



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date Friday 12 February 2016
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 meetings held on the 10 December and 17 December 2015 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Declarations of interest, if any
5. Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's Policy Programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 11 - 50)
6. Update on Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2016/17 - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 51 - 52)
7. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 53 - 70)
8. Notice of Key Decisions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 71 - 80)
9. Update in relation to Petitions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 81 - 88)
10. Information update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 89 - 94)
11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
4 February 2016

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

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

Councillors E Adam, A Batey, R Bell, H Bennett, D Boyes, K Corrigan,
R Crute, S Forster, B Graham, K Henig, J Hillary, A Hopgood, P Lawton,
J Lethbridge, T Nearney, M Nicholls, C Potts, L Pounder, J Robinson,
A Shield, M Simmons, W Stelling, J Turnbull and S Wilson

Parent Governor Representatives:
Mr R Patel

Contact: Jackie Graham

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At a Meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 10 December 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors P Stradling, E Adam, A Batey, H Bennett, D Boyes, R Crute, B Graham, K Henig, J Hillary, A Hopgood, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, M Nicholls, C Potts, L Pounder, M Simmons and J Turnbull

Also Present:

Councillors J Clare, P Conway, M Davinson, N Foster, C Hampson, A Laing, N Martin, T Pemberton, B Stephens, O Temple and M Williams

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, K Corrigan, S Forster, T Nearney, J Robinson and S Wilson.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Future Arrangements for the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection

The Board considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and the Assistant Chief Executive that provided information on the implementation of future arrangements for the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) collection. A presentation was given by the Head of Culture and Sport (for copy of report and presentation slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration appreciated that the future arrangements for the DLI was a very sensitive issue and stated that even in the current challenging financial environment, heritage was to be celebrated while assets were to be utilised in the best way possible.

Stephen Howell, Head of Culture and Sport gave a detailed presentation on the process and how the future DLI Museum arrangement would be implemented highlighting the following areas:-

- Current context of the decision;
- Overview of the DLI Collection;
- Nature and Scope of the Future Offer;
- Developing the Content and Programme;
- Decant and Residual Issues;
- Anticipated Outcomes of Future Offer;
- Partner Observations, Trustees and Army Museums Ogilby Trust;
- Next Steps.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Culture and Sport for a very exciting and informative presentation.

James Ramsbotham, Chairman of the DLI Trustees thanked Durham County Council for the support and strong representation they had received. He acknowledged that Trustees had considerable responsibility for a collection that means so much to so many people and was confident that with the continued support, the story of the DLI would be preserved as part of Durham's history for future generations.

The Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services informed the Board that it was no longer possible to provide the service as it stands. He advised that changing times required new and creative ways of telling the DLI story including the use of digital technology to reach more people. The Council have to find savings of £290m and can no longer provide the same services on their own. Finding new and innovative ways of working with partners to maximise the collective ability was important in order to retain the heritage and promote Durham through the schools education programmes for future generations.

The Chairman invited questions from Members of the Committee:-

Councillor Adam agreed that the presentation was very positive and indicated that there had been mis information regarding the Authority's point of view in the media. The Council had been portrayed as insensitive when dealing with the situation and he asked if officers agreed that communication could have been better handled and if the other five military museums under threat were fully aware of the possible implications. Councillor Foster responded that lessons had been learnt. He felt that there had been too much focus on what was happening with the building and not enough on the collection. The Council tried to get the message across via press releases and he had answered a question relating to the DLI at full Council, however he acknowledged that there had been difficulties with communications. Regarding the relationship with other museums, he clarified that they were all aware of the financial situation and have continued to be under pressure for a number of years.

Councillor Hillary felt that emotions were high due to the lack of information regarding future intentions. He asked that the Council and Trustees make a statement on behalf of the regiment explaining the future of the collection in order to help alleviate some fears. He questioned if the money allocated for resources was realistic, taking into account staffing, curators, property lease and climate control. The Chairman of the DLI Trustees

responded that the Trustees had issued a number of letters in the media and would be issuing another statement shortly. The Head of Culture and Sport advised that the Sevenhills facility already housed other collections and a space had been created for the DLI collection. He clarified that costs would include capital and funding grants and the £70,000 revenue would fund education programmes and animation to bring the collection to life.

Councillor K Henig commented that the current admission fee could not maintain and preserve the collection taking into account the overall financial pressures and felt that under the new arrangements, admission would be free which would be inviting to the public. She referred to the sensitive issue of loved ones ashes scattered on the land and asked if a permanent memorial on the site had been considered for families to visit. The Chairman of the DLI Trustees advised that the land was not consecrated ground but would continue to be regarded as a memorial area. The Board were informed that the Council has had discussions with the Cathedral regarding the potential option of transfer of turf from the DLI site to the palace gardens after families had been consulted. He added that memorial benches would be part of the project as it moves forward.

Councillor Hopgood commented that she would have liked the information to be presented much earlier and agreed that there were lessons to be learnt. She asked for confirmation that the DLI would not be part of the Aykley Heads redevelopment site and questioned what would happen to the Art Gallery. Councillor Foster confirmed that the DLI was not part of the Aykley Heads development site. The Head of Culture and Sport added that the Art Gallery was under a separate budget and informed the Board that the Council were looking at potential property in the City for exhibition programmes that would also move around the County.

The Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a total of £290M of savings were to be made with part having already been made from back office services and unfortunately now, front line services would have to be affected. He felt that this project was an example of how providing Council services could be creative going forward.

Councillor Batey agreed that it was a comprehensive presentation and was pleased that the land issue had been clarified. As Vice-Chairman of Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee she found the inventive nature very positive and exciting.

Councillor Potts added that timely communication was vital and it would be useful to have the same presentation at Area Action Partnerships.

Councillor J Lethbridge commented that the Authority had a considerable responsibility regarding the changes to the DLI and how that change was managed was important. He was pleased to hear that the landscape would remain unchanged and agreed that a monument would be very welcome. He asked that access for elderly people getting to Palace Green be considered and suggested that a bus service should be arranged.

Councillor Crute advised that the objective for the DLI collection was to reach as many people as possible and to boost economic development and tourism. He suggested that 'Visit County Durham' be involved in future engagement plans as they have proven to be very effective in marketing and promotions. The Head of Culture and Sport advised that they were already in discussions with Visit County Durham as part of the economic agenda.

The Chairman invited questions from other Members:-

Councillor Williams welcomed the exhibition at the Gala and suggested that equipment could be stored in the building at Gilesgate.

As local member for Aykley Heads, Councillor Martin supported the request for a permanent memorial, however felt that for a city like Durham not to have a museum reflects poorly on the County. He agreed that lessons had to be learnt and felt that the presentation should have been made before the Cabinet decision was made in order for views to be taken into account. He felt that the majority of public concerns were due to the lack of information and that the press releases failed to get the full story across.

The Chairman agreed that communication could have been managed better and that future communication was to be precise. He assured members that Scrutiny would monitor the progress.

Councillor Foster added that money would be spent on the collection and promotions to ensure Durham was recognised locally and on a national scale and added that articles in the media and press releases would continue. He felt that public perception would improve when final arrangements were in situ.

Councillor Temple felt that receiving the presentation and details of financial contributions in advance would have helped in understanding the role and relationships between the Authority and Trustees. He raised the same concerns as Councillor Hillary regarding the money allocated and also questioned if the amount was realistic for the entire scheme. The Head of Culture and Sport advised that a new agreement between the Authority and Trustees would be reported back along with approval of a new format as it develops in the future. He explained that money allocated was divided into two areas with £20,000 for the education programme and officers retained in the structure, the remainder would cover animation and exhibition costs. He was confident that the results could be achieved within the expenditure identified and that efforts would be made to attract other project resources and grants in delivering the programme.

In response to suggestions from Councillor Davinson regarding memory boxes and reaching out to residents of sheltered and day care facilities, the Head of Culture and Sport advised that museums in a box were already part of the education programme that would continue and welcomed any exhibition suggestions.

Councillor Laing commented that she had strong connections with the DLI as her husband was part of the DLI for 23 years. She was delighted with the opportunities presented for the future of the collection.

Councillor Williams suggested that the Dennis Donnini memorial plaque currently located within the County Hospital grounds be removed and placed in an appropriate location.

The Chairman highlighted the sense of pride in County Durham regarding its industrial heritage and the DLI and felt that the offer was an innovative resolution to many financial issues that must be promoted. He thanked the Head of Culture and Sport, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods, Councillor Foster and James Ramsbotham, Chairman of the DLI Trustees and advised that Scrutiny would be looking at the progress over a period of time.

Councillor Hopgood referred to the recommendations within the report and asked that a progress update be reported back to the Board in 3 months to enable the Board to give further consideration to the new agreement between the County Council and the DLI Trustees regarding the future management arrangements of the DLI Collection as well as the promotional information and press engagement scheduled for January. The Chairman advised that the usual process was for update reports to be brought back to the Board within 6 months, however 3 months may be possible.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the additional information provided by Councillor Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, Terry Collins, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Steve Howell, Head of Service – Culture and Sport, Neighbourhood Services in respect of the proposed implementation of the future arrangements for the DLI Museum be received and noted;
- (iii) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management welcomes the positive feedback from the DLI Trustees and the Army Museums Ogilby Trust in respect of the future of the DLI “collection” arrangements;
- (iv) That further detailed update reports be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the progress made against the implementation timetable for the new DLI collection management arrangements, the first of these to be considered after a period of three months from the date of this meeting and to include consideration of the new arrangement with both the University and the DLI Trustees regarding the future management arrangements of the DLI collection.

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At a Meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 17 December 2015 at 11.00am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors P Stradling, A Batey, R Bell, H Bennett, D Boyes, K Corrigan, R Crute, B Graham, A Hopgood, C Potts, L Pounder and J Turnbull

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Adam, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, T Nearney, J Robinson and A Shield.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Referring to points raised from the minutes of the meeting held on the 23 October 2015, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager provided the following updates:-

- Item 5 paragraph 5 – published national figures for zero hour contracts were 697,000, 2.3% of the workforce with a high representation in retail;
- Item 5 paragraph 7 – the link to the directory of services had been emailed to members following the last meeting;
- Item 5 paragraph 9 – unemployment figures as a result of the closure of Redcar Steelworks were 39 people registered in County Durham, with 26 registered in the Peterlee area. The figures did not include the number of people who may be affected by supply chains and the figures only reflected the number of people who had applied to Job Centre Plus;
- Item 5 paragraph 11 - the fuel poverty strategy was reported at a special meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 December and the invite was extended to all scrutiny members. Minutes of the meeting were available on the Councils website;
- Item 6 paragraph 4 – details of asset transfer timelines and action plans was reported to Cabinet on the 15 July 2015 and a copy had been emailed to Councillor Wilson;

- Item 7 paragraph 3 – the Barnard Castle walls were not owned by the Council, however Durham County Council were working with other organisations to progress the matter;
- Item 7 paragraph 4 – the petitions scheme criteria was reviewed and found to be a statutory stage by stage process.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 5

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the progress made at the end of September 2015 on the delivery of the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP5) (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Policy and Communications reported that the MTFP5 was agreed by Council in February 2015 and for 2015/16 the savings target was just over £16m. This forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2019/20 of around £260m.

By the end of September 2015 over 86% of the savings target for MTFP5 had been met with £14m of savings having been achieved that amounts to the total savings delivered since April 2011 to over £151m.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report and the progress made in delivering the MTFP5 be noted.

6 Quarter Two 2015/16 Performance Management

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and reported other performance issues for the second quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period July to September 2015. A presentation was given by the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

In response to queries from Councillor Crute regarding tracking job seeker allowance figures, quality of jobs and the value of employment factors in other areas, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that universal credit was tracked via figures published by the Office for National Statistics. Meetings had been scheduled to discuss what figures would be available as they were dependent on national bodies producing statistics and acknowledged that it would become more of an issue in the future. He added there were a small number of people who were already claiming Universal Credit in County Durham who have migrated from other parts of the country where the rollout had already started. Referring to the query regarding value of employment, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager would ask the service for further details. The Chairman requested that the information be provided to Councillor Crute for the next committee meeting.

Councillor Boyes commented on the successful treatment of drugs and alcohol and asked if there was a duplication of work across Scrutiny Committees. The Chairman advised he would meet with Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs to review the work programme.

Councillor Batey referred to the altogether safer performance crime figures and asked for a breakdown on the type of offences, particularly for young people in order to get a better understanding of the specific crimes committed in terms of re-offending.

Councillor Hopgood asked if the Authority was relying on external funding to support the apprenticeship scheme and if there were contingency plans in place should it be required. The Chairman commented that financial support was required and the grant from Europe could not be relied upon as there was a danger of losing that funding. He asked that information be supplied on what contingencies were in place.

7 Request for Call-in - Future DLI Museum Arrangements

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that advised of a request for call-in of a Cabinet decision, and of the decision made by the Chairman of the Board not to call-in the decision (for copy see file of minutes).

The Legal Manager, Governance and Elections advised that it was the Chairman's view that this was not an appropriate case for call-in, however he was of the view that it should be added to the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, and a meeting with Members, chief officers and Trustees be arranged to explore how the Council could continue to meet the desire of the public to have access to the DLI collection.

The Chairman commented that he was not approached about the call-in initially and first heard of the request to call-in the decision from an article in the media. He advised that call-in requires the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, Chief Officers and the Monitoring Officer to consider the request in accordance with the relevant protocol.

He referred to the reasons for call-in and clarified that lead group members had no prior knowledge of the decision, contrary to the statement made in the call-in request. He added that Members had the opportunity to ask questions at County Council and the Cabinet meeting, however, no questions had been submitted.

On reviewing the process, the Chairman did recognise that there was a need to expand on certain issues and made arrangements for a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the 10 December 2015. The aim was to make the collection more accessible to the public and he felt that the meeting was very positive. The Cabinet Portfolio holder attended the special meeting and clarified that there were no plans for a housing development on the site and that the building would be advertised to internal services in the first instance, then placed on the asset register. The Chairman of the DLI Trustees was also in attendance and thanked Durham County Council for their support and for developing a plan for the future arrangements of regimental collections.

In response, Councillor Hopgood advised that the paperwork had been submitted on her request as she was away and was only informed of the report the night before the Cabinet papers were published. It was her understanding that members could only ask questions at Cabinet if the item being considered affected the electoral division they represented. The Legal Manager, Governance and Elections advised that she would provide clarification on the protocol for Cabinet questions.

Councillor Hopgood asked that the Future Arrangements of the DLI be reviewed after three months.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information contained in the report be noted;
- (ii) That an update report on the progress made against the implementation of the future DLI arrangements be considered after a period of three months.

8 Notice of Key Decisions

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

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported that since the last update there had been the following movement in items being considered at Cabinet:-

- Office Accommodation – removed from the plan with the revised date to be confirmed;
- Bishop Auckland Regeneration Framework – removed from the plan with the revised date to be confirmed;
- Draft County Durham Plan – added to the plan for February 2016;
- Day Care Review – added to the plan for January 2016;
- Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-19 – added to the plan for March 2016.

Councillor Hopgood highlighted the recent DLI decision and referred to concerns she had raised in previous meetings regarding members not being made aware of important decisions that affect so many people not appearing on the notice. The Chairman advised the issue be raised at the Constitution Working Group and asked that the Head of Planning and Performance and the Monitoring Officer look at the issue regarding the constitution.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

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

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update of overview and scrutiny activity from October 2015 to December 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12 February 2016

Cabinet

16 December 2015

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



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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 On 14 January 2015, Cabinet considered the most recent report on the implications of the government's policy programme. This report provides Members with an update on the major policy developments and announcements since then and analyses the implications for the council and County Durham.

Executive Summary

- 2 Since the last report to Cabinet, the General Election took place and a new Conservative administration has been formed. The new government has outlined its initial legislative programme in the Queen's Speech and published an in-year budget to set out its financial priorities, prior to the recent publication of its spending review for 2016 to 2020.
- 3 The most significant announcements since the last report to Members relate to the following, outlined in more detail below:

- Budget 2015;
 - Queen's speech;
 - Summer budget 2015;
 - Northern Powerhouse and devolution
 - Productivity Plan;
 - Youth Employment Initiative;
 - European Union membership;
 - Welfare reform and tax credit changes;
 - Counter terrorism;
 - Spending Review 2015.
- 4 The coalition government which was formed in 2010, embarked on a major programme of public service reform to rebalance the relationship between communities, individuals and the state and to reduce the structural deficit.
 - 5 The pace of change was significant, particularly in relation to the government's austerity measures, with a wide range of public services from health, education, policing and welfare, all experiencing some of the most profound change in a generation.
 - 6 The new government has maintained some major elements of the coalition policy programme, with financial austerity, welfare reform and decentralisation emerging as initial policy priorities for the government.
 - 7 In addition, in line with the Conservative Party's manifesto pledge, the government has committed to a referendum on the United Kingdom's continuing membership of the European Union, alongside attempting to re-negotiate the terms of the country's relationship with Europe.
 - 8 Clearly, this and the continuation of austerity and the policy reforms proposed in the legislative programme, will have major implications for the council and the steps it is taking to develop an 'altogether better Durham'.
 - 9 The council and its partners are continuing to analyse the impact that government policy will have on local communities and on our ability to deliver the sustainable community strategy and are responding accordingly. Wherever possible, the council and its partners are working together to respond proactively to the government's policy changes, which will be taken into account as we develop the County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy and the council plan and supporting service plans.

Background

- 10 Cabinet has considered a number of reports on government policy since the general election in 2010, the most recent of which was on 14 January 2015. Where necessary, Cabinet has also received further policy reports on specific topics, such as changes to the NHS, health and social care and welfare reform. This report builds upon these previous briefings.
- 11 Since its formation in 2010, the coalition government embarked on a major programme of public service reform, which included the following:

- a) Deficit reduction measures across all government departments, but particularly local government;
- b) Changes to welfare to reduce spending and encourage more people to be independent;
- c) NHS and public health reforms including the introduction of clinical commissioning groups and the transfer of public health to local government;
- d) Social care reforms which brought together existing, complex legislation into a single law;
- e) Police reforms including the introduction of directly elected police and crime commissioners;
- f) Expansion of the academy programme and the introduction of free schools;
- g) Major reform of the planning system with new national planning policy guidance and the revocation of regional spatial planning;
- h) Abolition of the regional development agencies and the introduction of the national Regional Growth Fund and local enterprise partnerships;
- i) Initiatives to open up public services to greater transparency and more diverse and local patterns of control.

Budget 2015

- 12 On 18 March 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his final budget as a coalition chancellor.
- 13 Whilst this included a number of policy announcements, the most notable related to his forecasts for government borrowing and public spending reductions which would be taken forward by the incoming administration.
- 14 He forecast that government borrowing was set to fall as follows:
 - £97.5bn in 2013/14;
 - £90.2bn in 2014/15;
 - £75.3bn in 2015/16;
 - £39.4bn in 2016/17;
 - £12.8bn in 2017/18;
 - £5.2bn surplus in 2018/19.
- 15 This compares with his initial policy pledge when the coalition was first formed to eliminate the structural deficit by 2015.
- 16 However, compared with the 2014 budget which suggested that spending cuts would be maintained until 2020, he now suggested that the squeeze on public spending would end a year earlier than planned in 2019-2020, with spending in 2019-2020 allowed to grow in line with the growth of the economy.

- 17 Nevertheless a further £30bn of savings would need to be achieved by 2017-18, including £13bn of savings from government departments, £12bn from welfare savings and £5bn from tackling tax avoidance and evasion.

Policy changes since the general election

- 18 On 5 May 2015, the general election returned a Conservative majority, which has gone on to form the first Conservative administration since 1997.

Queen's speech

- 19 On 27 May 2015, the Queen presided over the State Opening of Parliament and delivered a speech which outlined the incoming government's legislative programme.

- 20 Twenty six bills were announced:

- a) Trade Unions Bill;
- b) Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill;
- c) Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill;
- d) Immigration Bill;
- e) Policing and Criminal Justice Bill;
- f) European Union Referendum Bill;
- g) Education and Adoption Bill;
- h) Housing Bill;
- i) Extremism Bill;
- j) Buses Bill;
- k) European Union (Finance) Bill;
- l) Armed Forces Bill;
- m) Childcare Bill;
- n) Bank of England Bill;
- o) Investigatory Powers Bill;
- p) Energy Bill;
- q) HS2 Bill;
- r) Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill;
- s) Enterprise Bill;
- t) Psychoactive Substances Bill;
- u) Draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill;
- v) Scotland Bill;
- w) Wales Bill;
- x) Votes for Life Bill;
- y) Tax Lock-National Insurance Contributions / Finance Bill;

z) Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill.

21 Appendix 2 provides more detail on the main bills included in the legislative programme.

Summer budget 2015

22 Following the general election, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered a summer budget on 8 July 2015. The government presented this as the first 'all Conservative budget' since 1997.

Public spending

23 The Chancellor revised his forecast for public sector net borrowing as follows:

- £69.5bn in 2015/16;
- £43.1bn in 2016/17;
- £24.3bn in 2017/18;
- £6.4bn in 2018/19;
- £10bn surplus in 2019/20;
- £11.6bn surplus in 2020/21.

24 In effect, this extended deficit reduction by a further year, compared with the last coalition government budget in March 2015, when the government expected to achieve a £5.2bn surplus by 2018/19.

25 In relation to departmental spending, he announced that £37bn of further spending reductions would be made by 2020, including £12bn of welfare cuts, £5bn from tax avoidance and a £20bn reduction in departmental budgets.

26 Public sector pay constraint is expected to continue with public sector pay limited to one percent per year over the next four years.

27 Overall, by the end of the parliament in 2020, spending on public services will be reduced by just under £18bn a year, compared with £42bn a year reduction previously proposed to be achieved by 2019/20.

Benefits and welfare reform

28 The Chancellor announced that £12bn less would be spent on welfare over the next four years and the day after the budget a Welfare Reform and Work Bill was published to legislate for the main measures to achieve this reduction.

29 In addition, the government confirmed that the BBC is to take on the funding of TV licences for over 75 year olds, which is seen as one of the main pensioner benefits.

30 The government subsequently published a new Employment and Welfare Bill, which was considered in more detail in a report to Cabinet on welfare reform and poverty issues on 21 October 2015.

Business

- 31 Amongst a range of announcements on business, the government confirmed that a 'Business Tax roadmap' is to be published by April 2016 to make tax changes clear to businesses and that changes are to be made to the administration of business rates to tackle avoidance and improve the appeals system.
- 32 The Chancellor also announced his intention to consult on granting the power to decide whether to extend Sunday trading hours in an area to city mayors and local authorities.

Wages, jobs and training

- 33 A compulsory national living wage will be introduced at £7.20 from April 2016 rising to £9.00 by 2020. Future rises will be recommended by the Low Pay Commission and the intention is that the National Living Wage will be at least 60 percent of median earnings by 2020.
- 34 For small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), the employment allowance is to rise to £3,000, which will allow small firms to employ four people on the national living wage without paying any national insurance.
- 35 The government also announced its intention to consult on the introduction of an 'apprenticeship levy' on all large firms, which will provide an incentive to firms to offer apprenticeships. The move is intended to support the government's pledge to create three million additional apprenticeships by 2020. The consultation ran from 21 August to 2 October 2015.

Local growth and devolution

- 36 The Chancellor announced that agreement had been reached with the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester for more powers over fire services, land commission, children's services and employment programmes to be devolved.
- 37 To realise the 'Northern Powerhouse', he also announced that devolution deals were being prepared with Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and West Yorkshire and the first 'county' devolution deal with Cornwall was being negotiated.
- 38 Devolution deals with other areas will be considered and a bidding round will be introduced for more Enterprise Zones in smaller cities, towns and rural areas.
- 39 Transport for the North was also to be established as a statutory body with £30m being invested in an Oyster-style smart ticketing system across the North.

Planning and housing

- 40 In relation to planning and housing, the government confirmed its intention to further reform the planning system, most notably simplifying the process for developing on previously developed 'brownfield' land.
- 41 On housing, mortgage relief on 'buy to let' rental property will be restricted to the basic rate of income tax and from April 2017, and the system that allows Buy-to-Let landlords to offset mortgage interest payments against their income will be phased out.
- 42 Rent a Room relief, which has been frozen for 18 years will be raised from £4,250 to £7,500.
- 43 A number of changes to housing related benefits are to be made.
- 44 Local Housing Allowance, which is a benefit that helps pay the rent for people who rent from a private landlord, is to be frozen for the next four years.
- 45 The automatic entitlement for housing benefit for 18 to 21 year olds will be abolished and there will be no extra tax credit, Universal Credit, or housing benefit support for a third child after 2017.
- 46 Rents paid in social housing will be reduced by one per cent a year for the next four years, but higher earners in social housing will be required to pay market rates.

Health and social care

- 47 On health, the government confirmed that health spending will continue to be protected and that the NHS will receive a further £8bn in addition to the £2bn already pledged by 2020.
- 48 £30m will be made available to speed up adoption for 3,000 children awaiting adoption, whilst paving the way for regional adoption agencies.
- 49 Subsequent to the budget, the government confirmed that the £72,000 cap on social care costs to be met by people over 65 and younger adults with disabilities, would not now be introduced until 2020, compared with April 2016 as initially proposed. This is to allow more time to plan for the introduction of the cap and discussion with local government around how the associated increase in state support for social care will be met.
- 50 On 16 October 2015 The Rt. Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care confirmed that the Better Care Fund would continue into the 2016-17 financial year. The local flexibility to pool more than the mandatory amount will remain; however, detail about the minimum size of the Fund will not be confirmed until after the Spending Review, when greater clarity on the policy framework that will underpin the Better Care Fund next year will be provided. Confirmation that the Fund will continue next year should allow local authorities to start planning for 2016-17.
- 51 As part of wider government action on deficit reduction, a consultation was carried out in August 2015, setting out options for in-year savings to 2015/16

local authority public health allocations, amounting to £200 million. After considering consultation responses including Durham's, the government confirmed on 5 November 2015 that the Department of Health will proceed with its preferred option of reducing every local authority's allocation by a standard, flat rate percentage.

- 52 The government is also currently consulting on the methodology for the public health grant allocation for 2016. The proposed formula is complex and includes five elements related to standard mortality ratio, weighting, substance misuse modelled activity, sexual health treatment services modelled activity and 0-5 years based on population, poverty and sparsity. The council has submitted a response to the consultation, which ended on 6 November 2015; further information is awaited following the comprehensive spending review.

Education

- 53 The cap on student numbers in universities is to be removed and universities will be able to increase tuition fees in line with inflation, if they reach certain teaching standards.
- 54 From 2016/17 maintenance grants, which are paid to disadvantaged students will be replaced with new maintenance loans, which would only get paid back when the person earns over £21,000. The value of the maintenance loans compared with the grant is to be increased to £8,200.
- 55 A network of national colleges is to be established to provide professional and technical routes into employment.
- 56 This will coincide with the introduction of a 'Youth Obligation' for 18 to 21 year olds to ensure that they are in education if they are receiving unemployment benefits.
- 57 Appendix 3 contains a comprehensive list of the other main announcements in the budget statement.

Northern powerhouse and devolution

- 58 In the lead-up to the March 2015 budget, the Chancellor made various announcements concerning the development of a 'Northern powerhouse', based on promoting economic growth across the major cities of the north of England, in order to counter-balance the concentration of economic growth, investment and employment in the south, principally London and the greater south east.
- 59 Following the general election, on 12 May 2015, Stockton South MP, James Wharton was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Northern Powerhouse). The following day, the Prime Minister made Stockton-on-Tees, the location for his first post-election visit, where he announced that the new Minister, along with Greg Clark MP, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, would be focusing on 'empowering our great northern cities and

making sure we drive power out of London, out of Westminster, out of Whitehall'.

- 60 On 14 May 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced plans to devolve more powers to major cities in northern England. He outlined plans to give English cities powers over housing, transport, planning and policing, in line with his plans to create a 'Northern Powerhouse'.
- 61 Initial devolution deals were proposed for Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, West Yorkshire and Cornwall and the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill which would enact these deals was introduced to parliament on 21 July 2015.
- 62 Since then, two further deals have been negotiated and agreed for the North East covering the North East Combined Authority (NECA) area and the Tees Valley area.
- 63 The proposed agreement for the NECA area includes:
- a) Up to £1.5bn pumped into a new North East Investment Fund. This will be targeted towards boosting economic growth and supporting the region to compete in international markets. It will include an initial funding allocation of £30m a year over 30 years;
 - b) The creation of an Employment and Skills Board to manage an overhaul of post-16 skills training and employment support in order to get more people into work, increase productivity, improve the life chances of young people and address the skill shortages experienced by North East employers;
 - c) From 2017, a new devolved approach to business support, which will simplify and strengthen the support available for business growth, innovation and global trade in the North East in order to deliver the ambition set out in the North East Strategic Economic Plan to create 100,000 jobs;
 - d) The establishment, in partnership with the NHS, of a Commission for Health and Social Care Integration. This will look at the potential for further integration of health services – including acute and primary care, community services, mental health services, social care and public health – in order to strengthen services, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities;
 - e) An ambitious target to increase the number of new homes in the region. This will include the creation of a North East Land Board to identify potentially suitable locations for housing or economic development and the devolution of some statutory planning powers;
 - f) Devolved responsibility for the region's transport budget along with responsibility for transport delivery, including infrastructure improvements and the development of smart ticketing across public transport networks in the area.

- 64 A more detailed report on the proposed devolution deal and the public consultation the council intends to undertake on the agreement was considered by Full Council at its meeting of 9 December 2015.

Productivity Plan

- 65 On 10 July 2015, the government published *Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation*, its 'productivity plan' to speed-up economic growth.
- 66 The plan illustrated how the government thinks that a number of its existing commitments and policy pledges will encourage long-term investment in economic capital, including infrastructure, skills and knowledge; and promote a dynamic economy that encourages innovation and helps resources flow to their most productive use.
- 67 As part of the plan, the government outlined a number of new reforms intended to introduce more planning freedoms and to encourage more housebuilding:
- a) The introduction of a 'zonal system' to enable automatic planning permission on suitable brownfield sites;
 - b) Powers to allow government to intervene and draft Local Plans to address housing need;
 - c) Penalties for local authorities that fail to make 50 percent or fewer planning decisions on time;
 - d) Any major infrastructure project which has "elements of housing development" will be fast-tracked under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Regime (NSIP);
 - e) Requiring higher-density development around key commuter hubs;
 - f) Working with the Mayor of London, proposals to end the need for planning permission for upwards extensions for a limited number of storeys up to the height of the adjoining building in the capital;
 - g) Stronger compulsory purchase powers to bring forward more brownfield land, and devolution of planning powers to the Mayors of London and Manchester;
 - h) A major package to support for SME housebuilders, including new sanctions for local authorities not processing smaller planning applications on time, with earlier fee refunds.

Youth Employment Initiative

- 68 In January 2013, the European Council created the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in order to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment across member states. The initiative is directed at young people aged 15-24 years old who are unemployed or inactive.
- 69 In the United Kingdom, County Durham was identified as an eligible area for YEI with a provisional allocation of £17.87m. The council submitted an initial application for funding in May 2015, which progressed to full application, which has been assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

with the results submitted to the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) sub-committee. At the time of writing, the outcome of the full application is expected shortly.

European Union membership

70 In its general election manifesto, the Conservative Party committed to holding an 'in – out' referendum on the United Kingdom's continuing membership of the European Union.

71 In the Queen's Speech, the government included a proposed EU Referendum Bill, which would allow for a referendum to take place by the end of 2017, after the government has attempted to re-negotiate the terms of the UK's relationship with the EU.

72 Although the date of the referendum has yet to be confirmed, the Electoral Commission has recommended that the question and response options should be:

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European union or leave the European Union?

- *Leave the European Union*
- *Remain a member of the European Union*

73 In an amendment to the EU Referendum Bill, the government sought to suspend the usual publicity restrictions in the run-up to a referendum, so that it would be able to comment and campaign on the issue during the 28 day period in advance of the poll.

74 However, on 9 September 2015, the government experienced its first parliamentary defeat when MPs voted against the amendment.

Welfare reform and tax credit changes

75 On 9 July 2015, the government published the Welfare Reform and Work Bill to legislate for the reforms it wants to make. The bill makes provision for:

- a) reporting on progress towards full employment and the apprenticeships target, child poverty measures and the effect of certain support for troubled families;
- b) reform of the social mobility and child poverty commission;
- c) the benefit cap;
- d) freezing social security and tax credits;
- e) loans for mortgage interest;
- f) social housing rents.

76 The bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons on 20 July 2015.

- 77 MPs also agreed a programme motion which scheduled the bill to be considered in a public bill committee, where they could consider the bill in detail and make amendments to it. The first meetings of the public bill committee took place on 15 and 17 September 2015 and proceedings concluded on 15 October 2015.
- 78 Alongside the bill, the government proposed changes to eligibility and the rate of payment from tax credits.
- 79 These are a series of benefits introduced to help low-paid families. Working Tax Credit (WTC) helps those in work, and Child Tax Credit (CTC) helps those with children.
- 80 The government proposed that from April 2016, the income threshold for Working Tax Credits - £6,420 – should be cut to £3,850 a year and that the threshold for those only claiming CTCs should be cut from £16,105 to £12,125 a year.
- 81 In addition, the government proposed that the rate at which tax credit payments are reduced should increase. The current ‘taper rate’ is based on 41p reduction for every £1 claimants earn above the threshold. From April 2016, the government proposed that the taper rate should accelerate to 48p.
- 82 Overall the changes were forecast to achieve spending reductions of £4.4bn.
- 83 However, on 26 October 2015, the government’s proposals were defeated in the House of Lords, with peers backing two motions for ‘full financial redress’ for those affected by the proposed cut, and for the implementation of the change to be delayed until a full impact assessment had been undertaken.
- 84 Following the defeat, the government announced that it would introduce some form of ‘transitional help’, with the details confirmed in the autumn statement on 25 November 2015, alongside the spending review.
- 85 Further detail on the welfare changes is contained in the report considered by Cabinet on 21 October 2015.

Counter terrorism

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- 86 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a general duty on specified authorities, including local authorities, police, prisons, probation, further and higher education, NHS Trusts/Foundation Trusts and clinical commissioning groups, who must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- 87 In March 2015, Parliament approved guidance issued under section 29 of the Act about how specified authorities are to comply with the Prevent duty. Specified authorities must have regard to this guidance when complying with the Prevent duty. The ‘Prevent Duty Guidance’ will require specified authorities to understand the terrorist ideology and the threat and risk this represents to the local area.

88 Following the terrorist attacks in Paris last month, the Prime Minister announced that as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the government is to appoint over 1,900 additional security and intelligence staff and invest more in increasing the network of counter-terrorism experts in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He also pledged to at least double spending on aviation security.

Counter Extremism Bill

89 In May 2015 a Counter Extremism Bill was included in the Queen's Speech. The bill, which is still to be published, will include:

- Banning Orders: a new power for the Home Secretary to ban extremist groups;
- Extremism Disruption Orders: a new power for law enforcement to stop individuals engaging in extremist behaviour;
- Closure Orders: a new power for law enforcement and local authorities to close down premises used to support extremism.

Counter Extremism Strategy

90 On 20 October 2015, the government published its Counter-Extremism Strategy, which builds upon the new 'Prevent' duty, and is aimed at countering all forms of extremism: violent and non-violent. The purpose of the strategy is to improve understanding of the causes and impacts of extremism and to do more to counter the extremist ideology, build partnerships with those opposed to extremism, disrupt extremists and build more cohesive communities.

91 To ensure all institutions are safeguarded from the risk posed by 'entryism', (the term used to describe infiltration by extremists) and to improve the way institutions can protect themselves from being targeted by extremists, a full review across the public sector will need to take place. The review will clearly set out the risk posed and advise on measures to guard against entryism, for example, by improving governance, inspection and whistle-blowing mechanisms.

92 To help raise concerns about extremism and to prompt local action, a new 'Extremism Community Trigger' will be introduced to guarantee that concerns about local extremism will be taken seriously.

93 A review, conducted by Louise Casey, into how to boost opportunity and integration in the most isolated communities is to be undertaken, which will inform funding for a major new Cohesive Communities Programme in 2016.

Spending review 2015

94 On 22 July 2015, the government published a paper on its approach to the spending review.

- 95 In line with the Summer budget, the government plans to reduce departmental spending by a further £20bn by 2018/19 in order to help to eliminate the deficit by 2019/20.
- 96 Welfare spending will also be reduced by £12bn and the government expects to raise £5bn by clamping down on tax avoidance.
- 97 Spending on the NHS, defence, overseas development and education will continue to be protected, which means that the spending reductions will be borne by 'unprotected' departments.
- 98 Ministers were consequently asked to identify how they would achieve spending reductions of 25 per cent and 40 percent, for discussion and negotiation with the Treasury before the spending review was published.
- 99 On 9 November 2015, it was announced that the government departments for Transport, Communities and Local Government and Environment had provisionally agreed to 30 percent spending reductions over the next four years, through a combination of efficiency savings and closing low value programmes.
- 100 On 25 November 2015, the government published the review alongside the Autumn statement.
- 101 The forecast for government borrowing was updated as follows:
- £73.5bn deficit in 2015/16;
 - £49.9bn deficit in 2016/17;
 - £24.8bn deficit in 2017/18;
 - £4.6bn deficit in 2018/19;
 - £10.1bn surplus in 2019/20;
 - £14.7bn surplus in 2020/21.
- 102 Overall day-to-day departmental spending is to be reduced by £20bn by 2020, with a further £12bn to be saved from spending on welfare.
- 103 On average, the government expects that departmental spending will be reduced by 0.8 percent per year, however spending on defence, the NHS, international development, education and policing is to be protected and in some instances, increased.
- 104 Spending on the main departments which affect local government are to be reduced as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Transport | 37 percent; |
| • Communities & Local Government | 29 percent; |
| • Energy & Climate Change | 22 percent; |
| • Business, Innovation & Science | 17 percent; |
| • Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | 15 percent. |
- 105 Local government grant expenditure is to be reduced by £6.1 billion by 2019/2020. However, the government claims that when forecast increases to other sources of local government income are taken into account, overall local

government spending will be higher in cash terms by 2019/20 than in it is 2015/16.

- 106 Further detail on the spending review is included in the report on the council's medium term financial plan, also being considered at today's meeting of Cabinet.
- 107 A more detailed analysis of the implications for the council will be included in the next report on the council's medium term financial plan to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2016. However, for now a summary of the main policy announcements in the spending review is attached as Appendix 4.

Implications

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

Altogether better council

- 109 The government appears to be maintaining and extending a number of policies developed by the previous administration, for example the academies and free school programmes, welfare changes and trade union reform.
- 110 However, it should be noted that the current make-up of parliament is such that the government cannot expect smooth passage for its policy reforms and it has already suffered parliamentary defeats and been forced into making concessions around key policy reforms, for example mitigation around the proposed changes to tax credits.
- 111 Clearly, from the budget and spending review announcements made by the Chancellor since the last report to Members, there will be little let-up in the spending reductions the council has to face. The prospect of the austerity programme being eased in 2019/20, as indicated in the March 2015 budget, now seems more uncertain. The forecast in March that public sector net borrowing would achieve a £5.2bn surplus in 2019/20, was revised down in the summer budget to a £6.4bn deficit in 2019/20, with a surplus being achieved the following year.
- 112 In effect, the government has extended the deficit reduction programme by a further year to allow it more time to make the spending reductions which it wants to make.
- 113 The council will also need to take into account the impact of the introduction of the National Living Wage, not just on its own wage bill, but more so on third parties, from which we commission services.
- 114 The council is still in the process of assessing the impact of the announcements made in the Spending Review. However, the significant reductions in spending accepted by the departments for Communities and Local Government, Transport, and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are

likely to have significant impacts on the council and its partners, as they are three of the most important government departments, which fund and influence our work.

- 115 Whilst the government maintains that local government spending in 2020 will be at the same level as it is in 2015/16, this relies on increases in alternative sources of income other than government grant, a number of which – such as greater reliance on Business Rates revenue – have yet to be set out in detail or fully explained.
- 116 In addition, it should be noted that the government is looking towards increased local taxation via a 2 percent increase on council tax to meet the escalating costs of social care.
- 117 Given on-going austerity and the significant changes to how public services are to be funded, the council and its partners will therefore be undertaking a fundamental review of the council plan and the sustainable community strategy for the county in the coming year.

Altogether wealthier

- 118 Clearly, the outcome of European Union membership referendum will have profound economic implications for the county, and the council in terms of the legal framework it operates within and the funding of its work.
- 119 One of the main areas of reform which the government has chosen to maintain and extend is welfare reform. A more detailed analysis of the most recent changes to welfare was considered by Cabinet at its meeting of 21 October 2015.
- 120 Since the general election, the government has sought to progress its agenda for devolution, particularly around economic planning and growth.
- 121 Whilst this is to be welcomed, it should be noted that the government has required local areas to work to very tight timescales, particularly in relation to considering and consulting on proposals. For example, following the summer budget on 8 July 2015, the government confirmed that it would entertain a proposal from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) for increased devolution, but required NECA to submit its proposals by 4 September 2015. This was a very tight timescale and required the NECA authorities to consult and engage local stakeholders and communities for a limited period over the summer months, which tends to be a difficult time to consult and engage.
- 122 That said, the Northern powerhouse announcements and subsequent proposed devolution agreements for the NECA local authorities, and those in Tees Valley, offer the prospect for parts of the North East including the county to be better able to plan for and realise economic growth. The proposed agreement for NECA area is subject to parliamentary approval, the spending review and further consultation with local stakeholders and communities. As Members will be aware, in line with our commitment to consult and engage local communities, the council has been consulting local stakeholders on the agreement and will be polling local residents in the new year.

- 123 The government's 'productivity plan' included a number of further reforms to the planning system, including penalties for local authorities around poor performance on determining planning applications including those from smaller housebuilders.
- 124 Given the increase in housing numbers to meet current and anticipated demand proposed in the draft County Durham Plan, and the new regime of sanctions and penalties around performance on determining planning applications, it will be important to progress and conclude the County Durham Plan, so that the council and developers have clarity around the planning policy framework within the county.
- 125 The announcement in the summer budget that the government intends to introduce an 'apprenticeship levy' – confirmed at 0.5 percent for larger employers in the Spending Review - is to be welcomed as it should provide an incentive to firms to offer apprenticeships, increasing the overall number of places available to young people. As a large employer, it would have a financial implication on the council, but it is hoped that we would be allowed to invest what we would be expected to pay via the levy, into our own post-16 apprenticeship programme, which we have sought to develop and expand over recent years.

Altogether healthier

- 126 The decision to delay the introduction of the £72,000 cap on meeting social care costs by people over 65 or young adults with disabilities, by four years will allow councils more time to discuss with government how the associated increase in state support for social care will be met, and more time to plan for the introduction of the change.
- 127 Similarly, the confirmation that the Better Care Fund is to continue into next year, allows council to start to plan ahead for 2016/17, although we are still waiting confirmation for how much funding we are to receive.
- 128 However, the in-year cut to the council's public health grant for 2015/16 is over £3.1m and equates to 6.2 percent of the grant. The cut will be made by reducing the fourth quarterly instalment of the grant, which will be brought forward from January 2016 to November 2015.

Altogether safer

- 129 Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, specified authorities will need to ensure front-line staff understand 'Prevent' and are able to recognise when an individual shows potential signs of being vulnerable to radicalisation and what to do about it. They will also need to provide early intervention so that those most at risk are given support at an early stage.
- 130 Local authorities are expected to use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLPs), produced by the police, to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism. This includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

- 131 Section 36 of the Act requires local authorities to put in place, chair and manage a multi-agency panel, called Channel, that will receive referrals about people suspected of being vulnerable to radicalisation. The council's panel is chaired by the Strategic Manager of the Youth Offending Service and has representation from Durham Constabulary. Local Channel guidance and procedures are currently being finalised and will be communicated to staff and partners, as appropriate.
- 132 The council has a comprehensive action plan in place for implementing the 'Prevent' duty. In addition, the Safe Durham Partnership is carrying out a review of the collective response of all relevant partner authorities.
- 133 The Counter Extremism Bill is expected to be introduced by the end of the year and we will assess the impact and implications for the council and its partners when it is published.
- 134 With regards to the Counter Extremism Strategy, further information for local authorities and partners is expected to be issued by the Home Office next year, which will provide clear guidance on the full range of tools available to tackle extremism including clarity of the types of groups that will be viewed extremist and information on the new community trigger. At the same time, a review will be undertaken of the powers available to enable government to intervene where councils fail.
- 135 The new 'Extremism Community Trigger' will require the police and local authorities to fully review any complaints about extremism and work in partnership to tackle local extremist issues, and keep the public informed about their actions.
- 136 The government is giving the council a £10,000 one-off payment to help cover the costs of its additional responsibilities and has also introduced a Project Innovation Fund for Prevent which offers the prospect of funding for project proposals up to the value of £100,000 including VAT. As with all 'challenge' type funds, applications will be considered on a competitive basis.
- 137 The council is also awaiting the outcome of the spending review to see whether it is to receive New Burdens funding to help meet the costs of its additional duties.
- 138 The proposed criminalisation of psychoactive, so-called 'legal high' substances is to be welcomed, as it will have community safety and health benefits for the county.

Altogether Better for children and young people

- 139 The government has confirmed that it intends to continue and extend its academy and free schools programmes, which means that further funding will be re-directed from the council to schools. This will affect the sustainability of core school support and improvement functions and will require the council to extend the trading model which it has already established for a number of school support functions and services.
- 140 The potential to expand university student numbers offers the prospect of increasing access to higher education for people in the county, if local higher

education institutions respond. However, the decision to replace maintenance grants for disadvantaged students with loans may discourage people from poorer backgrounds from considering higher education as an option.

141 Although a welfare reform, the new Youth Obligation, which requires 18 to 21 year olds to ensure that they are in education (or training) if they are receiving unemployment benefits will have implications for youth employment and participation services in the county. It is also another example of where the government is extending the principle that society expects benefit support to be earned as opposed to a natural entitlement.

142 It is therefore positive that the county has received a provisional allocation from the European Council of nearly £18m under the Youth Employment Initiative with an allocation of £17.87m. The funding will help to improve the immediate and longer term economic, social and health benefits for approximately 5,500 young people in the county.

Implications for partnership working

143 Given the scope of government reforms, the council continues to work with partners to ensure that we achieve the aims of the sustainable community strategy.

144 The County Durham Partnership considers these policy implications reports alongside Cabinet and Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Emerging government policy and legislation will be taken into consideration, as the partnership reviews the sustainable community strategy for the county.

145 Given the continuation of austerity and the new policy programme outlined by government, the partnership will undertake a more fundamental review of the sustainable community strategy in the coming year. As a result, the council will also need to review its council plan and service plans, in order to determine its priorities and actions and contributions towards achieving the sustainable community strategy.

Conclusions

146 The coalition government presided over an unprecedented period of public service reform and the first austerity programme since the 1930s.

147 The new Conservative government has maintained some major elements of the coalition policy programme, with financial austerity, welfare reform and decentralisation emerging as initial policy priorities for the government, alongside its commitment to hold a referendum on the United Kingdom's continuing membership of the European Union.

148 Clearly, this and the continuation of austerity and the policy reforms proposed in the legislative programme, will have major implications for the council and the steps it is taking to develop an 'altogether better Durham'.

149 The council and its partners are continuing to analyse the impact that government policy will have on local communities and on our ability to deliver the sustainable community strategy and are responding accordingly.

Wherever possible, the council and its partners are working together to respond proactively to the government's policy changes, which will be taken into account in as we develop the County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy and the council plan and supporting service plans.

Recommendations

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

Background papers

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The government’s decision to continue with its austerity programme will have on-going financial implications for the council, which will have to continue to reduce spending within its medium term financial plan.

Staffing – No specific implications have been identified.

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

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

Accommodation – No specific implications have been identified.

Crime and Disorder – No specific implications have been identified beyond those discussed in the section on counter terrorism.

Human Rights – No specific implications have been identified.

Consultation – No specific implications have been identified.

Procurement – No specific implications have been identified.

Disability Discrimination Act – No specific implications have been identified.

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

Appendix 2: Legislative programme outlined in the Queen's Speech, May 2015

EU Referendum Bill

This will pave the way for an in/out referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union by 2017 at the latest.

Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill

This bill is designed to achieve full employment "and provide more people with the security of a job". The aim is for two million more jobs and three million new apprenticeships to be created. Ministers will be required to report annually to Parliament on their progress. The legislation will also implement a planned reduction in the welfare cap - from £26,000 to £23,000, and freeze working-age benefits, tax credit and child benefit for two years. As part of the government's welfare reforms, young people will be required to "earn or learn", with automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18-21-year-olds scrapped.

Enterprise Bill

This bill will include measures to reduce regulation on small businesses in a bid to boost job creation. It will seek to cut red tape for British business by at least £10bn and, for the first time, require independent regulators to contribute to that target. In addition, it proposes to create a new Small Business Conciliation Service, to help settle disputes between small and large businesses, especially over late payment practices. The government also aims to improve the business rates system ahead of the 2017 revaluation, including by modernising the appeals system. It also proposes to introduce a cap on public sector redundancy payments to six figures for the highest earners.

National Insurance Contributions and Finance Bill

This bill is designed to enact a series of tax pledges made by the Conservatives during the general election campaign to "reward those who work hard and do the right thing". Specifically that there would be no rise in income tax rates, VAT or national insurance before 2020 and that "no one working 30 hours on the minimum wage pays any income tax at all". It will also enact a commitment to raise the threshold before which people pay income tax to £12,500.

Childcare Bill

The bill will include measures to help working people "by greatly increasing the provision of free childcare". Under the proposals, parents in England would be entitled to 30 hours a week of free childcare for their three- and four-year-olds, for 38 weeks of the year. Currently, they are entitled to 570 hours of free early education or childcare a year, which works out as 15 hours each week over the 38-week period.

Housing Bill

The bill is intended to support home ownership and extend the right-to-buy scheme to 1.3 million social housing tenants in England. Under the plans, housing association tenants will be able to buy the homes they rent at a discount. There will also be help for first-time buyers, with 200,000 starter homes made available to under-40s at a 20 percent discount. Both are commitments which were included in the Conservatives' general election manifesto. The government says the bill will increase the housing supply and ensure local people have more control over planning.

Energy Bill

Measures will be introduced to "increase energy security" and ensure there will be "affordable and reliable energy for businesses and families". The government proposes to establish the Oil and Gas Authority as an independent regulator, charged with regulation of domestic oil and gas recovery. It would transfer responsibility for giving consent for any large onshore wind farms in England and Wales from Whitehall to local planning authorities.

Immigration Bill

The government is promising to "control immigration" and put "hard-working British families first". This bill is designed to support working people, clamp down on illegal immigration and protect public services. Specifically, it will include a new offence of illegal working - with police given the power to seize the wages paid to illegal workers as the "proceeds of crime". There are also proposals to deal with unscrupulous landlords and to evict illegal migrants more quickly, while all foreign criminals awaiting deportation will be fitted with satellite tracking tags. It will also become an offence for businesses and recruitment agencies to hire abroad without first advertising in the UK and a new enforcement agency will be set up to tackle the worst cases of exploitation.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

This paves the way for powers over housing, transport, planning and policing to be devolved to England's cities as part of government plans for "a balanced economic recovery". Cities that want them will be able to have elected mayors.

HS2 Bill

The government is pressing ahead with legislation that will eventually enable work to start on the £50bn HS2 high-speed rail link. Legislation which will give the government the legal powers to construct and operate the London to Birmingham first phase of HS2 is going through Parliament. If it progresses smoothly, it should receive Royal Assent around the end of 2016, with work beginning on the project in 2017, with a finishing date of 2026.

Scotland Bill

The government will press ahead with further Scottish devolution as part of plans to deliver "a strong and lasting constitutional settlement". The Scottish Parliament will be given new tax and welfare powers, under the proposals. It follows the recommendations of the Smith Commission on Scottish devolution.

Wales Bill

There will also be further devolution of powers to Wales, including a new reserved powers model to clarify the division of powers between the Welsh Assembly and Parliament. The assembly will also be given more powers over energy, transport and local government elections in Wales.

Northern Ireland Bill

There will be a bill to give effect to the Stormont House Agreement in Northern Ireland. It will provide for full and independent investigations into unsolved Troubles-related deaths.

Psychoactive Substance Bill

This bill introduced legislation for a blanket ban on so-called legal highs "protect UK citizens from the risks posed by untested, unknown and potentially harmful drugs". It would be an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess, import or export psychoactive substances.

Extremism Bill

This includes measures to tackle broadcasting of extremist material. The government wants to strengthen the watchdog Ofcom so that it can take action against channels that transmit extremist content. The legislation will also propose the introduction of banning orders for extremist organisations who use hate speech in public places, but whose activities fall short of proscription. A new power to allow police and local authorities to close down premises used to support extremism will also feature. Employers will also be able to check whether an individual is an extremist and barring them from working with children.

Investigatory Powers Bill

A bill which revives plans to give intelligence agencies new tools to target communications data. The government says it will equip the police intelligence agencies with the tools to keep people safe.

Policing and Criminal Justice Bill

The bill includes plans to reform pre-charge bail in England and Wales - with an initial 28-day limit, and to ban the use of police cells for the emergency detention of mentally ill people under the Mental Health Act. There are also proposals to reform the Police Federation in England and Wales, and plans to extend police-led prosecutions and overhaul the complaints system. Measures to strengthen child protection also feature.

Trade Unions Bill

The main elements of the Bill are a 50 percent voting threshold for union strike ballot turnouts, and a requirement that 40 percent of those entitled to vote must back action in essential public services - health, education, fire and transport. Time limits will also be introduced on a mandate following a ballot for industrial action. There will also be the introduction of "a transparent opt-in process for the political fund element of trade union subscriptions".

Education and Adoption Bill

This bill is designed to raise standards in schools. Under the plans, new powers would be brought forward to speed up the process of changing a failing school's leadership and turning it into an academy. Those considered to be "coasting" would also face being taken over. The bill will also give the education secretary new powers to force local councils to hand over their responsibilities for adoption to another authority or agency.

Armed Forces Bill

This bill is designed to continue in force the legislation governing the Armed Forces. It would also make provision for other defence matters.

Bank of England Bill

This piece of legislation is designed to "further strengthen" the governance and accountability of the Bank of England. It will include measures working towards aligning monetary policy, macro prudential policy and micro prudential regulation.

(Protection and Social Investment) Bill

Measures to protect charities from abuse and to strengthen the powers of the Charity Commission for England and Wales feature in this bill. It is also designed to enable charities to more easily undertake social investments.

Votes for Life Bill

The speech set out plans for legislation to scrap the current 15-year time limit on UK citizens living abroad voting in Westminster and European elections. The government says it would make it easier for overseas electors to cast their votes in time to be counted, and encourage larger numbers of British citizens living abroad to register to vote in UK elections.

European Union (Finance) Bill

The purpose of this bill is to give UK approval to the financing aspect of the seven year EU Budget deal agreed in 2013, which saw a real-terms cut in EU spending. It would preserve the UK's rebate, and prevent new EU-wide taxes to finance EU spending.

Buses Bill

This bill would provide the option for combined authority areas with directly-elected mayors to be responsible for the running of their local bus services, which would help them to promote an integrated transport system.

Draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill

This draft bill proposes to reform and modernise the Public Service Ombudsman sector to provide "a more effective and accessible final tier of complaints redress within the public sector". It would absorb the functions of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Health Ombudsman, and the Local Government Ombudsman and potentially the Housing Ombudsman.

Appendix 3: Main announcements in Summer Budget 2015

Economic outlook

- UK growth in 2014 adjusted up from 2.7 percent to 3 percent.
- Growth forecast to be:
 - 2.4 percent in 2015
 - 2.3 percent in 2016
 - 2.4 percent in 2017 and each year thereafter to 2020
- One million new jobs to be created by 2020.

Government borrowing

- Public sector net borrowing (as a proportion of GDP):
 - 3.7 percent in 2015/16
 - 2.2 percent in 2016/17
 - 1.2 percent in 2017/18
 - 0.3 percent in 2018/19
 - 0.5 percent in 2019/20
 - 0.4 percent in 2020/21
- Net borrowing is forecast to be:
 - £69.5bn in 2015/16
 - £43.1bn in 2016/17
 - £24.3bn in 2017/18
 - £6.4bn in 2018/19
 - £10bn surplus in 2019/20
 - £11.6bn surplus in 2020/21
- In effect, deficit reduction extended for a further year, because in the March 2015 budget it was forecast that a £5.2bn surplus would be achieved by 2018/19.
- Net debt forecasts (as a proportion of GDP) is forecast to be:
 - 80.3 percent in 2015/16
 - 79.1 percent in 2016/17
 - 77.2 percent in 2017/18
 - 74.7 percent in 2018/19
 - 71.5 percent in 2019/20
 - 68.5 percent in 2020/21

Departmental spending

- £37bn of further spending reductions by 2020, including £12bn of welfare cuts, £5bn from tax avoidance and a £20bn reduction in departmental budgets.
- One percent public sector pay rise to continue for next four years.
- By the end of the parliament, spending on public services will be reduced by just under £18bn a year, compared with £42bn a year reduction previously proposed to be achieved by 2019/20.

Taxes and allowances

- Personal allowance will rise to £11,000 next year, from £10,600 at the moment.
- Once the £12,500 goal is met, the threshold will be tied to the minimum wage.
- The 40p threshold will be £43,000 from next year, up from £42,385 - set to reach £50,000 by 2020.
- Inherited non-domestic status to be abolished with an end to 'non-doms' being allowed to shift residences in the UK offshore to avoid inheritance tax and a time limit on 'non-dom' status for anyone resident in the UK for 15 of the last 20 years.
- Up to £1m can be passed on without inheritance tax.
- Investment fund managers will pay the full capital gains tax rate on their carried interest.
- Taxation on dividends to be simplified, with dividend tax credit to be replaced with a tax-free allowance of £5,000 of dividend income for all taxpayers.
- New legislation will be introduced to refund to eligible public bodies the VAT incurred on specified shared services.

Benefits and welfare reform

- £12bn less to be spent on welfare over the next four years.
- A Welfare Reform and Work Bill will be published on Thursday, 9 July 2015.
- Legislation to freeze working age benefits for four years, with the exception of maternity pay, personal independence payments, disability pay and Employment and Support Allowance.
- Youth obligation for 18-21 year olds to "earn or learn".
- Abolishing automatic entitlement for housing benefit for 18-21 year olds.
- Employment and Support Allowance will be cut to the level of Jobseeker's Allowance for those deemed fit to work - for future claimants only.
- Increasing child care for up to 30 hours per week.
- Rents paid in social housing will be reduced by one percent a year for next four years.
- The use of lifetime tenancies in social housing will be reviewed.
- £800m of funding for Discretionary Housing Payments will be provided over the next five years.
- Technical cuts to tax credits: Universal Credit work allowances will be similarly reduced – and will no longer be awarded to non-disabled claimants without children.
- The rate at which a household's Tax Credit award is reduced as they earn more will be increased, by raising the taper rate to 48 percent. The income rise disregard will be reduced from £5,000 to £2,500 – the same level at which it was originally set in 2003.
- The benefits cap will be reduced to £20,000 (£23,000 in London) from £26,000 a year.
- There will be no extra tax credit, Universal Credit, or housing benefit support for a third child after 2017.

- There will be provisions for exceptional circumstances like "multiple births".
- From September 2017, all working parents will receive up to 30 hours a week free childcare.
- The income threshold in tax credits will be reduced, from £6,420 to £3,850.

Pensions and savings

- A Green Paper will be published to consult on taxing pensions like ISAs.
- Dividend tax: will be a tax-free allowance of £5,000.
- Pension tax relief annual allowance tapered away to a minimum of £10,000.
- The state pension will be maintained via a triple lock.
- The BBC has agreed to take on the funding of TV licenses for over 75 year olds.

Business

- Rise in Insurance Premium Tax to 9.5 percent with effect from November 2015.
- Corporation tax rate reduced to 19 percent in 2017 and 18 percent in 2020.
- Corporations will be prevented from artificially increasing the value of stock for tax purposes.
- Annual Investment Allowance set at £200,000 for investment in plant and machinery from January 2016 to the end of the parliament (it was due to move back to £10,000).
- The rates of dividend tax will be set at 7.5 percent, 32.5 percent and 38.1 percent.
- National Insurance Contributions (NICs) allowance to be raised from £2,000 to £3,000 from April 2016 (meaning fewer small businesses pay NICs).
- Office of Tax Simplification to be permanently established – a review of reforming income tax, NICs and small business taxes due in coming months followed by a consultation.
- Venture Capital - changes will be introduced to improve the tax advantages of investing in growing and innovative small and medium sized firms.
- Business Tax Roadmap to be published by April 2016 to make tax changes clear to businesses.
- Business rates – changes to be made to the administration of business rates to tackle avoidance and improve the appeals system.
- Bank levy rate to be reduced from 0.21 percent to 0.1 percent in 2021 whilst there will be an 8 percent surcharge on bank profits above £25m.
- Insurance premium tax to increase by 3.5 percent to 9.5 percent from November 2015.
- Claims Management Companies – a review will be undertaken to cap customer charges.
- Productivity Plan to be published on Friday, 10 July 2015.
- Consultation on granting the power to decide whether to extend Sunday trading hours to city mayors and local authorities.

Wages, jobs and training

- A compulsory national living wage will be introduced at £7.20 from April 2016 rising to £9.00 by 2020.
- Low Pay Commission will recommend future rises. The National Living Wage will be at least 60 percent of median earnings by 2020.
- For SMEs - employment allowance is rising to £3,000 which will allow small firms to employ four people on the national living wage without paying any national insurance.
- Effect on corporate profits is offset by announcement that corporation tax is going down to £18,000 by 2020.
- Reaffirmation of the promise for three million additional apprenticeships by 2020.
- Apprenticeship levy to be introduced on all large firms (following consultation). Firms that offer apprenticeships will get more back than they put in.

Local growth and devolution

- Another agreement has been reached with the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester for more powers over fire services, land commission, children's services and employment programmes to be devolved.
- Negotiations are ongoing with Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and Cornwall on their own deals.
- New mayors to be able to set Sunday trading hours across their areas.

Northern Powerhouse

- Devolution deals being prepared with Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and West Yorkshire.
- Greater Manchester – new powers for fire services, children's services, employment programmes, and a land commission will be devolved to the Mayor.
- Establishing Transport for the North as a statutory body and £30m of investment in an Oyster-style smart ticketing system across the North.
- A bidding round will be introduced for more Enterprise Zones in smaller cities, towns and rural areas.
- Dualling of the A1 up to Ellingham in Northumberland.

Planning and housing

- Planning reforms to be announced on Friday, 10 July.
- Buy to let: restrict mortgage relief on rental property to the basic rate of income tax.
- From April 2017, the system that allows Buy-to-Let landlords to offset mortgage interest payments against their income will be phased out.
- Mortgage rate relief for Buy-to-Let landlords will be restricted to the basic rate of taxation, this will be phased in over time.
- Rent a Room relief which has been frozen for 18 years will be raised from £4,250 to £7,500.
- The automatic entitlement for housing benefit for 18-21 year olds will be abolished.

- Local Housing Allowance will be frozen for the next four years.
- Higher earners in social housing will be required to pay market rates.
- Rents paid in social housing will be reduced by one per cent a year for next four years.
- There will be no extra tax credit, Universal Credit, or housing benefit support for a third child after 2017.

Regeneration / Infrastructure

- Extension of Coastal Communities Fund to at least £90m until 2020/21.
- £23m of investment in next generation Digital Economy Centres in Bath, London, Swansea, Newcastle, Nottingham, and York.
- Road Investment Strategy (published December 2014) to be revised by 2020.
- Rail Investment Strategy to be published in the autumn.
- Extension of allowances for businesses in the North Sea.
- Establishment of a fund for communities hosting shale and gas extraction activities.
- Removal of the exemption for renewable energy generation and the establishment of measures to ensure energy businesses receiving subsidies support community-based energy projects.
- The government will conduct a review into the size and provision of crematoria facilities, cremation legislation and coroner services.

Transport

- £30m for Transport for the North, which will co-ordinate northern transport systems and develop an Oyster-style ticketing system.
- New Vehicle Excise Duty to be established from April 2017 for new cars, with changes to duty bands and the establishment of a Roads Fund using the receipts to fund.
- Fuel duty will remain frozen this year.
- New cars and motorbikes will not require an MOT until four years, rather than the current three years.

Energy

- Fuel duty will remain frozen this year.
- Vehicle excise duty: new bands coming in from 2017, based on emissions: zero emission band, along with standard and premium bands.
- Climate Change Levy: confirmed removal of the “out-dated” exemption for renewable electricity.

Health, social care and community safety

- The NHS will receive further £8bn on top of £2bn already pledged by 2020.
- The Children's Air Ambulance will receive a new helicopter.

- The funding for domestic abuse victims will be increased.
- £30m to further speed up adoption for the 3,000 children awaiting adoption, whilst paving the way for regional adoption agencies.
- A £3m fund will be set up to encourage innovative approaches including refuge provision to help those suffering from domestic abuse.

Education

- Cap on student numbers in universities to be removed.
- Tuition fees to rise in line with inflation if universities reach certain teaching standards.
- From 2016/17 maintenance grants will be replaced with new loans for students, with the loans only getting paid back when the person earns over £21,000. Increase of maintenance loans to £8,200.
- Consultation on freezing loan repayment threshold of £21,000 for five years.
- New Regius professorships in universities across the country.
- Youth Obligation to be introduced for 18 to 21 year olds to ensure they are in education if they are receiving unemployment benefits.
- Establishment of a network of national colleges to provide professional and technical routes into employment.

Appendix 4: Main announcements in Spending Review 2015

Deficit/Debt/Growth

- £12bn of savings set out in Budget will be met.
- 2% more investment in defence, 0.7% increase in foreign aid.
- 1 million extra jobs over next 5 years.
- Tax receipts to improve.
- Debt interest payments to be lower.
- Borrowing £11bn above target (£80.3 rather than £69.5).

- Deficit / surplus – smoother path:
 - 2015/16: 3.9% / £73.5bn deficit
 - 2016/17: 2.5% / £49.9bn deficit
 - 2017/18: 1.2% / £24.8bn deficit
 - 2018/19: 0.2% / £4.6bn deficit
 - 2019/20: 0.5% / £10.1bn surplus
 - 2020/21: 0.6% / £14.7bn surplus

- Debt to GDP ratio:
 - 2015/16: 82.5%
 - 2016/17: 81.7%
 - 2017/18: 79.9%
 - 2018/19: 77.3%
 - 2019/20: 74.3% surplus
 - 2020/21: 71.3%

- Growth:
 - 2015/16: 2.4% (same as Budget)
 - 2016/17: 2.4% (same as Budget)
 - 2017/18: 2.5%
 - 2018/19: 2.4%
 - 2019/20: 2.3%
 - 2020/21: 2.3%

Departmental Budgets

- Maintenance of departmental capital investment.
- Average of 0.8% annual savings compared to 2% in last 5 years.
- BIS to save 17% over next 5 years.
- DEFRA to save 15% over next 5 years.
- DECC to save 22% over next 5 years.

Welfare and tax credits

- £12bn in targeted welfare savings to be delivered in full.
- Planned £4.4bn in tax credit cuts abandoned, with taper and threshold rates for working tax credits and child tax credits remaining the same.
- Housing benefit for new social tenants to be capped at same level as private sector.
- Additional Discretionary Housing Payment funding will be made available to local authorities.
- Housing benefit and pension credit payments to be stopped for people who leave the country for more than one month.
- Temporary Accommodation Management Fee will be removed from the benefits system, with local authorities taking on more responsibility in supporting homeless people.
- DWP budget to be cut by 14%.
- Job centres to be co-located in council buildings.
- Conditions for benefits to be extended to more than one million more claimants.
- Councils to receive extra £10m to help homeless people.
- The Warm Home Discount scheme will be extended to 2020-2021 - This currently gives certain low-income households a one-off reduction of £140 on their electricity bill.

Pensions, savings and personal taxation

- State pension to rise by £3.35 a week to £119.30 next year.
- Income tax to reach 36.5% by 2020.
- Corporation tax in NI to be set at 12.5 per cent.
- Savings credit to be frozen at current level.
- Every individual and small business to have their own digital tax account by the end of the decade.

Communities and Local Government

- DCLG budget to achieve resource savings of 29% by 2019/20.
- Local Government grant to be reduced by £6.1 billion by 2019/2020.
- Taking into account forecast increases to other sources of local government income, overall local government spending will be higher in cash terms by 2019/20 than in 2015/16. By the end of this parliament local government will be “spending the same in cash terms as it does today”.
- Consultation on changes to the local government finance system to pave the way for the implementation of 100% business rate retention.
- Revenue Support Grant, which represents less than a quarter of local government total resources, will be phased out. Other sources of income such as council tax and business rates are forecast to grow by £6.3 billion by 2019/20.
- To reform services and make them more efficient, local authorities will have new flexibilities to spend 100% of their fixed asset receipts (excluding Right to Buy receipts) on the revenue costs of reform projects.
- To further encourage local authorities to release surplus assets and invest in making their services.
- Communities’ rights to reclaim local authority land and property (the Right to Contest) will be strengthened.
- Consultation on updating the Transparency Code to require all local authorities to record details of their land and property assets in a consistent way.
- The One Public Estate programme to be extended with £31 million to support local authorities to design more efficient asset management strategies.
- New guidance to encourage local authorities to rein in excessive salaries.
- Local authorities responsible for adult social care will be able to introduce a 2% levy on council tax to fund adult social care and an additional £1.5bn of funding for the Better Care Fund by 2019-20.
- Any revenue raised from the sale of council assets will be retained at a local level, with local authorities encouraged to draw down financial reserves.
- £12bn for Local Growth Fund.
- Abolition of uniform business rates – local government will retain all revenue raised from business rates by end of parliament.
- Consultation on reforms to the New Homes Bonus, including sharpening the incentive to reward communities for additional homes and reducing the length of payments from six years to four years.

Police, security and justice

- No real-terms cuts in police budgets in England and Wales, with spending to rise by £900m by 2020.
- Forces expected to make efficiency savings by sharing resources.

- From next April, police forces will be able to increase the amount they require from council tax collections by 2%.
- Holloway Women's Prison in London to close as part of modernisation of estate, including nine new prisons.
- Underused courts to be sold off, raising £700m for new technology.
- Defence budget to rise from £34bn to £40bn by 2020, with extra cash for the security services.
- Overseas aid budget to increase to £16.3bn by 2020, while Foreign Office budget protected in real terms.

Health

- Health budget in England, currently £101bn, to rise to £120bn by 2020-21.
- The NHS in England to get upfront cash injection of £6bn next year as part of £10bn added funding.
- NHS in England expected to make £22bn in efficiency savings.
- An extra £600m earmarked for mental health services.
- Grants for student nurses to be scrapped and replaced by loans.
- Cap on training places for nurses scrapped, with goal of increasing numbers by 10,000.
- New social care "precept" in council tax of up to 2% to allow local councils to raise £2bn for social care.
- Better Care Social Fund to be increased by 1.9%. Local authorities will have access to an extra £1.5bn by 2019/20.
- £15m raised from charging VAT on sanitary products to be given to women's health charities.
- To make it harder for people to claim compensation for exaggerated or fraudulent whiplash claims, the government is ending the right to cash compensation.
- More injuries will also be able to go to the small claims court as the upper limit for these claims will be increased from £1,000 to £5,000.

Infrastructure, transport and culture

- Capital funding of transport projects to rise by 50% by 2020.
- £250m support for motorways in Kent to relieve pressure caused by Operation Stack.
- DCMS to see funding cut by 5%.
- Extra cash for Arts Council and 29% increase to UK Sport's budget.
- Free museum entry to be maintained.

Education

- 500 new schools and university technical colleges.
- FE / Sixth Form colleges allowed to become academies to avoid paying VAT.
- Tuition fee loans expanded to 19 to 23 year olds at levels 3 and 4, and 19+ year olds at levels 5 and 6.
- Protection of HE research budgets and the development of five National Colleges with specific industrial specialisms (Digital Skills (London); High Speed Rail (Birmingham and Doncaster); Nuclear (Somerset and Cumbria); Onshore Oil and Gas (Blackpool); Creative and Cultural Industries (Essex).
- Area reviews of adult education to improve efficiencies.
- Apprenticeship programme:
 - Retention of target of 3 million additional apprenticeships by 2020 – meaning 1 million more by 2020;
 - Establishment of a new business-led body to set standards for apprenticeships;
 - Apprenticeship levy set at 0.5% of business wage bill (for businesses with wage bills of more than £3m) – many micro and small businesses will pay no levy.
- Age cap on new loans to postgraduates to be lifted from 2016-17 so loans are available to all those under 60.
- Introduction of new part-time maintenance loans from 2018-19 to support the cost of living while studying.
- STEM subject tuition loans will be extended to students wishing to do a second degree from 2017-18.

Science and Innovation

- A new £1.5 billion Global Challenges fund to address the problems faced by developing countries.
- Maintaining the science capital commitment of £6.9 billion between 2015 and 2021 including £150 million to launch a competition for a Dementia Institute.
- Integration of Innovate UK and Research UK with Innovate UK retaining funding but shifting from a grant-based system to business loans. Government is taking forward the recommendations of Paul Nurse's independent review and, to introduce a new body – Research UK – to work across the seven Research Councils. This will take the lead in shaping and driving a strategic approach to science funding, ensuring a focus on the big challenges and opportunities for UK research.
- A review of the Research Excellence Framework in order to examine how to simplify and strengthen funding on the basis of excellence – further details to be announced soon.

- Extension of freedoms granted to Research Institutes at Budget 2015 to all BIS sector research establishments which are not public corporations, and will also grant access to accumulated reserves of commercial income, subject to a cap.
- £130 million capital will be invested in DEFRA science facilities including £5 million for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science to improve its headquarters in Lowestoft.
- Development of international partnerships for clean energy research.
- Shale Wealth Fund to produce communities in shale-producing regions.
- Doubling of support for renewable energy.

Business and Enterprise

- Local government to keep all revenue from business rates by 2020.
- British Business Bank will retain the £400 million of additional funding for Enterprise Capital Funds.
- Small Business rate relief scheme extended for an additional year.
- Industrial strategy – Aerospace / automotive support continues.
- Increased funding for the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) and the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC).
- £24 million investment in digital transformation funding for UKTI to simplify UK trade support online and join-up government services.
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan due in spring 2016; setting out in detail how it will deliver key projects and programmes over the next 5 years.
- Energy-intensive industries to be exempt from Feed-in-Tariffs and Renewables Obligation.
- £800m additional for tax evasion – businesses to have online system by 2019.

Construction & Property

- Support for housebuilders:
 - 400,000 affordable homes by 2020 (£7bn);
 - Doubling housing budget to £2bn per year;
 - Right to Buy pilots for five housing associations from 25 November 2015;
 - Reforms to planning policy to ensure the release of unused and previously undeveloped commercial, retail and industrial land for starter homes, and support regeneration of previously developed, brownfield sites in the greenbelt, by allowing them to be developed in the same way as brownfield sites elsewhere, providing it delivers starter homes. This will be subject to local consultation, such as through neighbourhood plans;
 - Stamp duty to be 3% higher on Buy-to-let and second homes from April 2016. Reinvestment in areas with affordability problems;

- Restrictions on shared ownership to be removed and planning system reformed to deliver more homes.

Northern Powerhouse

- Science-based and innovative companies in the North.
- £250 million for small modular reactor development and wider nuclear R&D and a nuclear centre of excellence in Sheffield City Region, Greater Manchester and Cumbria, as well as the nuclear research base across the UK.
- £25 million for a Joint Research and Innovation Centre with China, to be based in the North West.
- £375 million over this Parliament for dedicated science and innovation facilities in the North.
- British Business Bank and LEPs in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and Tees Valley to create a Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund of over £400 million to invest in smaller businesses, subject to European funding arrangements.
- Together with a separate fund in the North East this will make over £500 million available across the Northern Powerhouse.
- Doubling the size of the Enterprise Zones programme in the Northern Powerhouse, creating seven new Zones and extending a further two Enterprise Zones. A new zone to be created in the NELEP area will benefit County Durham.
- Appointment of Julia King, Professor the Baroness Brown of Cambridge, as Chair of the £235 million Sir Henry Royce Institute, which will build on the North's strengths in advanced materials research and innovation.
- £50 million for two new agricultural technology centres, headquartered in York, which will support innovation and skills in the food and farming supply chain.
- providing an initial investment of £4 million to establish an Anti-Microbial Resistance Centre of Excellence in R&D at Alderley Park, subject to a business case.
- £15 million of funding to support further Northern Powerhouse trade missions including to key emerging economies.
- £7 million will fund a Northern Powerhouse Investment Taskforce, bringing the authorities and businesses of the North together to present a single internationally competitive offer to the world.
- £5 million to expand the Great Exhibition of the North, which will celebrate the great art, design and culture of the North. £15 million Great Exhibition Legacy Fund to pave the way for future cultural investment in the Northern Powerhouse. Appointment of Sir Gary Verity to take this project forward.
- £5 million to support Manchester Museum to create a new South Asia Gallery, in partnership with the British Museum.
- £1 million to create a lasting legacy for Hull's UK City of Culture 2017 and prepare for the next UK City of Culture.
- In 2017, there will be at least five new Northern Mayors, covering 54% of the population of the North, backed by over £4 billion of new funding from central government.

- £150 billion in health spending in the Northern Powerhouse across the Spending Review period, and around £46 billion in schools spending.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12 February 2016

Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2016/17



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise Members that the detailed report on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 (MTFP (6)) and Revenue and Capital Budget 2016/17 has been delayed due to the Council not yet receiving its final grant settlement figures.

Background

- 2 On 13 January 2016 Cabinet received an update report on MTFP (6) and the 2016/17 Budget. The report provided information on the provisional local government finance settlement. The report also identified however that the final local government settlement was not expected until the end of January or possibly early February 2016.
- 3 In addition, the report identified that, at that point, the Council was awaiting further confirmation on our revenue specific grant allocations including Public Health and the Better Care Fund. All of our specific capital grant allocations were also still awaited.
- 4 As at 2 February 2016 when the agenda and reports for the 10th of February Cabinet were circulated and published, the final local government finance settlement had not been announced and none of the outstanding revenue or capital specific grant allocations had been received. It is expected that the final settlement should be received by 8 February 2016.
- 5 On this basis a detailed report providing full details of MTFP (6) and the revenue and capital budgets for 2016/17 will now go to a special Cabinet meeting on 17 February. Arrangements have therefore been made for a separate special scrutiny session on 19 February to follow this revised Cabinet date.

Recommendations and reasons

- 6 That Members note that a detailed MTFP (6) and 2016/17 Budget report will be circulated when available, before a special OSMB/Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 February 2016, to enable scrutiny of the MTFP.

Contact: Jeff Garfoot Head of Corporate Finance Tel: 03000 261 846

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance -

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Staffing –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Risk –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty -

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Accommodation –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Crime and Disorder –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Human Rights –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Consultation –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Procurement –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Disability Issues –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Legal Implications –

To be addressed as appropriate in the detailed report

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12 February 2016

Cabinet

13 January 2016

County Durham Partnership Update



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

Summary

2. The end of 2015 saw a huge amount of partnership activity. The council's work with the armed forces community as well as the recently completed community buildings asset transfer programme, were both recognised nationally as best practice and innovative approaches in their relevant fields. The work of local organisations, community groups and individuals was also recognised at the annual Environment Awards held in November.
3. Following the report Cabinet received last autumn on the work and action plan of the Welfare Reform and Poverty Group, this report includes partnership led work at a local level delivered by AAPs and other partners. Working with, and supporting, local communities affected by welfare reform has become common practice for the AAPs and all of them have strong examples of how this applies in their areas.
4. Thematic partnerships are reviewing and refreshing their outcomes and delivery plans currently to enable new plans to be implemented from April. A number of consultation events have taken place in order to inform partners of emerging needs and issues as well as updating existing plans with outcomes that have been achieved.

5. The Children and Families Partnership commissioned a Student Voice survey which was undertaken by over 8,000 students making this a robust study which can be used across the partnership.

Key Partnership Developments and Achievements

6. It has been a very busy period across the partnership with recognition being received nationally on partnership working in County Durham. Austerity continues to affect all parts of the partnership and local communities, including welfare reform which is a theme of the report. There are also a number of positives to report on.
7. The council has been honoured for its work in supporting serving and former members of the armed forces and has been presented with a silver award by the Ministry of Defence through its Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. The scheme rewards and recognises UK employers and organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to the armed forces community. Since signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012, the council has undertaken a number of initiatives, including setting up a proactive armed forces forum which champions the help and support available to the armed forces community. The council has also developed a dedicated human resources policy to support reservists, which includes the right to up to ten days of special paid leave for training. The council's housing allocation policy has been revised to ensure there is no disadvantage to veterans and their families, extended the scope of welfare rights referral criteria and ensured that its schools admission code does not disadvantage armed forces children. There is now a dedicated page on the council's website detailing the support available to the armed forces community.
8. The recently completed community buildings asset transfer programme was one of six national winners in the Carnegie Trust's Enabling State Awards which received over 120 submissions. At the awards event in London, the project was viewed as ground-breaking and innovative. It was interesting to note that Durham was the only council to be included in the winning projects. Other winners were community organisations who had struggled to engage with their local authorities.
9. The annual Environment Awards took place in November with new categories added and increasing numbers of submissions in each category. A number of commendations as well as overall awards were given with a huge variety of groups and individuals recognised. The brochure from the event can be found [here](#).
10. As previously reported, as part of the WWI commemorations, specially commissioned memorial stones to honour winners of the Victoria Cross will be placed in different locations in County Durham as part of a national initiative to provide a lasting legacy for those who received the VC for their actions. The first, unveiled at Wheatley Hill Cemetery on Wednesday, 4 November 2015, honoured Thomas Kenny, exactly 100 years to the day of his act of heroism. Each stone bears the soldier's name, rank and regiment along with the date of the action for which they were awarded the medal. The event in East Durham was well received by all those who attended, with special praise was given to the children of St Mary's RCVA Primary School, who recited a poem written for Thomas Kenny 100 years ago by the pupils of the school.
11. The Partnership held its forum meeting in October 2015 which focused on the Director of Public Health's report: 'All the lonely people: what are we doing to tackle loneliness and isolation in County Durham?' A joint presentation from Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health, and AAP representatives highlighted the various needs of

specific groups of people across the county and gave examples of the wide range of support available to people from across the AAPs and other partners. The presentation was well received and evidenced the way all partners work together to link strategic objectives with local action.

12. Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership, led by the county council and chaired by Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, has continued to progress the county's response to the refugee crisis in Syria, seeking to ensure that support for refugees placed in the county is joined up, promoting cross-service and agency working, as well as engagement with communities. A working group, which includes council services and partner representatives, is supporting the Partnership in considering the operational aspects of accommodating refugees within County Durham.
13. At its meeting on 16 December 2015 Cabinet endorsed the work carried out by Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership and agreed to progress the proposed response to support refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. The response will focus on ensuring that refugee families arriving in County Durham, many of whom will have encountered desperate situations, experience the best possible welcome and the opportunity to become part of our local communities and thrive in the County.
14. The CDP is an integral way of consulting with partners and wider communities and plays a key role in the council's annual budget consultation. 139 people participated in three public consultation events held in December 2015 which, following a presentation on the council's position and approach to date, gathered views on three key areas: the council's approach to managing the reduction to date; the proposals for 2016-17 and the potential introduction of the social care precept. The full consultation results will be presented to Cabinet in February and will take account of the broader consultation gathering individual and partner responses which closed on Tuesday 12 January.
15. A new approach is being taken to develop a web based Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) for County Durham which will assist with strategic planning across the partnership. The INA will bring together for the first time, the evidence and wide range of strategic assessments used to inform strategic planning across the council and by partnerships. The new INA will provide data, analysis, external frameworks, strategies and plans relevant to life in County Durham and will be a web-based series of fact sheets which will be updated through an iterative process. It will integrate with other strategic assessment processes and products, such as AAP profiles, Clinical Commissioning Group profiles, specific health needs, local economic and community safety assessments.

Supporting Welfare Reform

16. As reported to Cabinet in October, the Welfare Reform and Poverty Group continues to work to mitigate the impacts of changes to the welfare system that affect local people. AAPs are well placed to offer local interventions and support and have received some additional funding from the council to do specific work in their areas. This is in addition to the area and neighbourhood budgets as well as external funding that AAPs secure to support local communities.
17. Previously reported initiatives include the Welfare Champions project from the **East Durham AAP** area. The AAP has had a priority focussing on 'maintaining the social fabric of our communities' for a number of years which has led to the

development and implementation of a number of initiatives across the area. As well as the Welfare Champions they also have the East Durham Community Job Clubs which provide more accessible alternatives to centralised national programmes. In the first four months they have seen nearly 200 users access the clubs, against their annual target of 400. They offer access to IT and transport, both of which can be barrier for people. Additional benefits of this initiative can be improved mental health and wellbeing and reduced social isolation. The AAP recently launched the next stage of the Welfare Champions project, Debt First Aiders, at East Durham Trust's annual conference. This supports people who are experiencing difficulties with debt and will train local volunteers to provide initial support or signposting to specialist services. Users are also encouraged to join the local credit union.

18. Other AAPs have followed the work in East Durham, particularly supporting and enhancing partner initiatives. Working with people who are vulnerable due to debt and need help and support can often be done via a third party, particularly local foodbanks. The usage figures for foodbanks across the county has risen significantly in recent years. **Three Towns, Stanley, Durham and 4Together AAPs** all have examples of partners being able to offer broader support to those who need it, particularly if the advice they receive helps alleviate the need for foodbanks in the future. **Stanley AAP** funds the Durham Money Advice project that provides a trained debt advisor who works alongside the foodbank in Stanley. The Durham Money Advice Centre is a face to face debt advice service where staff and volunteers work with clients to manage their immediate situation, arrange a plan for paying priority debts, and implement a budget that will help the client manage their financial situation in the future.
19. **Durham AAP** has also committed its welfare reform funding to a similar partnership between Durham Christian Foodbank, Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and MIND. This provides a service that looks into the reasons why people are attending the foodbank. The partnership was also chosen to become involved in a fuel bank pilot that operated from existing food banks. Qualifying households receiving a £49 credit to help with fuel costs and to date 42 people have received a comprehensive service. The main problem identified by those accessing the Foodbank as meeting immediate need rather than seeking to access wider providers which the joint working has been able to support. In addition to this, at the AAP's recent It's Up to You event amongst the successful projects were the Durham Money Advice project and Waddington Street.
20. The **4Together AAP** allocated their welfare reform funding to the LADDER Centre in Ferryhill and also focused on supporting foodbanks. The service provides items that more fully meet the needs of families. In order to make a more holistic offer the project also gave people the opportunity to access funding for gas and electricity. To access this provision, evidence of need is required and clients must participate in financial inclusion training. Access to healthy eating classes that teach cooking skills on a budget to support health and nutrition within families are also offered. This is to support the people accessing the food bank who do not have the skills to cook the food provided.
21. Also important is a funding pot to provide basic essentials which will include clothing and shoes as this is something that is repeatedly highlighted by One Point, the LADDER Centre and food banks. It can particularly help those people trying to gain employment by making sure they have clean, appropriate clothing and shoes for interviews etc. Similarly, **Three Towns AAP**, via its support of The Salvation Army in Crook has supported families with three day food parcels. This project also

supports the food bank to provide gas and electricity top ups and food to those in need. This enables people to cook hot meals with the food provided by the food bank. One of the biggest issues for many people during cold weather is choosing between heating, eating and finding money to cook food. The Salvation Army has been working with agencies in the area to support those in need. The budget has been used for those requiring clothes, home utensils or essentials for new mothers who cannot afford baby products.

22. Another area that AAPs have prioritised in recent years to respond to welfare reform is employability. The Employability Pit Stop project, supported by **Bishop Auckland and Shildon, East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC) and Great Aycliffe and Middridge (GAMP)** is aimed at people of working age who are either out of work, at risk of redundancy, have poor access to formal learning opportunities or who are digitally excluded. The 'pit stop' element comes from the style of the project as it uses community venue surgeries across the AAP areas to deliver personal development support; help with job applications; support to access additional funding; digital literacy skills and help with volunteering opportunities which are often a first step towards employment.
23. Three AAPs have joined together to deliver the 'Wheels to Work' transport project pilot which looks at overcoming transport barriers that prohibit access to employment. **Mid Durham, Stanley and Chester le Street and District AAPs** have secured £50,000 of capital funding from the North East Combined Authority's Local Growth allocation which will purchase 25 scooters whilst funding from the AAPs will support the delivery of the loan scheme. The loan scheme will provide a scooter for six months with the development of a savings scheme being looked at with the community bank so that after the initial six months the person could have the ability to purchase a new bike with the existing bike being made available for another person.
24. The **Derwent Valley Partnership (DVP)** and **Mid Durham AAP** have both taken a slightly different approach and developed a School Saving and Financial Inclusion Scheme aimed at young people. Through working with Prince Bishops Community Bank (PBCB) they are helping to deliver a school savings scheme project which aims to help improve the financial capability of young people of varying ages within the area. This is achieved through engagement with schools, community groups and parents via the employment of a school development officer, to be hosted by the PBCB. The officer will support schools to introduce sound financial education into the curriculum through the engagement of partner organisations that have the capacity and skills to deliver training in schools. They will work with head teachers to raise awareness of financial issues and encourage a culture of saving. The officer will also engage parents to help them understand and make them aware of financial issues and how poor money management can affect their families' lives.
25. Rural areas can face different issues particularly linked to isolation and accessibility. **Teesdale Action Partnership** works with Citizens Advice, from their base in Barnard Castle, to offer outreach services across the area. To complement this service the AAP has funded a rural pilot to offer information, advice and guidance on issues relating to benefits and jobs. Led by YMCA Teesdale this project has established weekly sessions in Evenwood, Cockfield and Mickleton. Staffed by the YMCA team and trained volunteers the project has been helping people in rural areas who may find it difficult to access this sort of service. The type of issues include access to public transport and reliable broadband.

26. The examples given are only a small amount of the work going on across the county within communities to help people affected by welfare reform. The wider affects include social isolation and emotional wellbeing which are being addressed by partners and AAPs.

Altogether wealthier

27. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** Board met in November 2015 and welcomed Arun Harish from the Centre for Process Innovation onto the board to further increase private sector representation. On the agenda was an annual review of the CDEP Measures of Success and an opportunity to analyse the annual State of the County Report. This was further complemented by discussion of progress being made by working groups within the partnership.
28. The Measures of Success report highlighted positive trends against the target indicators and trackers. However, it remains evident that the county has experienced a more acute impact of the recession when compared to both the national and regional picture and there is still a significant distance to travel. The key messages from performance against the current measures of success are:
- a. Since 2012 the employment rate has risen from 64.8% to 68.1% (an increase of 9,700 people). This remains low compared to the pre-recession peak. The latest male employment rate (74.2%) in particular has grown sharply and now exceeds the overall target employment rate for the county (73%) and is above the North East male employment rate (by 1.1%). The number of self-employed people rose from 16,100 to 26,400 in County Durham, an increase of 62%.
 - b. The total value of North East economy is £45.4bn (2013) and County Durham contributes 16% of this total (£7.3bn). In 2013, Gross Value Added (GVA) per head grew at 6.8% significantly above both the North East growth rate (2.8%) and the national average (2.6%).
 - c. Latest ONS estimates of the number of businesses show there were 12,370 active enterprises in County Durham in 2013. This is a net increase of 185 (+1.5%) enterprises since 2012 lower than regional (+3.4%) or national (+3.4%) changes. The total business stock remains below the national average and is dominated by smaller businesses.
 - d. Gross Disposable Household Income has increased 18.4% since 2008 more than regional (18.2%) or national (16.9%) comparisons. However, locally growth over the longer term has been relatively low.
 - e. The Indices of Deprivation (released in September 2015) revealed that 150 County Durham LSOAs are ranked in the top 20% most deprived on the Employment Domain. This is 18 fewer than in previous release but remains more than double the target of 65.
29. The board agreed that the Altogether Wealthier top priority outcome is still to improve the employment rate. This will be achieved through a combination of additional employment and self-employment opportunities located in the county, more residents being able to access employment within a broad travel to work area and additional numbers of employed people becoming resident in County Durham. It was agreed further analysis of the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the report would be fed into the current Regeneration Statement review. The

Statement underpins the 'Altogether Wealthier' theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and sets out the regeneration and economic narrative for the county. In order to build on the initial informal consultation with partners and the outlined scope and direction of the review, key milestones and timescales have been identified and agreed by the CDEP Board.

30. The County Durham Partnership Board requested an update on the County Durham Plan at its November meeting. This is a key council and document and the spatial expression of the SCS, which seeks to guide the future development of the county and to improve the lives of its existing and future residents. A planning inspector held an Examination in Public in 2014 to consider the contents of the Plan. The subsequent interim report of the inspector received in February 2015 found the Plan to be unsound and criticised its economic ambition. At this time support for the council's approach was forthcoming from across partners including the business community and local MPs. Given this support and the flaws identified in the inspector's report, the council approached the inspector to ask him to reopen the Examination. He refused to do so and therefore, following discussions with the Planning Inspectorate and after taking legal advice, the council took the difficult decision of launching a Judicial Review (JR).
31. In September DCC was informed by the Court that it had agreed a Consent Order and that there was now a resolution which quashed the inspector's interim report. As part of the agreement reached with DCLG and endorsed by the court, the County Durham Plan also had to be withdrawn to allow it to be refreshed and updated before being submitted again for Examination by a new inspector. As part of this updating and to reflect changes to Government policy, elements of the Plan's evidence base are currently being updated and refreshed.
32. In order to ensure an amended and refreshed Plan is back to Examination as soon as possible the council is hoping to have the new draft approved by cabinet and out to consultation early this year and will then look to submit the Plan for Examination in late spring/early summer. After submission a new Planning Inspector will be appointed who will then determine the timescales and the format of the Examination in Public.
33. AAPs have also significantly contributed to delivering against the altogether wealthier outcomes. Many have supported employability and apprenticeship programmes as well as helping people to return to work by building their skills and confidence. Many AAPs also support businesses in their localities in order to help boost the local economy through increased footfall, something **Spennymoor AAP's** Town Centre Group is currently looking at, to broadband and other digital services.
34. **Spennymoor** and **4Together AAPs** are both working in partnership with County Durham Furniture Help Scheme (CDFHS). Spennymoor AAP is supporting the Destination Employment Project which will offer a comprehensive programme of person centred employability support. The project team will work with clients to identify their starting point and support them into employment and each client will receive an identified project worker to support them on their journey. The project will aim to work with around 120 residents from the Spennymoor Area. It will focus primarily on people aged 25+. **4Together AAP** is funding the CDFHS to deliver advice and guidance to those residents disadvantaged by crisis, lack of food or requiring emergency furniture. Both examples show how partnering with the

voluntary and community sector to deliver in local areas can broaden the scope of AAP led projects.

35. Working with Durham County Council's ICT Service, **Stanley AAP** has set up a Smart Stanley Working Group to explore how digital technologies can support town centre businesses, along with local resident and visitor footfall in Stanley. A town centre website is the first project for the group which will allow the area to promote itself to the local and wider community. The website will help to welcome local residents and visitors and will aim to maximise the benefits associated with tourism and encourage visitors to spend some of their disposable income in the town.
36. The AAP will also work with local traders to improve their digital skills with the long-term aim of building their capacity to take on the running and management of the website. Advertising income streams will also be explored with local and national businesses and visitor attractions in the hope of securing income to pay for the ongoing costs of hosting the website after the initial three years.

Altogether better for children and young people

37. A significant piece of work commissioned by the **Children and Families Partnership** is the Student Voice survey which was undertaken from January to April 2015 by students in Years 7, 9 and 11 and where Secondary Schools have Sixth Forms. Of the 32 Secondary Schools, 25 participated with a total of 8,148 students completing the survey, making this a robust survey that can be used across the partnership.
38. The survey findings indicate that:
 - a. Over 10% of students identified themselves as a Young Carer, which reinforces the importance of the Young Carers Charter and the need for schools to safely identify and support young carers in their school.
 - b. 33% of students stated they have been bullied. The Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience includes an anti-stigma campaign as an action. Public Health and Education are also working closely on the resilience programme including work with schools to tackle bullying.
 - c. 2.6% of children identified that they eat most of their fruit and veg at school, compared to over 60% at home. The healthy weight alliance will be asked to progress work with students based on the findings of this survey.
 - d. Just over one third of children do not participate in physical activity other than School PE. There is an opportunity through the development of the County Durham Physical Activity Framework to encourage children and young people to become more physically active.
 - e. Over 50% of children responded 'Yes' to the question 'Do you find that you are often near people who are smoking'. The Tobacco Action Plan has been refreshed for 2015/16 and includes a specific theme of reducing exposure to second hand smoke.
 - f. In relation to alcohol consumption, 13.7% of students responded that they drink 'during the week', 'most weekends', 'every weekend' or 'every day'. By Year 11, this increases to 23.3%. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy includes a focus on the altogether better for children and young people

theme and specific actions for the Drug and Alcohol Service to support schools in tackling drug and alcohol issues.

39. The survey information has already been shared with schools, partners and through the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The survey will be shared further with relevant parties to ensure the information and evidence is captured in strategy reviews. An action plan is being developed to respond to these findings which will be reported through the Children and Families Partnership.
40. The Children and Families Partnership have reaffirmed the following three objectives in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19, as those which will remain a priority for 2016-17:
 - a. Children and young people realise and maximise their potential;
 - b. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life;
 - c. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.
41. The objectives align to the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-30.
42. The following events, aimed at young people will inform the refresh of the plan:
 - a. A number of engagement events facilitated by Investing in Children;
 - b. Consultation with young carers through Family Action Young Carers Service family fun day;
 - c. The “Big Tent” Engagement Event included a number of workshops to look at the health and social care issues affecting children and young people.
43. A final summary report of the learning and analysis on the Phase 1 Stronger Families Programme and next steps for the roll out of the expanded Phase 2 programme was presented to the Children and Families Partnership in September 2015. Phase 2 includes much broader eligibility criteria enabling the majority of families worked with by social care services to be part of the programme and to achieve results payments. There is a very clear need to shift the focus to ensuring families are supported in such a way that results in significant and sustained change. All programmes are required to develop a local Family Outcome Framework (FOF), describing the programme’s identification criteria and outcomes.
44. The key actions for phase 2 include: embedding the use of the FOF and development of outcome-focused care plans; coordination of the workforce development with the Service Transformation and Innovations Programme and Local Safeguarding Childrens Board; a range of ICT developments to help manage the information requirements of the expanded programme, including Family Progress Data and outcomes evidence collection for payment-by-results; revising the payment-by-result methodology and grant terms of reference with our Internal Audit service and carry out a ‘refresh’ of the cost saving calculator data once data is available and investigate the cases where there is a particular increase in the costs associated with fostering and residential care.
45. The Stronger Families programme has informed the development of the Children’s Services Innovations programme. Stronger Families will cease to be identifiable as

a separate programme, and will become the core of new Families First teams. This will make best use of the learning and expertise built during the programme, but also the resources generated through the programme, in order to achieve improved outcomes for all vulnerable families in County Durham.

46. AAPs have consistently supported the work of the Children and Families Partnership and deliver outcomes at a local level with many examples directly linked to supporting families. **Stanley AAP** also supports the employment of a community engagement tutor working with the Catchgate Learning Hive, in partnership with Derwentside Homes. The Hive provides a range of learning opportunities for residents living across Stanley, particularly targeting those who face multiple barriers to making progress and improving their lives. The Hive work with families to improve their skills to support their children's development, as well as to help adults who are unemployed or unwaged, in low paid or part time employment and who wish to progress.
47. The AAP has also supported the development of Northern Writes, an educational programme and literary festival which will benefit the children, young people and families of Stanley and surrounding North Durham communities. It comprises a participatory programme for children, young people and adults, building up to a weekend literary festival that will showcase their work. Northern Writes is a grass-roots led initiative that is being driven and advocated by members of the community.
48. **3 Towns AAP** has a Training and Preparing for Employment project to train and up-skill local young people interested in the sports industry giving them the opportunity to gain experience and qualifications. The council's sport and physical activity development team has been working across the 3 Towns locality with community Sports Clubs, youth and community groups, schools and college to identify appropriate candidates to offer training and voluntary experience. This will give them a much greater opportunity of employment either full time, part time, apprenticeship or casual session work. Although this project is sport related the skills and experiences gained are transferable and would help future employability in alternative fields of work.

Altogether healthier

49. The **Health and Wellbeing Board** recently agreed the comprehensive three year County Durham Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience, which considers self-harm amongst young people. The Department of Health and NHS England published the 'Future in Mind, promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing' which makes a number of proposals the government wishes to see by 2020. These include: tackling stigma and improving attitudes to mental illness; introducing more access and waiting time standards for services; establishing 'one stop shop' support services in the community and improving access for children and young people who are particularly vulnerable. The County Durham Transformation Plan incorporates the requirements of 'Future in Mind' to achieve these aspirations. Funding for Clinical Commissioning Groups is attached to the 'Future in Mind' plans to support young people with Mental Health needs.
50. The Health and Wellbeing Board has reaffirmed the following six objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19, as those which will remain a priority for 2016-17:

- a. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life;
- b. Reduce health inequalities and early deaths;
- c. Improve quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions;
- d. Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population;
- e. Protect vulnerable people from harm;
- f. Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need.

51. The objectives align to the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-30.
52. Over 270 people attended the Big Tent engagement event which took place in November 2015 and saw Dr William Bird MBE launch of the Physical Activity Framework delivery plan for County Durham. The event also publicised the newly launched Locate service which provides a complete directory of care and support services. The service will play a key role in providing the essential information and advice for people to make informed decisions about their care and support, enabling them to stay well and independent for longer.
53. Sandie Keene, a Local Government Association Advisor facilitated the event, which consisted of a combination of presentations and themed workshops relating to health, social care and the wider wellbeing approach, including integration, community safety, seven day services, the environment, housing and health. The event gave people an opportunity to provide their views on how services should be developed. Service users, Elected Members, members of voluntary organisations, patients, carers, GPs and AAP board members all attended. Feedback will be used to influence future services through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Children, Young People and Families Plan, and Safe Durham Partnership Plan.
54. Addressing specific issues on rural isolation is key to the work of the **Weardale** and **Teesdale Action Partnerships**. Their 'Wheels to Meals' scheme addresses the two issues of nutrition and rural isolation in older people. Using Community Transport's fully accessible mini buses with volunteer drivers and passenger assistants, the scheme collects people from their doors and takes them to local restaurants for a two course lunch or afternoon tea, before taking them home. The scheme is widely promoted and the choice of venue is agreed from feedback and suggestions offered by the participants. Additional support is available over the phone to those members who have expressed an interest and is an important part of the project as it is designed to offer a friendly voice and a listening ear to those individuals who are isolated.
55. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is currently working with Leisureworks, Public Health, Consett Academy, community venues and a range of local sports clubs to develop a bespoke physical activity programme for 2016. The programme aims to support the development of the new County Durham Physical Activity Framework (2016-2021), engage young people and families who would otherwise not participate in physical activity and sustain physical participation in the long term.
56. The programme will commence in spring 2016 offering a range of taster sessions delivered in conjunction with Consett Academy targeted at Year 7 pupils using the

current onsite facilities. These taster sessions will provide an opportunity for young people to take part in traditional sports such as rugby, football, cricket and swimming alongside other activities including geocaching, dance, boot camps, colour run, boxercise and cheerleading.

57. As a follow on from the spring taster sessions, a Legacy Multi Sports Day Programme will be delivered in summer 2016 across various community venues (including parks, sports club grounds, community centres etc.) aimed at the wider engagement of families and youth groups. Activities offered alongside the sports listed above will also include music and art.
58. Through the programme, Sports Club Open Days will be offered aimed at encouraging residents of all ages to take up regular activity and possible volunteering opportunities to help support clubs locally. A Sports Club Voucher Booklet offering free sessions and discounts will also be provided as an incentive as part of the overall project. The Task Group leading on this project are also exploring how the programme can link to the 2016 Olympics and awareness raising linked to disability sports.
59. AAP led physical activity projects are community based ways of increasing people's participation across a range of sports. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) and 3 Towns Partnerships** both fund the Parklife project that aims to get more people involved in sport, through the provision of a needs led programme of taster sessions delivered within local parks and facilities. The ultimate aim is to get more people participating in sport more often, with an emphasis on engaging those who currently do not take part in sport or physical activity based. This is based around three parks in the summer months and utilising indoor facilities over winter months. The project will run over three years leading to a lasting legacy of provision or exit routes into other local provision and sports clubs. Activities included football, cricket, archery, dance, spinning multisport, tennis, Go Skate, family games, boot camp and girls only sessions. Seven schools are hosting family games sessions as part of their existing after school provision as part of the project.
60. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP (GAMP)** has implemented a health based project that also supports the altogether greener priority. They have created a socially inclusive, fully accessible community horticultural garden, set in the grounds of the Pioneering Care Centre. The aim of the project is to make use of the local environment by providing access to a community garden in the heart of the GAMP area that enables residents, local schools and voluntary groups to develop their 'hands on' horticultural skills and to undertake new learning.
61. Through a partnership with Bishop Auckland College (Construction & Enterprise Project) and the ESH Group, the garden was constructed to ensure that the space can be fully utilised by clients with a variety of physical abilities and needs. The project is being used to champion a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits that gardening and horticulture can have. The outcomes will include: better physical health through exercise; improved mental health through a sense of purpose and achievement; the opportunity to connect with others, reducing feelings of isolation or exclusion; acquiring new skills to improve the chances of finding employment and volunteering and intergenerational learning.
62. The project has also proved to be a catalyst for a future GAMP funded project 'Growing our Community' that will provide horticultural therapy activities in the grounds of Pioneering Care Partnership, using the new accessible garden.

Horticultural therapy is the process of using plants and gardening activities as a means to achieve goals of wellness and promotes physical, emotional, cognitive, social and spiritual wellbeing.

63. A range of activities will be made available to GAMP residents aged 50+, over two days per week, including:
 - a. Planting seeds in raised boxes and borders (flowers, fruit and vegetables).
 - b. Maintenance of the garden (pruning, grass cutting, watering etc.).
 - c. Flower arranging (allow people to focus on their creativity and develop a sense of achievement by learning a new skill).
 - d. Nature trail specially designed through the garden, along which there will be marked stops next to points of interest.
64. The project will support the active participation of older adults from adult social care (e.g. Rose Lodge Care Home, which specialises in residential, dementia and respite care) and organisations providing services/support for older people (e.g. Age UK). In addition, independent groups operating across the GAMP area (e.g. Dementia group at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre) will be invited to take part in the activities. Clients engaged in the horticultural therapy activities will also be offered referral to a free monthly lunch club, developed in partnership with Woodham Community Centre. The lunch club will bring together clients from the project to enjoy a lunchtime meal as well as providing access to other health and wellbeing activities delivered in a community setting including: non-impact aerobics; dance provided by Nouveau Fitness and health promotion provided by health trainers.

Altogether safer

65. The **Safe Durham Partnership (SDP)** is making progress in terms of planning and delivering the statutory 'Prevent duty' placed on partner organisations as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. County Durham can demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of people being drawn into terrorism in the local area through the commissioning of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and is recognised as a low risk area but no area is risk free.
66. Each organisation specified by the act is represented at the 'County Durham and Darlington Contest Silver Group' which oversees the work of the Safe Durham Partnership priority on Counter Terrorism. Staff training is helping professionals recognise the signs that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know how to refer them for support. Durham Constabulary has trained staff across the SDP to deliver WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent); a national product developed by the Home Office. A wide range of agencies are being briefed and sign-posted to information and resources hosted on the websites of the County Durham Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Schools Extranet, Voice and County Durham's Families Information Service. This will help the private, voluntary and independent childcare sector and out-of-school activity sector meet their new duties.
67. The Government published its Counter-Extremism Strategy in October 2015 which is aimed at countering all forms of extremism: violent and non-violent. It aims to improve understanding of the causes and impacts of extremism and do more to:

counter the extremist ideology; build a partnership with all those opposed to extremism; disrupt extremists and build more cohesive communities. An Extremism Bill is scheduled to be published by the end of the year. Additional resources will be available through guidance and toolkits.

68. As previously reported the Safer Homes project received £500,000 funding from the Government's Transformation Challenge Award for 2014/15. £320,000 has been allocated towards the fitting of Fire and Crime Preventative measures in vulnerable homes across County Durham with eight of the main housing providers signed up to a partnership agreement that will see them assign £20,000 of their 2015/16 budget towards the procurement and installation of preventative measures. As a result of the project the Police and Fire Service are now both offering documented advice on both crime/ fire awareness within the home as part of their core role.
69. One of the main objectives of the project was to ensure a sustainable centralised referral process was set up in such a way that ensured the Safer Homes initiative could function as mainstream work once the project had concluded. Fire and Rescue ensure all referrals received are forwarded to the appropriate authority/ service responsible for dealing with the specific vulnerabilities identified. The level of reductions in house burglary and dwelling fires, along with savings achieved from a centralised referral process at through the Fire and Rescue Service has been achieved. The investment in sustainable home safety solutions will provide benefits for many years to come.
70. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20 has been developed by Durham County Council Public Health team and agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board. In 2014 the County Durham Partnership identified alcohol as a cross cutting theme. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy has been reconfigured around all five of the Altogether themes and underpinned by six key objectives relating to these themes.
71. The strategic objectives in the **Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDPP)** are the same as the thematic objectives for the Altogether Safer section of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2010-2030. The Safe Durham Partnership Board has re-affirmed the strategic objectives in the SDPP as those which will remain as a priority for 2016-19:
 - a. Reduce anti-social behaviour;
 - b. Protect Vulnerable People from Harm;
 - c. Reduce Re-offending;
 - d. Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction;
 - e. Embed the Think Family Approach;
 - f. Counter Terrorism and prevention of violent extremism;
 - g. Road Casualty Reduction.
72. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan will be developed using the Community Safety Strategic Assessment which provides analysis of data and trends in relation crime and disorder. It also includes information from the Organised Crime Profile in County Durham.

73. A number of engagement events will be held to inform the refreshed Safe Durham Partnership Plan, including a 'Community Safety' themed workshop at the Health and Wellbeing 'Big Tent' event which was held in November 2015; consultation with AAPs through briefing notes; consultation with the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee; use of existing consultation such as the Police Confidence Survey and online community consultation through agency web-sites and social media. There may therefore be changes to the existing outcomes or additional outcomes added that support these strategic objectives following these engagement activities. A draft SDPP 2016-19 will be presented to the SDP Board in January 2016 with final sign off in March 2016.
74. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan will help inform the new Police and Crime Plan which will be developed following the PCC election in May 2016.
75. A full review of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan, looking at the strategic objectives as well as the outcomes will take place to align with the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This process will be undertaken during 2016-17 for implementation from April 2017.
76. Working to deliver against the Safe Durham Plan objectives takes place within a number of AAPs. **Spennymoor AAP**, through its Stronger Families Employability Fund, has worked with the local Sure Start to recruit ten learners for an 'Understanding Domestic Abuse' course with all of the learners being female survivors of domestic abuse. All ten completed a level II qualification.
77. At a local level the **Durham AAP** Mini Police are going from strength to strength with other forces up and down the country copying the model started in Durham. An additional two schools in Durham have signed up to the project which improves engagement with the Police and young people in the more problematic areas. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is one of the AAPs currently working with Durham Constabulary and Durham Agency Against Crime to develop their own Mini Police project within the locality. The project will be a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for children aged 9-11 years which will support local priorities, deliver enriched community engagement through positive policing interaction, enabling young people to have a confident voice and an enjoyable experience.
78. The emphasis of the Mini Police project is on the initial first contact between Police and a child which is important in shaping children and young people's attitudes towards the Police because for a significant number of children and young people this experience is a negative one. The children and young people will be provided with opportunities to take part in three events per school term, one Force led; one Community led and one Reward led.
79. The project will be delivered in schools located in areas of high social deprivation, low employment, high crime and high incidence of anti-social behaviour together with areas of affluence, high employment and low levels of anti-social behaviour and crime, engagement within these communities and across somewhat different communities, will increase and barriers will be broken down.
80. **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** is working with the local neighbourhood inspector for Chester-le-Street Police and other local agencies to deliver a series of five Crime and Community Safety roadshows across five targeted communities. The events include a focus on Cyber Crime and telephone scams with Detectives from Durham Constabulary providing advice. The events follow a number of high profile national cyber-crime issues that have been widely reported in the media.

Altogether greener

81. The **Environment Partnership** continues to develop strategic links across the County Durham Partnership. Examples of thematic work being carried out to strengthen these links are: promotion and encouragement of volunteering – through the environment partnership many initiatives are taking place across the county to strengthen volunteering e.g. tree and flower bed planting, litter picking, cleaning up woodlands and riverbanks etc.; working with partners to deliver the aims and objectives of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and replication of best practice clean-up projects across County Durham via the AAPs.
82. As highlighted earlier in the report, the Environment Awards are a unique opportunity to showcase and celebrate the wide range of environmentally-based projects and activities which have taken place across all sectors of the community in County Durham. This annual programme is managed by Durham County Council on behalf of the County Durham Environment Partnership and is now in its 26th year. Over 60 applications were received in total across a range of environmental categories and the shortlisting and judging processes involved a range of specialists and sponsoring bodies such as Groundwork, the Northern Echo and Sita UK. The winners were announced at a ceremony at Durham's Radisson Hotel in November.
83. The partnership's sub groups continue to deliver a wide range of projects across the county, working with a number of partners. The Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Group is working with the Heritage Lottery Fund programme to enhance the coast which is linked to the European Protected Sites (Natura 2000 site). These sites provide a co-ordinated network of protected areas across Europe to protect threatened species and habitats.
84. The Environment in Your Communities group had a presentation on the work of the Community Action Team (CAT) on the results of each of their projects and continues to support the work of the CAT team and promote a multi disciplinary approach to environmental clean-ups across the County. The project continues to grow and engage with more agencies at each new location.
85. The Climate Change Group is dealing with building community resilience for severe weather with a wide range of activities across the county, for example, the Chester-le-Street Town Centre Emergency Plan draft has been confirmed by partners and volunteers and an information session was also held with Shildon Youth Group.
86. On sustainable travel and transition from secondary school (KS4) to further education, available transport choices can significantly affect the ability of young people to access the education and training that they need and want. Reducing the barriers to accessing education and training opportunities encourages participation and retention in education, reduces social inequalities and helps people move from welfare into work. A transition programme is being developed with older students in sixth forms and colleges to increase awareness of available travel options when they move to further education or employment. This programme will help pupils to explore and discuss their travel options, identify any barriers and make them a more independent traveller.
87. The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has successfully applied for DEFRA pollinator grant to support mapping work to create corridors for pollinators focusing on Highways England works.

Recommendations and reasons

88. It is recommended that Members note the report.

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

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the working practice of AAPs.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human Rights - None

Consultation - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners and the establishment of a Sound Board to progress the recommendations and will continue this consultative approach.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None

**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

12 February 2016

Notice of Key Decisions

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

Purpose of the Report

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

Background

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

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

Current Notice of Key Decisions

- 6 The notice of key decisions that is attached to the report at Appendix 2, is the latest to be published prior to the papers for the Board being dispatched to members. The notice complies with the requirements for Cabinet to be able to take key decisions at the meeting on 10 February 2016. It also contained information on those key decisions that are currently scheduled to be considered by the Executive up to 31 May 2016.
- 7 The information in the Notice of Key Decisions provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information. Members are asked to note that this version of the Notice has been amended and includes a column which has been added to advise of the relevant Scrutiny activity.
- 8 In responding to the request of the Board for further information to be provided on any items that are removed from the previous notice without being considered by Cabinet, this information will be provided at the meeting.
- 9 If the Board wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated in the Overview and Scrutiny Work programme.

Recommendation

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

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

Appendix 1: Implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
Corp/R/15/02	10/02/16	2016/17 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget MTFP 6 and Council Plan and Service Plans	Cabinet report - 16 December 2015 & 13 January 2016	Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Alan Napier	The public will be consulted as well as Area Action Partnerships. A broad range of partner organisations will also need to be consulted. A full consultation plan will be developed but methods could include on-line responses, AAP fora and partnership fora.	Don McLure, Corporate Director, Resources Tel: 03000 261945 and Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive Tel: 03000 268060	OSMB and CIOSC will have input into the formulation of the MTFP 6 and Council/Service Plans and provide member assurance into this development process.

SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

CORP/A/03/16/1	16/03/16	Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-2019	Cabinet report - 16 December 2015 & 13 January 2016	Cllr Simon Henig	Consultation will be integrated with that on the MTFP. The public will be consulted as well as Area Action Partnerships. A broad range of partner organisations will also need to be consulted. A full consultation plan will be developed but methods could include on-line responses, AAP fora and partnership fora.	Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive Tel: 03000 268060	Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-19 have been presented to all thematic scrutiny committees, with an overview to OSMB on 22 March 2016.
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**SECTION TWO -
CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES**

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information
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SECTION THREE - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
R&ED/03/16	10/02/16	Draft County Durham Plan		Cllr Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Stuart Timmis, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267334	The Economy and Enterprise OSC has received regular updates on the progress of the plan with the last update provided to committee in October 2015. A further update is scheduled for the June 2016 meeting of the committee.
R&ED/01/16	11/05/16	Office Accommodation - Full Business Case		Cllr Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development and Housing	

SECTION FOUR - NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information
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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

12 February 2016

Update in relation to Petitions

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the quarterly update in relation to the current situation regarding various petitions received by the Authority.

Background

2. Following the introduction of The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the administration of the petitions process was passed to Democratic Services.
 - 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board have received update reports on petitions since September 2008.
 - 2.2 From the 15 December 2010, the Authority has provided a facility for members of the public to submit e-petitions on the Council's website.

Current Position

3. Since the last update 2 e-petitions have been submitted. Of these, 1 did not qualify under the Council's Petition Scheme, however information was passed to the relevant Service, and 1 is ongoing.
 - 3.1 In addition, 3 new paper petitions have been submitted and 6 petitions have completed the petition process. A list giving details and current status of all active petitions is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to note the update report on the status of petitions and e-petitions received by the Authority.

**Contact: Ros Layfield, Committee Services, Member and Civic
Services Manager**
Tel: 03000 269 708 E-mail: ros.layfield@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance : None

Staffing: None

Risk: None

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty: None

Accommodation: None

Crime and Disorder: None

Human Rights: None

Consultation: Petitions which refer to a consultation exercise are reported to committee for information and forwarded to the relevant officer for consideration

Procurement: None

Disability Issues: None

Legal Implications: None

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 211</p> <p>Community Petition to save the Walls of Barnard Castle</p> <p>E-petition - Petition received 14.05.13 No. of signatures – 63</p> <p>Paper petition received 07.04.14 No. of signatures - 1895</p>	<p>S Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development</p>	<p>Petitioner informed of a positive meeting between the parties involved, with all involved noting the importance of working together to attempt to resolve the issue.</p> <p>It was agreed for a structural survey of the cliff be undertaken and all parties to keep public and other interested parties up to date. Further discussions would take place after the survey and the Council would in the meantime reinforce fencing at the area</p> <p>Following a survey carried out discussions took place with residents and the Town Council.</p> <p>The parties - Durham County Council, Raby Estates and English Heritage are now in discussions in seeking a way forward as to ongoing repair and maintenance of the walls.</p> <p>Regular meetings taking place between Raby Estates, Historic England and DCC about the future management of the site's restoration and the asset as a whole.</p> <p>Petitioner advised that a tripartite approach was introduced in order to identify the issues and work towards their resolution by taking forward a repairs strategy and a long term management programme for upkeep of the walls. The membership;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. English Heritage (as it was), in their role as guardians of the monument and advisors on heritage matters on a national basis. Following their split in 2015, English Heritage has taken up responsibility for the management of the asset, whilst the newly created Historic England is responsible for guidance and dealing with statutory permissions around the scheduled monument. ii. Raby Estates, through their role in a land owning capacity and, iii. DCC in the roles of seeking to protect the historic environment of the county and more directly, protecting both 	<p>Regular update sent, with the last one being dated 27.06.13</p> <p>Petition continued – update sent 14.10.14</p> <p>Update November 2015</p> <p>Update sent January 2016 Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>highway and public safety.</p> <p>A significant outcome from this has been the commissioning of a jointly funded survey of the walls and environs in order to identify the potential causes and extent of the wall’s structural problems and to propose possible solutions. Following a meeting of the group in September last year, it was understood that representatives of Raby Estates and Historic England would subsequently liaise with each other in order to agree upon and take further action.</p> <p>To date, the Council has been advised by Historic England that the process is ongoing and we will be seeking further clarification at a forthcoming general review meeting with Historic England diared for February. In the meantime DCC will continue to support the process in fulfilling its duties regarding highways and public safety.</p>	
<p>Petition 244</p> <p>The White House, Peterlee - Halt demolition and enter into full consultation regarding the future of the building</p> <p>No. of signatures – 86 Petition received 31.10.14</p>	<p>S Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development</p>	<p>Petition requesting the Council to Halt demolition and enter into full consultation regarding the future of the building.</p> <p>Following a meeting with ward members a decision has been made to review this, acknowledging the concerns expressed by parts of the community. The review will include discussions with local groups who have expressed an interest in the building to understand if there is a viable option to retain the building. We need to ensure that the building has a sustainable future going forward and that the full costs of retaining this building are understood. If the group can demonstrate that they have the necessary funding in place and that the building has a long term future the council will reconsider the decision.</p> <p>Assets confirmed that the property would be put on the market shortly.</p>	<p>Acknowledgement letter sent 31.10.14</p> <p>Update letter sent 08.12.14</p> <p>Update November 2015</p>

Petition Table – Active Petitions

Appendix 2

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 270</p> <p>Offer Homes to 50 Refugee Families</p> <p>No. of signatures – 761 Petition received – 11.09.15</p>	<p>Lorraine O'Donnell Assistant Chief Executive</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to offer 50 homes to refugee families.</p> <p>Petition set up on a third party website so no way of verifying signatures.</p> <p>DCC have set up a Humanitarian Support Partnership and have released a media statement. Information passed to Assistant Chief Executive.</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>
<p>Petition 272</p> <p>Call for Durham County Council to accept Syrian Asylum Seekers</p> <p>No. of signatures – 279 Petition received – 15.10.15</p>	<p>Lorraine O'Donnell Assistant Chief Executive</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to accept Syrian Asylum Seekers.</p> <p>DCC have set up a Humanitarian Support Partnership and have released a media statement. Petitioner advised that County Durham will support the UK's response to the Syrian refugee crisis and to confirm that Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership is leading preparations to ensure County Durham plays its part in welcoming refugees to the area.</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>
<p>Petition 274</p> <p>West Auckland Village Green</p> <p>No. of signatures – 14 Petition received – 30.11.15</p>	<p>S Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to resolve a matter about a property on West Auckland Village Green back to a grassed area.</p> <p>Petitioner informed that the Asset Management Team were considering the issues raised and were in discussions with the owner of the garden to which the petition refers.</p>	<p>Update sent 25.1.16</p>
<p>Petition 275</p> <p>Traffic Concerns at Lanchester</p> <p>No. of signatures – 54</p>	<p>Trudi Smith Special Projects Officer Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>Petition raising concerns about speeding traffic along the B6296 from residents in the Hollinside, Colepike and adjacent farms in the Lanchester area.</p> <p>Petitioner advised that the Department for Transport guidance on the 'Setting Credible Speed Limits', requires Highway</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition received – 1.12.15</p>		<p>Authorities to ensure that speed limits are credible and consistently applied throughout the country with the aim that they become self-evident and enforcing by virtue of their surroundings.</p> <p>Speed limit reviews are undertaken jointly between the Council and Durham Constabulary, who are the enforcing authority. Various criteria and factors are considered and evaluated during the review.</p> <p>The current derestricted 60mph speed limit in this area has been reviewed and is considered an appropriate and credible speed limit for the nature of the road which is rural with few houses that have direct frontages on the route. As Hollinside Terrace does not directly front the B6296 it would not be considered a factor in assessing a lower speed limit.</p> <p>Speed Survey A speed survey carried out at Hollinside in 2014 showed traffic were travelling at an average speed of 42.8mph and there was a good compliance with the speed limit (data collected 24 hours a day for a 7 day period).</p> <p>Accidents The Council shares an accident database with Durham Constabulary that records all accidents that are reported to them.</p> <p>There have been 2 recorded personal injury accidents on B6296 (from a point west of the Ford Road junction and Black House Farm) in the past 4 years, this being DCC's standard search criteria. The causation factor in these accidents were not reported as being attributable to excess traffic speed. Whilst DCC would wish to see no accidents, compared to many other locations within the county, this represents a favourable accident figure. The Council have to focus limited resources towards</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>addressing locations with known and proven accident problems.</p> <p>Maintenance of road markings and roadside vegetation The location will be inspected and where required arrangements will be made to undertake maintenance of road markings and roadside vegetation to assist in visibility in and out of the side roads and junctions on the B6296.</p>	
<p>Petition 276</p> <p>Create Free Buses for all in County Durham</p> <p>E-petition - Petition received – 16.1.16 No. of signatures –</p>	<p>Adrian White Head of Transport & Contract Services</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to create free buses for all in County Durham to increase the use of public transport , improve our health, develop the economy, reduce traffic and lower our County’s contribution to climate change.</p> <p>e-petition live on website to collect signatures from 16.1.16 – 31.5.16</p>	<p>Acknowledgement sent 16.1.16</p>

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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

12 February 2016



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

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Members an information update of overview and scrutiny activity from December 2015 – February 2016.

Background

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

Updates

- 3 Updates from Overview and Scrutiny Committees from December 2015 to February 2016.

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	The first meeting of the light touch review on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS) took place on 14 th January 2016 and received presentations from the provider of the new system and the Head of Projects and Business Service, Neighbourhood Services.
<i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i>	CIOSC OSC on 26 th January 2016 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – Q3 • Medium Term Financial Plan (6) 2016/17-2019/20 and 2016/17 Budget Update • Review of the Council Plan and Service Plans • Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions 2015/16 – Q2

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	<p>The Working Group looking at Alcohol and implications on the Emergency Services held two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st January 2016 to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An Overview Session covering the Altogether Safer objective of Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol harm Reduction Strategy, findings from a cumulative impact assessment and supporting information on research publications relating to the review topic. • 9th February 2016 to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impact of Alcohol on demand for Police and Fire Services within the County <p>The 20mph Review Group met on 25th January 2016 to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A service response to comments from the Working Group on a new 20mph limit/zone policy ○ An update on implementation of Phase 1 schemes
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>SSC OSC on 5 February 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2016/17 • Consumer Protection Enforcement Activity • Council Plan and Performance Indicator Setting 2016/17 • Overview and Scrutiny review updates • Police and Crime Panel.

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

Update on Previous Reviews	<p>A Special Economy and Enterprise OSC on 21st December 2015 received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the recommendations of the Member's Reference Group - Impact of public sector funding and policy changes on the economy of County Durham
Scrutiny Review Activity	<p>A meeting of the Skills Development Working Group held two meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th January 2016 to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key local strategies and policies to support skills development, funding including changes as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the role of the RED Service Grouping in supporting skills development, detail of how the Council engages internally and externally with

	<p>partners, any relevant projects/initiatives and skills performance information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd February 2016 to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The work of AAPs to support skills development within the County with detail provided from the 3 Towns AAP, Derwent Valley AAP and East Durham AAP. ○ Role of the CAS Service Grouping in supporting skills development within the County, including work on the Youth Employment Initiative.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>A special meeting of the Economy and Enterprise OSC on 21st December 2015 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Reform – Draft County Durham Poverty Action Plan – Overview including detail of consultation • Regeneration Statement - update • Business Durham - update <p>Economy and Enterprise OSC on 8th January received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Strategy – update • Review of Council Plan and Service Plans • Minutes of the County Durham Economic Partnership Meeting held on 3 November, 2015

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Environment OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	There is no review activity to report for this period
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>Environment OSC on 22nd January 2015 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural and isolated bins collection – consultation • Contaminated Land and Inspection Strategy • Review of Council Plans and Service Plans • Minutes of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board <p>A Special meeting of the Environment OSC on 8th February will receive reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding – engagement with Risk Management authorities.

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

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	Take up of free school meals and holiday hunger – the scoping document was presented to a Special meeting of CYP OSC on 3 rd February 2016.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>CYP OSC on 11th January received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs • Refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19 • Refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19 • Durham Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report • Review of the Council Plan and Service Plans • Summary of Children and Family Partnership Minutes <p>A Special CYP OSC meeting on 3rd February received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the impact of smoking and children and young people • Update on Wellbeing for Life • Scoping document for the review of Take up of free school meals and holiday hunger.

Adults, Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>A Special AWH OSC on 14 December 2015 received pre-consultation information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient Wards serving County Durham and Darlington <p>AWH OSC on 19th January 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG – Review of Urgent Care Services • NHS England and DDES CCG – Review of Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) Contract – Easington Healthworks • Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan 2016/17 Consultation in County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service • Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh • Review of the Council Plan and Service Plans

	The AWH OSC has responded to the consultation documents in respect of Urgent Care Services, IRMP and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
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Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

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

Recommendation

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

Background Papers: Previous committee reports/presentations.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

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

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A