



Altogether better

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-2019

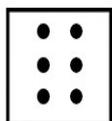
**Transformation and Partnerships
Durham County Council**

May 2019

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

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Introduction from the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Overview and scrutiny in Durham County Council has had another very busy year. This annual report gives an update of the work we have undertaken during 2018/19 and highlights some of the work we will be undertaking in the coming year.

The coming years will be extremely challenging for the council in terms of the ongoing austerity measures and uncertainty about our future funding. A key priority for the authority is to continue to work hard to protect frontline services whilst meeting savings targets and managing pressures.

Overview and scrutiny will contribute in a constructive way to support the council in meeting these significant challenges whilst remaining focussed on the four key principles of good scrutiny as defined by the Centre for Public Scrutiny:

- * To provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers.
- * To amplify the voice and concerns of the public.

- * To ensure scrutiny is carried out by ‘independent minded governors’ who lead and own the scrutiny role.
- * To drive improvement in public services.

This report gives a flavour of the work we have undertaken in reflecting these four principles and highlights some key achievements.

Overview and scrutiny work

Throughout the year we have carried out in-depth scrutiny reviews, undertaken detailed scrutiny of the council’s budget process and monitored quarterly performance. We also promote scrutiny by maintaining an excellent relationship between executive and non-executive members, have worked well with our partners on matters of common interest and responsibility and benefitted from the knowledge and expertise of our co-opted members.

Statutory Roles

The statutory scrutiny roles of health, crime and disorder and flood risk management feature within this annual report alongside thematic scrutiny work.



Government Guidance

Following the publication of the findings of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee review on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees in March 2018, revised guidance from government has recently been issued.

We will be working across the Council together with the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider whether any further changes will be necessary.

Partnership working

Durham County Council's overview and scrutiny function involves a considerable amount of partnership working. Our aim is to ensure that the good work that is already taking place contributes to the Transformation Programme's key principal of moving partnership working from good to great.

Co-optees and engagement

We continue to work with the non-voting co-optees who sit on our scrutiny committees. They bring skills, knowledge and their own expertise and views to scrutiny and provide important external challenge to our work programme.

We have also promoted engagement of local expert and academic researchers in overview and scrutiny where they can add to our work.

Regional Scrutiny

Changes to the North East Combined Authority (NECA) boundaries mean that we continue to work with three other regional authorities on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As

transport is of strategic importance to the region, NECA works collaboratively with the newly established North of Tyne Combined Authority on a North East Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Durham County Council has representation on both of these bodies to ensure that members can scrutinise and challenge decision-making on behalf of our communities.

Members regularly attend a number of regional health meetings including the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in supporting and assisting the overview and scrutiny process – be it members, officers, partners, or co-opted members, and the scrutiny team themselves.

I hope that you find this report useful in showing the breadth of work we undertake throughout the year and the work we are planning for 2019/20.

All scrutiny committee meetings are open to the public and the scrutiny team's contact details are at the end of this report.

Councillor Rob Crute

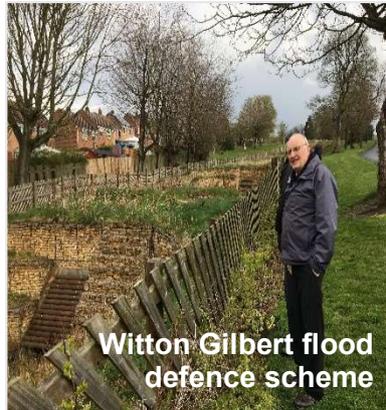
Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Overview and Scrutiny in numbers

27

Recommendations to Cabinet from in depth reviews

- Support to the retail sector
- Review of suicide rates
- Role of the social worker from a child's perspective



Partners participating in Overview and Scrutiny meetings

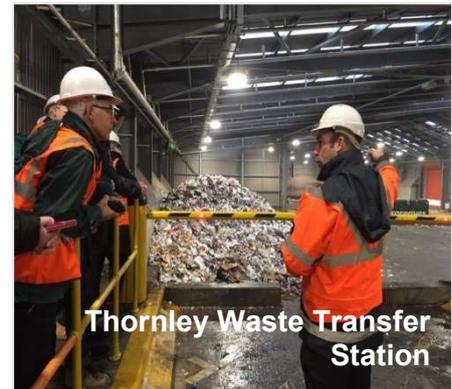
39

7

Site visits made within County Durham

22

Review groups and workshops bringing members, partners and co-optees together to work on scrutiny issues



47

Scheduled Overview and Scrutiny meetings held

21

Special additional Overview and Scrutiny meetings held focussing on matters such as Shotley Bridge Hospital, Flooding, SUPs, and ERASE (Education & Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation)

Key Achievements 2018-19

Overview and Scrutiny Review Activity

The scrutiny work programme for the year has reflected a balanced programme of work and improvement in the operation of scrutiny which meets the four principles of effective public scrutiny.

To provide constructive challenge

The following in depth evidence-based reviews have been completed and have been reported to Cabinet and the appropriate thematic partnerships.

- * Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective.
- * Review of Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham.
- * Review of the support provided to the retail sector by Durham County Council.

Other review activity included:

- * Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan budget timetable, cost reduction proposals and quarterly scrutiny of savings.
- * Formal responses on the NHS Quality Accounts 2018/19 for - North East Ambulance Service; County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; and the

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

- * Formal response to the County Durham Plan Preferred Options consultation and the Housing Strategy consultation.
- * Contributed to the activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Board; Police and Crime Panel; Youth Justice Plan and the Children's Strategy.
- * Input to the Strategic Cycling and Walking delivery plan; Phasing out unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUPs), the Homelessness Strategy and the County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) three-year plan consultation.

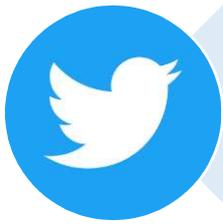
To amplify the voice of the public

A key priority has been to strengthen our approach to amplifying the public's voice.

During the year, chairs and vice-chairs have focused on how to bring the public voice into overview and scrutiny review activity and meetings. This has been achieved through building public feedback strongly into review work, including site visits across the county and increased use of social media to promote our work.

Our approach to raising the profile of scrutiny committees and to promote engagement is targeted on using the council's Twitter feed to help publicise our meetings. The council's feed has over 24,000 followers and we aim to publish tweets in the week leading up to the meeting and on the day of the meeting.

The special AWH OSC in January considered changes and potential



104 tweets relating to scrutiny
May 18 - May 19



Tweets received between 597 – 2,171 views
Total of **87,764** views.



Links to agenda or information accessed on **147** occasions with **369** tweet engagements.



Highest number of views for a tweet was **2,171** in January 2019

closures of GP practices by the Skerne Medical Group and prompted the highest views of a tweet in 2018/19.

The overview and scrutiny process provides an opportunity for members of the public and local communities to comment upon any service change



Shotley Bridge Hospital

proposals such as in the case of the Skerne Medical Group. Local councillors, members of the public and community representatives have

contributed to engagement and consultation on these proposals and other planned changes to hospital services at Shotley Bridge and Bishop Auckland hospitals.

We have also welcomed the introduction of Local Democracy reporters at our meetings and recognise the role they play in helping report and publicise the work we do. We are pleased with the coverage we have received locally and hope this enables our communities to see the important work we do and encourage them to engage with us.

To ensure scrutiny is led by independent minded governors who own the scrutiny process

The Chair and Vice-Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Councillors Rob Crute and Andrea Patterson, have worked with Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the thematic committees during the year to develop overview and scrutiny in Durham.

We have also promoted engagement of local expert and academic researchers in overview and scrutiny where they can add to our work. A professor from Sunderland University contributing evidence to a review by Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on preventing young people from becoming involved or remaining in cybercrime activity.

To drive improvement in public services

The overview and scrutiny work programme is informed by the current Council Plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's

Forward Plan of decisions and other partnership plans and strategies to ensure it is aligned to key improvement areas for the council. The County Durham Partnership is in the process of reviewing and refreshing the vision for the future of County Durham and once this is complete, the new priorities and ambitions will be reflected in the overview and scrutiny work programme.

The majority of detailed in depth reviews are carried out by the committees, but smaller working groups may be set up to carry out light touch reviews. The scrutiny committees decide which areas they wish to examine. This may arise following representations by members of the public about a particular matter; be an issue identified by councillors themselves; or follow on from reports or performance assessment on the council's activities made by the cabinet or outside agencies.

The following in-depth reviews are due to complete this year:

- * Review of Durham County Council future management of allotment sites
- * Joint review of Children's Residential Care Homes
- * Review of GP Services in County Durham

Co-optees

Following a successful recruitment process for new co-optees in early 2018, we have continued to bring external voices into scrutiny to enhance our work and offer different perspectives and challenge. The co-opted members ensure a strong

external representation and help scrutiny to engage with the public.

Co-optees:

- * Act as an independent voice for those who live or work in County Durham.
- * Bring specialist knowledge, skills and an element of external challenge to the overview and scrutiny process.
- * Take an interest in, attend and contribute to the committees and working groups to which appointed.
- * Establish good relations with other members, officers and co-optees.

Planned Overview and Scrutiny in 2019/20

The work programmes for overview and scrutiny focus on the priority areas identified within the current Council Plan, the cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, the Sustainable Community Strategy, partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in government legislation.

Work programmes are finalised during June and July and are designed to ensure there is flexibility and capacity to take on topics which may arise throughout the year.

A summary of the planned programme for 2019/20 is shown overleaf to give a flavour of the work to be undertaken.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20 (Summary)

COSMB

- Transformation Programme
- Budget and MTFP Process
- Attendance management
- Appraisals
- RIPA
- Performance and budget outturn
- Customer Feedback
- Implications of Government Policy Programme
- Welfare Reform and Poverty

Children and Young People OSC

- Child Poverty
- Erase
- Neglect in County Durham
- Growing Healthy 0-19
- JTAI Action Update
- Work of Healthy Weight Alliance
- Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- New Ofsted Framework 2019
- County Durham Social Worker Academy

Adults, Wellbeing and Health OSC

- Future of services delivered at Shotley Bridge Hospital
- Ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital
- Review of Stroke Rehabilitation Services in County Durham and Darlington
- Extended and Enhanced Primary Care Access
- Progress update on the Community Services Contract
- The emerging Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Partnerships

Economy OSC

- Local Industrial Strategy
- DurhamWorks Programme
- Masterplans
- Unemployment in County Durham
- Housing Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Selective Licensing Scheme
- Transport (regional and local)
- Tourism
- Strategic sites in the county

Environment OSC

- Air Quality in County Durham
- Emerging Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Carbon Management Plan
- SUPS monitoring against action plan
- Fly Tipping
- Fuel Poverty
- Highways maintenance
- Heritage assets
- Flood Risk Management Authorities

Safer & Stronger Communities OSC

- Shoplifting
- Prevent - Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Confidence in Police and Council tackling crime and anti social behaviour
- Arson and deliberate fires
- Hate Crime
- Progress on delivery of Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Youth Justice Plan
- Probation Services

Site visits

Scrutiny members have attended a number of site visits linking to the scrutiny work programme. These visits have been invaluable in helping to engage with external partners and local residents to enable their views to be taken into account for a number of reviews and issues on scrutiny agendas.

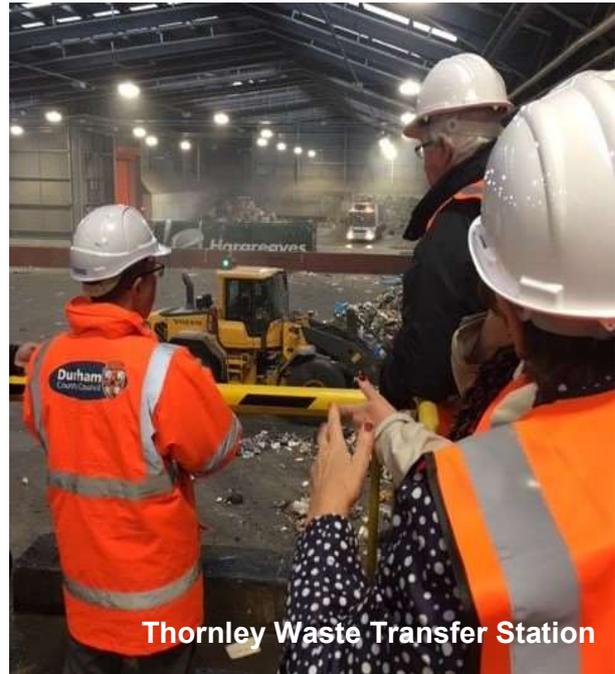
Members of the [Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee \(OSC\)](#) visited the newly completed Thornley Waste Transfer Station. The committee is responsible for receiving progress update reports on waste management in the county. They received details of the investment and proposals for the redevelopment of the Thornley Waste Transfer Station. They agreed that once the works were complete a visit would be arranged to the site. The visit took place on 28 November 2018 and provided members with the opportunity to see first-hand the extent of the redevelopment, to modernise and improve the facility.

The committee also visited Tudhoe Household Waste Recycling Centre.



Tudhoe Household Waste Recycling Centre

During the committee's work programme, members had raised a



Thornley Waste Transfer Station

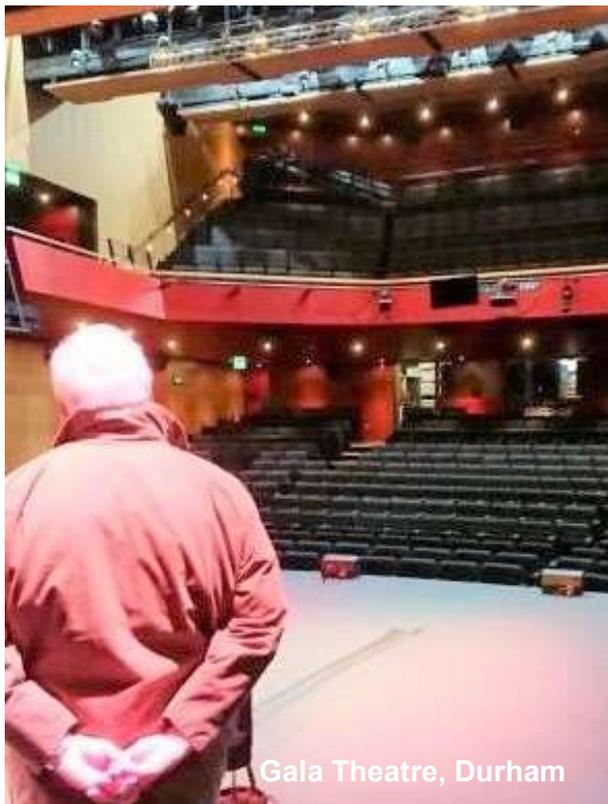
number of questions which they had been asked by residents of County Durham concerning the operation of household recycling centres in the county and the facilities offered. The visit provided members with the opportunity to see the range of waste accepted at household waste recycling centres, clarification of waste requiring a permit and the general operation of the centre.

Members of the [Children and Young People's OSC](#) continued their practice of holding one of their meetings in a local school. In November it was the turn of Evergreen primary special school in Bishop Auckland to host the committee. Following the meeting, Members were given the opportunity to see the excellent facilities at the school including the sensory rooms and hydrotherapy pool.

[Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC](#) is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham. It meets annually with the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County

Durham to determine that they are working in partnership and receive detail of current and future investments. The committee visited four flood mitigation schemes which had been delivered in the County at Lanchester, Witton Gilbert, Waldrige and Chester-le-Street town centre.

The [Children and Young People's OSC](#) visited the Durham Learning Centre at



Gala Theatre, Durham

Spennymoor in February 2019. They also visited the Durham Learning Resource Centre which provides quality resources to support learning and enjoyment in school.

The [Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC](#) held their scheduled meeting in January 2019 at the Gala Theatre in Durham. As part of the committee's work programme they had requested an overview of the theatre which was opened in 2000. At their meeting they received a presentation which set out details of the theatre's programme and content, performance and impact, current pressures and future approach and

direction. Members also received a tour of the theatre's facilities.



Proposed deculverting at the Market Place, Chester-le-Street

The [Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC](#) visiting the improved facilities available to residents and the trade at Stainton Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre.

The committee will visit various Heritage sites across the county as part of their work programme around heritage assets.



Flood Mitigation Scheme, Front Street, Lanchester

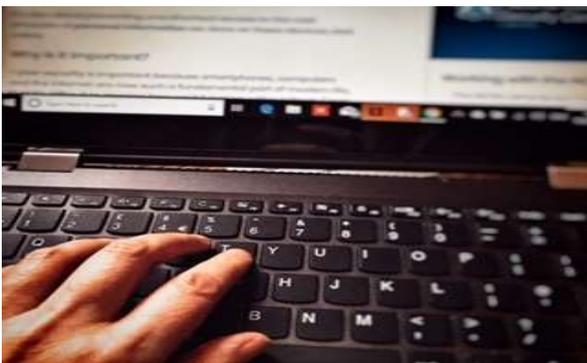
Impact of Overview and Scrutiny in County Durham

Overview and scrutiny can have a real impact in contributing to and helping shape policies.

It is integral to the improvement of services and plays an important role in linking in with regulation and inspection regimes.

Cybercrime

- * Increased engagement with young people on cyber safety.
- * Led to development of a video with students from New College Durham highlighting the consequences of hacking.
- * A Durham County Council apprentice specialising on cyber security



Arson & Deliberate Fires in East Durham Area

- * Following a request to promote confidence to report incidents, contributed to the development of

the Firestoppers brand with Crimestoppers.

- * Development of Community Safety area within Peterlee fire station as a Safety Centre focussed on anti-social behaviour, firesetter and prevention education.

Phasing out of unnecessary single use plastics

Comments resulted in additional areas in the action plan.

- * Development of a communications plan.
- * The need to continue to offer pricing incentives for the use of Single Use Plastic (SUPs) alternatives.
- * Reconsideration of using SUPs free gifts at promotional events.
- * Development of a process to collect empty crisp packets.



Retail support review recommended:

- * Monitoring performance measures to protect town centres in the emerging County Durham Plan.
- * Ensure access to high speed broadband in the county.

- * Improve signage and simplify the process for organising events in town centres.
- * Look at how we promote business support and rate relief.
- * Examine parking provision in all large town centres.



Bishop Auckland Hospital

Ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital

Ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital provides step down care through 24 inpatient beds which are supported by a team of Advanced Nurse Practitioners.

Following speculation regarding the future of Ward 6, the Chair of the AWHOSC wrote to the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust requesting that the proposed consultation and engagement regarding the future of the ward be paused and the Trust attend the committee to clarify the position regarding the future of the ward.

The meeting attracted a significant amount of public interest with local residents, staff, local Councillors and representatives from the MP's office all attending.

The Foundation Trust and CCGs agreed to undertake further staff and patient stakeholder engagement activity which would shape future

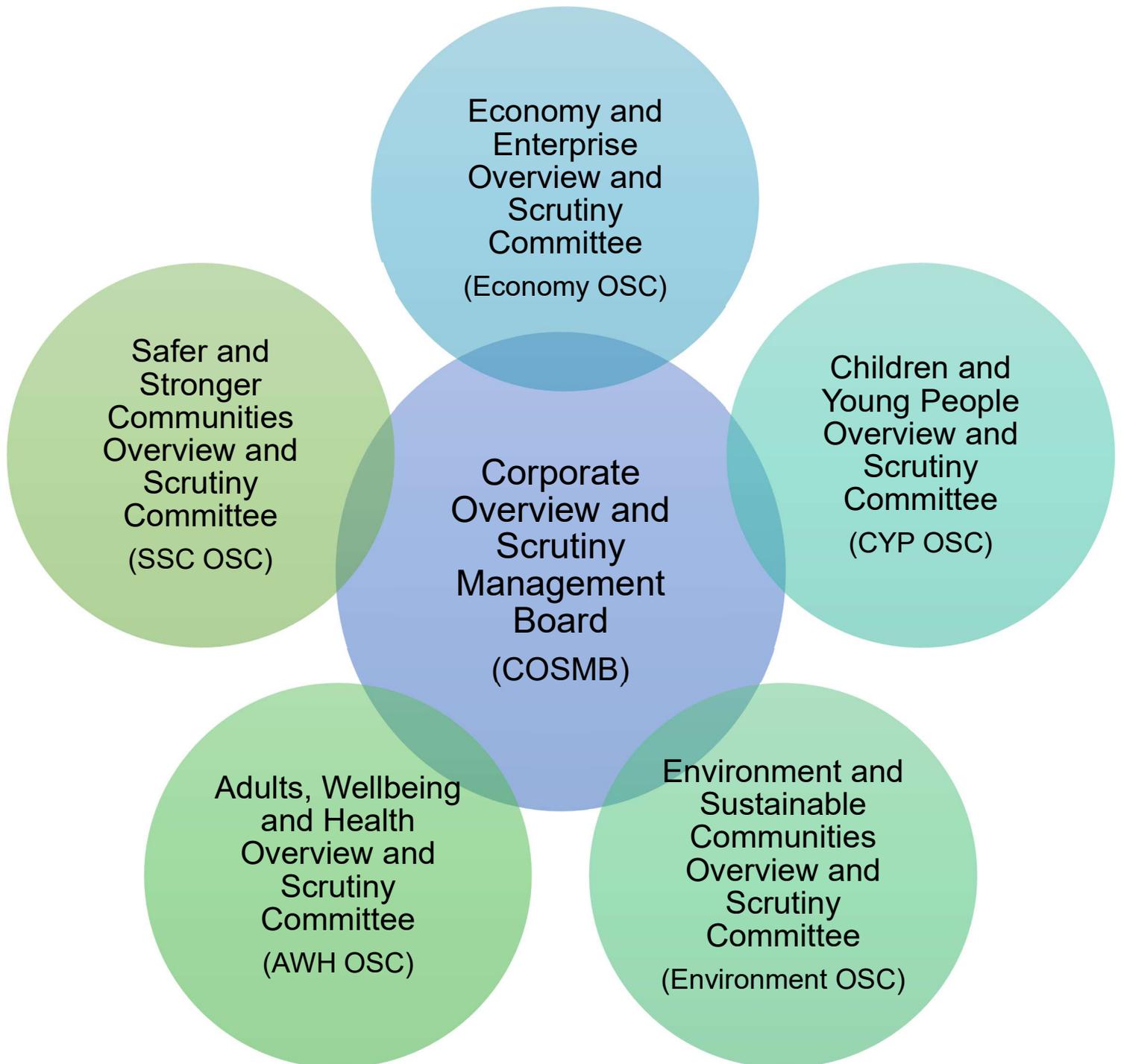
models of care for the ward and this is due to come back to committee in Autumn 2019.

The key impact was that Ward 6 remained open, continued to accept patients and be well utilised. It continues to do so until options for future services are developed and subject to formal consultation.

Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective recommended:

- * Monitor performance of the number of case files of social workers to ensure consistency and stability for County Durham Children.
- * An evaluation is carried out on the impact of the new Pre-birth and Edge of Care services.
- * All members are Corporate Parents and receive mandatory training.
- * Overview and Scrutiny monitor the performance of Durham County Council's Social Worker Academy.
- * Consideration is given to the establishment and promotion of mental health and emotional wellbeing of children's social care staff and for supervision to monitor staff dealing with highly emotive/sensitive cases.
- * Children and young people work with the service to develop a welcome pack for children first coming into contact with the service.
- * A communication protocol is established between social workers and children.

Overview and Scrutiny in County Durham



Constitutional Responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- * To oversee and co-ordinate the work of Overview and Scrutiny and its committees
- * To ensure effective liaison across the work of the committees on cross cutting issues.
- * To be the strategic driver of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- * To consider as appropriate scrutiny member involvement in regional scrutiny arrangements within the context of any regional strategies.
- * The establishment of appropriate liaison with the Executive in the interests of achieving common aims and continuous improvement for the Council
- * To encourage appropriate community involvement in the overview and scrutiny role.
- * Putting the customer first
- * Working with our communities
- * Effective use of resources
- * Support our people through change

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- * Deliver a clean, more attractive and sustainable environment
- * Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment.
- * Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change (including flood or coastal erosion risk management functions)
- * Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- * Reduce anti-social behaviour
- * Protect vulnerable people from harm
- * Reduce re-offending
- * Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
- * Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
- * Casualty reduction
- * Embedding Think Family approach

Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- * Helping children and young people realise and maximise their potential
- * Helping children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- * A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.

Economy & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- * Thriving Durham City
- * Vibrant and successful town
- * Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
- * Competitive and successful people
- * A top location for business

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- * Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- * Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
- * Improve the mental health and physical wellbeing of the population
- * Supporting people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Cllr Rob Crute
Chair



Cllr Andrea Patterson
Vice-Chair

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) provides a strategic direction for the work of all the overview and scrutiny committees. Its work programme for 2018/19 included:

- * In depth scrutiny of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/2020 – 2022/2023 (MTFP 9), and revenue and capital budget proposals for 2019/2020 to make sure that the council's resources are used effectively and efficiently.
- * Comments from COSMB meetings scrutinising the proposed financial plans were fed back to cabinet as part of the consultation process in setting the budget.
- * COSMB receive quarterly reports on the council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

- * Received quarterly reports on performance management; forecast revenue and capital outturn for Transformation and Partnerships and Resources; Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions.
- * Received updates on the council's Transformation Programme, Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 8, the CRM system and Members Portal.

Continued to receive regular updates on:

- * Petitions.
- * Council's Notice of Key Decisions - to ensure that members are aware of key decisions to be made by Cabinet, and to provide information on any scrutiny involvement.
- * Work programme activity from each of the overview and scrutiny committee chairs.

COSMB also has responsibility to consider reviewing the council's response to petitions where the petition organisers have appealed in accordance with the Petition Procedure.

COSMB led a workshop for all overview and scrutiny members and co-optees considering the emerging findings for the draft County Durham Vision. Members contributed to shaping the ambitions within the refreshed Vision.

All the Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitor performance and revenue and capital expenditure through performance management and budgetary reports on a quarterly basis.

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr John Robinson
Chair



Cllr Jean Chaplow
Vice-Chair

The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC) has a statutory role under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 as amended to scrutinise local health services. This committee is aligned to the Altogether Healthier priority theme.

- * Reviewed annual reports and performance information in respect of County Durham HealthWatch, Local Safeguarding Adults Board and the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board.
- * Received information on NHS Service reviews and, where appropriate, as statutory consultees commented upon the proposals and associated communications and engagement plans. These included a review of stroke rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington, the future of ward six at Bishop Auckland Hospital and the

NHS England Review of Vascular Services. The committee also considered the review of extended and enhanced primary care services across Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and proposals to change the delivery of GP services at a number of GP practices within the county. The AWH OSC also received communication and engagement plans relating to services delivered at Shotley Bridge Community Hospital.

- * Continued the examination of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans covering County Durham – the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP, via associated Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

Considered update reports in respect of:

- * Public Health Services
- * Adult and Health Services
- * Community Hospitals in County Durham
- * North Durham and DDES CCG operational plans
- * Integrated Sexual Health Services
- * North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust – Performance against the new National Ambulance Standards
- * Durham Health and Wellbeing System Plan 2019/20 - Adults
- * DDES CCG Accident and Emergency Ambulance Service Review – post implementation update
- * NHS Foundation Trusts' – Quality Accounts 2018/19

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Christine Potts
Chair



Cllr Heather Smith
Vice-Chair

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC) is aligned to Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme in the Council Plan.

CYP OSC has scrutinised Annual Reports from the Director of Public Health; and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board; the Health and Wellbeing Board; Corporate Parenting Panel.

The committee has undertaken review activity looking at Children's Residential Care Homes including a focus group session with young people in private residential care homes.

CYP OSC considered the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan and the work of the ERASE Team jointly with colleagues from Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee has also received a progress update on recommendations of the take up of Free School Meals and the holiday provision review.

In addition CYP OSC has received updates on:

- School Funding
 - Neglect in County Durham
 - The work of the Healthy Weight Alliance
 - Educational Attainment
 - Growing Healthy 0-19
 - Summary of Ofsted Results in County Durham Maintained Schools
- * Received summary of minutes from Children and Families Partnership.
 - * Held a committee meeting in a school and visited Durham Learning Resource.
 - * Greater liaison between Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting Panel.

The committee has also received information on:

- * The Child Protection Offer.
- * Participation in Learning.
- * Child Poverty.
- * Evaluation of the Edge of Care and Pre-Birth Teams.
- * Children and Young People's Mental Health Draft Local Transformation Plan 2018-2020.
- * SEND Inclusion and Exclusion.

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Alison Batey
Chair



Cllr Malcolm Clarke
Vice-Chair

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Economy OSC) is aligned to the Altogether Wealthier priority team in the Council Plan.

The committee has received progress updates and commented on key developments and the direction of travel in relation to:

- * The EU funding programme.
- * Regional Funding and investment pipeline for County Durham.
- * Regional and local transport provision.
- * Homelessness Strategy.
- * DurhamWorks Programme.
- * Digital Durham Programme.
- * Government's Industrial Strategy.

The Economy OSC has received detailed information on the:

- * Tackling Empty Properties Project.
- * The work of the North East LEP.

- * The development of the Local Industrial Strategy.

Annually, the committee considers the work undertaken by the County Durham Economic Partnership, Business Durham and Visit County Durham.

They have received information on:

- * The development of a Selective Licensing scheme.
- * The further development of the 'second round' programme of Masterplans.
- * Skills Strategy for County Durham.

The committee has also held workshops providing further opportunities for Durham County Council's members and co-optees to feed into the consultation stages of both the County Durham Plan (the local plan for County Durham) and the Housing Strategy. Some of the key comments made included:

- * The need to ensure infrastructure is in place for strategic employment sites and proposed housing developments in the county.
- * Ensure the mix of housing developments meet the requirements of local residents.
- * Need to look at bringing more empty homes back into use through enforcement action.
- * Need to consider the development of an Affordable Homes Strategy.
- * Support for the introduction of a Countywide Selective Licensing Scheme.

Economy OSC received an update on the recommendations of the Skills Development scrutiny review and received minutes from the County Durham Economic Partnership.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Eddy Adam
Chair



Cllr Olga Milburn
Vice-Chair

The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Environment OSC) has statutory responsibility under the Localism Act 2011 as amended to scrutinise flooding and coastal risk management functions of the council and external bodies (Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water Ltd.) This committee is aligned to the Altogether Greener priority theme in the Council Plan.

The Environment OSC received an update on the progress of recommendations on the management of Durham County Council's woodland estate.

The committee has considered information on the Stockton to Darlington Bicentennial Celebrations,

Single Use Plastics and Highways and Bridge Maintenance.

They received an overview on Sustainable Heating, the Gala Theatre, Leisure Works, the council's Tree Management Policy and Tree Maintenance and the Heritage Coast.

The Environment OSC has received minutes from:

- * The County Durham Environmental Partnership.
- * The Durham Strategic Flood Group.
- * Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The committee is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham and receives an update on the work of the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham on an annual basis. This update focuses on:

- * Flood mitigation work currently being undertaken within County Durham by the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham.
- * Future flood mitigation work to be undertaken and detail of funding.
- * Any issues identified by the Flood Risk Management Authorities in relation to flood mitigation schemes/projects within the county.
- * The committee also received detail of the water management policies in the emerging County Durham Plan.

The committee also receives regular updates on the European Structure and Investment Funding programme, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Change and delivery plan, fuel poverty projects and the winter maintenance programme.

Safer & Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr David Boyes
Chair



Cllr Heather Liddle
Vice-Chair

The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC) has powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006 as amended to scrutinise work being undertaken by the statutory crime and disorder reduction partnership; the Safe Durham Partnership. The committee is aligned to the Altogether Safer priority theme in the Council Plan.

The Committee has commenced review activity on development of a County Durham road safety strategy and worked with Children & Young People's OSC on Children's Residential Care Homes.

SSC OSC has received reports on the progress of recommendations from review activity of:

- * Arson and deliberate fires in the east Durham area

- * Alcohol and its demand on emergency services
- * Safe and Wellbeing Visits
- * Cybercrime
- * 20 mph Limits

The committee has received reports and provided a response to respective Portfolio Holders and/or Partnership leads on:

- * Arson and deliberate fires
- * Safer Durham Partnership Board update
- * Joint Target Area Inspection report on domestic abuse (joint with CYP OSC)
- * ERASE – Child Sexual Exploitation (joint with CYP OSC)

SSC OSC has considered and commented on reports and presentations including:

- * Open Water Safety
- * Local Multi Agency Problem Solving – mapping
- * Probation Services
- * Hate Crime
- * Casualty Reduction Partnership
- * Drug & Alcohol Recovery Services
- * Youth Justice Plan
- * Consumer Protection enforcement activity
- * Durham Police and Crime Panel

They have responded to consultation on County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plans.

The committee have monitored quarterly performance reports and provided acknowledgment of high performance areas and included performance challenges within its work programme.

SSC OSC held development sessions on recorded crime and management of registered sex offenders.

Regional Scrutiny

The North East Regional Employers' Organisation supports a region-wide North East Joint Scrutiny Member/Officer network where all twelve North East local authority scrutiny leads discuss national developments in scrutiny.

The network also provides an opportunity to share work programmes and priorities and consider emerging issues that have an impact across local authority boundaries.

North East Combined Authority (NECA) scrutiny arrangements

The North East Combined Authority (NECA) has agreed three broad areas of focus:

- * Transport
- * Employability and Inclusion
- * Economic Development and Regeneration

In November 2018 a North of Tyne Combined Authority was created made up of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland councils. As a result NECA changed its boundaries and is now comprised of the four councils of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Governance arrangements for NECA include an Overview and Scrutiny Committee which enables local councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge all matters within its remit.

The committee investigates matters of significant importance to residents across the areas covered by the four councils with a view to influencing decisions.

Durham County Council is represented on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Councillors Rob Crute and Andrea Patterson, the Chair and Vice-Chair of COSMB. Councillors Alison Batey and Malcolm Clarke, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are the nominated substitute members.

As transport is of such strategic importance to the North East, both NECA and the North of Tyne Combined Authority work collaboratively to ensure effective decision making across the region takes place.

A Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established with representatives from all seven authorities. Councillors Rob Crute and Andrea Patterson, the Chair and Vice-Chair of COSMB represent Durham County Council. Councillors Alison Batey and Malcolm Clarke, Chair and Vice-Chair of Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are the nominated substitute members.

Both scrutiny committees meet at varying locations across the NECA area and meetings are open to the public.

Further details on NECA can be found at www.northeastca.gov.uk.

Regional Health Scrutiny

The Council continues to work collaboratively at a regional level to ensure that the impact of changes to health services across local authority

boundaries does not adversely impact upon residents of County Durham.

The North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee consists of lead Health Scrutiny members from all 12 north east local authorities.

The committee is charged with scrutinising issues around the planning, provision and operation of health services in and across the north east region, comprising for these purposes the areas covered by all constituent authorities.

During 2018/19, the committee has examined:

- * NHS England – North East and Cumbria specialised commissioning updates regarding Neonatal services; Neonatal transport; Congenital Heart Disease Review and Vascular services.
- * The North East and Cumbria Learning Disabilities Fast Track Transformation Plan.
- * Updates from the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP Joint Health OSC and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health OSC.
- * NEAS Quality Accounts and performance updates including the new National Ambulance response standards.
- * The expansion of Pharmacy First Services.
- * The development of an Integrated Care System.

- * The provision of Translation and Interpretation Services relating to Health Services.

Following the publication of NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans nationally, there are two sub-regional Joint STP Scrutiny Committees covering the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP.

Durham County Council is the only North East Council with representatives that sit on both STP Joint OSCs reflecting the fact that County Durham is covered by two STPs.

It is envisaged that much of this regional and sub-regional health scrutiny work will roll forward into 2019/20.

The regional and sub-regional joint scrutiny overview and scrutiny arrangements will be used to scrutinise the development of sustainability and transformation plans and any associated proposals for substantial developments or significant variations in services arising out of these plans.

Overview and Scrutiny Team

The Overview and Scrutiny team is part of the Transformation and Partnerships Directorate which leads on the Transformation Programme, performance management and improvement, communications, consultation and engagement, partnership working, equalities and diversity and information management, as well as the Council's Area Action Partnerships and emergency planning functions.

Jenny Haworth, the Head of Strategy is designated as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

Tom Gorman is the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager and Stephen Gwilym the Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

Diane Close, Jonathan Slee and Ann Whitton are Overview and Scrutiny Officers. Clare Luery is the Scrutiny Support Assistant.



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