



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consult the Health and Wellbeing Board on the attached emerging findings report and provide and outline the next public consultation phase in the development of a new vision for County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 The County Durham Partnership agreed to refresh the vision for the county on 10 October 2018. The first stage of this process was to produce an emerging findings document setting out issues identified from looking at consultation feedback, performance data and main policy drivers.
- 3 This work is concluded and an emerging findings document with some proposed ambitions for the future has been produced. It was agreed by the County Durham Partnership on 21 November 2018 that this document will form the basis of further consultation with residents and partners on what they would like to see feature in a new vision for the county.

Recommendations

- 4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
 - (a) Comment on the emerging findings in Appendix 2;
 - (b) Note the content of the consultation plan in Appendix 3.

Background

- 5 In 2009, the County Durham Partnership agreed a vision for County Durham being an **Altogether Better Durham** focusing on:

- (a) **Altogether Better Place** – One where people of all ages and circumstances can meet their needs, whether material, social or spiritual. As a result it will be a place where people choose to live, work and relax. But it will also be a place where social, economic and environmental resources are managed in ways that do not compromise the quality of life of future generations or those in the wider world;
 - (b) **Altogether Better for People** – carrying forward the vision as it relates to people including tackling deprivation wherever it exists, narrowing the gaps in life chances across the county and focusing on reducing inequality for the most deprived and disadvantaged.
- 6 Five priority themes for organising and delivering improvement actions linked to a thematic partnership with an ‘Altogether Better...’ strap line were developed beneath this being:
- (a) **Altogether wealthier** - focused on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of our strategy;
 - (b) **Altogether better for children and young people** – enabling children and young people to develop and achieve their aspirations and to maximise their potential in line with Every Child Matters;
 - (c) **Altogether healthier** - improving health and wellbeing;
 - (d) **Altogether greener** – ensuring an attractive and ‘liveable’ environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges;
 - (e) **Altogether safer** – creating a safer and more cohesive community.
- 7 This vision was articulated in a Sustainable Community Strategy, which was agreed by the County Durham Partnership in March 2010.
- 8 The environment in which the current vision was developed has changed dramatically in the last nine years. Public services are now facing different challenges not reflected in the vision. Also, many of the programmes of work that were developed for the vision are now complete or are nearing completion.
- 9 The County Durham Partnership agreed to refresh the vision at an event held on 10 October.
- 10 A process for developing a new vision was agreed by the County Durham Partnership. The first stage, which has now concluded involved seeking public views on the content for a new vision through a combination of analysing insight from existing consultation feedback

and supplementing this with additional focus groups involving residents, staff and businesses.

- 11 Insight from this consultation feedback has been considered alongside horizon scanning carried out together with local authority managers and considering sources of data such as performance and value for money data including comparisons with other local authority areas.
- 12 An emerging findings report has been produced at the conclusion of this stage of the process (see Appendix 2). This contains draft ambitions for inclusion in a new vision. This will form the basis for consultation with residents to test whether we have identified the right ambitions.

Consideration

- 13 Three sources of evidence were used to develop the emerging findings document.

Consultation feedback

- 14 Existing consultation data were analysed to gain insight on future priorities. This includes consultation on area action partnership priorities, our last consultation on the budget, the County Durham Plan preferred options consultation, the student voice survey and the celebrating Durham message wall.
- 15 This was supplemented by running some additional focus groups. Independently facilitated events were arranged with unengaged residents who were people of working age, who traditionally do not engage. Our own staff also carried out a number of focus groups with residents and staff using a DIY toolkit. Business leaders were also consulted and elected member views were fed into this process too.

Horizon scanning

- 16 Council service managers (including partnership support officers) were engaged in identifying issues, which may affect our future plans including national and local priorities, performance and customer issues, resources available, risks and opportunities and any extraordinary events.

Performance data

- 17 Current performance and value for money data from a range of sources including comparisons with other local authority areas was also analysed.

Main implications

- 18 A vision for the county will frame our future plans, partnership focus and actions.
- 19 Governance arrangements for the County Durham Partnership and the council's overview and scrutiny committees are currently structured around the Altogether themes. Consideration will need to be given as to whether and how a new vision will affect these arrangements.

Conclusion

- 20 The emerging findings document details work carried out to identify issues that should feature in a new vision for the county.
- 21 This document will form the basis of a consultation with residents and partners to determine future ambitions to include within a refreshed vision for 2030. Key dates for the preparation of the Vision, including details of consultees, are set out in Appendix 3. Copies of the emerging findings document have been distributed to named representatives on the multi-agency editorial group. A meeting of the group is planned for 23 November that will assist in the preparation of the final Vision document.

Recommendations

- 22 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
 - (a) Comment on the emerging findings in Appendix 2;
 - (b) Note the content of the consultation plan in Appendix 3.

Background papers

- Appendix 2: Durham 2030 – A vision for our future. Refreshing the vision – Emerging findings v.6
- Appendix 3: Vision Timeline – key dates.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

Corporate, service and financial planning are part of an integrated process. Ambitions will influence future resource allocation.

Consultation

A number of sources of consultation feedback have been considered in producing the emerging findings document. This document will form the basis of further consultation with residents over the November 2018 – January 2019 period.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equalities issues have been considered in the development of the proposed ambitions.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

Crime and disorder issues have been considered in the development of the proposed ambitions.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Major risks have been considered in the development of the proposed ambitions.

Procurement

None.