



*Altogether better*

# **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-2017**

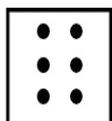
**Transformation and Partnerships  
Durham County Council**

**May 2017**

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

العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese) اردو (Urdu)  
polski (Polish) ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) Español (Spanish)  
বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)  
Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)

**Scrutiny@Durham.gov.uk**  
**03000 268145**



**Braille**



**Audio**



**Large  
Print**

# Chair's Foreword

The next three years 2017-2020 will be challenging for the Council in terms of continued reductions in Government funding. A key achievement for the authority will be to continue to maintain services and deliver improvements where possible, whilst meeting the required savings targets. Overview and Scrutiny will contribute in a constructive way to support the Council in meeting these challenges.

This report provides an update of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2016/17, under the leadership of the former Chair, Councillor Joe Armstrong, and Vice-chair, Councillor Paul Stradling and Chairs and Vice-chairs of the thematic scrutiny committees under the former Council. The achievements set out are a reflection of the hard work of these former Chairs and Vice-chairs and committee members, as well as continuing members of scrutiny.

It was once again a very busy year. We carried out a number of reviews, continued to play our part in the Council's budget process, monitored quarterly performance, and continued to maintain an excellent relationship between executive and non-executive members.

The statutory scrutiny roles of Health, Crime and Disorder and Flooding Risk Management feature within this Annual Report alongside thematic scrutiny work. Issues covered included a light touch review of the customer relationship management system; scrutiny reviews on skills development; improved safety in the home; suicide rates and mental health and wellbeing in County Durham; free school meals and holiday hunger; alcohol and demand on the emergency services; as well as scrutiny having input into a number of consultations.

An important area of future focus is the Council's Transformation Programme, an evolving programme for DCC over the next 3-5 years. It comprises a number of existing projects along with a series of new projects, which are currently under development. Together these projects form a comprehensive change programme for the Council. Scrutiny will play its role in this, and will receive regular updates to committee meetings.

In last year's foreword it was reported that the authority had been shortlisted as a finalist in the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements. The authority subsequently won this award – congratulations to all concerned.

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council said, "The council is committed to making sure residents are at the heart of everything we do so we're extremely proud that this has been recognised with such a prestigious award. The last few years have seen major change across the county and the wider region which shows no sign of slowing down. So now, more than ever, it's vital that we not only make sure residents are kept fully informed but continue to make sure they have a major say on the future direction of their county."

Thanks again to everyone who has been involved in supporting and assisting the Overview and Scrutiny process – be it Members, officers, partners, or co-opted members. Following the May 2017 elections and formation of the new Council, thanks to the outgoing Members who have been involved in overview and scrutiny over the past few years, and a warm welcome to new Members who will be taking over this very important role. Members will by now have received their induction training, including that for overview and scrutiny.

We hope that you find this report interesting and informative. If you would like to find out more, all Scrutiny Committee meetings are open to the public and the scrutiny team will be pleased to supply you with more information. Contact details are listed at the end of this report.

*Councillor Rob Crute*

Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

# Key Achievements 2016-17

## Municipal Journal Awards



Durham County Council (DCC) was successful in being awarded the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements.

## Overview and Scrutiny Review Activity

The following in depth evidence based reviews have been completed and have been/or will be, reported to Cabinet and the appropriate thematic Partnership.

**Alcohol and Demand on the Emergency Services** – highlighted the significant impact and avoidable demand on our police, fire, ambulance and medical services. The review's key findings focus on education and campaigns, affordability, availability, drink driving limits and information sharing and identify recommendations which if implemented at either a local or national level may contribute to a reduction in demand.

**Improved Safety in the Home** – focused on an initiative led by County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Services with referrals to partner agencies on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits within people's homes that focus on prevention of the underlying causes of house fires within County Durham.



**Skills Development** - the Skills Development Working Group examined the role and performance of DCC in supporting skills development within County Durham; how DCC works in partnership to support skills development; changes within further education and skills and how this impacts on the authority and the county; identified gaps and barriers in relation to current skills support provision; and identified future skill priorities.

**Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger** - the Children and Young People's OSC set out to raise awareness among eligible parents of the importance of claiming free school meals, identify any barriers that may stop parents or children from claiming their free school meals, and highlight what is being done in local communities to address holiday hunger.

A working group of CIOSC Members also carried out a light touch review of the **Customer Relationship Management system (CRM)**, looking at functionality and implementation.

Members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of **Suicide rates and mental health and wellbeing in County Durham** – the report will be finalised in the summer of 2017.

## Other review activity in 2016/17 included:

- Scrutiny of the budget process through consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Considerations were broad-based and ranged from scrutiny of the timetable for the budget process, scrutiny of developing cost reduction proposals, as well as ongoing quarterly scrutiny of the delivery of savings.
- Increased awareness of the Council's scrutiny function through articles in local media, Members' Bulletin, and an ongoing update of the scrutiny web pages.
- Formally responded to NHS Quality Accounts 2016/17 for: North East Ambulance Service; County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.
- Continued to maintain and establish links with all thematic partnerships. A series of briefings and reports have been shared with thematic partnerships, for example:
  - The review of Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger was shared with both the Children and Families Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - Skills Development review was shared with the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership.
- Contributed to:
  - activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Board;
  - Police and Crime Panel;
  - the Road Casualty Reduction Forum;
  - Youth Justice Plan;
  - Checkpoint programme.
- Scrutiny Members worked with the Area Action Partnerships during review work on skills development and free school meals and holiday hunger.
- Had input into:
  - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
  - Draft Oral Health Strategy for County Durham
  - Consultation on the Fire and Rescue service's annual Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2016/17 to 2018/19
  - Proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient (Dementia) Wards serving County Durham and Darlington
  - Proposed reconfiguration of Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) – Consultation in respect of a proposed review of Urgent Care Services
  - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
  - The review of Durham Key Options Lettings Policy
  - The County Durham Plan (Issues and Options consultation).

# Key Achievements 2016-17

## Overview and Scrutiny Site Visits

Members and/or Officers have undertaken a number of scrutiny visits to support the Committees' work programmes, including:



Wildflower meadows/planting



Emergency Planning Exercise



Cycle routes



Caterpillar Learning Centre of Light



Durham Fire Station



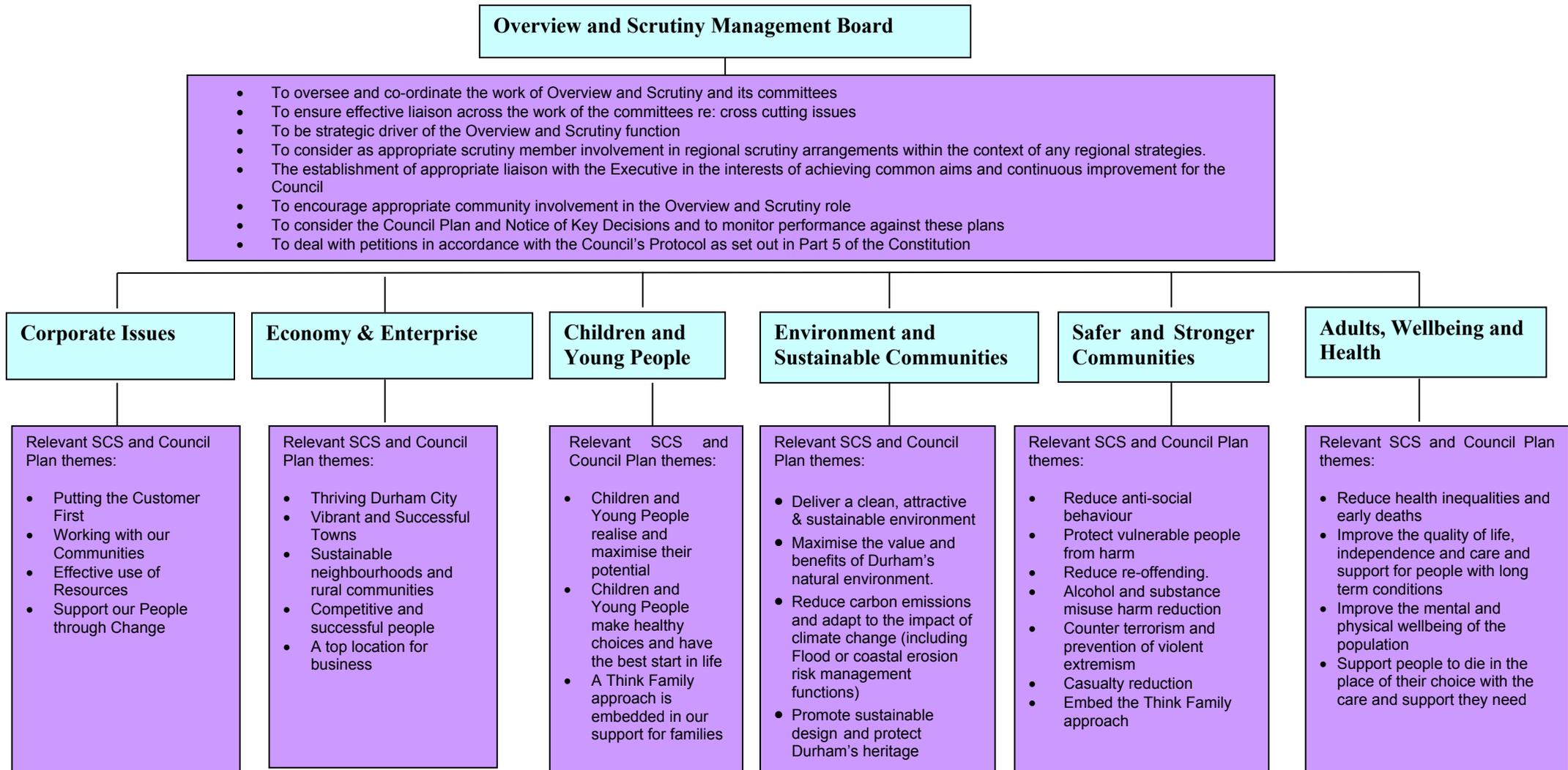
O'Brien's Waste Recycling Plant

- Environment Overview and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a number of visits linking to overview and review activity, to:
  - O'Brien's Waste Recycling Plant, linking to the Waste Strategy;
  - Cycle Routes – looking at strategic cycle routes within County Durham
  - Wildflower meadows and planting scheme, including roundabouts, verges and grasslands.
- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members as part of overview and review activity visited a number of sites including South West Durham Training at Aycliffe Business Park, Infinite Learning and Development which includes the Caterpillar Learning Centre of Light based at Peterlee, and Hitachi at Newton Aycliffe.

- Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger held a review session at Seaham School of Technology
- Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) Working Group visited Northumberland County Council to look at and discuss their system.
- Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services review – the Vice-chair shadowed an Ambulance crew on a Friday evening shift. Members also visited Durham Fire Station and observed firefighters undertake home safety visits for its review on 'Home Safety – Safe and Wellbeing Visits'. In addition the Chair and Vice Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities OSC observed an emergency planning exercise at a chemical plant in Newton Aycliffe.

# Overview and Scrutiny Committees 2016/17

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the key priority themes of the Council's vision, which is to build an Altogether Better Durham that is better for local people and provides better places to live and work. Information on all elements of the Overview and Scrutiny function can be found on the scrutiny pages of the Durham County Council website, [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk). Below is the structure of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for 2016/17. In 2017/18 the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Corporate Issues combined to form a new Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, which will provide integrated oversight of cross committee and corporate issues.



# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB)** provides a strategic direction for the work of all the committees. Its work programme for 2016/17 included the following:

- Examination of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2019/2020 and budget proposals for 2017/2018 to make sure that the Council's resources are used effectively and efficiently;
- Updates on petitions received which enables Members to track progress on behalf of communities;
- Updates on major policy developments and announcements made by central government and the implications for the council and County Durham;
- Received updates on:
  - The County Durham Partnership
  - Welfare Reform
  - The delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan;
- Continued to receive regular updates on:
  - Performance management every quarter before it is disseminated to respective overview and scrutiny committees for further comment;
  - 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 scrutiny involvement if any;
  - Work programme activity from each of the overview and scrutiny chairs;
- Received regular updates on the Durham Light Infantry collections;
- Led and co-ordinated on the reappointment of the non-voting scrutiny co-optees and the appointment of new co-optees to scrutiny committees.



Cllr Joe Armstrong  
Chair of Overview and  
Scrutiny



Cllr Paul Stradling  
Vice-chair of Overview  
and Scrutiny

# Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr John Lethbridge,  
Chair of Corporate  
Issues Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Katherine Henig  
Vice- Chair of Corporate  
Issues Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee

The **Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee**, which is aligned to the **Altogether Better Council** priority in our Council Plan has:

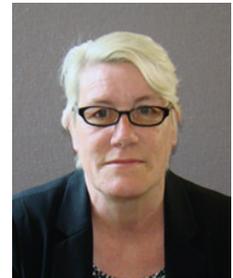
- Undertaken a review of the Customer Relations Management System (CRM). A task and finish group looked at functionality and gave Members the opportunity to have input into the new system, to gather evidence, and to formulate a number of recommendations for the new CRM, including ensuring it was fit for purpose and fully compliant with Data Protection legislation.
- Agreed that Members pilot/trial the new bespoke Member Portal in the new CRM system, which will then be finalised in autumn 2017.
- Received updates on the progress of the recommendations of the Attendance Management Review, including Members being consulted on the annual staff survey.
- Held a series of meetings to scrutinise the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2019/2020 and budget proposals for 2017/2018 to make sure that the Council's resources are used effectively and efficiently. Members:
  - considered and commented on the new MTFP model and timetable;
  - received a verbal update on the Autumn Statement;
  - considered and commented on the Consultation and Cabinet reports;
  - prepared a scrutiny response which was included in the report to Council on 22 February 2017.
- Received details and commented on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000;
- Received quarterly updates on:
  - Performance Management 2016/17 and commented on progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Better Council Theme;
  - the Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn for Transformation and Partnerships/Assistant Chief Executives and Resources;
  - Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions;
- Received the annual update of the former Children's and Adults Service Annual Representations Report 2015/16.

# Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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 and has:



Cllr John Robinson  
Chair of AWH OSC



Cllr Jan Blakey  
Vice Chair  
AWH OSC

- Examined and provided commentary upon Quality Accounts 2016/17 including proposed priorities for 2017/18 for Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT; County Durham and Darlington NHS FT and North East Ambulance Service NHS FT. The Committee also considered updates on progress from all three Trusts in respect of priorities during 2016/17;
- Undertaken a Review into Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham
- Reviewed Annual Reports and performance information in respect of County Durham HealthWatch and the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Received information on the following NHS Service reviews and as statutory consultees commented upon the proposals and associated communications and engagement plans:
  - Proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient (Dementia) Wards serving County Durham and Darlington
  - Proposed reconfiguration of Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) – Consultation in respect of a proposed review of Urgent Care Services
- Examined the development and publication of 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;
- Continued to oversee the development of the Better Health Programme with representatives of the Committee sitting on the Better Health Programme Joint Health OSC;
- Considered update reports in respect of:
  - Care Quality Commission 5 year strategy
  - North Durham CCG and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCGs Primary Care Strategies
  - System Resilience and the Local A&E Delivery Board;

- DDES CCG Accident and Emergency Ambulance Service Review – post implementation update;
- Proposals for Renal Services at University Hospital North Durham;
- The work of the North East Regional Joint Health OSC;
- Received information on:
  - The North East and Cumbria Urgent and Emergency Care Network;
  - Preventative Mental Health Services Review and Recommissioning;
  - Community Hospitals and Community Health provision;
  - Dentistry Services at the Richardson Hospital, Barnard Castle;
  - Specialist referral services for North Durham CCG;
  - The temporary closure of an Inpatient Ward at Shotley Bridge Hospital;
- Responded to consultations on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Considered and commented upon the proposed County Durham Oral Health Strategy;
- Examined the CQC inspection report action plan in respect of County Durham and Darlington NHS FT;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports.

# Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**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. This Committee has:

The committee has completed review activity on:

- Free school meals and Holiday Hunger;
- Received information on:
  - Concessionary travel arrangements for disabled residents and their carers
  - Childhood Obesity in County Durham workshop activity
  - Educational Attainment of Looked After Children;
  - Role of the Social Worker.
- Commented upon:
  - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
  - Draft Oral Health Strategy for County Durham
  - Schools National Funding Formula;
- Scrutinised Annual Reports from the Director of Public Health; and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board; the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel; and Foster Panels and Fostering Service;
- Received updates on:
  - The Innovations Programme
  - Erase Team
  - Children's' Services
  - Stronger Families Programme Phase 2
  - School Funding Reforms
  - County Durham Teenage Pregnancy
  - Young Carers;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- Along with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel, the Chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been involved in strengthening the links between Corporate Parenting Panel and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Received summary of minutes from Children and Families Partnership;
- Involved young people through taking committee meetings to them in their school.



Cllr Christine Potts  
Chair of CYP OSC



Cllr Morris Nicholls  
Vice-Chair of CYP OSC

# Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

- Completed review activity on Skills Development in County Durham;
- Considered and commented on the progress of various EU funded programmes including the LEADER Programme and Regional funding programmes such as the Local Growth Fund.
- Received detail of the performance of the DurhamWorks Programme which was considered during the Skills Development review;
- Commented on the progress of:
  - the County Durham Plan
  - the Housing White Paper
  - Building our Industrial Strategy Green Paper
  - the various Masterplans for County Durham;
- Received detail of and commented on:
  - Durham Key Options revised lettings policy;
  - the development of Chapter Homes sites in the County;
  - the progress of the Homelessness Strategy;
  - the performance of the County Durham Housing Group;
  - projects undertaken with the private rented housing providers;
  - Housing and health collaborative working in the County;
- Examined the development of the North East Combined Authority (NECA);
- Considered the progress of:
  - the Local Transport Plan for County Durham
  - NECA transport activity;
- Received detail of and commented on the progress of the Digital Durham Programme and the support it provides for the business sector;
- Considered on an annual basis detail of the work undertaken by the County Durham Economic Partnership and Business Durham;
- Received an update on the progress of recommendations of the Tourism marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham scrutiny review;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- Received minutes from the County Durham Economic Partnership.



Cllr Rob Crute,  
Chair of Economy and  
Enterprise OSC



Cllr Alison Batey  
Vice-chair of Economy  
and Enterprise OSC

# Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Barbara Graham  
Chair Environment  
OSC



Cllr Eddy Adam  
Vice Chair  
Environment OSC

The **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** (Env 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 committee has:

- Received information and commented on the waste programme, European Structure and Investment Funding Programme, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan, Warm Up North Project and Fuel Poverty;
- Received an update on the progress of recommendations on:
  - The Management of the Woodland Estate owned by Durham County Council scrutiny review
  - The Flooding scrutiny review;
- Considered information on:
  - Environment improvement campaigns and projects
  - Air quality in County Durham
  - The use of targeted interventions by the Community Action Team;
- Received an overview of:
  - strategic cycle routes in the county
  - County Durham Environment Awards Scheme
  - School environmental projects;
- Received minutes from the County Durham Environmental Partnership, the Durham Strategic Flood Group and Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- The Committee is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham and dedicates a scrutiny meeting on an annual basis to review and scrutinise the work of the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham which 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.

Meetings have resulted in:

- Increased member involvement in identifying flood risk in the County
- Improved flood mitigation schemes
- Excellent partnership working between the flood risk management authorities.

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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.



Cllr David Boyes  
Chair of Safer and Stronger  
Communities OSC



Cllr Thomas Nearney  
Vice-chair of Safer and Stronger  
Communities OSC

The committee has completed review activity on:

- Alcohol and Demand on the Emergency Services
- Improved Safety in the Home – Safe and wellbeing visits

Received reports on the progress of recommendations from review activity of:

- Organised Crime
- Schools 20 mph part-time speed limits project

Held focused sessions and provided a response to respective Portfolio Holders on:

- Substance Misuse Centres
- the ERASE Team (Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Road Safety Young Drivers and the Fatal Four

Considered reports and presentations on:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2018
- Consumer Protection – Enforcement Activity
- Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20
- Community and Organisational Resilience for Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Cyber Crime Action Plan
- Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy
- Vulnerability Intervention Pathways (VIP & formerly MAIS)
- Responded to consultation on County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Received reports and provided comment on activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Board, Police and Crime Panel, the Road Casualty Reduction Forum, Youth Justice Plan and Checkpoint programme.
- Monitored quarterly performance reports and provided acknowledgment of high performance areas and included performance challenges within its work programme.

# 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards

Durham County Council was successful in being awarded the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements.

The Award, sponsored by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, was presented to the council for its innovative approach to engaging with the public. It recognised the council's Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), the scrutiny review of 20mph zones and subsequent 'Slow to 20' road safety campaign, and the consultation carried out over the devolution proposals for County Durham alongside other recent successes.

## Regional Scrutiny

The North East Regional Employers' Organisation supports a Region – wide Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny network where all twelve North East local authorities' Scrutiny leads discuss national developments in scrutiny and also have an opportunity to share their work programmes and priorities and consider emerging issues that have an impact across local authority boundaries.

Whilst the Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny Network has not met during the past year, all member authorities have agreed a submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee's Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government Inquiry. The deadline for submissions was 10 March 2017 and the NEREO Regional Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny Network will meet in autumn 2017 to consider any key messages from the Inquiry to date.

## 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

Governance arrangements for the NECA include an Overview and Scrutiny Committee which enables local councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge all matters within the remit of the Combined Authority. The committee investigates matters of significant importance to residents across the areas covered by the seven councils with a view to influencing decisions made in respect of all matters within the remit of the Combined Authority. The North East Combined Authority (NECA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 councillors from across the 7 combined authority areas. During 2016/17 Durham County Council was represented on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Joe Armstrong, Chair of DCC's OSMB, Councillor Rob Crute, Chair of DCC's Economy and Enterprise OSC, and Cllr David Boyes, Chair of SSC OSC was the nominated substitute member.

Also during 2016/17 the NECA scrutiny committee completed a scrutiny review on transport related barriers to employment and training, which was reported to the NECA leadership board in March 2017.

The NECA scrutiny committee meets 6 times a year 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](http://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 and 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 2016/17, the committee has examined:

- the North of England Regional Back Pain programme;
- 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;
- The Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP;
- Care Quality Commission Inspection of North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust;
- NEAS Quality Accounts and performance updates;
- North East Urgent and Emergency Care Vanguard;
- Proposals to implement standards for Congenital Heart Disease services for Children and Adults in England.

In addition, in 2016 a sub-regional joint health overview and scrutiny committee was set up to look at the Better Health Programme which aims to achieve and sustain high quality care provided by hospital services in the Durham, Darlington and Tees (DDT) area as defined by agreed clinical quality standards and national expectations. Commissioners stated their desire to work with stakeholder organisations and public representatives during the programme. The committee consists of representatives from Durham County Council, Darlington B.C., Hartlepool B.C., Middlesbrough B.C., North Yorkshire County Council, Redcar and Cleveland B.C. and Stockton-on Tees B.C. with each Council having three representatives on the Committee for the duration of the programme.

It is envisaged that much of this work will roll forward into 2017/18 and proposals are currently being explored for a formal sub-regional joint scrutiny arrangement to be implemented 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.

# Ofsted Inspection and Children's Services

Following the Ofsted Inspection of the Council's Children's Services in March 2016 and the subsequent publication of their report and recommendations work has been undertaken to strengthen the roles of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting Panel in relation to their joint working. Chairs from each committee will sit within the membership of the other to ensure matters are picked up and referred to the respective committee.

## Co-optees

Non-councillors may be co-opted onto overview and scrutiny committees and working groups, and can help scrutiny to engage with the public. They are used:

- to act as a non-political voice for those who live or work in County Durham;
- to bring specialist knowledge and/or skills and an element of external challenge to the overview and scrutiny process;
- to take an interest in, attend and contribute to the committees or working groups to which appointed;
- to establish good relations with other members, officers and co-optees;
- where individuals are representatives of any particular organisation or group, to feed back any appropriate discussions or decisions of the relevant committee or working group to their respective organisation or group.

A fundamental review of the appointment process for non-statutory, non-voting co-optees was undertaken in 2014, for a two-year period. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed in March 2016 that the appointment period for currently serving non-statutory, non-voting co-optees would be extended for a further two years with a fundamental review of the appointment process planned for 2018.

Two vacancies occurred on Children and Young People's OSC in 2016/17 which were filled by young people.

## Work Programmes

The current work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the Council Plan, the Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.

It was agreed by full Council on 22 March 2017 that Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee would merge with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, with a new committee post-election named Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. This will take on the remits of both former committees in a new combined work programme.

# 2017/18 - Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs

Following the local elections in May 2017, we have a revised set of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs:

## Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Cllr Rob Crute



Cllr Andrea Patterson

## Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr David Boyes



Cllr Heather Liddle

## Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Alison Batey



Cllr Malcolm Clarke

## Children and Young Peoples CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Christine Potts



Cllr Heather Smith

## Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Morris Nicholls



Cllr Jean Chaplow

## Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Eddy Adam



Cllr Olga Milburn

# Overview and Scrutiny Team

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



Contact us in the Scrutiny Office on 03000 268145 [scrutiny@durham.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@durham.gov.uk), or see the Durham County Council website, [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)