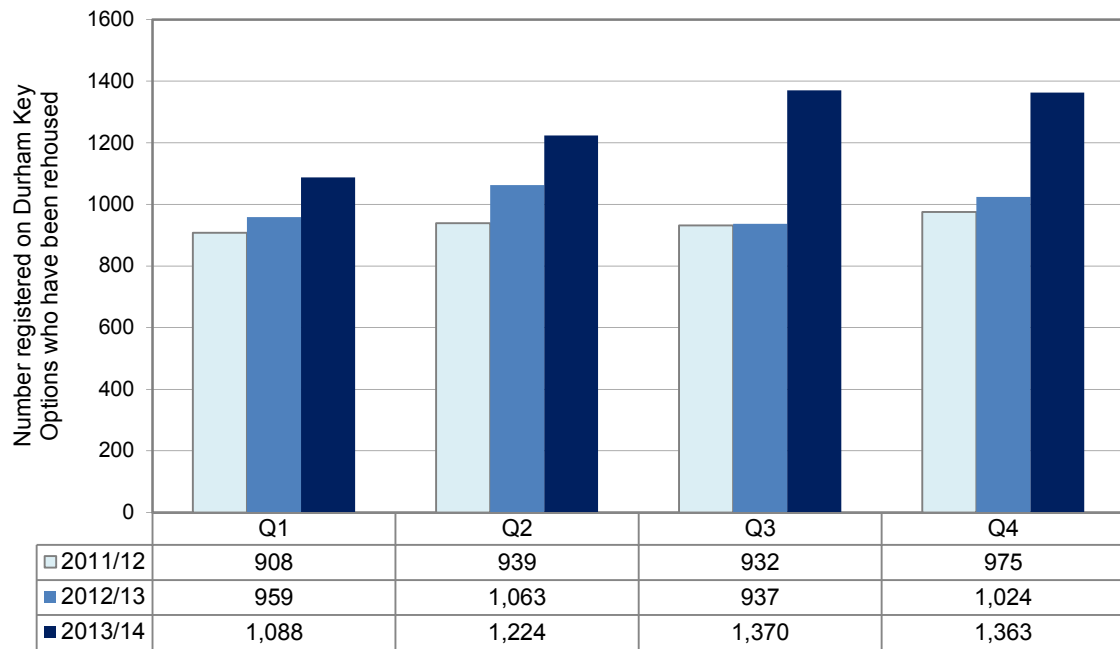


Chart 3 – Durham Key Options - total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)



Appendix 5: Proposed 2014/15 Corporate Indicator set

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Altogether Wealthier												
Tracker	REDPI3	Number of all new homes completed in Durham City	RED	Quarterly		27	43					
Tracker	REDPI22	Percentage of households within County Durham that can access Durham city market place by 8.30am, using public transport with a total journey time of 1 hour, including walking time.	RED	Quarterly		76.35%	71.08%					
Tracker	REDPI38	Number of passenger journeys recorded by the operator of the 3 Durham City Park and Ride sites	RED	Quarterly		1,113,937	317,904					
Tracker	REDPI80	Percentage annual change in the traffic flow through Durham	RED	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	NS01	Number of visitors to theatres	NS	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	NS02	Number of visitors to museums	NS	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	NS03	Number of visitors to leisure centres	NS	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	NS12	Percentage of food establishments rated as 3 star or above (Food Hygiene Rating System)	NS	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator					

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI97 a	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Barnard Castle	RED	Annual		93%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 b	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Bishop Auckland	RED	Annual		91%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 c	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Chester-le-Street	RED	Annual		89%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 d	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Consett	RED	Annual		88%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 e	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Crook	RED	Annual		95%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 f	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Durham City	RED	Annual		90%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 g	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Newton Aycliffe	RED	Annual		80%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 h	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Peterlee	RED	Annual		87%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 i	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Seaham	RED	Annual		87%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97 j	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Shildon	RED	Annual		88%		NA				

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI97k	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Spennymoor	RED	Annual		89%		NA				
Tracker	REDPI97l	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centres – Barnard Castle	RED	Annual		91%		NA				
Target	REDPI75a	Overall proportion of planning applications determined within deadline	RED	Quarterly 12 month rolling total		88.60%	88.4%	85%	85%	85%	85%	
Target	REDPI10a	Number of affordable homes delivered	RED	Quarterly		387	176	350	300	300	300	
Tracker	REDPI10b	Number of net homes completed	RED	Quarterly		852	807					
Target	REDPI24	All homes completed in and near all major settlements, as defined in the County Durham Plan, as a proportion of total completions	RED	Quarterly		67.05%	44.80%	Tracker	70%	70%	70%	
Target	REDPI29	Number of private sector properties improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention	RED	Quarterly		1,183	215	893	525	510	510	
Target	REDPI30	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention	RED	Quarterly		56	28	75	120	Not set	Not set	

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI34	Total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)	RED	Quarterly	Y	3,983	1,370					
Tracker	REDPI36 a	Number of preventions as a proportion of the total number of presentations to the Housing Solutions Service.	RED	Quarterly	Y	18.45%	25.29%					
Tracker	REDPI36 b	Number of statutory applications as a proportion of the total number of presentations to the Housing Solutions Service	RED	Quarterly	Y	16.83%	13.10%					
Tracker	REDPI36 c	Number of acceptances (of a statutory duty) as a proportion of the total number of presentations to the Housing Solutions Service	RED	Quarterly	Y	5.40%	3.40%					
Tracker	REDPI36 d	Total number of presentations to the Housing Solutions Service	RED	Quarterly	Y	6,281	1,443					
Tracker	REDPI96	The number of people in reasonable preference groups on the housing register	RED	Quarterly		TBC New indicator	TBC New indicator					
Tracker	REDPI82	Proportion of council owned housing that are empty	RED	Quarterly	Y	New indicator	1.84%					

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI82a	Proportion of council owned housing that have been empty for six months	RED	Quarterly	Y	New indicator	0.20%					
Target	REDPI95	Proportion of council owned properties currently meeting decency criteria	RED	Quarterly		DVH 99.41% DCH 100% EDH 59%	DVH 93.16% DCH 95.5% EDH 74%	DVH 100% DCH 100% EDH 75%	100%	100%	100%	
Tracker	REDPI28	Number of apprenticeships started by young people resident in County Durham as recorded by the National Apprenticeship Service	RED	Quarterly		1,659 (2011/12 ac yr)	1,372 (2012/13 ac yr)					
Tracker	REDPI40	Proportion of the working age population defined as in employment	RED	Quarterly	Y	65.8	65.7					
Target	REDPI62	Apprenticeships started through County Council funded schemes	RED	Quarterly		188	38	130	180	200	220	
Tracker	REDPI73	The proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job	RED	Quarterly	Y	16.45	14.39					
Tracker	REDPI7a	Number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24	RED	Quarterly	Y	4,955	3,525					
Tracker	REDPI88	Per capita household disposable income	RED	Annual Q1		New indicator	£14,522					
Tracker	REDPI8b	Proportion of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that have claimed for one year or more	RED	Quarterly	Y	32.33	36.35					

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI87	GVA per capita in County Durham	RED	Annual Q3		New indicator	£12,661					
Target	CAS AW2	Overall success rate of Adult Skills Funded Provision	CAS	Annual		New indicator	86.0% (2012/13 Ac yr)	Not set	86.0% (2013/14 Ac yr)	87.5% (2014/15 Ac yr)	89.0% (2015/16 Ac yr)	
Tracker	ACE018	County Durham residents starting a first degree in an academic year (per 100,000 population aged 18+)	ACE	Annual		155.4 (2010/11 Ac yr)	161.4 (2011/12 Ac yr)					
Target	REDPI64	Number of passenger journeys made on the Link2 service	RED	Quarterly		31,619	24,959		33000	Not set	Not set	
Tracker	REDPI72	Number of local passenger journeys on the bus network	RED	Quarterly		23903428	6210395					
Target	REDPI81	Percentage of timetabled bus services that are on time	RED	Quarterly		89%	86.50%	80%	85%	87%	89%	
Target	REDPI41c	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	RED	Quarterly 12 month rolling total		76.70%	77.3%	71.0%	71%	71%	71%	
Tracker	REDPI89	Number of registered businesses in County Durham	RED	Annual Q4		New indicator	14,785					
Target	REDPI93	Number of business enquiries handled	RED	Quarterly		New indicator	747		1200	Not set	Not set	
Target	REDPI94	Number of inward investment successes	RED	Annual Q4		New indicator	New indicator		10	Not set	Not set	

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	REDPI32	Percentage of tourism businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham	RED	Twice a year - Q3 and Q4		New indicator	New indicator					
Target	REDPI66	Number of businesses engaged	RED	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator	New indicator	720	Not set	Not set	
Tracker	REDPI90	Percentage change in the number of visitors to the core attractions in County Durham compared to the previous year	RED	Annual Q2		New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	REDPI91	Number of unique visitors to the thisisdurham website	RED	Quarterly		New indicator	624,943					
Target	REDPI92	Number of gross jobs created and safeguarded	RED	Quarterly		New indicator	New indicator		2,400	Not set	Not set	

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



23 June 2014

**County Durham Economic
Partnership**

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic
Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of the discussion with Brian Tanner, Chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) focusing on successes of the partnership, challenges to overcome in continued tough economic times and partnership priorities.

Background

- 2 The work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
- 3 In addition, the Committee invites on an annual basis the Chair or vice - chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) to discuss with members of the Committee the priorities of the CDEP, any significant changes to the economy, challenges faced and priorities within County Durham. This discussion has previously provided the ideal opportunity for collaboration, identifying areas of future focus for the Partnership and the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4 Currently the work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in the process of being refreshed for 2014 – 2015 and it was thought timely that the Chair of the CDEP be invited to attend the meeting on the 23 June 2014 providing an opportunity to comment upon the work programme and identify any additional areas for inclusion.

Current position

5 The discussion on the 23 June 2014 will focus on the following:

- Work of the CDEP including successes and challenges
- Partnership priorities.

Recommendation

6 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the information provided during the discussion to identify any additional areas of focus for inclusion in the Committee's work programme for 2014 - 2015.

Background Papers

- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Update on the County Durham Economic Partnership – 24 June 2013.
- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny report – Refresh of the work programme 2014-2015 – 7 April 2014.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act - None

Legal Implications - None

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

23 June 2014



**Update on the development of the
Tourism offer within County
Durham**

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Melanie Sensicle, Chief Executive, Visit County Durham**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information on the development of the tourism offer within County Durham prior to the discussion with Melanie Sensicle, Chief Executive, Visit County Durham (VCD).

Background

- 2 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received on a regular basis updates on the development of the tourism offer within County Durham with the last update considered by the Committee at the meeting on the 21 October, 2013. At this meeting Members were provided with information on the vision for County Durham as a visitor destination, what needs to happen, current performance gaps in offer, facts about Durham's visitor economy and the role of Visit County Durham.
- 3 It is considered timely for members to receive a further update at the meeting on the 23 June, 2014 providing an opportunity for the committee to receive information on the performance of Visit County Durham following the completion of the evaluation for 2013-14. Arrangements have therefore been made for Melanie Sensicle, Chief Executive, Visit County Durham to attend the meeting on the 23 June to give a presentation focusing on:
 - The reach achieved by VCD's national marketing activity
 - Additional spend in the economy generated by the Visitor Information Network
 - The reputation of Durham for its food and drink offer as a result of Taste Durham
 - The impact of the Welcome to Durham programme designed to improve customer facing skills in tourism businesses
 - Engagement of VCD with the county's tourism industry
 - A range of additional achievements by VCD between April 2013 and March 2014.
 - Challenges faced by VCD in the course of the year.

Durham Tourism Management Plan

- 4 County Durham has had a Tourism Management Plan since 2006. It was created by Visit County Durham in collaboration with the county's tourism Industry and a range of partners, including the County Council and the District Councils, and became the blue print for development of the visitor economy in the County. The Plan was based on a series of studies that provided intelligence about the County's product, its customers and its competitive position in England and the UK as well as significant input from across the County, particularly businesses operating in the visitor economy.
- 5 The Plan has been refreshed annually since 2006 in the light of new intelligence including visitor surveys in 2008 and 2010, annual economic impact surveys, a major customer segmentation study in 2007, a major study into the image and identity of the County to external audiences and benchmarking at a national level through Destination Performance UK.
- 6 The Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMaP):
 - Converts local, regional and national market research and strategies into a county-based plan to grow the county's visitor economy.
 - Is for all organisations and individuals in County Durham, and, where relevant national bodies to help them understand what is being done, what needs to be done and how they can contribute to our success.
 - Is managed by Visit County Durham, the team that coordinates the development of the visitor economy for DCC and manages and markets the destination.
- 7 The Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMaP) is developed and monitored by the Board of Visit County Durham. It has also been the subject of several presentations and discussions at previous Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It has been identified as an example of national best practice by Visit England.

Current position

- 8 In November, 2011 Visit County Durham embarked on a programme of work designed to track progress against the original objectives of the Durham Tourism Management Plan, test the existing objectives and the approach to each to see if they were still valid and to discover if any new priorities had emerged since 2006. The consultation took the form of an industry conference in November 2011, a series of presentations and discussions with relevant organisations and forums and a conference on rural tourism in March 2012.

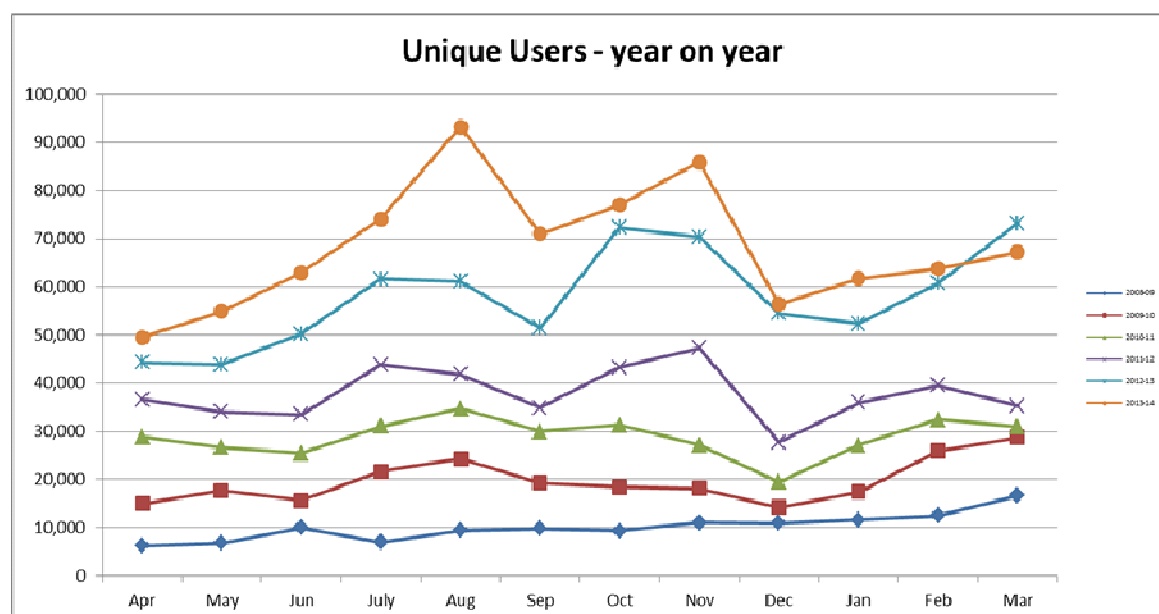
- 9 The new Durham Tourism Management Plan 2012-2016 identifies eight priorities that will deliver a more vibrant visitor economy:
1. Manage and maintain the public realm for visitors;
 2. Increase the contribution of Durham's rural areas to the overall value of the county visitor economy;
 3. Increase spend by implementing a step change in the quality of the visitor experience post arrival;
 4. Optimise the potential of Durham City making it a viable 48 – hour stay;
 5. Develop local distinctiveness in line with the destination brand;
 6. Tackle seasonality by focusing on events and business tourism;
 7. Grow the profile of the county regionally and nationally;
 8. Extend length of stay by optimising the potential of the county's market towns and town centres.
- 10 The revised plan confirmed many exiting priorities and was strongly informed by extensive visitor, market and product research and intelligence and is endorsed by:
- The Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMaP) Committee made up of private and public sector visitor economy stakeholders from across the county.
 - Visit County Durham's board of directors drawn from the private and public sectors from across the county.
 - The tourism industry.
 - A range of institutional partners including Durham University, Durham Cathedral, Durham County Cricket Club and Durham County Council.
 - Visit England, the national tourist board.
- 11 The plan is the responsibility of everyone in the county involved in developing and delivering activity on the visitor economy. The plan is refreshed annually to take account of new and completed projects and this is managed and monitored by Visit County Durham. In terms of Visit County Durham, as part of the Economic Development & Housing service, performance is managed as part of the Council's performance management framework. In addition, internal audit carried out an assurance audit of VCD in 2013/14 and advised of a full level of assurance.
- 12 In 2012 Visit County Durham established a Tourism Officer Working Group within the County Council with representation from across service groupings. The group is focusing on priority 1, managing and maintaining the public realm for visitors as well as residents. Subjects under discussion for potential action include: long stay parking in towns, the city's riverbanks, evening economy facilities for visitors, litter in the countryside and transport.

Evaluation 2013-2014

- 13 The reach achieved by VCD's marketing activity measured in growth in conversion of unique visitors to thisisdurham.com and growth of overall number of unique visitors to the site

	Target	Year end
Unique visitors to thisisdurham.com	£850,000	£882,073

The performance of the site continues to go from strength to strength. In 2012 Visit County Durham identified an average percentage of unique visitors to the site that converted to paying visitors to the county at 60%. The indication is, therefore, that the website generated over half a million visits to the county over the period. Of the above total, 92,560 unique visits were made to the channel sites established for our national campaigns on countryside and heritage.



- 14 Additional spend generated by the Visitor Information Network (VIN) measured by the added value of the Durham Pocket Guide, the main tool of the network and visits to VIPs.

	Target	Year end
Additional spend from the Pocket Guide	£6m	£7m

The pocket guide delivers an additional £21.03 of spend per user. Based on the quantities printed in 2013-14 (300,000) and the assumption that each copy was used by at least 1 person (research indicates this is an underestimate) the additional spend generated by the Durham Pocket Guide totalled £6.3m.

Applying the same spend figure to visitors that actively engage with other aspects of the county's Visitor Information Network, specifically the contact centre and the kiosks at Visitor Information Points (VIPs) – 36,000 in total - we estimate that the measurable impact of the network is £7m of additional spend. The estimate is conservative for two reasons: we know that some copies of the pocket guide will be used by more than one person; we are not taking account of the impact of VIPs that do not have a kiosk e.g. Beamish.

Recent visitor survey data shows that of those surveyed that used the Durham pocket guide 9 out of 10 visited an additional attraction as a result of reading it - Beamish, Crook Hall and the Durham Dales were specifically mentioned.

The Visitor Information Network gained an overall customer satisfaction rating of 85% good or excellent. Additional level 1 partners in 2013-14 included Durham Town Hall, Bowlees Visitor Centre and Chatterbox Café in Weardale. New level 2 partners included Darling Station, Hamsterley Forest and Derwent Reservoir.

15 Visitor perception and satisfaction with the quality of food and drink – proxy measure for the impact of the Taste Durham programme

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Eating 2010 Visitor Survey	30	61	7	2	0
Eating 2013 Visitor Survey	29	57	12	1	1

Taste Durham was piloted in 2007 and rolled out the following year (annual budget £10k). Between 2007 and 2010 there was an increase in the percentage of visitors rating Durham as a good place for food and drink. Between 2010 and 2013 visitor satisfaction with the county's food and drink offer has stayed pretty stable, with the 'very good' category showing a difference of just 1%. Taste Durham followed the same format throughout with a similar budget. In the same period two projects have sought to develop the region/county's culinary offer, Love Food (delivered by Teesdale Marketing with a budget of £300k) and Taste Club (regional, commercial company) alongside Taste Durham. The figures suggest that none have had a significant impact on visitor's perception or satisfaction rating in recent years. In 2013 Taste Durham was revitalised for 2014 alongside a dedicated food and drink marketing campaign in autumn 2014 to be executed jointly with Northumberland. It is hoped that the impact will be more evident by the time of the next visitor survey in 2016.

- 16 Number of people with Welcome Host Gold awards – measures improvements in customer service

	Year end 2012/13	Year end 2013/14
No. holding World Host award	9	19

This cumulative measure has changed due to the number of people with World Host accreditation which is the new outcome of undertaking the Welcome to Durham programme due to changes at a national level. Welcome to Durham has been developed and forms the core of the Northern Lands ‘Sense of Place’ Project.

- 17 Businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham

	Target	Year end
Businesses actively engaged	80% of core businesses	81%

VCD can do very little without the support and participation of the core tourism industry in the county which comprises approximately 500 accommodation providers, 80 visitor attractions and 25 activity providers. In 2013-14 the team actively engaged with 81% of our core businesses as well as many businesses in the retail, hospitality and transport sectors (not included in the measure). Active engagement means: participation in a marketing activity, attendance at a conference or training programme, receipt of a 1-2-1 visit from VCD staff, receipt of direct support by email or phone from VCD staff and contribution to a development or research initiative.

- 18 A second tier of achievements, in addition to VCD’s main KPIs, are monitored and reported within DCC and to the VCD Board annually. In addition to describing VCD’s performance they provide a more rounded picture of the work of VCD than is reflected by the main KPIs. They are broken down under four headings: strategic planning and research, marketing and information management, partnership development and support and product development.

- 19 Strategic Planning and Research

- We **leveraged** c. £1.2m of investment into tourism development in Durham from the private sector, Visit England and other partners.
- We completed a visitor survey to create a set of three reports at three year intervals looking at visitor perception and the rating of the county as a visitor destination.
- We hosted the **Tourism Management Institute** conference (bid for and won in 2012) which was reviewed in the Tourism Society Journal and regarded as one of the best in the Institute’s history.
- We secured 20 partners as **brand ambassadors** including Durham Cathedral, the Bowes Museum, Seaham Hall Hotel, Radisson Blu, Headlam Hall and Auckland Castle.

- We conducted a six month desk research programme and 30 1-2-1 interviews to uncover strong narratives for use in **place marketing** identifying three that have received wide support.
- Visit England identified five Visit County Durham initiatives for case studies that highlight **national best practice**: the Lumiere App, the Durham Visitor Information Network, the Destination Management Planning Process, Northern Lands and Taste Durham.
- Durham received 7 out of an available 15 gold awards at the **regional tourism awards** reflecting the growing strength of the product and a growing confidence among tourism businesses. The tourism team plays a major role in encouraging and supporting businesses to apply for the awards.

20 Marketing and Information

- The number of **bednights booked** was 626 with 1284 tickets sold for events.
- The contact centre handled **11,000 enquiries**, averaging 30 a day.
- Our three-year **national marketing campaign** with Visit England moved into its second year and exceeded all its three year targets in year 2 – contacts added to the database, ROI, match funding.
- VCD's creative for Durham's **national campaign** came out top in a comparison of all 14 destination campaigns in England showing that it was the most inspiring and motivating.
- We generated and managed **20 press visits** in the year and generated **£6.1m** worth of media coverage for the county.
- We created a digital app called **Virtual Lumiere** that created 1500 online lumiere presentations by people all over the world. The app was showcased at World Travel Market as an example of best practice in marketing Britain digitally.

21 Partnership Development and Support.

- The **Wednesday Grapevine**, our weekly e-bulletin for the industry which is subscribed to by over 1000 people retained its 25% open rate - well above industry standards - which demonstrates that it is valued by its audience
- We increased the number of accommodation providers signed up to the **booking scheme** from 92 to 115, so that we are able to offer consumers more choice. Relaxation of our quality policy is responsible for some of the increase.
- Our **autumn conference** was particularly well received and has translated into increased engagement with the Taste Durham programme and strong participation in our new Food and Drink Guide (to be published in April 2014).
- We sourced a new training provider for **Welcome to Durham**, Durham Employment and Skills, for 2014/15 enabling us to reduce the costs of the course so that it is almost self-financing.

- We delivered our part of the **Lindisfarne Gospels Durham** project – marketing communications and regional festival. It was a considerable success selling out before the end of the run and generating very significant media coverage and profile for Durham nationally and internationally. The festival comprised over 500 events. The event has gone on to win Best Tourism Event and Best Tourism Experience at the regional tourism awards, Best overall event at the regional culture awards and to be shortlisted as a national finalist in the Heritage and Museum Awards (Marketing and Learning categories) and the national Tourism Awards (Best Tourism Experience).
- We secured £100,000 from Arts Council England as a contribution to **Lumiere 2013**.
- We supported the **Arts means Businesses** conference sourcing accommodation and handling delegate bookings as well as promoting it through our channels.
- We **supported 203 businesses** with 1-2-1 visits in the year.
- The national marketing investment from Visit England enabled us to create a **strategic marketing partnership** that looks likely to continue into 2014-15 when the national marketing money runs out.

22 Product Development

- The **Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2013** was delivered. Attendance was estimated at over 20,000 and the Fabulous Baker Brothers events sold out, again. New successful content included the Eat England pop up restaurant, the Taste Cumbria Market and the Love Food Hate Waste Demonstration kitchen. Most traders reported good business.
- We created a **new Taste Durham** programme and recruited a steering group to help us develop it: Martin Blunos, Bill Oldfield and Neal Holloway.
- We secured **Defra funding** for the Northern Land's programme, almost £0.5m and set up the regional programme and steering group.
- We became leaders for two **Northern Land's projects**, food tourism and sense of place.
- We produced a new play, **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Durham**, in partnership with the Gala Theatre. It toured the North East and received critical acclaim.

23 The year presented challenge as well as successes:

- The Bishop Auckland Food Festival in 2013 was successful in developing as an event that will attract food tourists and in terms of audience feedback and audience numbers but it received criticism from local audiences and stakeholders and had an income deficit.
- The new BAFF beer and wine event lost money and wasn't successful for the beer and wine producers.
- The number of people using the kiosks in the county's visitor information points totalled 26,200 at year end a decrease of 5% on the previous year. This is not an accurate estimate of the VIN usage as some information points do not host a kiosk but may indicate changing consumer trends away from fixed information points to mobile devices.

24 Our targets for 2014-15 are:

- **950,000 unique visitors to thisisdurham.com.** We remain optimistic that we can achieve this despite a significant reduction to the marketing budget
- **£7m of additional spend generated by the Visitor Information Network.** We aim to maintain the current level even though we will print fewer of copies of the pocket guide and kiosk use is declining.
- **50 people holding a World Host accreditation,** counted cumulatively from the start of Welcome to Durham
- **65% of core tourism businesses activity engaged with Visit County Durham.** The policy change that relaxed our quality threshold has added an additional 200+ businesses into the pool of core tourism businesses in the county. The target is, therefore, realistic and takes into account that: many of the non-assessed accommodation providers newly in the pool are non-resident in the county and therefore more difficult to engage; many businesses added to the pool fall into the self-catering category which are the most difficult sector to engage, we are still in our first year of engaging with these businesses, compared to a seven year relationship with many others, and our human resource will continue to be stretched.

Recommendations

- 25 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment upon the information provided during the presentation.
- 26 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further progress report on the development of the tourism offer in County Durham and the performance of Visit County Durham at a future meeting of the Committee.

Background Papers

- Cabinet Report – 30 May 2012 – Durham Tourism Management Plan – 2012-2016.
- Economy and Enterprise OSC – 21 October, 2013.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – Relevant staff now serve on the Tourism Working Group which supports and co-ordinates activity within DCC to develop the visitor economy.

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – The Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMaP) was heavily influenced by visitor market intelligence and also went through a comprehensive consultation process with the relevant stakeholders.

Procurement – None

Disability Discrimination Act –None

Legal Implications – None

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



23 June 2014

**Local Transport Plan
and Transit 15**

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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a brief overview of the Local Transport Plan and Transit 15 and their current position.

Background

- 2 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a statutory document originally introduced by the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2001, with the third and current plan, LTP3, coming into effect from April 2011. The Plan sets out the authority's policies and objectives for the improvement of all modes of transport.
- 3 Transit 15 is a scheme conceived under LTP2 whereby Government funding of £5 million through the Regional Allocation Fund, was made available to adopt a corridor approach for bus priority schemes.

Local Transport Plan

- 4 Although previous LTPs have had a fixed five year life span, at the introduction of the third plan, this timescale was removed allowing authorities to state the duration of their Plan. For our LTP, no end date was set allowing focus on a replacement when it is deemed necessary to update.
- 5 In the guidance for the preparation of Local Transport Plans, the DfT set out National Transport Goals and associated challenges/objectives for which it was expected that individual LTPs would reflect these as their overarching priorities.
- 6 As suggested, these national goals were adopted for the Durham LTP. However they were worded more appropriately as a local interpretation to link with other council priorities. The goals and objectives adopted are:
 - A Stronger Economy through Regeneration
 - Maintain or improve reliability and predictability of journey times on key routes for business, commuting and freight.
 - Improve connectivity and access to labour markets of key business centres.

- Deliver transport improvements required to support sustainable housing provision.
- Ensure local transport networks are resistant and adaptable to shocks such as economic shocks, adverse weather, accidents, attacks and impacts of climate change.
- Reduce Our Carbon Output
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Safer & Healthier Travel
 - Reduce the risk of death or injury from accidents.
 - Reduce the costs to health of transport including air quality impacts.
 - Improve health by encouraging and enabling physically active travel.
 - Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour on transport networks.
- Better Accessibility to Services
 - Ensure disadvantaged people in deprived or remote areas can access employment opportunities, key services, social networks and goods.
- Improve Quality of Life and a Healthy Natural Environment
 - Reduce numbers of people and dwellings exposed to high levels of transport noise.
 - Minimise impacts of transport on natural environment, heritage and landscape.
 - Improve the whole journey experience for transport users.
 - Enhance quality of life by improving accessibility to key services, social networks, goods and places.
 - Integrate transport into streetscapes and connections between neighbourhoods.

7 For County Durham, the five national transport goals were complemented by a sixth – Maintenance of the Transport Asset to reflect the importance of the existing highway network.

8 The Local Transport Plan 3 was written to align with the Sustainable Community Strategy, Regeneration Statement and County Durham Plan Core Strategy. In line with these other strategies and council priorities, the goals were prioritised:

A Stronger Economy through Regeneration is considered to be the top priority. However, given the intrinsic role and reliance of transport infrastructure in supporting economic activity, means that **Maintain the Transport Asset** must be considered the second priority goal. Sustainable growth without irreversible and increasing damage to the environment is something we have to strive for and **Reduction of Carbon Output** therefore is considered to be the third priority goal. The remaining goals of **Better Accessibility, Safer & Healthier Travel, Improving Quality of Life & a Healthy Natural Environment** are each considered to have equal ranking.

9 Therefore, it follows that prioritisation of the goals in this order also determines the relative importance of the objectives for LTP3 or at least until the point at which the Plan is next reviewed.

- 10 There are also 36 policies contained within LTP3 to support the delivery of the goals and objectives. Details of how these policies align with the goals and objectives are shown in Appendix 2 and 3.

Local Transport Plan Delivery

- 11 To deliver these goals and objectives, in line with the funding streams from the DfT, the LTP is split into two areas:

- Integrated Transport Block (RED) - looking to improve transport infrastructure and promote more sustainable means of travel.
- Maintenance Block (Neighbourhood Services) - maintaining the existing infrastructure.

- 12 The Integrated Transport Block programme is split into three areas:

- Sustainable Travel – this contains the majority of schemes in the programme and covers a diverse range of topics:
 - **Bus infrastructure** – improvements to physical elements of bus stops including bus shelters, bus markings, raised access kerbs and access to bus stops.
 - **Bus Priority** – Reallocation of road space for bus lanes, re-phasing of traffic signals, bus gates and other similar improvements to support the running of bus services. Until 2015/16, this has been prioritised and funded by Transit 15.
 - **Casualty reduction** – Engineering works, undertaken as part of the programme of Accident investigation and Prevention (AIP) centre around remedial measures in line with the Casualty Reduction Strategy. These works are delivered as a mix of area, route, specific sites and mass action initiatives.
 - **Demand management** - Demand responsive budget, linked with civil parking enforcement, where issues arising require the provision of new road markings, signage, bollards or other related measures along with their required TROs. There is also the need to ensure signs and markings are appropriate for their locations.
 - **Taxi infrastructure** – improvements to taxi facilities, waiting areas and signage.
 - **Workplace travel planning & attitudinal change** – looking at attitude change through publicising the importance of reducing dependence on the private car and encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport, especially for journeys that are made on a regular basis and those of a shorter distance. This will be done in parallel with appropriate infrastructure improvements which will play their part in demonstrating that alternatives to the car can be easy and attractive, this is currently being carried by supporting our LSTF projects.
 - **Community transport** – support to the community transport sector in the provision of vehicles supporting communities and bringing greater accessibility to people.
 - **Public transport information** – improvements to timetable provision, travel information and real-time displays to ensure the public have accurate information available to them.

- **Driver information/UTMC** - Providing reliable information for drivers can assist the movement of traffic by enabling better informed decision-making by the drivers themselves. Introduction of a UTMC database in County Durham will be of considerable benefit in helping to provide reliable journey times, reduce congestion and assist people in making more sustainable travel choices.
 - **Air quality and noise** – support for the monitoring of air quality issues in the AQMAs
 - **Electric vehicle infrastructure** – supporting the use of electric vehicles by the provision of charging points throughout the county.
 - **Walking and cycling** – developing and improving the pedestrian and cycling networks to make these sustainable modes of transport more attractive and accessible for all. This has a direct link to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Cycling Strategy.
 - **Rail infrastructure** – improvements to rail stations and access to them
 - **Local accessibility** – access improvements to existing local routes.
- Economic/Transport Corridors – these schemes involve the improvement of the main freight and commuter routes across the county by removing or reducing delay points. These tend to be the bigger more expensive schemes and can lead to the requirement of additional capital funding for schemes developed that are beyond the scope of LTP funding to deliver.

13 Schemes currently being developed or recently completed include:

- A167 Sunderland Bridge Roundabout,
- Transit 15,
- A167/A693 Northlands Roundabout Improvements
- Durham Western Relief Road,
- Belmont Business Park Junction Improvements
- A693 Pelton/Perkinsville Junction Improvements

14 The introduction of cycling super routes also comes under this stream where we are looking to provide core cycle routes through the county. The initial corridor, where some infrastructure is already in place, is the A167 which forms part of the proposed Great North Cycleway (Blyth to Darlington). Due to the scale of this scheme and the limited funding available each year, new sections of this route will be completed in stages.

- Whole-Town Approach – this element focuses on the twelve main settlements in the county in line with the Regeneration Statement and looks at a range of schemes to address localised transport issues.

15 The Maintenance Block is split into three areas:

- Highways Maintenance
- Bridge Maintenance
- Street Lighting

Local Transport Plan Funding

- 16 The DfT provides capital grant funding via two formula based block allocations of Integrated Transport Block (ITB) and Maintenance Block.
- 17 At the start of LTP3 the ITB funding allocation was significantly reduced across the country and the impact for DCC was a previous annual allocation of around £6million was reduced to £2.984million and has remained around the £3million mark since.
- 18 The Maintenance Block allocation was £11.212million at the start of LTP3 at and has reduced each year.

Year	Maintenance Block (million)	Integrated Transport Block (million)
1 – 2011/12	11.212	2.984
2 – 2012/13	10.679	3.183
3 – 2013/14	10.132	3.183
4 – 2014/15	9.780	4.475

- 19 This year (Year 4) the ITB was to increase whilst the maintenance block continued to be reduced. However, following discussions between Neighbourhood Services and RED, it was felt that a better reflection of council priorities would be achieved by diverting the additional IT Block funding into Highway Maintenance.
- 20 In addition to this, due to various adverse weather events, the DfT also provided additional Highways Maintenance funding over 2013/14 and 2014/15. This has resulted in the following allocations.

Year	Maintenance Block (million)	Integrated Transport Block (million)
3 – 2013/14	11.968	3.183
4 – 2014/15	12.079	3.183

- 21 Although central government has increased the transport funding allocation nationally for the fifth year (2015/16), as this is to be 'top-sliced' to form the Local Growth Scheme fund, local authorities will in fact see a further reduction to their ITB funding. For Durham County Council the indicative figure is £2.566million.

Other Funding

- 22 Improvement schemes of a greater scale (such as roundabouts or new bus stations) are generally outside the scope of LTP capital funding and require support from other sources.
- 23 The Transit 15 project was enabled with additional DfT funding. The Council's capital programme is funding Sunderland Bridge Roundabout scheme. We have also been awarded Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV) funding to introduce further electric vehicle charging points at County Council offices.

- 24 Nationally, there has now been four tranches of Local Pinch Point Funding made available by the DfT. We were successful in securing funding from Tranche 2 to relieve congestion at A1 (M) Junction 63 and Picktree Lane Roundabouts in Chester-le-Street.
- 25 In addition to this capital funding support, we currently have two Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) projects underway utilising revenue funding from the DfT. The LocalMotion (promoting sustainable travel in the south of the county) and Walk to School Outreach (promoting walking in schools by Living Streets) projects are due to finish in March 2015. However, bids have been submitted for further LSTF funding in 2015/16 with decisions expected in July.

The Future of the LTP

- 26 The creation of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) covering the LA7 area from April 2014 has seen the legal status of 'Local Transport Authority' transfer from the County Council to the new Authority. As a result the statutory powers previously held by the County Council were transferred to the NECA. While most of these powers have been delegated back to the respective local authorities, NECA will oversee the delivery of transport functions for Durham County Council along with the other six local authorities.
- 27 Although a definite timeline or structure is not yet in place, it is expected that the NECA will have a new Strategic Local Transport Plan in place to cover the whole combined authority area supported by separate delivery plans covering individual authorities. It is hoped to develop a draft Combined Authority Local Transport Plan in 2014-15 with consultation and formal adoption of the plan in 2015-16. These timescales fit well with the need to refresh our current LTP.

Transit 15

- 28 The project is to improve the journey experience for passengers along key commuting routes and making travelling by bus more attractive for commuters.
- 29 Following assessment and liaison with the bus operators, the corridors identified were between Durham City and Birtley, Bishop Auckland, Consett, Coxhoe, Crook, Sherburn, Stanley.
- 30 Transit 15 has continued to build on past public transport investment by Durham County Council and operators, in bus stations, bus stops, real-time information, bus priority and new vehicles and service development by:
- Reducing journey times and improving reliability for bus users through removal of known delay points on the network.
 - Enhanced personal safety for bus users by improving the waiting environment at bus stops and ensuring that they are not obstructed by indiscriminate parking.

- Tackling congestion on the highway network by bringing about a shift in travel choice from the private car to bus.
 - Moving towards a 15 minute bus service frequency on key routes through partnership with Arriva and Go North East.
- 31 The project as a whole has taken longer than was initially envisaged, mostly due to the level of consultation that has been involved with most schemes. This has also led to some schemes not progressing and being removed from the programme.
- 32 However, schemes that have been successfully completed include:
- A693 Stanley Roundabout – filter lanes to enter/exit bus station road
 - C57 Lanchester Junction – widening of junction mouth to reduce queues
 - A691/C62 Kaysburn Roundabout - Improving the approaches to the roundabout to provide more capacity
 - New Inn Traffic Signals – widening of lanes and junction to improve manoeuvres
 - North Road/B6532 Durham – bus stop replacements and repositioning.
 - A177 Durham High School – widening road to provide access turn lane
 - A167 Barley Mow Roundabout – widening of road to increase lanes
 - A167/B6288 Croxdale Roundabout – provision of bus only lane
 - Bus shelter improvements – renewing bus shelters along the corridors
- 33 A scheme to improve Northlands Roundabout, Chester-le-Street, is currently under construction. This scheme, which involves the re-modelling of the roundabout and introduction of traffic signals, is also an Economic/Transport Corridor scheme and the last currently planned fully Transit 15 funded scheme to be constructed.
- 34 Transit 15 will also be supporting the development of Durham Bus Station being the focal point of the corridors.
- 35 Other schemes initially identified that have not taken place due to consultation or other delays, may still go ahead under LTP or other funding.

Recommendations

- 36 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment upon the information provided during the presentation of this report.

Background Papers

Local Transport Plan 3 – Transport Strategy (April 2011)
 Local Transport Plan 3 – Delivery Strategy (April 2011)
 Local Transport Plan 3 – Appendices (April 2011)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The budget for LTP3 in 2014-15 is £3.183m. Transit 15 had a total project budget of £5m

Staffing – None.

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity – Schemes within each project take into consideration equality and diversity

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – Schemes within each project seek to discourage antisocial behaviour through their design.

Human Rights - None

Consultation – Consultation is carried out on individual schemes

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act – It is ensured that people with disabilities are considered in the design of individual schemes.

Legal Implications – None

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



23 June 2014

**Update: Empty Homes Scrutiny
Review**

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic
Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides with an update on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained within the 'Empty Homes' Scrutiny review report published in March 2013.

Background

- 2 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenced the 'Empty Homes' Scrutiny Review in February , 2012 as a result of members identifying within the quarterly performance reports, as an area of below target performance, the number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention.
- 3 In addition, it was considered timely that such a review be undertaken in light of the difficulties faced by people in getting onto the property ladder, the financial implications to the local economy of having houses standing empty and the potential impact of the Government's Welfare Reform programme.
- 4 The 'Empty Homes' Scrutiny Review report was considered by Cabinet at the meeting on the 13 March, 2013. At that meeting Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained within the review report which included a recommendation for a six monthly update on progress against recommendations contained in the report. The last update on progress was provided to the committee at the meeting on the 24 September, 2013 and it is therefore considered timely for a further progress update to be given to members at the June meeting of the committee.

Terms of Reference of Review

- 5 During the review evidence was gathered in relation to the following areas:
 - Government Policy on this issue including the potential for penalising poor performing Local Authorities in dealing with Empty Homes.

- To consider DCC Policy specifically in respect of Empty Homes and private Sector Housing renewal aimed at bringing empty homes back into use including the links between the County Durham Plan, the Council's Housing Strategy, settlement based Area Regeneration Masterplans and associated housing policies.
- To examine the number of empty properties within County Durham including:
 - The Council's 8 key regeneration areas;
 - Major Settlements;
 - Tenure – Private Sector Housing Stock.
- To examine the range of options available to DCC to tackle this issue including:
 - Private Sector Housing Renewal schemes;
 - CPO/Clearance Areas;
 - Empty Dwelling management orders/Enforcement Powers;
 - New Homes Bonus.
- To ascertain the progress made by the Council against the above initiatives including recent establishment of the new area based approach to Housing renewals and improvement covering both empty properties and private landlords which came into effect in July 2011.

Recommendations of Review

- 6 The Scrutiny review report made recommendations in respect of:-
- How the Council can address the demands of the Government to tackle Empty Homes including the use of the various funding streams available to the Council;
 - The effectiveness of the Council's Private Sector Housing Strategy in relation to empty homes;
 - The use of the various options available to the Council to tackle empty homes with regard to ensuring value for money;
 - How the Council can learn from other Councils who are seen as exemplar authorities in tackling empty homes and the initiatives that they use to be successful.

Current position

- 7 The attached Action Plan (Appendix 2) provides information on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.

Next steps

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

Recommendations

- 9 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report.
- 10 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report at a future meeting.

Background Papers

- Empty Homes Overview and Scrutiny Review report – March 2013.
- Economy and Enterprise OSC – cover report – Review of Empty Homes – 24 September 2013.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – the Review report identifies financial implications associated with the approval of Empty Homes Cluster Bids which have been drawn up for consideration as part of the MTFP3 2013-2017. The report also details the financial implications of the Local Council Tax support scheme and associated proposals relating to the removal of Council Tax discounts for empty properties.

Staffing – The Review report identifies the staffing changes that have been undertaken within the Housing Regeneration and Renewals Team as part of the RED Restructure. It also invites Cabinet to undertake a feasibility study adopting an “Invest to save” initiative to increase the complement of Empty Homes officers utilising potential New Homes Bonus resources generated through improved Council performance in bringing empty homes back in to use.

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity –An Equality Impact Assessment may be required to be undertaken by service carrying out the implementation of recommendations and the Committee will review this as part of the monitoring of recommendations within its work programme for 2013/14.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Bringing empty homes back into use will contribute to the reduction of anti-social behaviour and environmental blight associated with long term empty homes.

Human Rights - None

Consultation – The Working Group engaged with local residents in the priority regeneration areas of Wembley, Easington Colliery, West Chilton and Craghead as part of the site visits undertaken during the course of the Review.

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act – None

Legal Implications – The key legislative tools available to the Council in tackling empty homes are detailed within the Review report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – EMPTY HOMES
 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON 13th MARCH 2013

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) Cabinet agree that an assessment/evaluation be undertaken by the Regeneration and Economic Development service grouping of the effectiveness of the existing housing renewal and regeneration policies within the Council's 8 priority housing regeneration areas to ascertain whether they have delivered the expected reduction in vacancy rates within the housing stock; and to ensure that this area of work is aligned to future regeneration priorities so that the Council is able to target scarce resources on areas where we have the greatest chances of bringing empty homes back into use and thereby making a difference.</p>	<p>There has been recent realignment of functions within the Housing regeneration service and the responsibility of bringing empty homes back into use sits within the Housing Solutions Service, within the Private Sector Housing team.</p> <p>Resources are targeted at bringing homes back into use through the Empty Homes Cluster Programme. Following very slow take up within the previous cluster areas and a conversation with DCLG the scope of the programme is now countywide.</p> <p>Advice guidance and financial assistance is provided to all owners and potential purchasers of empty homes with added incentives for those properties that fall within council tax band A and B.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions</p>	<p>March 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resibility	Timescale
<p>2) Cabinet agree that the development of projects/ bids as part of the Affordable Homes programme and associated Empty Homes 'Cluster Bid' scheme be supported and that the Council continues to work with housing partners in the RSL and Private sector to deliver projects that will increase the number of empty homes brought back into use.</p>	<p>A package of interest free loans and grants was implemented in November 2013 and together with other initiatives a package of assistance is offered to owners of empty properties. Some options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest free loan up to £15,000 over a 10 year repayment term • £5,000 move in grant for those purchasing a property to live in for a minimum of three years • Project management service for renovation of properties • Assistance in selling properties • Assistance in letting properties through Durham Key Options (DKO) • Referencing of prospective tenants • Leasing properties to Registered Providers <p>The Homesteading scheme is now progressing. This is where RP's in the priority areas are selling long term empty homes to first time buyers at a discounted price. To date 14 homes have buyers.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions</p> <p>Housing Solutions</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>3) Cabinet agree that those Empty Homes Cluster bids identified within the report be supported and approve any associated requests for Capital resources as 'matched funding' that is required as a condition of Homes and Communities Agency funding to implement these schemes.</p>	<p>This has been achieved – revisions to the Council's Financial Assistance Policy are being made so that funds from the HCA's cluster programme can be spent.</p>	<p>Housing Regeneration</p>	<p>March 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>4) Cabinet support the development of new business models aimed at bringing empty homes back into use, particularly those identified within the ARC4 Consultant's report regarding 'purchase to lease' and 'homesteading' schemes.</p>	<p>The homesteading scheme is being progressed in priority cluster areas. The three housing associations who have empty stock in the areas are participating and have homes currently for sale.</p> <p>The purchase to lease model has been progressed as part of the HCA's empty homes programme – especially through Derwentside Homes and Five Lamps. The leaseback arrangement requires a private landlord to allow a long lease to be agreed with a provider (normally a housing association) in return for their home being improved and let at an affordable rent. The model works with subsidy but has not been tested without grant.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions</p>	<p>March 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	
<p>5) Cabinet agree that the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) be supported and cabinet consider the ring-fencing of surplus resources generated by the removal of Council Tax discounts for empty homes and the introduction of the empty homes premium (over and above that required to ensure that the LCTSS is cost-neutral to the MTFP) for empty homes projects.</p>	<p>The new Council tax regime has been implemented. No surpluses from council tax collection have been identified as it has all been used to cross subsidise the LCTSS.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions/Revenues and Benefits</p>	<p>tba</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>8) Cabinet agree that a root and branch review of the existing products, advice, funding streams and associated policies relating to empty homes and housing regeneration/renewal be undertaken to examine any potential to relax conditions that are placed upon development partners which may adversely impact on their ability to secure investment funds/capital from financial institutions.</p>	<p>A new Action Plan dedicated to empty homes has been developed that will offer wider opportunities to address empty homes. The draft version of this Action Plan is attached.</p>		

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>7) Cabinet agree that in accepting the reduced performance targets for 2012/13 from 70 to 50 empty homes brought back into use, further work be undertaken by the RED Service Grouping Housing Regeneration and renewals team to implement a systematic approach to performance management which will enable the development of robust benchmarking regarding empty homes and SMART targets.</p>	<p>2013/14 target was to bring 75 homes back in to use and 110 were achieved.</p> <p>The target for 2014/15 is 120. Performance is monitored quarterly however between 1st April and 31st May, 14 properties have been brought back into use through service intervention with a further 55 properties in the pipeline.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>Pa 9) 70</p> <p>Cabinet agree that a feasibility study be undertaken by the RED Service Grouping to examine a potential 'invest to save' initiative to increase the complement of Empty Homes officers utilising potential New Homes Bonus resources generated through improved Council performance in bringing empty homes back in to use.</p>	<p>This has not progressed. The introduction of further restrictions on a local authority's discretion to spend the New Homes Bonus (which following the Spending Review in June now has to cross subsidise LEP growth funding) makes this initiative much more difficult to deliver.</p>	<p>Housing Solutions</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

Appendix 3

(a) Access to good quality advice and assistance and promote bringing empty homes back into use			
OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DATE	COMMENTS
Officers available to collaborate and work with owners in bringing empty homes back into use and to make them safe in the intervening period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and review protocols with other council departments eg planning Develop a joint working protocol with council tax department to work proactively together in the delivery and enforcement of empty homes work to maximise funding opportunities through NHB Develop a system of making regular contact with owners through letters/questionnaires Establish 'forums' where owners and prospective purchasers can meet. 	<p>July 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p> <p>Sept 2014</p>	A meeting has taken place with Council Tax and agreed
A webpage devoted to the provision of good quality relevant information to assist owners and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop DCC webpage to addressing empty homes and providing practical assistance to owners. This would include all services dedicated to bringing empty homes back into use. 	June 2014	
Promote the service via the DCC website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a marketing strategy for bringing empty homes back into use on the councils webpages Make use of all aspects of internet and intranet as well as social media outlets. 	June 2014	
Identify other marketing opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek other means of publicising the service Write to all empty property owners about the empty homes programme Distribute publicity to all DCC customer access points 	June 2014	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute information to all estate/letting agents in towns across County • Circulate information via email to all letting/estate agents/landlords and empty property owners that we hold details on. • Send information over to DCCs media team to publicise via Twitter and Facebook • Submit an article to appear in the next available edition of Durham County News • Send information to be included in the next edition of Buzz Magazine • Send information to be uploaded on to the Intranet • Send information upload onto DCC website • Send information to the National Landlords Association for circulation amongst their members and upload onto their website • Contact and explore opportunity for advertising through Rightmove • Send information to Library coordinator for display in all Council Libraries • Send information onto AAP coordinators for circulation • Email information onto all County Councillors • Send information onto DKO team for upload onto DKO website • Circulate information internally amongst departments • Circulate information to community buildings, Town Halls etc • Explore opportunities to advertise on Radio 	
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(b) A wide range of tools and policy mechanisms and take advantage of all funding opportunities			
OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DATE	COMMENTS
Develop Financial Assistance Products especially loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a new interest free fixed period loan for private landlords (without a means test) as part of a revised Council financial assistance policy (FAP). • Launch a new interest free fixed period loan for owners/potential owner occupiers of long term empty properties • Develop a 'white goods' grant for landlords to furnish their properties after refurbishment 	March 2014	
Assist first time buyers to purchase empty homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate homesteading schemes that can offer empty homes for sale at a discount in return for carrying out improvement works and retaining the homes in owner occupation. • Market DCC loans for purchasers to assist with repairs and improvements • Launch a 'move-in' grant incentive to owner occupiers buying a property to move into for a minimum period of three years 	Oct 2013	
Utilising Enforcement Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to prepare for EDMOs the Council needs to develop a policy and identify a suitable managing agent to take over the management of empty homes and secure its occupancy. • A scoping study for the use of enforced sale needs to be prepared to allow this type of action to be progressed where appropriate. • Develop CPO options 	October 2014	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the potential opportunity to commission a consultant to carry out first enforcement cases • Research the possibility of using a limited amount of New Homes Bonus (NHB) to fund additional staffing who can assist in returning empty homes back into use and so enhance the Council's NHB allocation (an 'Invest to Save' model). • Incorporate an explicit commitment in Durham's new Local Plan to use s106 monies to bring empty homes back into use as a means of meeting housing need • Maximise the opportunities for landlords to access the pilot Empty Homes Loans Fund 	tba	
Utilising DCC funding from the Medium Term Financial Plan and other sources			
Accessing other public funding opportunities		tba	
(c) Partnership working			
OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DATE	COMMENTS
Working with private owners and public sector landlords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore leaseback arrangements with private landlords and interested RPs • Identify short life funding opportunities 	tba	
	•		
	•		

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



23 June 2014

**Refresh of the Committee's
Work Programme 2014 – 15**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide for Members' consideration an updated work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny for 2014-2015.

Background

- 2 At the meeting on the 7 April 2014, the Committee considered the actions identified within the Council Plan 2014-2017 for the Altogether Wealthier priority theme and agreed to refresh its work programme to include a number of these actions. In addition, topics have also been identified that are in-line with the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.

Detail

- 3 In accordance with this decision, a work programme for 2014-2015 has been prepared and attached in Appendix 2.
- 4 Members are also encouraged to identify areas for future Scrutiny investigation (in depth review) from the work programme.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Committee are asked to discuss and agree the new work programme as detailed for 2014-2015.

Background Papers

Council Plan 2014-2017, Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee report - Refresh of the Work Programme - 7 April 2014.

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Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 19 March, 2014: The Council Plan and Service Plans 2014 – 2017).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Human Rights – None

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

Procurement – None

Disability Discrimination Act – None

Legal Implications – None

<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014 TO 2015 Economy and Enterprise OSC Lead Officer: Stephen Gwilym Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Diane Close IPG Contact: Andy Palmer</p>		<p>Note: O/S Review - A systematic 6 monthly review of progress against recommendations/Action Plan Scrutiny/Working Group – In depth Review Overview/progress – information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review Performance – ongoing monitoring (quarterly) performance reports/budgets</p>		
	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review				
Increasing young people's employment opportunities (18 – 24) in County Durham.	June, 2012	Graham Wood (RED)	Review focused on increasing the employment opportunities of young people (18 – 24) in County Durham by improving partnership working. Working Group report was considered by Cabinet on the 20 June, 2012. Systematic review of recommendations was considered by Committee on 5 April, 2013, 27 Feb, 2014 with a further update scheduled or Dec, 2014.	O&S Members will have produced a report which can be used to influence provision to support young people into employment within County Durham. Members will be aware of the progress made against recommendations contained in the report.
Empty Homes Review	March, 2013	Shirley Janes (RED)	Review focused on current national policy, DCC strategy, funding, benefits of schemes, examples of schemes in other LAs, options for the future. Systematic review of recommendations was considered on the 24th September, 2013 with a further update scheduled for 23 June, 2014.	Will provide an opportunity for O&S to comment upon and develop DCC's Empty Homes Strategy.

O/S Review	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Members Reference Group – Impact of Public Sector funding cuts on the economy of County Durham.	10 th January, 2013.	Andy Palmer/Ray Brewis (RED)	Members will have the opportunity to participate and feed comments into the members' reference group. The report was considered by Cabinet on the 7 May, systematic review of recommendations scheduled for 8 th January, 2015	Members will have an understanding of the impact of changes in Government funding and policy on the economy of County Durham.
Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Masterplans for County Durham – Annual update.	E&E 19 th November, 2012 - Overview provided. During 2013/14 several updates giving detail of individual Masterplans. Annual update to be provided at meeting in October, 2014.	Chris Myers Wendy Benson (RED)	Members are aware of the development of the various Masterplans for County Durham.	Members will have knowledge of the development of the various Masterplans for County Durham.
Revised governance arrangements – Combined Authority – Update.	Updates provided on 24 June, 10 Sept, 9 Dec, 2013 and 7 th April, 2014. Updates planned for 30 Oct, 8 Jan, 31 March, 2015.	Maria Antoniou (RED)	Members will be kept updated on the development of the Combined Authority.	Members will be aware of the development of the Combined Authority including the governance arrangements.
European Funding Programme – 2014 – 2020 - Updates.	Further updates scheduled for 30 Oct, 2014 and 20 Feb, 2015.	Andy Palmer (RED)	Members will be kept updated on the opportunities available.	Members will be aware of the opportunities for County Durham as a result of the EU Funding.

Overview/progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
County Durham Plan – Update	O&S has provided comments on each consultation stage with the last workshop held on 4 Nov, 2013. A further update on the progress of the CDP is scheduled for October, 2014 with a further update following the examination in public.	Stuart Timmiss/ Mike Allum (RED)	Overview and Scrutiny members have contributed to each consultation stage of the CDP via O&S workshops. Members will continue to be updated on the development of the CDP	Members have fed into each consultation stage of the CDP and will continue to be kept informed of its progress.
Transit 15 – Overview	E&E 23 June, 2014.	Dave Wafer (RED)	Members will be provided with detail of the Transit 15. Scheme and how it has progressed.	Members will be aware of the Transit 15 scheme and how it has developed within County Durham.
Financial Inclusion Strategy – Overview.	E&E Oct, 2014.	Graham Wood (RED)	Members will receive detail of the Financial Inclusion Strategy for County Durham.	Members will be aware of the Financial Inclusion Strategy for County Durham.
Gypsy and Romany Travellers (GRTs) – Overview of provision and responsibility.	E&E 22 Sept, 2014.	Laura Williams (RED)	Members will receive detail of the current provision in relation to GRTs sites, facilities available, process for collection of rents etc and future plans.	Members will be aware of current provision available and will be informed of future plans.
RED Capital Programme - Overview	E&E OCT, 2014.	Andy Palmer (RED)	Members will receive information of how the Capital Programme is developed.	Members will have a more detailed knowledge of the Capital Programme and how it is developed.

Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
LTP3 – Overview	E&E 23 June, 2014.	Dave Wafer (RED)	Members will be aware of the progress and delivery of LTP3.	Members will be informed of the current position and future planned progress of LTP3.
Overview of the work of the CDEP provided by the Chair of CDEP on an annual basis.	E&E 23 June, 2014.	Brian Tanner (Chair CDEP)	Members will be aware of the priorities of the CDEP, how the E&E OSC work programme reflects these priorities and helps to identify possible LTRs.	Members will be aware of the priorities of the CDEP and use this information to inform the E&E OSC work programme and identify possible LTRs.
Tourism – Update on Tourism offer together with detail of performance.	E&E receive an update on the tourism offer within County Durham on an annual basis. Next update scheduled for 23 June, 2014	Melanie Sensicle – Visit County Durham- (RED)	Members will be provided with an update on the development of the tourism offer within the County together with detail of how visit County Durham is performing.	Members will be informed of the Tourism offer in County Durham together with performance information.
Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – Update.	E&E on 27 Jan, 2014 received an overview. Update scheduled for the E&E on 30 October, 2014.	Linda Bailey (C&AS)	Members will be provided with an update on the development of the Youth Employment Initiative within County Durham.	Members will be aware of the development of the initiative within County Durham and the opportunities it will provide.
Business Support Service (Business Durham) – Update.	Last update to E&E OSC on the 9 Dec, 2013. Next update 30 October, 2014.	Dr Simon Goon	Members will be aware of the support currently provided and will have identified gaps/barriers /duplication and models of good practice in the current provision.	Members will be aware of the business support offered by Business Durham.

Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Digital Durham Programme - update.	E&E 27 Jan, 2014 received an overview of the project. Update scheduled for Dec, 2014.	Phil Jackman (RED)	Members have been provided with an overview in relation to the Digital Durham Programme. An update will be on the development of the project within County Durham.	Members will be aware of the development and delivery of the Digital Durham Programme within County Durham.
RED Investment Plan – Overview	E&E 20 February, 2015.	Andy Palmer (RED)	Members will have received an overview of the RED Investment Plan including detail of how it is developed.	Members will have an understanding of the RED Investment Plan including the development process.
Skills development within County Durham – Update	E&E 27 Jan, 2014 Received an overview. Update scheduled for 20 Feb, 2015.	Graham Wood (RED)	The Committee will receive an update on the work being undertaken within the County in relation to skills development.	Members will be aware of the work being undertaken by DCC and partners in relation to skills development within County Durham.
Apprenticeship Strategy - Overview	E&E 20 Feb, 2015.	Graham Wood (RED)	Members will receive an overview of the apprenticeship strategy and action plan to boost the numbers of people able to gain work experience and apprenticeships within the private and public sector.	Members will be aware of the strategy within County Durham to boost the number of people undertaking apprenticeships and work experience within County Durham.
Hitachi project - Overview	E&E 30 October, 2014.	Dr Simon Goon	Members will receive an overview of the project including detail of timescales.	Members will be aware of the development of the Hitachi project.
Housing - Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Performance Monitoring of the 2 ALMO's and Durham City Homes – Annual basis.	Special meeting to monitor the performance of our housing providers – 13 November, 2013.	Sarah Robson (RED)/DCH, EDH and Dale and Valley Homes.	Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny will comment upon and monitor the performance of our Housing Providers.	The E&E Scrutiny Committee will be kept informed of the performance of our housing providers continuing the ongoing performance monitoring process.

	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Housing - Overview/Progress Durham Key Options - Update.	E&E on 21 Oct, 2013 received an update on the implementation of the new policy. A further update is scheduled for 8 Jan, 2015	David Randall (RED)	Members have had the opportunity to feed into the consultation process for the DKO new lettings policy and have been kept updated on the implementation of the policy.	Members will be kept up to date on and will be able to monitor DKO lettings policy.
Affordable Homes - Update.	E&E on 27 Feb, 2014 received an update. Further update to be provided in Dec, 2014.	Richard Roddam (RED)	The Committee will be aware of the current policy of the Authority in relation to affordable homes and how this is being developed.	Members will have a more detailed knowledge of the current policy which will allow them to better monitor the performance of the Authority in relation to the relevant performance indicator.
Family Intervention Project (FIP) – Overview.	E&E 22 Sept, 2014.	Laura Williams (RED)	Members will be provided with an overview of the FIP project.	Members will be aware of the FIP project and the impact within County Durham.
Housing Strategy - Overview	E&E 30 Oct, 2014 and 8 Jan, 2015.	Marie Smith (RED)	Members will receive information on the Housing Strategy and be able to provide comment in relation to the consultation.	Members will have knowledge of the Housing strategy for County Durham and will have provided comments to be fed into the consultation.
Houses in multiple occupation - Overview	E&E 31 March 2015	TBC (RED)	Members will receive information on the policy of the Authority in relation to houses in multiple occupation.	Members will be aware of the policy for houses in multiple occupation.

Housing – Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Building homes to rent – Overview.	E&E Dec, 2014	David Siddle/ Dianne Hedley (RED)	The Committee will receive an overview of the project.	Members will be aware of how DCC intends to build homes within County Durham for rent.
Housing Stock Options Appraisal	Updates have been provided on a regular basis to the committee. Further updates are scheduled for 22 Sept, Dec, 2014 and 20 Feb, 2015.	Marie Roe (Stock Option Appraisal Project Manager).	Members will continue to be updated in relation to the development/implementation of the preferred housing option.	The Committee will continue to be kept involved in the development and implementation of the preferred housing option.
Homelessness Strategy - Update	Update provided on 27 Feb, 2014. Further update scheduled for 31 March 2015.	Andrew Burnip (RED)	Members will be updated on the development of the homelessness strategy for County Durham.	Members will be updated on DCC's approach to homelessness and how it is responding to Government policy. Members will continue to monitor performance in relation to the relevant indicator (number of homelessness presentations).

Performance Report	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Quarter 4 Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	23 June 2014. 22 Sept, 2014. 8 January, 2015. 31 March, 2015.	Graham Tebbutt (RED)	Members using performance management information to inform the work programme and possible review activity.	Summary information to Members.
Budget Report	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Quarter 4 & Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	22 Sept, 2014. 8 January, 2015. 31 March, 2015.	Azhar Rafiq (RED - Finance)	Update on budget	Summary information to Members.



MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Monday 24 th February 2014
Time	13.00 – 15.00
Venue	Palatine Centre, Durham University

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Sue Parkinson	Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Cllr Eddie Tomlinson	Chair of Rural Working Group
Edward Twiddy	North East Local Enterprise Partnership
Roger Kelly	Chair of the Cultural Partnership
Stephen Howell	Cultural Partnership
Lesley Cannon	Jobcentre Plus
Sarah Robson	Chair of the Housing Forum
Cllr Neil Foster	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, DCC
Simon Goon	Business Durham
Ray Hudson	Durham University
Ian Thompson	Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, Strategy, Programmes & Performance, DCC
Andy Palmer	Visit County Durham Board
Melanie Sensicle	Federation of Small Businesses
Simon Hanson	County Durham Community Foundation
Barbara Gubbins	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Angela Brown	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC

1. Welcome

Brian Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Brian Manning	Esh Group
Jonathan Walker	NECC
Geraldine Wilcox	Derwentside Homes

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The actions were agreed as a true record

4. Matters Arising

- Secretariat had received comments from the board in regards to the SCS.
- CDEP response on the NESIF had been distributed to board.

5. Durham University & Future Opportunities – Prof. Ray Hudson

RH gave a verbal presentation. The University is positioned strongly as 80th in world research rankings and regularly within the UK top 5. There are currently around 15,000 students attending. RH further expanded on the University Strategy in regards to a strive for excellence in research and education and the unique position of the University in enabling opportunities both inside and outside of the North East.

RH further explored opportunities connected to Durham including:

- *Enterprise Zones & R&D development*
 - Real opportunity to promote the area as a centre of excellence through collaboration with Newcastle University (Angel Alliance) in response to the Witty Review. This could include taking forward key arrow projects like a Centre for Incubation and subsequent relocation and retention of world class researchers.
 - Further benefits would be expected in the knock on effects of R&D developments within the SME supply chain. This could include the refreshment of facilities at NetPark and increasing access to R&D for local business.
- *Catalyst for increasing Aspiration & Participation amongst young people*
 - The University is increasing numbers of activities to encourage wider participation in HE. Opportunities include a wide package of grants and scholarships, for example Bob Young Scholarships.
- *Purchasing power in local economy and effect on Durham City*
 - With a turnover of £380m the university has considerable impact on the local economy. Areas include; Student Accommodation development, general workforce employment and sites & premises including the Three Tuns conversion and Palatine Centre to name a few. This considerable role within place will also overlap with a wider cultural and societal impact. The University will continue to work with local partners to support this.
- *Engagement with local business and start ups*
 - Opportunity to offer local career progression for students. However, it is recognised that Durham Students operate globally and competition for recognised talent retention would be challenging.
- *Cultural Opportunities*
 - The University is currently reviewing its approach to local and international cultural activities. It was suggested that building on the success of the Lindisfarne Gospels they would welcome a conversation with partners to develop further.

Further discussion from the board built on the above. Student growth was discussed in consideration that RH felt there would be gentle growth with an emphasis on increasing inter facility development. The University role supporting opportunities through European Structural Funds was further supported as in relation to potential delivery of the above activities.

Action: RH and RK (SH) to discuss cultural strategy links further

BT thanked RH for his presentation and his and the Universities continued involvement and support for working in partnership.

6. Enhancing impacts of cultural events on the economy – Roger Kelly & Steve Howell

BT welcomed RK to the board as the new Chair of the Cultural Partnership.

RK and SH gave a presentation to the Board. Roger informed the Board that he had been appointed as Chair of the Cultural Partnership in September. He felt that there is an importance of taking culture seriously.

The Cultural Partnership is in the process of setting out a 10 year strategy for the County. There is a need to identify events, undertake a cultural audit of the County and to work with and make links with people to make the most of the assets we have.

Cultural Business Economy

- Turnover £12.4 billion nationally
- £5.9 billion of Gross Value Added
- 0.4% of UK employment
- Market structure of the arts and culture industry
- Consumer expenditure on the arts and culture
- Funding of the arts & culture

SP mentioned that in relation to maximising economic impact, Neil Foster is leading on Social Value Act Task Force and it would be interesting to have results on the work produced that would relate to events and local sourcing and commissioning.

SH felt it is not about containing it to local people but it is ensuring we have the right people with the right skills here to deliver opportunities.

MS thought that producers of supply chain will develop where the work is. If the sector struggles for investments then people won't locate if there is no work.

BT asked for thoughts on communication issues to enhance economic benefit on cultural activity.

AP informed the Board that a sense of a future programme would benefit local business involvement. For example the 'Great Goodbye' caught many local businesses on the hop by the scale – further work is therefore needed on how we can communicate better with FSB and other representative organisations to give opportunities for people/businesses. He suggested regular briefing sessions within the sector and communication tools and website. SH agreed and said the Cultural Partnership is reviewing this through their own cultural portal.

RH felt that we need to get the message across to people that there is enough in Co Durham to stay for a week and not just an afternoon.

MS mentioned that the European directive package is changing. Unable to package up and sell experiences at the moment. If this changes it could open up a lot of opportunities.

7. NELEP; Strategic Economic Plan, Opportunities for Investment – Edward Twiddy

ET gave an update on the current North East LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) consultation and the opportunities for investment in Co Durham. The consultation process is in the final stages. The response from Government has been supportive of a strong strategic context. Further work is underway to

provide assurances on any future devolution of resources. These are focused on deliverability and governance. The final sign off with government is expected for June.

In conjunction with the SEP process the UK Government is in discussion with LEPs in regards capital project bids for a national pot of up to £2b per year.

- Working through population and GVA statistics the NELEP area could access upwards of £120m per year.
- In relation to transport the LEP have further ring-fenced DFT allocation. Discussions are underway in regards to ring-fenced allocations guidelines within DFT funding.
- BIS allocation to FE sector capital projects is strong for the north east as the area in a poor state.
- Availability of European money as revenue finance is rare and a distinct opportunity for the North East. It will bring providers /business to the region in search of revenue capital.
- KPMG is working on behalf of the NELEP to examine the availability of long term programme finance. (capital, revenue & mixed).

In the short term there is a lot going on and still have a lot to resolve in the next 4 or 5 weeks. The 18th March is an important milestone as SEP will be ready for submission

The CDEP response to the SEP has been circulated to CDEP Board please comment.

Action: Board members to submit any comments and secretariat to submit response to NELEP.

8. Moving to delivery; European Structural Fund – Sue Parkinson

SP and AP gave a presentation to the Board

Background:

- LEP area given €540m allocation for 2014/15
- Durham Transition region have €157m
- Proposed 64:36 ERDF/ESI split
- CDEP recognised within governance

- NELEP ESI Strategy submitted on 7th Oct 2013
 - Feedback and comments received from government in Nov 2013
 - Developing and firming up investment proposals Nov – Jan 2014
 - Final draft of LEP strategies submitted 3rd Feb 2014
 - Partnership agreement submitted to European Commission by end March 2014, expecting 4 months negotiation
 - Operational programmes submitted to European Commission by end April 2014
- Commission have 6 months to approve an admissible operational programme
- Implementation last quarter of 2014/15

County Durham:

- SP highlighted the tremendous partnership work that has developed a local CDEP suite of activity and investment proposals. These in turn have been included in the County Durham EU Investment Plan alongside indicative allocations and expected outputs.
- Contained within the document are Durham Asks, including;
 - Opt in discussions and CDEP participation
 - CDEP governance role including North East Investment Board, YEI, NELEP Investment Group
 - Programme specific indicators
 - Technical Assistance
- SP indicated the next phase was the workstreams to meet after the LEP has received feedback and look to develop a pipeline of projects that can feed into the next phase.
- SP also asked the board to endorse the establishment of a County Durham European Investment Group to mirror NELEP arrangements. The Chair of the Durham Investment Group would also represent the CDEP on the NELEP Group.

SP thanked everyone who had been involved in the process who have helped to get where we are.

AP presented a slide on Communication explaining the importance of effective representation not only internally amongst partners but also externally with the NELEP, Combined Authority and National bodies. AP asked all board members to agree to coordinate information in regards to the European Programme through the CDEP Secretariat. One example discussed was CDEP representation on NELEP European sub/policy groups.

The board was asked to endorse the following recommendations

- Endorse the EU Investment Plan
- Agree approach to delivery
- Establish a County Durham Investment Group
- Agree approach to communications

All four recommendations were agreed by the Board

9. Partners and Working Group Chair updates

Sarah Robson – Housing Forum

- Sarah thanked Sue Parkinson for giving a presentation to Housing Forum in relation to Investment Fund.
- Phil Jackman gave a presentation in relation to Digital Durham supply and demand have nominated champions which has been very helpful
- Marie Smith updated on Welfare Reform impacts. An EU Workshop planned for 4th March for Registered Providers.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson – Rural Working Group

- Sue Parkinson has given presentation to the Rural Group which was very well received.
- Jane Winter was present on behalf of Defra and gave a short update which included a brief update on Digital Durham and was agreed that this would be future agenda item
- The Rural Group have been working on a response to complement CAP Policy

Melanie Sensicle – Visit Co Durham

- Visitor survey 3 is now in process
- Headlines highlighted good practice, but some challenges
- There is a national seminar in March from the Tourism Minister in relation to state aid – This could have an impact on future tourism activity related to European funding.
- This is final year for money to promote food and drink across the region

VCS – Barbara Gubbins

- VCS Strategy group established by DCC inc Fire Service, Police, University, major infrastructure Orgs, Councillors, 1st meeting looked at volunteering and strategy to maximise benefits/mapping and develop a framework
- Darlington Evolution software/web model developed under their transforming local infrastructure funding which measures volunteering
- There are still charities closing or scaling down now that reserves have run out
- CDCF – Almost 200 applications mainly micro businesses 14 drop outs 750k so far over 9 months Looking at match opportunities for further delivery after the second year evaluation.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business

11. Date and Time of next meeting

19th May 2014 @ 1pm



MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Monday 19 th May 2014
Time	13.00 – 15.00
Venue	NetPark Incubator Board Room

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Sue Parkinson	Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Cllr Eddie Tomlinson	Chair of Rural Working Group
Sarah Robson	Chair of the Housing Forum
Cllr Neil Foster	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, DCC
Simon Goon	Business Durham
Ian Thompson	Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, Strategy, Programmes & Performance, DCC
Andy Palmer	Federation of Small Businesses
Simon Hanson	County Durham Community Foundation
Barbara Gubbins	Chair of Durham City Board
Neil Graham	CPI
Arun Harish	Durham Business Group
Alison Gittins	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Angela Brown	

1. Welcome

Brian Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Brian Manning	Esh Group
Ray Hudson	Durham University
Christine Yule	Durham Business Group
Paul Robson	Job Centre Plus
Geraldine Kay	Derwentside Homes
Melanie Sensicle	Visit County Durham
Roger Kelly	Chair of Cultural Partnership

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The actions were agreed as a true record

4. Matters Arising

There were no issues to raise

5. Supporting Investment in Co Durham; Business Durham – Simon Goon

Simon Goon gave a presentation to the Board in relation to supporting Investment in County Durham he reported that here in NETPark it is the only science park in the North East of England that has reached full capacity. Business Durham is the economic development company for County Durham, delivering the right environment for business and economic growth.

The 5 principles of Business Durham are:-

- Financial self-sustainability
- Develop effective and influential networks (Partnerships)
- Greater proactivity in business engagement, business support and inward investment
- Baseline economy and demonstrate progression towards positively impacting economy
- Implement improved internal systems

In summary Business Durham's aim is to help businesses locate, stay, grow and diversify in Durham.

Businesses need maximum opportunity to grow and thrive whether that is through supporting business competencies, sector development, investment, tackling premises and sites needs or supply chain development. Business Durham also helps support enterprise, business creation and stimulates entrepreneurship.

Simon highlighted key successes of Business Durham including; the involvement in Hitachi and its supply chain and developing opportunities at NETPark.

Questions

ET asked in relation to the NELEP how do you communicate with Teesside – SG mentioned they meet regularly with Neil Kendley and share information on the Hitachi chain and how they can develop relationships further to engage Darlington for the High Speed 2 rail. ET also mentioned that he was the Rural link for communication via the Rural Advisory Board.

BT – How can the CDEP support getting the message across to businesses and are businesses aware of what the offer is?

SG – We need to continue to build greater networks, create opportunities for businesses in Durham. It was felt that the partnership has a key role in raising this profile and promoting County Durham as a place to invest and to do business.

Action: Secretariat to circulate presentation

6. Shaping Capital Investment for County Durham – Andy Palmer

Andy presented to the Board in relation to capital investment. Building on the presentation from Ed Twiddy at the last Board meeting about the Strategy Economic Plan (SEP), there are key areas for investment in the County that needs to be optimised. These include A19/A1 growth corridors/ JEREMIE programme/Durham City and key business locations like Hitachi at Aycliffe Business Park & NETPark.

As part of the Local Growth Fund development process, County Durham has developed a number of proposals (public & private sector led). These investment proposals are for combination of loan and grant requests. Some of the main proposals include:

- Opening up site at Newton Park on Aycliffe Business Park– The plan is to open up and grow the supply chain for Hitachi.
- NETPark infrastructure development
- Beamish Museum
- Rural Programme
- Horden Railway Station & wider Transport schemes
- CPI Schemes

The Draft SEP was submitted to Government in March and following that further detailed project proposals have been submitted for LGF 2015/16.

NELEP are reviewing and prioritising proposals for project shortlists. Partners are working with NELEP to maximise opportunities for County Durham. All our proposals must support economic growth and job creation.

Action: AP to share draft SEP and once possible further details on LGF projects for 2015/16

NF said there had been difficulties with communication from Europe which is a disadvantage and does not help with planning our priority investments AP mentioned that timescales were optimistic on European side.

7. Building a ‘Thriving Durham City’ – Sarah Robson

Sarah gave a presentation to the Board, covering:-

- Planned work to promote Durham City
- Priorities over the next 3 years
- Alignment of strategies

SR highlighted the need to protect heritage we have, whilst promoting private sector development to help to stimulate further demand.

There is an emphasis on vitality of the City. We have already seen a lot of work going on and projects being developed in the city. We need to build on this. The public sector role is to act as the facilitator for all developments.

Some of the key developments are:-

Timeline 2014/15

- The Co Durham Plan Examination in Public, this is hoped to be adopted by 2015
- North Road Planning application to be submitted
- Potential marketing of Elvet Waterside

2015

- The County Durham Plan will be adopted
- Prepare Aykley Heads – Masterplan
- Redevelopment of Old Shire Hall
- Millburngate House Planning Application to be submitted

2016

- Commencement of strategic housing sites
- Opening of Freemans Reach
- Completion of new bus station and junction improvements

2017

- Construction of Western relief Roads
- Completion of SCOOT project
- Lumiere Festival

2018

- Opening of Western relief roads
- Pace private development clearly visible

2020

- DCC vacated Aykley Heads (This may happen before this date)

Action: SR to circulate plans to the Board

Questions

BT asked if there were plans for Northern Relief Road. It was confirmed that this would be 10-15 years down the line.

SH asked in regards to past and future consultation plans SR mentioned that over the last 3 years of developing the Co Durham Plan they had over 100 public events which outlined key parts of the proposals. Opportunities for consultation and engagement on individual aspects of the strategic programme for Durham City where further discussed.

Action: Secretariat to facilitate a meeting with SH to discuss these issues

NG felt that we need to change people's mind-set. The City does need to move forward and we have been given an opportunity by government departments to make the most of the city centre that we must harness. This is all positive and we need to make people aware so things can work together to grow the city of Durham.

8. Investing in Innovation & Business; CPI Case Study – Arun Harish

Arun gave a presentation to the group in relation to CPI, its growth plans and LGF projects.

He mentioned that CPI had grown substantially moving from a regional level to national player and is very proud of its achievements. It has been operating for 10years this year and now employs 220 people. It has worked with over 500 companies and is continuing to work in partnership.

The Two LGF projects discussed in more detail were;-

- National Centre for Healthcare (bio)Photonics (£18m) – NETPark
- Centre for Innovation in Formulation (£14.4m) - NETPark

Questions

The board discussed the opportunities for working across the two LEPs and how best to overcome concerns.

LEP's are working together with CPI to ensure that we make the most of the advantages.

9. County Durham European Investment Group – Sue Parkinson

National level – A National Partnership Agreement has been drafted and agreed to give an understanding between UK and commission. Arrangements for the Operational programme are still outstanding however; proposed frameworks for ESF and ERDF have been consulted on.

The board was reminded of County Durham has transitional status which means any money can only be spent in County Durham. As most people will be aware we are currently working on pipeline projects, this is operating through our County Durham European Investment Group which covers leadership activity. These groups were agreed and set up with instruction from CDEP Board. The next meeting will be held 26th June where we will receive an update from each group. All European money comes with targets so it would be more efficient for us to start to look at further collaboration.

The second item on the agenda will be how European Investment at County level can work better with the NELEP to ensure our effective engagements and influencing.

AH asked who decides how money is spent? DCLG is the owner of the funds, however locally by the European Investment group we will determine our priority areas for investment and agree the types of activity we would like to see to achieve our outcomes. This will be done through collaboration with the NELEP. AP felt there may be a willingness to look at programme management for other transition regions (There are 11 in the country), SP stated we don't need to get too concerned on the business process until it all becomes clearer.

10. Partners and Working Group Chair updates

Sarah Robson – Housing Forum

The Housing Forum met in May and will meet again in July. Ivan Wood presented on the Police & Crime Bill. There was an update on Welfare Reform and HCA update. Providers are feeling the change in business model in relation to welfare reform. On the flip side providers have had best year which seemed encouraging.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson – Rural Working Group

The Rural Working Group met on 24th April. There was an update on Defra from Claire Daly, Graham Black gave an update on rural proofing of the Co Durham Plan, Steve Robson from Enterprise Agency discussed REDO's and the work they had been doing, Tony Thompson gave an update on both rural and Durham broadband. The CLA are working with British Telecom and farmers are helping with digging in more remote areas.

Neil Graham – Durham City Board

There was a presentation at the last Durham City Board meeting on the review of the bus station. SR had covered other key projects in her presentation.

VCS – Barbara Gubbins

Voluntary Sector Strategy Group meets every few months. Jo Laverick DCA is launching Volunteer awards in June and the ceremony will take place in October at the Ramside. This will showcase the work of individual volunteers from across County Durham. Nominations for awards will open from 5th June – 25th July.

BG attended a presentation on Friday for national/regional funding for the voluntary sector. There is more opportunity for Durham to put in bids to lobby for national funding.

Garfield West Findings did a report on how North East is not getting their fair share. The feedback for this has been difficult to obtain. The office for civil society has launched a consultation on its forthcoming £40m Sustainability Fund on sustainability and Barbara will be attending a Big Lottery funding event with Joanna Laverick to continue support for Co Durham.

11. Any Other Business

SG mentioned that the Access to Finance guide is now online. If anyone would like a hard copy contact SG.

12. Date and Time of next meeting

28th July 2014 at 1pm