

5 April 2018

**Refresh of the Work Programme for the
Economy and Enterprise Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the Council Plan 2016 – 2019, relevant to the work of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for members to refresh the committee's work programme to reflect the five objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for the Council's "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme.

Background

- 2 The current Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's notice of key decisions, the Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in government legislation.
- 3 In relation to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members will recall that the work programme was refreshed at the committee meeting held on the 29 June 2017, 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 2017 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 three year period in line with the council's Medium Term Financial Plan and is updated on an annual basis. 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 Wealthier' section of the Council Plan for Members consideration.

5 The 'Altogether Wealthier' theme remains the top priority of the Council with its main aim to improve the economy and job prospects across the county. The council has a vision for a higher value, sustainable economy and strong ambitions for further inclusive growth. Working with a range of partners and business we aim to capitalise on our assets in order to improve our economic performance and the prospects of our people. The key driver for a vibrant economy is to increase the level of productivity and higher value employment across the county; improving this will increase levels of disposable income and demand for goods and services increasing the numbers of businesses and providing the opportunities to help tackle economic deprivation. As a county we need to utilise our assets to stimulate investment and achieve growth whilst equipping residents with the skills and access to opportunities to increase prosperity.

6 To help address these issues the Council has identified 5 objectives which are set out in the Regeneration Statement together with outcomes to achieve the overarching objectives. They are set out below.

- **Thriving Durham City**

- Improved retail, business and tourism in Durham City and its immediate locality.
- Increased developer interest in key sites.
- Improved infrastructure to support economic growth.

- **Vibrant and successful towns**

- Improved retail, business and tourism in major town centres.
- Increased developer interest in key housing sites.
- Improved infrastructure to support economic growth.

- **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities**

- Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Improved infrastructure to support economic growth in rural areas.

- **Competitive and successful people**

- Increased numbers of people in employment and training.

- **A top location for business**

- Increased business creation.
- Development of existing businesses and safeguarding employment.

7 Over the three year period, the Council will strive to deliver a step change in the economy of County Durham by focusing on the actions required to achieve the above objectives.

8 The Council Plan also identifies a series of actions detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the Authority in order to deliver the areas identified above.

Current Work Programme

- 9 During 2017/18, the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth scrutiny reviews, systematic six monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

In depth Scrutiny Reviews

- Support provided to the retail sector by DCC – **Thriving Durham City** – Improved retail, business and tourism in Durham City and its immediate locality **Vibrant and successful towns** - Improved retail, business and tourism in major towns **A top location for business** – Increased business creation, development of existing businesses and safeguarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.

Systematic Review

- Skills Development supported by DCC within County Durham - **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
- Tourism marketing undertaken by Visit County Durham - **Thriving Durham City** – Improved retail, business and tourism in Durham City and its immediate locality – **Vibrant and successful towns** – Improved retail, business and tourism in major town centres.

Areas of Overview Activity

- Masterplans for County Durham - **Vibrant and successful towns** – Improved retail, business and tourism in major towns.
- Chapter Homes – **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Homelessness Strategy – **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Housing Strategy - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Durham Key Options - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Durham County Council's housing function - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.

- Housing White Paper and DCC's response to 'Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places' consultation - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Industrial Strategy – 'Building a Britain fit for the future' - **A top location for business** – Increased business creation, development of existing businesses and safeguarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
- Business Durham – **A top location for business** - increased business creation - Development of existing businesses and safeguarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
- DurhamWorks Programme (Youth Employment Initiative) - **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
- Digital Durham (support for the business) – **A top location for business** – Increased business creation, development of existing businesses and safeguarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
- Permanent Traveller Sites - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Tourism offer and Heritage Coast - **Vibrant and successful towns** – Improved retail, business and tourism in major town centres.
- County Durham Housing Group - Performance - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Private sector housing - **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
- Local Transport Plan 3 – **Vibrant and successful towns** - Improved retail, business and tourism in major town centres, improved infrastructure to support economic growth **Thriving Durham City** – Improved infrastructure to support economic growth **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved infrastructure to support economic growth in rural communities.
- Transport NECA - **Vibrant and successful towns** - Improved retail, business and tourism in major town centres, improved infrastructure to support economic growth **Thriving Durham City** – Improved infrastructure to support economic growth **Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities** – Improved infrastructure to support economic growth in rural communities.

- Investment pipeline in County Durham - **A top location for business** – Increased business creation, development of existing businesses and safe guarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.

Budgetary and performance monitoring

- Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for Real Service Grouping.

10 **The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny has also considered the following areas which cut across all objectives within the Council Plan (Altogether Wealthier):**

- County Durham Plan – (Covers all objectives and actions).
- Regional Funding – (Covers all objectives and actions).
- European Funding Programme (Covers all objectives and actions).
- Overview of the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership – (Covers all objectives and actions).

Areas for consideration in the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny work programme

- 11 In addition, the Altogether Wealthier section of the Council Plan for 2016 – 2019 and members during 2017/18 have identified possible areas which have not already been considered by committee that could be included in the 2018 - 19 work programme as follows:

Council Plan

Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.

- ‘Tackling Empty Properties’ initiative - multi-agency approach to tackling issues in relation to empty properties (housing and commercial premises)
- Homelessness Strategy and working arrangements following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

A top location for business – Increased business creation, development of existing businesses and safe guarding employment **Competitive and successful people** – Increased numbers of people in employment and training.

- Detail of major investment projects in the county.
- ‘Tackling Empty Properties’ initiative - multi-agency approach to tackling issues in relation to empty properties (commercial).

Cross Cutting Themes

- 12 Below are areas which have cross cutting issues from other ‘Altogether’ themes that link into Altogether Wealthier.

Altogether	Objective	Outcome	Link to Altogether Wealthier
Children and Young People	Children and Young people realise and maximise their potential.	Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood. Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential.	Increased numbers of people in employment and training.
Greener	Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change.	The Council homes and businesses are more energy efficient.	Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham.
Better Council	Working with our communities.	The effects of the Welfare Reform agenda are managed.	Increased numbers of people in employment and training.

Next Steps

- 13 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the committee's work programme for 2018 – 2019, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10 and the new high level actions identified in paragraph 11 above.
- 14 Members will receive a further report at the next Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the committee's work programme for 2018 – 2019 based on today's discussion.

Recommendations

- 15 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Appendix 2 (copy attached).

- 16 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2018 – 2019 by discussing and considering those actions identified, under “Altogether Wealthier” priority theme of the Council Plan 2016 – 2019, Appendix 2 (copy attached) and reflected in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the report.
- 17 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at it’s meeting on the 26 June 2018, receives a further report detailing the committee’s work programme for 2018 – 2019.

Background papers:

Council Plan 2016 -19 – Cabinet report – March 2016

Economy and Enterprise OSC - Refresh of work programme – 30 March 2017

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Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on the 16 March 2016, re the Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-19)

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