

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**23 March 2016**



**Draft Council Plan 2016-2019-  
Refresh of the Work Programme**

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**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the draft Council Plan 2016-2019, relevant to the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This enables the opportunity for Members to refresh the Committee's Work Programme to reflect the six objectives and subsequent actions identified within the draft Council Plan for the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme.

**Background**

2. The current Overview and Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Safe Durham Partnership plans and strategies, performance data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 19 June 2015, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2015 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

**Council Plan 2016- 2019**

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a four year period, is updated on an annual basis and is to be agreed by a meeting of Council. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's own improvement agenda. Attached as Appendix 2, is the Altogether Safer section of the draft Council Plan for Members consideration.
5. A small number of proposed changes have been made to the objectives and outcomes from the previous year's Council Plan within the Altogether Safer priority theme. As suggested by the Committee at its meeting in January, Home Safety is an outcome within the new objective 'To implement measures for a safer environment'. In addition, minor wording changes have been made to some of the remaining objectives. The previous wording contained in the plan for last year is detailed below in parentheses for comparative purposes.

6. Within the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme, the focus is to work with partner organisations, as part of the Safe Durham Partnership, to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.
7. The Council supports the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in its strategic plan to deliver a day-to-day operational response to issues impacting on our neighbourhoods. The Council will work with partners to involve the community in tackling priorities, with the aim of creating a safer county and contributing to an Altogether Better Durham. Below are the relevant objectives and actions for the Altogether Safer priority theme:
  - **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour**
    - Increased public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour
    - Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime
  - **Protect vulnerable people from harm**
    - Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm.
    - Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm
    - Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery
  - **Reduce re-offending**
    - Prevent repeat offending
  - **Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction**
    - Reduced harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities
    - Reduced harm caused by drugs/substances
  - **Implement measures to promote a safe environment (2015-18 wording 'Casualty Reduction'.**
    - Develop a safer road environment
    - Improved Safety in the home
    - Improved understanding of open water safety
  - **Embed the Think Family approach**
    - The most vulnerable families are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour
8. The draft Council Plan also identifies a series of actions detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the Authority in order to deliver the above areas.
9. In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the council, the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Committee is therefore responsible for scrutinising the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February, the Committee considered and responded to the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan. It is to note that with exception to 'Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, the priority objectives are aligned to the objectives within the Council Plan and include the following outcomes.

### ***Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour***

- Increase public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues
- Reduce incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime

### ***Protecting vulnerable people from harm***

- Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce associated harm
- Ensure that all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs
- Improve the criminal justice response to tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation
- To pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure they face up to the implications of their actions
- Reduce the impact of hate crime

### ***Reducing re-offending***

- Prevent inter-generational offending
- Prevent repeat offending

### ***Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction***

- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs/substances – through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery

### ***Embed the Think Family Approach***

- The most vulnerable families are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour

### ***Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism***

- Implement CONTEST (national strategy)
- Challenge extremism and intolerance

### ***Implement measures to promote a safe environment***

- Develop a safer road environment
- Improved understanding of open water safety
- Improved safety in the home

## **Current Work Programme**

10. During 2015/16, the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

### **In depth Scrutiny Review**

- ***Organised Crime***
- ***Drug Treatment Services***
- ***20 mph limits/zones***
- ***Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services***

## Systematic Review

- **Neighbourhood Wardens**

### Areas of Overview Activity

- **Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2016/19**  
(All objectives)
- **Consumer Protection – Enforcement Activity**  
(Objective Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction and protecting vulnerable people from harm)
- **Safe Durham Partnership Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20**  
(Objective Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction)
- **Transforming Rehabilitation – update reports from National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company**  
(Objective Reduce re-offending action)
- **County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Plan 2016/17 Consultation**  
(Objectives ‘Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour’ and ‘Implement measures to promote a safe environment’)
- **County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service – Reducing the number of Secondary deliberate fires**  
(Objective – ‘Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour’)
- **Activity of the Road Casualty Reduction Forum**  
(Objective – ‘Implement measures to promote a safe environment’)
- **Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy**  
(Objective – Reduce re-offending)
- **Implementation of Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014**  
(Objective – Reduce anti-social behaviour)
- **County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2014/16: Progress Update 2014/15**  
(Objective – ‘Reduce re-offending’)
- **Novel Psychoactive Substances**  
(Objective – Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction)
- **The City Safety Group**  
(Objective – ‘Implement measures to promote a safe environment’)
- **Checkpoint**  
(Objective – ‘Reduce re-offending’)
- **Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Local Action Plan Update**

### Performance monitoring

11. Quarterly performance reports on ‘Altogether Safer’ performance indicators and Council Plan objectives

### Police and Crime Panel

12. The Committee has a joint working arrangement with the Durham Police and Crime Panel (PCP) that is crucial to provide a communication between the PCP and the Committee.

This arrangement includes receiving update reports from the PCP at each Committee meeting and prior to undertaking an in-depth study into a crime and disorder issue, discussion takes place between both the Chairs of the PCP and Committee and Secretariat to avoid duplication of effort and resources.

### **Gaps within current Work Programme**

13. Having considered the Altogether Safer section of the draft Council Plan for 2016 – 2019 and draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan the following could be considered for inclusion within the Committee’s work programme.

#### ***Protect Vulnerable People from harm***

- Work with partners to improve support to services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and identify areas for improvements within the criminal justice system
- Counter Terrorism and Prevent Duty
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Multi- Agency Intervention Service (MAIS)
- Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Reduce the Impact of Hate Crime

#### ***Implement measures to promote a safe environment***

- Improved Safety in the Home

#### ***National Policy Context***

- Cybercrime

### **Cross Cutting Arrangements**

14. The draft Council Plan also identifies the following areas from other ‘Altogether’ themes that are linked to objectives and actions within ‘Altogether Safer’. In addition areas for improvement within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan also cross cut with areas of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

<b>Altogether</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Link to Altogether Safer</b>	<b>OSC</b>
Better for Children and Young People	A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families	Children are safeguarded and protected from harm	Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm	Children and Young People
Healthier	Reduce health inequalities and early deaths	Reduced levels of alcohol and drug related ill health	Reduced harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities Reduced harm caused by drugs/substances	Adults, Wellbeing and Health
Greener	Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment	Reduced environmental crime	Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime	Environment and Sustainable Communities

## **Review topics**

15. The Committee are currently undertaking review activity on 'Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services' and are also involved with activity on 20 mph limits. However, Members are requested to suggest a potential topic for future review activity throughout 2016/17 and agree at its meeting in June.

## **Next Steps**

16. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the draft Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2016 -2017, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 13 above and paragraph 15 for future review activity.
17. Members will receive a further report at the next Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2016- 2017 based on today's discussion and agreement.

## **Recommendations**

18. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in the Altogether Safer priority theme of the draft Council Plan 2016 -2019, Appendix 2 (copy attached).
19. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2016 - 2017 by discussing and considering those actions identified within Appendix 2.
20. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 21 June 2016, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2016 -2017.

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**Appendix 1: Implications** (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 16 March 2016)

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

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

**Risk** - Consideration of risk is undertaken in the preparation of the Council Plan and Service Plans.

**Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty** - A full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions underpinning the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

**Accommodation** - The council's Accommodation programme is a key corporate programme contained within the Council Plan.

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

**Human rights** – None

**Consultation** - Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the council's budget.

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** - Accessibility issues are considered in the design of our planning document.

**Legal Implications**- None