

# Council Plan 2024-2027

## Questions and Answers (Q & A)

### **Q: What is the Council Plan?**

**A:** The council plan is an official document that outlines the long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities of the council to deliver over the next three years (2024-2027).

### **Q: Why is the Council Plan important?**

**A:** The Council Plan gives strategic direction to the Council - and council services - defining priorities and shaping delivery; and gives clarity to residents, businesses and stakeholders on our values, what is important and what we will do.

### **Q: What is a core value?**

**A:** A core value underpins everything the Council does and all decision making in delivering the Council Plan.

### **Q: What is the difference between an ambition and a priority?**

**A:** The ambitions are long term aims for Darlington and the priorities are what the council will do to deliver against them.

### **Q: What is a key deliverable?**

**A:** A key deliverable is an action that the council will complete to contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan. Each priority has deliverables.

### **Q: What does inequality mean?**

**A:** Inequalities are an unfairness in society where there are differences in opportunities for people based on many factors including location and protected characteristics.

### **Q: What is a protected characteristic?**

**A:** Protected characteristics are personal characteristics or situations that cannot be used to discriminate against someone. The protected characteristics identified by the Equality Act 2010 are the following:

- Age
- Gender reassignment

- Being married or in a civil partnership
- Being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

As a council we recognise care leavers as a further protected characteristic.

**Q: Who does the Council Plan impact?**

**A:** Everybody.

Specifically:

- Residents
- Businesses
- Communities

**Q: How has Equality and Diversity been considered in the development of the Council Plan?**

**A:** A desktop equality impact assessment has been completed. As a core value within the plan is to address inequalities, no significant negative impacts have been identified. Delivery of the plan will be through other strategies and plans, which, where appropriate will have their own equality impact assessments.

**Q: Why do a consultation?**

**A:** This consultation is the beginning of a conversation with you on the future of Darlington and our priorities and allows us to understand your priorities to shape the final Council Plan. Following consultation, we will continue to work with you to help deliver our priorities.

**Q: How are you going to monitor the success of the Council Plan?**

**A:** Delivery of the plan will be through the development and delivery of key strategies and plans which will be monitored through relevant working groups, boards, and scrutiny committees. A report will regularly be taken to Cabinet on overall performance on long term indicators and deliverables in the plan against each priority area.

**Q: How are you ensuring that people can have their input?**

**A:** A survey has been published that will be open for you to give your feedback between the 6<sup>th</sup> of March and the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Within this survey you will be able to give feedback which will then be reported to Cabinet in May 2024 with a final version of the Council Plan.

The March edition of One Darlington which is distributed across the Borough contains an article on the Council Plan with information on how to complete the survey and share feedback with us. Awareness raising will also take place through social media, ward visits by local councillors and other opportunities that arise.

We have also made the documents available both online and in paper at Darlington Library, Cockerton Library and the Dolphin Centre and have an email address - [strategy@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@darlington.gov.uk) - where the draft Council Plan can be requested in an alternative format.