

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham** on **Tuesday 24 September 2013** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, A Batey, J Bell, J Clare, I Geldard, C Kay, J Maitland, H Nicholson, P Stradling, O Temple and A Willis

Co-opted Members:

Mr P Robson (JobCentre Plus)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Ormerod, J Rowlandson, S Zair and Mrs O Brown, Mr A Kitching and Ms J McKee (JobCentre Plus).

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 24 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillors C Kay and J Maitland declared an interest in Item 10 as Board Members of Dale and Valley Homes and East Durham Homes respectively.

5 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy of slide see file of minutes). It was noted in the press that Durham County Council had received funding to tackle empty homes and also were going to buy longer-term empty homes in an effort to boost regeneration in Easington Colliery, Eldon Lane, Coundon Grange, Coundon, Dean Bank, Chilton, Craghead and South Moor through the successful cluster-bid that had been made to the Homes and Community Agency (HCA). Councillors noted other articles included the agreement by the seven Local Authorities in the region to the formation of the Combined Authority (CA); the success of the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition and news of new Adult Learning Courses being launched across the County focusing on basic skills.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Quarter 4, 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Outturn and Quarter 1 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2013/14

The Chairman introduced the Finance Manager, Resources, Azhar Rafiq who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 4, 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Outturn and Quarter 1 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2013/14 (for copy see file of minutes).

Quarter 4, 2012/13

The Finance Manager reminded Members of the areas reported upon, the General Fund Revenue Account, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme for the RED Service. It was explained that the first report set out the financial position as at the year end for 2012/13 and it was noted there was a cash limit under spend of £556,000 on the General Fund Revenue Account, with the major variances being an under spend within Planning and Assets, and an overspend within Strategic Transport, with the detailed explanations as set out within the report. It was noted that the forecast outturn during the year of a £615,000 under spend predicted at the Quarter 3 stage turned out to be very accurate. The Committee were also asked to note that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings target for 2012/13 of £2.612 million for the Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) service grouping had been delivered.

The Finance Manager then explained the outturn position on the HRA which showed a surplus outturn position alongside a balance on the general HRA reserve of £7.154 million. Councillors were reminded of the potential overspend on the Durham City Homes (DCH) repairs and maintenance budget that was flagged up as part of the volatile reporting arrangements during the year, and that the actual outturn position regarding this item of expenditure was brought in line with the budget. Early identification and reporting of the potential overspend during the year allowed corrective action to be taken by budget managers to bring spend in line with the budget at year end.

Members were reminded that the RED Capital Programme was a flagship capital programme for the Authority and that the final budget position was a programme of £85.995 million, with the actual spend being £80.146 million, split between the General Fund (£36.227 million) and the HRA (£43.919 million). It was noted that although expenditure during the early stages of the year appeared slow, activity picked up towards the end of the year which was reflected in a substantial part of the programme being delivered. The HRA programme showed 97% of spend against budget and the General Fund just under 90%. It was explained that the HRA programme is relatively easier to deliver as it is mainly concerned with making improvements in tenants' homes such as installing kitchens, bathrooms, and heating systems. The General Fund programme on the other hand is more complex with many schemes running over different financial years, involving many partners and funding streams, with multiple land ownership issues and multiple contracts to manage at the same time. Members noted that Appendix 3 gave a breakdown of the spend across major projects, with Appendix 4 setting out in more detail the many projects delivered across the County in 2012/13.

Quarter 1, 2013/14

The Finance Manager explained that with increasing pressures on Local Government finances and the impact of cumulative savings targets, the outturn position for 2013/14 for RED would be tighter. . Members noted the service was reporting a cash limit under spend of approximately £87,000 for 2013/14 based on the Quarter 1 forecast outturn against a General Fund Revenue Budget of £41.726 million. Members noted the major predicted under spend fell within Planning and Assets, with the detailed explanations as set out within the report including an increased income due to a small number of major applications generating extra income such as the Hitachi site at Newton Aycliffe. The Committee learned that there was continued overspend for Traffic, relating to parking services and enforcement activities, noting a "building-in" of the impact of large scale events such as the Lindisfarne Gospels and Lumiere.

The Committee noted that the HRA for 2013/14 had no major issues; with a forecasted balanced position after using a projected surplus of £1.549 million towards the Capital Programme.

As regards the Capital Programme, the Finance Manager explained that subsequent to revisions to take into account grant additions/reductions and re-profiling the budget now stood at approximately £103.654 million split between the General Fund (£48.071 million) and HRA (£55.583 million). Members noted a significant boost to the HRA programme coming from a £19 million HCA Decent Homes "Backlog" Grant which had enabled 864 properties to be brought up to the Decent Homes Standard within Quarter 1.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Manager and asked Members for their questions on the two finance reports.

The Committee asked whether the backlog of work in relation to the Decent Homes Standard was with those properties managed by East Durham Homes (EDH). The Finance Manager noted that the position for Dale and Valley Homes (DVH) and Durham City Homes (DCH) was 0% non-decent properties at the beginning of the year and while there would be some properties falling into non-decency during the year, it was envisaged that it would be 0% also at the year end as these properties would be made addressed in the current year HRA capital programme. The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development, Graham Tebbutt added that the figure of non-decent properties for EDH had decreased from 36% at the beginning of the year to 25%, which was good progress in itself and a marked improvement upon the positions 2-3 years ago of around 81%.

Resolved:

That the reports be noted.

8 Quarter 1, 2013/14 Performance Management Report

The Chairman thanked the Customer and Services Intelligence Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development, Graham Tebbutt who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 1, 2013/14 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager reminded Members of the different types of indicators reported, Tracker indicators and Target indicators.

Councillors noted that some of the key achievements in Quarter 1 included non-decency levels for Council properties being ahead of target; the number of empty properties being brought back into use exceeding target; net completions of housing being increased on figures for last year, with a significant proportion being affordable homes; and good progress was being made in respect of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks. The Committee learned that occupancy rates of Council owned factories and business support centre floor space had increased this Quarter and the number of people qualified to NVQ Level 3 and above had also increased.

Members noted progress with Council Plan actions, such as: the delivery of Durham City projects including bus station relocation; Seaham Town Centre improvements, including the North Dock; delivery of Local Transport Plan priorities for South Durham; and improvements for Barnard Castle Town Centre. Councillors also noted the significant investment in the renewal of permanent Gypsy Roma Traveller Sites.

It was added that key performance issues going forward included: 28 apprenticeships starts, below the target of 32; Durham City Regeneration Scheme at Aykley Heads; rescheduling of County Durham Plan timescales; delays to regeneration frameworks for some key towns; a lack of Registered Providers coming forward to access HCA funds to bring empty homes back into use.

Members noted the Tracker Indicators set out within the report including: a slight increase in the employment rate, with a continued slight decrease in the number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24; and an increase of those accessing JSA for one year or more. It was added that there had been a rise those re-housed via the Durham Key Options (DKO) scheme and there had been a slight rise in the number of statutory homeless applications. Members noted the impact of Welfare Reform and the triage process being employed to help tenants and landlords with issues such as under-occupancy.

The Performance and Improvement Team Leader concluded by noting that site preparation work had begun at the Hitachi site, Newton Aycliffe and the success of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the Ashes Cricket match held at the Riverside Ground at Chester-le-Street.

The Chairman thanked the Customer and Services Intelligence and asked Members for their questions on the report.

Members asked questions relating to; the Local Transport Plan for South Durham, asking whether a cycle link between Bishop Auckland and Shildon would be advantageous rather than ending at the Hitachi site; how many expressions of interest had there been for units at Seaham North Dock; and whether there was any data available on the number of developers who had approached the Council regarding previous planning consents with a view to rescinding or revising associated Section 106 Agreements attached to such consents regarding the inclusion of affordable homes and the numbers required as part of the consent.

The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager noted that the Shildon to Newton Aycliffe cycle link pre-dated the Hitachi development and the Cycling Strategy was agreed back in 2012. The Committee noted that there had been interest from existing shop keepers in the Seaham area, however, low level market conditions meant none had been rented yet. It was explained that as regards Section 106 agreements, they would be looked at on a case by case basis, with Officers noting Central Government having given an indication that it would look sympathetically towards such revocations. It was agreed that the data requested in relation to Section 106 Agreements would be provided to Members of the Committee. Members who were also on Planning Committees noted a recent request for such a revocation that was decline at Committee and that indeed each would be reviewed on its merits at Committee.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Empty Homes Overview and Scrutiny Review - Update on Recommendations

The Chairman introduced Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager, Dianne Hedley and the Special Housing Projects Manager, David Siddle who were in attendance to update Members on the actions made on the recommendations from the Empty Homes Overview and Scrutiny Review (for copy see file of minutes).

The Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager reminded Members that the Empty Homes Review had been triggered by Members concerns as regards the performance of the Authority in bringing empty homes back into use. Members noted that in respect of the recommendations made from the review, the Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager and Special Housing Projects Manager would update accordingly.

In respect of recommendation 1, it was explained that after looking at legacy schemes from the former District Authorities pre-Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) they were evaluated and from this the regeneration areas were set out and alongside this, there was the "cluster areas" that would be able to access the HCA and DCC funding for improvements to 120 properties. Members were reminded of the review of the selective licensing scheme at the Wembley area of Easington which would be presented to Cabinet in November 2013.

The Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager noted that in relation to recommendations 2 and 3, Cabinet had supported the HCA Cluster Bid and subsequent to a poor response from Housing Associations in respect of accessing the funding, 2 new products were developed within the Financial Assistance Policy (FAP), an Interest Free Loan and a small Grant of up to £5,000. Members noted the FAP was approved and the new products would be marketed within the next few weeks in cluster areas. Members noted that the HCA were also encouraging other Agencies to access other grants via another programme that could enable a further 130 empty homes to be brought back into use.

The Special Housing Projects Manager explained that 2 models had been considered following a recent research project looking at homesteading and a leasing model. Members noted homesteading would involve a discount to an owner/occupier who committed to 3 years at the property, access to interest free loans and so on. It was explained that the leasing model had not yet been taken up but was for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to take on the management of a property from a private landlord, improve a property, collect rent, with a percentage of rent being paid to the landlord.

Members noted that recommendation 5, to allow for any surplus realised via the move to charge empty homes full council tax straightaway and 150% after 2 years (in conjunction with the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme) to be used to target empty properties, was not possible as no surpluses had been identified. Councillors noted that in relation to recommendation 6, a draft Action Plan dedicated to Empty Homes had been developed and was attached to the agenda papers.

The Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager noted that recommendation 7 had referred to performance targets, and a benchmarking process. Councillors noted that the performance for this financial year, up to 30 June 2013, was 31 properties being brought back into use. Councillors noted that in respect of recommendation 8, of invest to save utilising New Homes Bonus (NHB), this had not progressed as following the Government's Spending Review, this was cross-linked to funding of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The Chairman thanked the Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager and Special Housing Projects Manager and asked Members for their questions on their report.

The Committee raised questions on: why the previous reduction in the target for empty homes being brought back into use was cut from 70 to 50 and then raised back to 75; further information as regards cluster bid funding, with perhaps a future seminar for Members' information; figures relating to the use of the Council's assistance to private sector landlords in tackling empty homes; caution in a return to "Category D" allocations; and the opportunities for job creation and social enterprises in this respect.

The Area Based Housing Regeneration Manager noted that the successful cluster bid had enabled the target for bringing empty properties back into use to be raised, though the number of staff to deliver had remained the same. It was added that Registered Providers (RPs) had been approached in connection with helping to deliver on the cluster bid, however there had been no expressions of interest from them and that other funding streams did exist that could be used in tackling empty homes, albeit outside of the cluster areas. The Special Housing Projects Manager noted that the main grant conditions with the cluster bid was that the target was "long term private sector empty homes", and indeed if RPs wished to participate in the future, the Authority would look at how this could be made to work. It was added that the figures relating to the Private Sector Landlord advice line and e-mail contact would be obtained for Members' information.

Councillor P Stradling referred to the additional funding that had been secured as part of the cluster bid programme and enquired if all RPs had been invited to bid into this funding. Councillor P Stradling noted he knew of a particular RP who might be keen to work with the Council to formulate projects to bring homes up to an improved standard in the Horden area. The Special Housing Projects Manager stressed that these funds could only be utilised in specifically defined areas where a proportion of the housing stock had been stood empty for longer than 6 months and were geared towards bringing empty properties back into use rather than bringing occupied homes up to the decent homes standard.

The Special Housing Projects Manager explained that cluster areas were not the same as regeneration renewal areas, cluster areas being where 10% of the housing stock or more was empty and funding was available up until March 2014, or with a commitment to spend by the end of 2014, early 2015.

Members were reminded of the fragile property market in County Durham and that the Housing Renewal Policy did not only reflect empty homes, was not simply wholesale demolitions and that there was constant dialogue and consultation with local communities. It was added that a Community Land Trust operating at Craghead had been successful and if that could be replicated elsewhere it would be very positive.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update at the meeting on the 7 April 2014 detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.

10 Housing Stock Transfer Project - Update

The Chairman introduced the Housing Directions Manager, Marie Roe who was in attendance to update Members on the Housing Stock Transfer Project (for copy see file of minutes).

The Housing Directions Manager thanked Members for the opportunity to refresh the Committee on why the Council plans to transfer ownership of its homes, and to provide an update on the current position. Members noted that there were approximately 19,000 houses in Council ownership, split between Durham City Homes an in-house provider (DCH ~6,100) and Dale and Valley Homes (DVH ~4,300) and East Durham Homes (EDH ~8,500), both of which were Arms-Length Management Organisations (ALMOs). Councillors were reminded that, in 2012, the Council had completed a Stock Options Appraisal that had looked at future financing, ownership and management.

Members noted that this had been in response to issues such as: having to repay Government the Council's allocated Housing Debt; the inability to borrow any more money for the housing stock after this year; the extent to which maintenance to housing stock and their environs would cost over the next 30 years; and the shortfall of the rent collected in comparison to the money required to meet Tenants' aspirations.

The Housing Directions Manager reminded the Committee that the Authority was servicing the housing debt allocated by Government of £240 million, and the fact investment in the next 30 years was effectively "front-loaded" with the majority needed in the first 10 years of the business plan. Members noted that there was concern as regards the Council's ability to invest in housing services and neighbourhoods and that a big difference between the conditions of Council homes and other RSLs properties could occur. Councillors were informed that any new landlord for the housing stock post-transfer would be able to borrow to invest and consultation with the public had shown that they would wish for those organisations already in place, DCH, DVH and EDH to continue to manage their homes. It was added that the plan to transfer to these 3 organisations would be on the basis of them working together as a "group" to maximise investment and efficiencies.

The Committee noted that discussions with Government were ongoing, with the deadline for transfer being 31 March 2015, the application from Durham to be submitted in October 2013. It was added that when a response from Government, the HCA, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Treasury, is received in February 2014 then the Council could then ballot Tenants as regards the proposed transfer. Members noted that every person named on a rent book must be balloted and that the Authority was legally bound not to promote the transfer, rather to present all the information as regards the background, process and options. Councillors learned that post-ballot, should the result be in support of transfer, there would be work including: transfer of ownership to the new landlord; finalisation of legal agreements; securing of funding for the new group of organisations, registration of each organisation as an "intended provider" by January 2015; and to complete before the March 2015 deadline.

Members noted that Durham's process has been one of the quickest with informal consultation with customers having begun to develop transfer promises and that governance arrangements were being finalised to then be submitted to Cabinet in autumn 2013 for agreement.

Members noted that informal consultation events with customers hosted by the Independent Tenant Advisor (ITA) with assistance from DCC had shown several key issues including the continued investment in the stock and surroundings and to make sure landlords are County Durham based. It was noted that around 300 people attended those sessions with 86% of those completing evaluation forms having indicated they would support the proposed stock transfer.

The Housing Directions Manager explained that consultation on governance arrangements for the new group of organisations would retain the existing boards, with an overarching parent board being established, this to exist in shadow form and comprise of 13 Members made up of 4 Independent Members (one of which to be Chair), 3 Tenant Members, 3 Local Authority Nominees and the 3 Chairs of DCH, DVH and EDH.

The Housing Directions Manager concluded by noting that the next steps were submission of the Application to Government; to develop a name and identity for the new parent group; development of transfer promises; establishment of the shadow board once Cabinet had agreed the proposed governance arrangements and for more formal consultation to begin with Tenants early in 2014.

The Chairman thanked the Housing Directions Manager for her presentation and asked Members for their questions.

Councillors asked questions as regards: any potential for rationalisation of functions with the 3 organisations coming together; how Members were selected for the shadow board, what the latest sounding was of Government's position as regards the debt write-off; reassurance as regards the stock not being sold on to an "out of the area" provider in the future; the spending profile over the 30 years projections; a potential for a "washing line" approach to be able to bring on board other RSLs and whether the debt write-off from Government would be in total or part.

The Housing Directions Manager explained that the shadow board would look to appoint a Chief Executive of the new organisation and then they would look to appoint a management team and then look at fit for purpose staffing at that point. Councillors learned that those appointed to the shadow boards were assessed upon the skills they possess and how they would fit with the new organisation in order to give a robust governance arrangement that would stand up to scrutiny by potential lenders.

The Committee noted that Government had been the instigator of "self-financing", discussions having begun in 2011. It was added that Local Authorities had been told that the options was available up to March 2015.

As regards sale of stock to an organisation outside of County Durham, it had come back overwhelmingly from consultation with tenants that they did not wish for a large "out of the area" company to take the stock. Members noted that there was continual "tests of opinion" throughout the process and this would be able to steer direction as regards the ballot process.

The Housing Directions Manager noted that the County Durham Housing Forum was chaired by the Council's Head of Economic Development and Housing, Sarah Robson and this forum included the Chief Executives of the RSLs with the benefits of a "washing line" approach such as economies of scale having been discussed.

The Committee learned that the debt write-off from Government first required a valuation of the housing stock, as this would be the maximum amount the new organisation would be able to borrow up to, with Government then to write-off the difference between that valuation/borrowing amount and the housing debt allocation.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to receive regular updates in relation to the Housing Stock Transfer.

11 Adult Learning Strategy - Overview

The Chairman introduced the Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning, Children and Adults Services, Linda Bailey who was in attendance to give an overview of the Adult Learning Strategy (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning explained that the Adult Learning and Skills Service was funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to deliver Adult Community Learning, Adult Skills (workplace and classroom learning), and receives European Social Funds (ESF) for an “Engaging Vulnerable Young People” project. Members were made aware of the respective contract values with Adult Skills being £967,000; Adult Community Learning being £1,898,000 and the ESF project being £2.1 million, over 2½ years. It was reiterated that there were no Local Authority funds used.

The Committee noted that national priorities as set out in the “New Challenges, New Chances 2011” included: Apprenticeship programmes; up-skilling or retraining at Level 2; help those at risk of social exclusion; young people aged 16-24 for which the learning would enable them to progress into further learning or a job; and unemployed people on benefits that are looking for work and require additional skills or training.

It was explained that for County Durham, those national priorities were supported and Adult Learning and Skills would also contribute towards the outcomes as set out within the County Durham Plan (CDP). Members noted that Adult Learning and Skills would also support the objectives within the County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and also respond accordingly to local need and opportunities that may arise. It was explained that Adult Learning and Skills supported the “Altogether” themes: Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Healthier; and Altogether Better for Children and Young People. Members noted this was through actions such as: raising aspirations and helping to create competitive and successful people; working to reduce the number of people who misuse drugs and alcohol; and help engage with the most vulnerable families in family learning.

The Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning explained that current provision between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013 had engaged with over 1,400 learners in various areas such as Maths, English and employability skills. It was also noted that over 200 learners accessed provision via the workplace and 60 apprentices in areas such Business Administration, Team Leading and Health and Social Care.

Members noted that Community Learning had engaged over 5,500 people and additional funding has presented an opportunity to continue to respond to local needs. Councillors learned that 900 vulnerable young people had been supported since the start of delivery in April 2011, including those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs).

The Committee learned that moving forward, a new Adult Skills Strategy 2013 – 2016 was being developed to help ensure alignment with national and regional strategies, feeding into the LEP agenda via the Business Skills Group. Members noted the drive to increase skills levels, support the local and regional economy and ensure there was capacity to support initiatives/opportunities for additional funding such as ESF. Councillors were referred to a table setting out performance from August 2012 to July 2013 of various programmes (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillors were informed of over 60 Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVS) that had been engaged over the summer and development of the Community Learning Strategy for County Durham would aim to: respond to and be owned by local communities; contribute to achieving outcomes in the CDP and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and to target the most disadvantaged and disengaged.

The Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning concluded by referring Members to the prospectus available online and noting the variety of courses available across 41 locations spread across the County.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning for her presentation and asked Members for their questions.

Members noted queries relating to performance data in the longer term; the nature of the outcomes, the level of attainment and retention on courses; links with the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and the funding climate for Adult Learning activities.

The Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning noted that data as regards destinations was available for Adults Skills learner, however not for those having accessed Adult Community Learning. Members requested if they could have data showing progression following the attendance on a particular course and /or the attainment of a qualification. Members were reminded that outcomes were in line with National priorities including social inclusion and the balance of funding was such that the majority of courses were unaccredited, and were more basic skills or pathways to other courses. It was added that Adult Community Learning did not allow for Level 1 or Level 2 accreditation, though the Adults Skills route technically allowed for Levels 2, 3 and 4, albeit with Levels 3 and 4 to be funded. Members noted they were keen to have a breakdown of figures relating to the various levels of attainment achieved. The Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning explained that each type of activity had different timescales for completion, for example non-accredited courses being anything from one day to a number of months; Level 2 taking around 12 months and Level 3 around 18 months.

Councillors learned that the 3 AAP Coordinators attended the Adult Learning Events that had taken place during the summer and that the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operated on a payment by results system and that in the current climate; there was a need to grow the provision of adult learning in order to help tackle issues such as NEETs.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive further information on the development of the Adult Learning Strategy at a future meeting.

12 Minutes of the County Durham Economic Partnership

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Economic Partnership held 29 July 2013 were received by the Committee for information.