

**Review of Sustainable Community
Strategy (SCS), Council Plan and Service
Plans**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to Cabinet on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Council Plan and agree the draft objectives and outcomes for each priority theme. The report also includes feedback from the County Durham Partnership (CDP) Away Day and Member seminars and next steps.

Background

2. The SCS is the single strategic plan for the county that takes account of the needs, views and aspirations of people living and working in the county. It is produced by the Council with partners sets out the most important issues that we need to come together to address. Our last SCS was developed in 2010. It is reviewed every three to four years to ensure that it remains relevant, fresh and a valuable source of information and guidance for everyone working to improve outcomes for people in County Durham.
3. Outcomes contained within the 2010 SCS have been amended over the last three years in line with changes in Government policy through the annual Council Plan process. For instance the move away from the Every Child Matters outcomes and the requirement for local authorities and partners to develop Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
4. The Council Plan details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the SCS, together with its own improvement agenda. It has been amended this year to cover a three year timeframe in line with the council's Medium- Term Financial Plan and sets out how we will deliver our corporate priorities and the key actions we will take to support of the longer term goals set out in the SCS.
5. Over the past month key groups and partnerships have been asked for their views on:
 - a. The draft objectives and outcomes for each priority theme;
 - b. How partners will work together on issues which cut across a number of our priority themes;
 - c. The proposed future partnership approach.

Draft objectives and outcomes

6. Overall it is recommended that the 5 key altogether better themes remain unchanged in line with the review of the Altogether Better Durham vision of the County Durham Partnership. It is also recommended that the altogether better council theme is retained for the Council Plan giving 6 key themes.
 - I. Altogether Wealthier
 - II. Altogether better for children and young people
 - III. Altogether healthier
 - IV. Altogether safer
 - V. Altogether greener
 - VI. Altogether better council
7. At the CDP Board Away Day on 3 September 2013 the objectives of each thematic partnership were considered. It was agreed that these are a key element of our shared plans for the future and as such need to be sufficiently forward looking to stand the test of time (it is expected that, once agreed, these will not be changed over the next 3 – 5 years). The Board agreed that the draft objectives address key issues and endorsed these for further consultation and ratification by thematic partnerships. The proposed changes to the SCS and Council Plan objectives are set out in **Appendix 2**.
8. The Council Plan objectives and outcomes framework was considered at a Member seminar on 22 October linked to an initial briefing on the MTFP approach this year. Feedback from both the CDP and Member seminars contained within **Appendix 3** will form part of the considerations for the next stage of SCS and Council Plan development. Work on individual service plans will begin during the autumn based on the proposed Council Plan framework contained within this report. The final draft SCS and Council Plan will be presented to Cabinet and Council in early 2014. (See **Next Steps** below).

Next steps

9. Following agreement of the objectives and outcomes framework, the key milestones for completion of the SCS and Council and service plans will run in parallel and are:

Cabinet agree objectives and outcomes framework	20 November 2013
Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the 20 November Cabinet report	25 November 2013
Cabinet considers Sustainable Community Strategy, Council Plan and service plans	19 March 2014
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considers the 19 th March Cabinet reports	24 March 2014
Council approves Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan	2 April 2014

Recommendations and reasons

10. Cabinet is asked to:

- I. Note the updated position on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2014-2030 and the Council Plan 2014-17
- II. Agree the draft objectives and outcomes framework set out in **Appendix 2** as a basis for the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 3 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing

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

Risk

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

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

The SCS and Council Plan have been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups. One of the outcomes within the proposed framework is that people are treated fairly and differences are respected. Actions contained within the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality. A full impact assessment will be produced for the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

Accommodation

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

Crime and disorder

The Altogether Safer section of the SCS and Council Plan sets out the Council's and partner's contributions to tackling crime and disorder.

Human rights

None

Consultation

Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the reviewed Sustainable Community Strategy. Results have been taken into account in developing our resourcing decisions.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

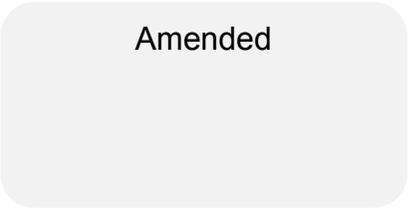
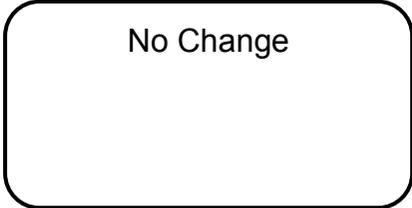
See equality impacts above.

Legal Implications

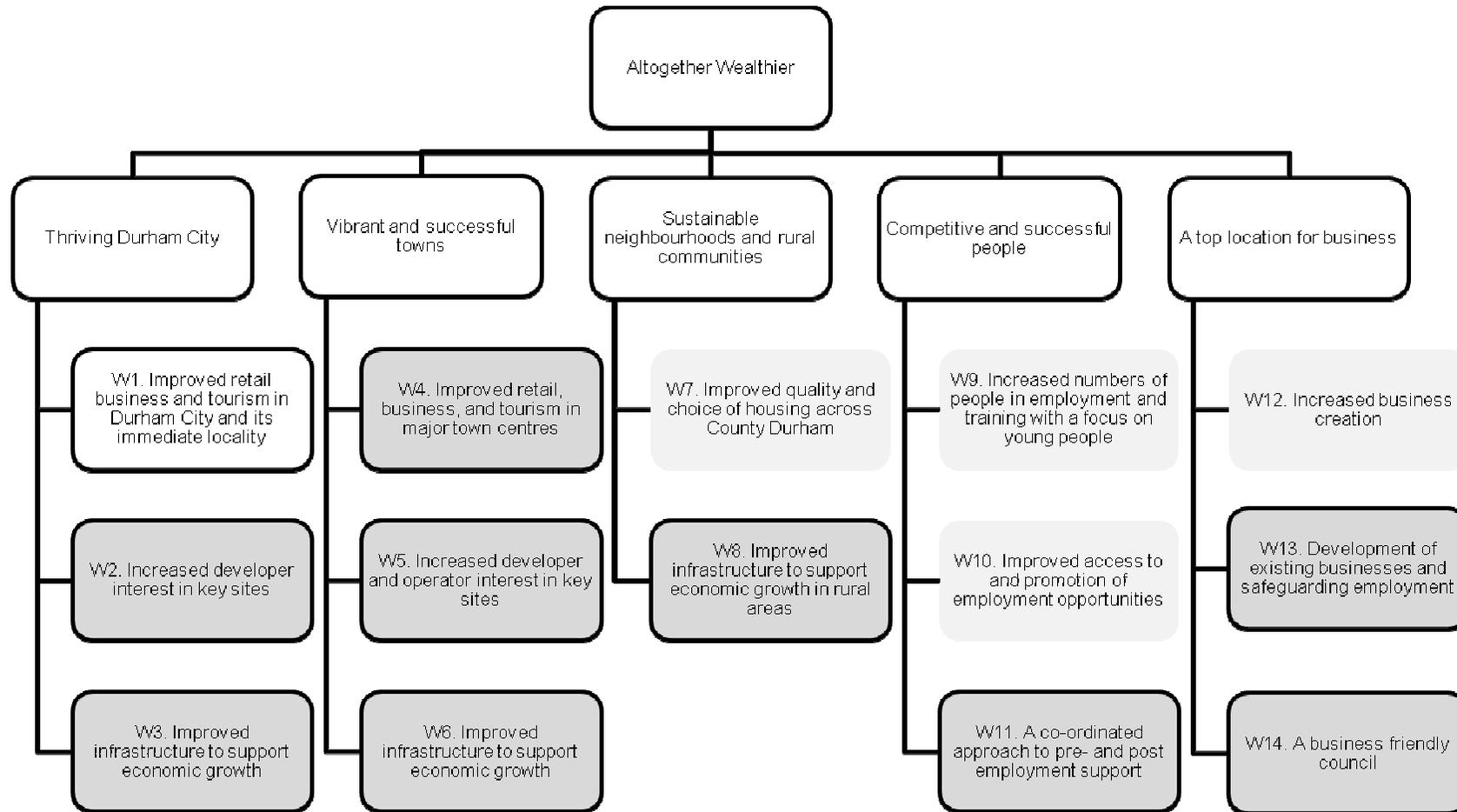
None

Appendix 2: Partnership and Council Draft Objectives and Outcomes Framework

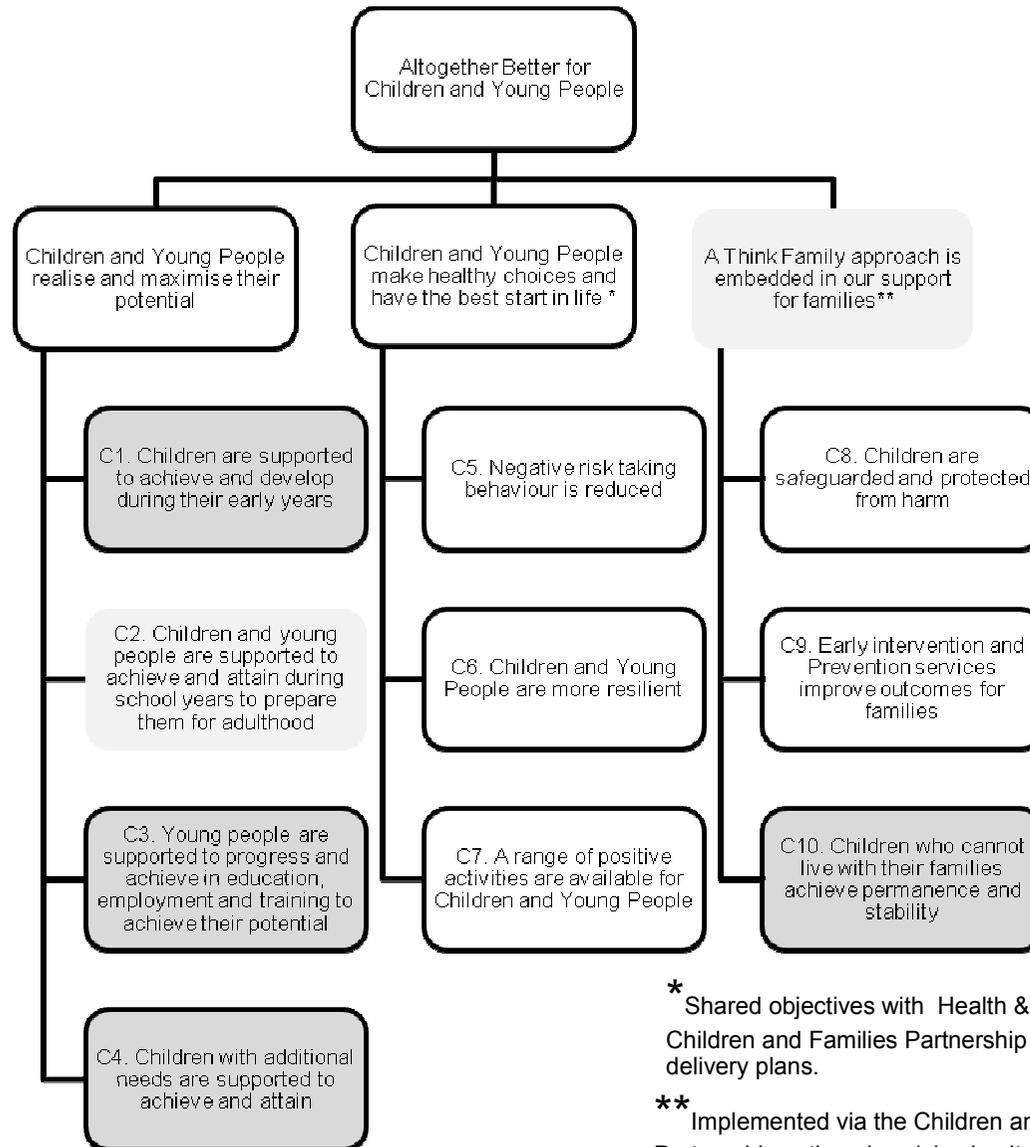
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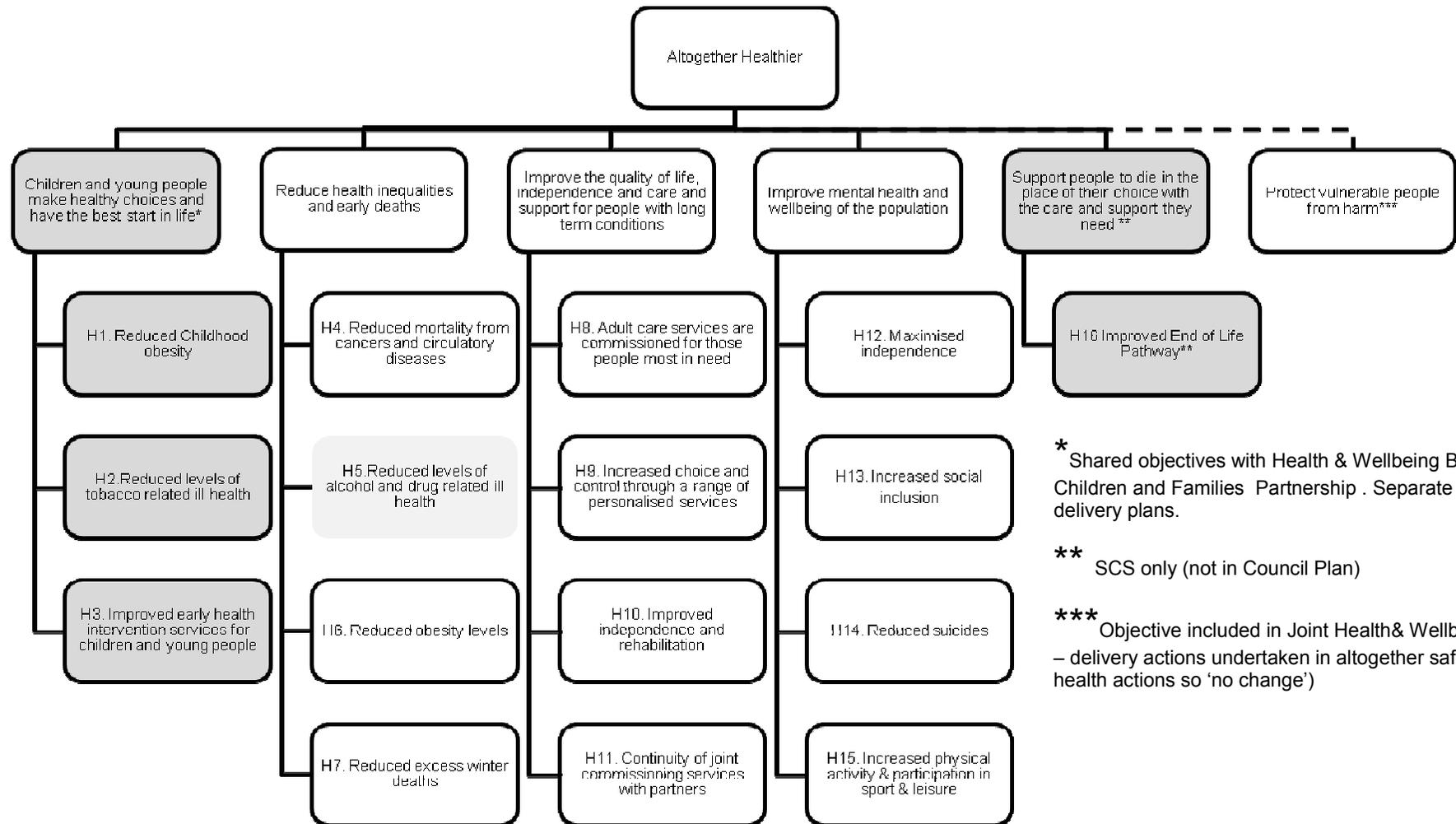
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* Shared objectives with Health & WellBeing Board/
Children and Families Partnership . Separate actions reflect delivery plans.

** Implemented via the Children and Families Partnership action plan. (also in altogether safer) . Think Family means considering the whole family's needs when trying to solve problems eg social, health based, economic

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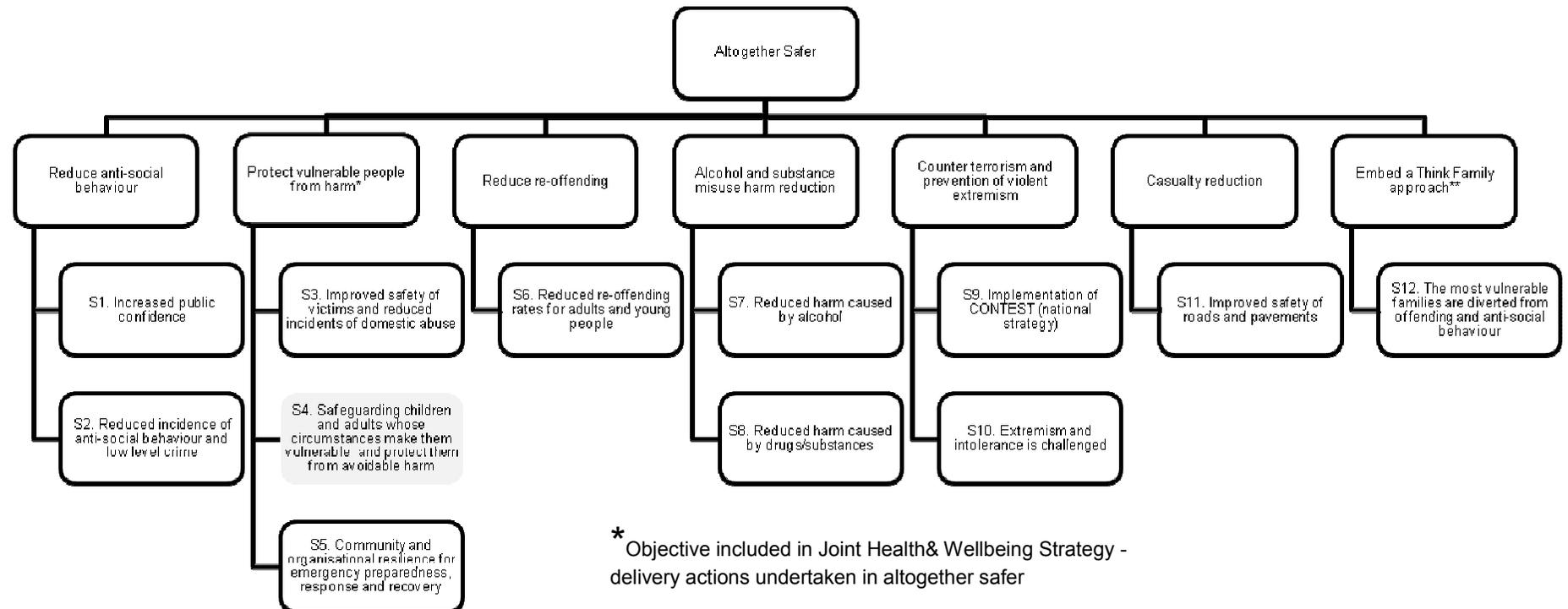


* Shared objectives with Health & Wellbeing Board/ Children and Families Partnership . Separate actions reflect delivery plans.

** SCS only (not in Council Plan)

*** Objective included in Joint Health& Wellbeing Strategy – delivery actions undertaken in altogether safer (no specific health actions so 'no change')

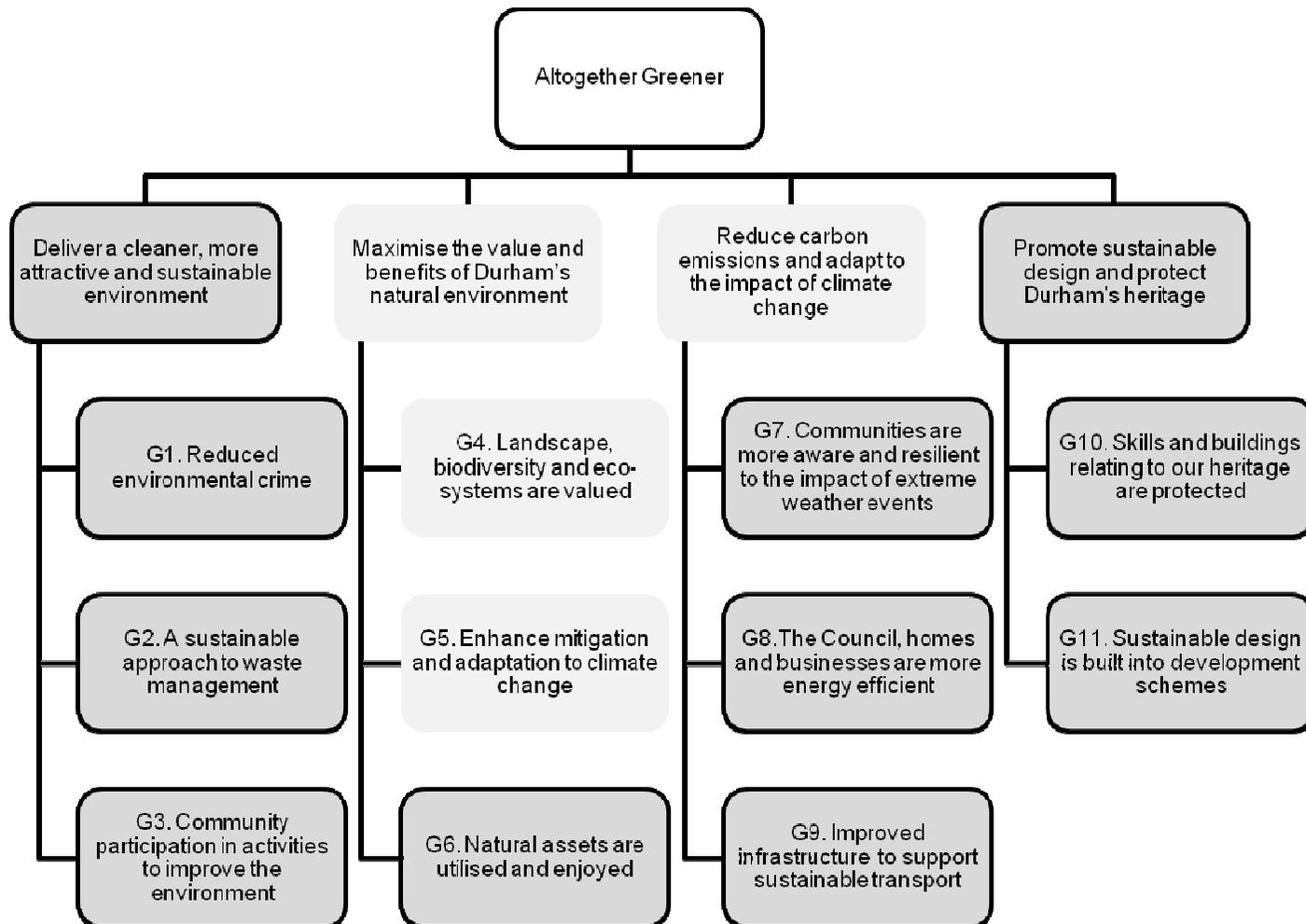
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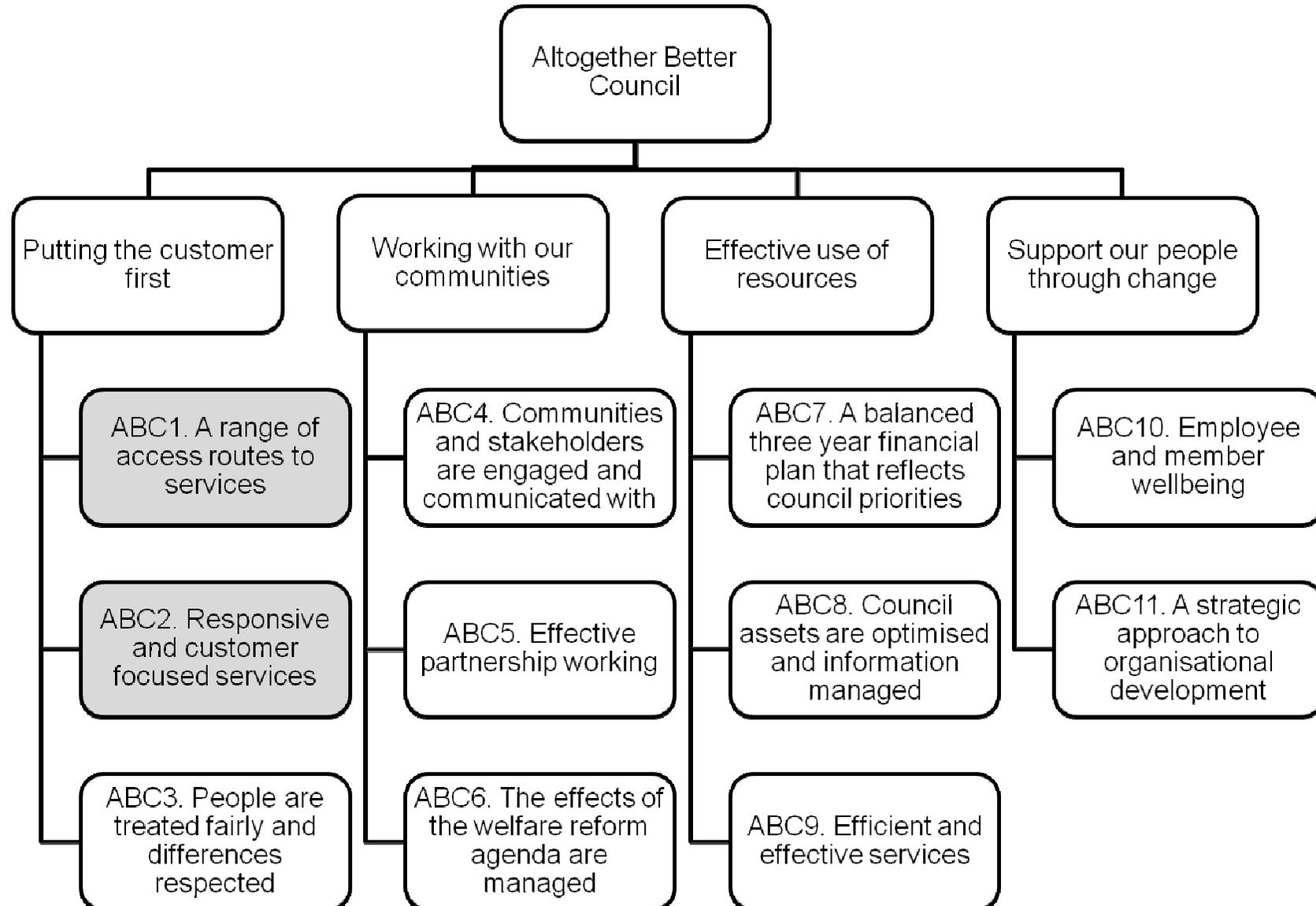
* Objective included in Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy - delivery actions undertaken in altogether safer

** Implemented via the Safe Durham Partnership action plan (also in ABCYP). Think Family means considering the whole family's needs when trying to solve problems eg Anti-social behaviour

Appendix 2: Partnership and Council Draft Objectives and Outcomes Framework



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Appendix 3: County Durham Partnership and Member seminar Feedback

Altogether Wealthier
<p>One member expressed concern that there was no strong focus around rural communities and did not feel that rural issues fitted with the 'Sustainable neighbourhoods' objective.</p> <p>Members also suggested that 'Thriving Durham City' should not be an objective on its own, but rather an outcome. Members thought that the new outcome of improved retail, business, tourism, employment, leisure, education and health covers too many issues and cuts across numerous priority themes.</p> <p>CDP suggested that the objective for a 'Thriving Durham City' should be balanced. E.g. That by developing the night time economy – this does not encourage some at the expense of others to visit the city.</p> <p>In addition CDP commented that there was a need to move to a low carbon economy and that this should be reflected within wealthier.</p> <p>CDP also suggested that more consideration be given to youth unemployment, especially NEETs and the impact upon worklessness and that this should form a separate objective rather than an outcome in wealthier, along with greater reference to the role of the VCS in relation to employment.</p>
Altogether Better for Children and Young People
<p>CDP stressed the importance of the Think Family approach and suggested that a key focus should be areas of risk or harm to local communities.</p>
Altogether Healthier
<p>Members thought that older people, carers and people with learning difficulties should feature specifically. Noted that care should be taken with regard to end of life pathway as this could be viewed as categorising people.</p> <p>Members also enquired if Quality Improvement Programme funding was available for some of the objectives and why children and adults issues are presented separately.</p>
Altogether Safer
<p>Members commented that in relation to 'protecting people from harm' that the definition of 'vulnerable' should be right and also enquired what was being done to support asset transfer?</p>

Appendix 3: County Durham Partnership and Member seminar Feedback

Altogether Greener
Members asked, given the scale of change from last year under this theme whether they were sustainable in the long-term.
Altogether Better Council
With regard to the outcome 'Delivery of excellent customer services', debate took place regarding as to whether this was possible and it was queried whether it needed to be caveated or an alternative term used. In response new outcomes have been developed that align to the reviewed Customer First Strategy.