

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, 12 September 2016 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Acting Chief Executive, Mike Barker

Item	Business
1	Apologies for Absence
2	Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)
3	Flood Risk Management Strategy - Consultation (Pages 9 - 18) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
4	Review of the Impact of Gambling on the Borough - Evidence Gathering (Pages 19 - 26) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
5	Reducing Carbon Emissions - Progress Update (Pages 27 - 36) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
6	Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead - Monitoring Report (Pages 37 - 42) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Contact: Karen Robson Email - karenrobson@gateshead.gov.uk, Tel: 0191 4332129,
Date: Friday, 2 September 2016

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Monday, 20 June 2016

PRESENT: Councillor P Dillon (Chair)

Councillor(s): T Graham, L Caffrey, P Craig, D Davidson, S Dickie, K Dodds, D Duggan, J Graham, M Hood, H Hughes, K McCartney, J McClurey, C McHugh, J Simpson, J Turnbull and A Wheeler

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor(s): K Ferdinand and N Weatherley

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): B Clelland

CPL1 CONSTITUTION

The Committee received a report outlining the constitution of the Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair as approved by Council for the 2016/17 municipal year.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CPL2 ROLE AND REMIT

The Committee considered a report that informed of the remit and terms of reference of the Committee as agreed by Cabinet and Council.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CPL3 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held 18 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

CPL4 ODOUR ISSUES EMANATING FROM LANDFILL SITES IN THE WEST OF THE BOROUGH

The Committee considered a report that provided an update on the issues arising from landfill sites in the west of the Borough.

Representatives from the Environment Agency were present at the meeting.

Blaydon Quarry

The Committee were informed that a Planning Contravention Notice has been served in respect of information required for the discharge of planning conditions. This information has now been received and officers are looking at the detail.

The annual Blaydon Quarry liaison meeting has been held and was attended by six residents and no new concerns were raised. The Committee were informed that gas is now being taken from the landfill and used in electricity generators on site.

Blaydon Quarry is currently half way through its permitted use and tipping over the next two to three years will continue within Cell 7. It was highlighted that as this progresses, levels within the cell will increase and become visible.

Path Head

The Committee were informed that the operator has carried out consultation with local residents regarding the restoration scheme. Details for the scheme are yet to be submitted but it is hoped the scheme will be complete by January 2018.

It was acknowledged that odour problems at the site had required the operator to undertake remedial works, which were completed by the end of April / early May. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of complaints regarding odour from the site.

At present, tipping is taking place at an exposed part of the site but this is the last area to be filled. Permanent capping of the site is expected soon.

The Committee advised that whilst there has been some improvement regarding odour from Path Head, this remains an issue for local people. Councillors have also received a range of complaints regarding Blaydon Quarry, including litter and that lorries are arriving early and causing issues on the highway.

The Committee were informed that whilst it is taking longer than anticipated, formal investigations are ongoing regarding litter. There had been a similar scenario at Path Head where enforcement notices had been served with the possibility of further enforcement action being taken. It was stressed that a robust approach was being taken with Suez.

It was noted that where there was a specific issue of litter leaving the site, this was on a day when it was very windy and clean up works were undertaken.

The Environment Agency confirmed that they are unable to take action regarding traffic on the highway. Currently, there are approximately 4 – 5 lorries arriving at Blaydon and therefore this should not create problems of vehicles backing up however, the Environment Agency would continue to follow up on incidents which are reported.

The Committee queried if the monitoring of odour took place on an evening/early morning. The Committee were informed that at Path Head there are frequent late night/early morning checks for methane and that a fixed monitoring machine has been installed which gives continuous readings.

The Committee queried what costs had been incurred by the Council when litter had escaped from the site and whether not any costs had been re-charged to the operator.

The Committee were informed that works to tidy the surrounding area of the site were undertaken by volunteers at little cost to the Council, and the site operator also assisted with this.

The Committee requested that the information relating to the cost of the clean-up be clarified and circulated.

- RESOLVED -
- i) Monitoring of the sites within the west of the borough continue
 - ii) Planning conditions for the permissions at landfill sites continued to be monitored and enforcement action be progressed where necessary
 - iii) Regular updates be provided

CPL5 OSC REVIEW - IMPACT OF GAMBLING ON THE BOROUGH - SCOPING REPORT

The Committee considered a report which set out the scope for the agreed review topic – the impact of gambling on the borough.

The Committee were informed that the review will draw upon local and national evidence and will focus on:

- **Gambling in Gateshead** – the distribution, types and number of premises licensed for gambling and how this has changed over time; the types of gambling taking place in the borough
- **The legal framework for regulation of gambling and the role of the regulators** – the Gambling Act 2005 and the respective roles of the Gambling Commission and Gateshead Licensing Authority; the impact of other regulatory regimes on gambling activity
- **Local and national concerns about gambling** – evidence and observations from local and national regulators, operators, trade bodies, treatment providers, charities and public agencies
- **Developing research evidence on gambling related harm** – a review of recent developments and bet practice and how it can be used in Gateshead to minimise gambling related harm

The Committee welcomed the review. The Committee suggested that as part of the evidence gathering sessions, the following, if appropriate, be considered:

- Are there opportunities to limit the number of gambling premises, through planning controls, particularly in high density areas
- Where premises are selling National Lottery products, are the Council able to enforce that information be displayed in respect of the possibility of the chances of success
- As there are a number of cross cutting issues that will come from the review there are opportunities for these to be looked at in conjunction with Health and Wellbeing Board, Credit Unions, Citizen Advice Bureau etc
- The need to educate young people on the issues of gambling and the importance of education through schools
- The impact on social clubs

RESOLVED – That the scope and focus of the review be agreed.

CPL6 THE COUNCIL PLAN - YEAR END ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY 2015 - 16

The Committee received a report that provided the year end assessment of performance for 2015/16 and also provided an update on the performance and delivery of the Council Plan 2015-2020.

It was highlighted that:

There has been a reduction in the participation of sport, based on Sport England's Active People Survey, since 2014. The Committee were informed that the information collated for this target is only focussed on formal sporting measures via a very targeted survey. Due to the type of information used, it was noted this does not accurately reflect the actual levels of participation across the borough.

There is a positive increase in indicators relating to the proportion of adults with learning disabilities who are in paid employment .

Where there have been reductions in the amount of recycling, this is due to the introduction of garden waste charging in 2015 and less tonnage collected at kerbside.

Street and Environmental cleanliness targets (with the exception of graffiti) have been met. The Council are working with the British Transport Police, Nexus and Network Rail to target graffiti hotspots.

Where targets for decent homes have not been met it was advised that this is a direct result of the reduction of capital.

Reference was made to financial inclusion and the increase in the number of people seeking advice. It was noted that this increase is linked to changes in the welfare system and the Committee suggested that this information needs to be captured, linked with information for homelessness and thought given as to how this information can be used in order to help local communities that are suffering.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the activities undertaken at year end 2015/16 are achieving the desired outcomes in the Council Plan 2015-2020. Where targets have not been met, the reasons for this were noted.
 - ii) That the report be referred to Cabinet on 12 July 2016.

CPL7 CORPORATE STRATEGIC TRACKER AND TARGET INDICATORS - 2020

The Committee received a report outlining the proposed service targets for the period up to 2020.

It is proposed that the strategic indicators be split into 'tracker' or 'target' indicators; 'target indicators' are those issues where there is direct control by the Council and its partners, targets can be set and improvements measured regularly. For these indicators a fixed 2020 target will be set and progress towards this target will be reported on. 'Tracker indicators' are those targets that the Council and its partners have no direct influence to make changes quickly, these indicators will be tracked and benchmarked and the longer term trend will be monitored.

The indicators set for 2020 within the report were highlighted.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the Committee noted the proposed 2020 targets set for the corporate strategic indicators and the available benchmarked performance to ensure the Council's performance is continuously improving to contribute to the delivery of Vision 2030 and the Council Plan.
 - ii) That the Committee agreed that the report be submitted to Cabinet for approval

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TITLE OF REPORT: Flood Risk Management Strategy -
consultation

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities
& Environment

SUMMARY

The draft Flood Risk Management Strategy has now been approved by Cabinet. It is intended to undertake a consultation on this prior to reporting back to Cabinet and Council for approval of the final version. This report outlines proposals for consultation for comment.

Background

1. Cabinet approved the draft Flood Risk Management Strategy for Gateshead on 13 July 2016. This is a statutory document the Council is required to produce and keep up to date in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the area.
2. The Strategy is a relatively high level document setting out broad principles and policies for the management of flood risk. Responsibilities for delivery of these are spread over a number of partners, including the Council (acting as LLFA but also as Planning Authority and highway Authority), Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency. It does not identify individual flood alleviation schemes.

Flood Risk Management Strategy

3. A summary of the draft Flood Risk Management Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

Proposed consultation

4. The draft Strategy was prepared in consultation with a number of bodies with an interest in flood risk. These include other council services with duties or responsibilities related to flood risk, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water. An Advisory Group for Council Members was held on 16 March 2016.
5. Consultation seeks to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment through a public consultation. The aim is to use this to

identify any amendments to the proposed strategy which would improve its overall effectiveness.

6. The proposed consultation will be primarily through the Council website and social media, supplemented by printed media (Council News and/or the local press) where possible. The strategic nature of the document, with only limited spatial information, means that a more extensive public consultation exercise is not proposed.
7. It is also proposed to present the draft to the Gateshead Strategic Partnership, specifically the Economy, Environment and Culture Board. This will bring it to the attention of a wider range of bodies with a specific interest in Gateshead. Neighbouring local authorities will also be informed of the consultation.

Next steps

8. It is intended to undertake the consultation exercise throughout the remainder of 2016. Following this a revised version of the Strategy will be put to Cabinet and then Council for formal approval.
9. Progress in implementing the Strategy will be reported to OSC as part of the annual review of flooding issues.


Recommendations

10. It is recommended that this Committee notes the proposals for consultation on the draft Flood Risk Management Strategy. It is invited to suggest other avenues or interests to contact which would help improve the overall effectiveness of the consultation.

Appendix 1

Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary

**Highways & Flood Risk Management
Gateshead Council**

 Gateshead <i>Council</i>		CIVIC CENTRE REGENT STREET GATESHEAD NE8 1HH Tel: 0191 433 3000 Fax: 0191 433 2651
COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT HIGHWAYS & FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT		
Version	Date	Amendments
Version 1	13/01/16	

Prepared by:

Gateshead Council
 Transport Strategy

For further information, please contact:

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Introduction

Since the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) Gateshead Council as the lead local flood authority (LLFA) has a responsibility for managing flood risk within the borough.

The flood risk management strategy (FRMS) outlines the Council's responsibilities as the LLFA and how these are to be delivered through a number of policies. The document also outlines the responsibilities of other risk management parties including Northumbrian Water, the Environment Agency, the highway authority and landowners.

Policies and Legislation

The FRMS takes into consideration national legislation such as the FWMA and the Land Drainage Act 1990 in addition to regional and local policies including the Council's Vision 2030 and Core Strategy documents.

While national framework outlines legal responsibilities and duties of LLFA's and others, local documents must also be considered to ensure flood risk does not have a detrimental affect on the borough.

Responsibilities of the LLFA

As the LLFA there are six main duties the council must perform, these are to give a strategic overview of flood risk management and ensure any incidents, or works to reduce the risk of flooding are planned and coordinated between responsible parties:

a duty to produce a flood risk management strategy;

a duty to cooperate with other RMA's;

a duty to maintain a register of flood risk assets;

a duty to promote sustainable drainage;

a duty to investigate flooding incidents;

power to consent works in ordinary watercourses.

In addition to these duties the LLFA are also a statutory consultee of the local planning authority.

Other Council responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities the Council has as the LLFA, there are a number of other responsibilities related to flood risk as the highway authority, planning authority and also responsibilities related to emergency planning. These are outlined in the full document and have been taken into consideration when developing the policies within the document.

Other responsible parties

In addition to the Council there are others with responsibilities related to flood risk management, while other risk management authorities such as the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water have similar responsibilities as the LLFA, landowners also have rights and responsibilities.

Responsibilities are dependent on the source of flooding and these are summarised in the table below.

Northumbrian Water (NW)

Northumbrian Water is the regional water company responsible for the supply of water and management of the public sewer network within the region and has a responsibility to manage flood risk relating to these.

Highway Authority

The highway authority has the responsibility to drain surface water from the highway. While the majority of adopted highway is the

responsibility of Gateshead Council, trunk roads such as the A1 and A194(m) are the responsibility of Highways England.

Environment Agency (EA)

The EA is the main body for improving and protecting the environment nationally, including the management of flood risk and the strategic overview of all forms of flooding. They are responsible for the management of flood risk from main rivers and coastal flooding.

Landowners

Landowners are responsible for managing watercourses, surface water and groundwater through their land. They have a duty to accept natural flow of these and must not deliberately discharge water through channeling or hard standing areas.

Objectives of the Strategy

To meet the responsibilities of the LLFA and Council policies, eight main outcome measures have been identified giving clear direction for the delivery of the strategy and what is required from the Council:

Work with local communities, stakeholders and developers to deliver sustainable, good value solutions through a variety of funding sources to reduce the risk of flooding.

Take a proactive approach to investigating flooding incidents, raise awareness of the risks and responsibilities associated with flooding.

Develop and sustain a knowledge base on flood risk and sustainable drainage to provide a point of expert advice for local residents, businesses, stakeholders and developers.

Obtain and share information on existing drainage and flood risk assets by developing and maintaining a register of such, ensuring existing infrastructure is correctly maintained and functional.

Work with key partners involved in flood risk in the borough and neighboring authorities to develop sustainable and practical medium term plans.

Ensure flood risk poses minimal impact on critical infrastructure or potential economic growth opportunities.

Ensure Flood Risk poses minimal negative impact on the local and natural environment, encouraging enhancement wherever possible.

Ensure new developments do not have a detrimental effect on the drainage network, encourage sustainable drainage systems and further mitigation measures where required

Strategy Policies

To deliver these outcomes there are a total of twenty two policies within the strategy, these fall into four main sub categories and summarised below.

Informing and Investigating

These policies outline how the Council will raise awareness of flood risk and investigate reported flooding incidents. They have strong involvement with the local community and set a standard for the investigation process:

Develop Council website and explore the use of social media to give good

management information, advice and support

Develop a flooding investigation protocol with a clear and defined reporting system

Undertake work with local communities to raise awareness of flood risk and mitigation methods

Promote proactive flood mitigation approaches and offer informal advice through local media, events and Council buildings

Work with partners to ensure infrastructure and properties are protected against flooding

Raise awareness of flood warning systems, Met Office warning systems and other toolkits available to those potentially at risk from flooding

Ensure Council officers, members and other Council services are aware of the responsibilities of the LLFA and processes

Develop internal knowledge on flood risk management, mitigation methods and other relevant training to deliver a high level of service

Managing Risk, Infrastructure and Assets

The following policies develop a proactive approach to infrastructure related to flooding and critical risk areas. They involve working with other authorities and help to identify areas most at risk from flooding:

Identify funding opportunities for householders and businesses to prepare their properties against the risk of flooding

Share information with other RMAs on flooding incidents to develop and maintain a flood incident register

Develop a medium term plan for surface water management and flood mitigation schemes where there is a flooding history

Work with other RMAs to identify potential joint working opportunities to reduce flood risk

Ensure external funding opportunities are known and applied for where possible

Work with neighboring local authorities to take a regional and consistent approach to flood risk

Planning and environmental opportunities

These policies support the LLFA's role in the planning process and outline how a proactive approach to reducing flood risk and improving the natural environment will be taken for all sizes of development.

Integrate sustainable drainage into the new development process to a level which exceeds current standards

Work with developers and the Council's planning service to ensure that drainage and flood risk are considered throughout the development process

Develop a process to manage and reduce private hard standing areas having a negative impact on drainage systems

Investigate opportunities to open up culverts and restore natural banks when changing waterways, providing flood defenses or as part of new development

Joint working and medium term mitigation

The following policies look at future opportunities for areas with a flooding history or known flood risk, working with others can give opportunities to fund major flood risk schemes and other initiatives.

Identify funding opportunities for householders and businesses to prepare their properties against the risk of flooding

Share information with other RMAs on flooding incidents to develop and maintain a flood incident register

Develop a medium term plan for surface water management and flood mitigation schemes where there is a flooding history

Work with other RMAs to identify potential joint working opportunities to reduce flood risk

Ensure external funding opportunities are known and applied for where possible

Work with neighboring local authorities to take a regional and consistent approach to flood risk

Delivering the strategy

Following the implementation of the strategy annual overviews will be published on the Council website, these will provide information on flooding incidents in the borough, completed or proposed mitigation works and how we are delivering our duties as the LLFA.

In addition to this a number of documents will also be produced to support the strategy, these at present include:

sustainable drainage supplementary planning document;

flood investigation protocol;

flood asset protocol;

customer information on flood risk management.

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**TITLE OF REPORT: OSC Review – The impact of Gambling on the Borough
Evidence Gathering – gambling regulation and the extent
of licensed gambling in Gateshead**

**REPORT OF: Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director Development,
Transport and Public Protection**

SUMMARY

The Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee have agreed that it will carry out a review of the impact of gambling in Gateshead as part of the 2016/17 programme.

This first evidence gathering session will focus on the legal framework in place for the regulation of gambling and the types and number of premises licensed for gambling in the Borough.

The views of the Committee are being sought on the evidence presented.

1. Purpose of this session

This is the first in a series of four evidence gathering sessions being undertaken for this review. The purpose of this session is to explain the legal framework in place for the regulation of gambling and to advise on the extent of licensed gambling in the borough.

2. The Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Act 2005 came into force at the end of 2007 and brought in a new comprehensive system for gambling regulation in Great Britain.

The Act established a dedicated regulator at a national level in the form of the Gambling Commission. The Act however also recognised the potential local impact and importance of gambling and established local licensing authorities to manage gambling locally, in line with local circumstances.

The Act gives local licensing authorities broad discretion to manage local gambling provision including discretion as to the level of fees set to cover the cost of administering the local system of regulation.

The Act provides scope for the Gambling Commission to set an overall direction at national level while leaving local licensing authorities to lead locally.

The overall approach of the Act is to state that gambling is unlawful unless it is permitted by:

- the Gambling Act 2005 in relation to commercial gambling,
- the National Lottery etc Act 1993 in the case of the National Lottery
- the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in the case of spread betting

The Gambling Act 2005 establishes two offences - providing facilities for gambling or using premises for gambling without the appropriate permission. Such permission may come from a licence, permit or registration granted under the Act or from an exemption given by the Act. Where authority to provide facilities for gambling is granted, the type of gambling, the means by which it is conducted and the people by whom and to whom it is offered is regulated.

The Act places a legal duty on both the Commission and licensing authorities to aim to permit gambling and use their powers to moderate its impact on the licensing objectives rather than by starting out to prevent it altogether.

The three licensing objectives which guide the way that the Gambling Commission and licensing authorities perform their functions and the way that gambling businesses carry on their activities are:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

The Gambling Commission is required to issue guidance to licensing authorities on the manner in which they are to exercise their functions, and the principles to be applied by them in exercising them. Licensing authorities are required to have regard to this guidance.

The Commission also has the power to issue two types of codes of practice, a social responsibility code and ordinary codes which are intended to set out industry best practice. The Act requires licensing authorities in exercising their functions to have regard to the Codes of Practice.

3. The Role and Responsibilities of Licensing Authorities

Licensing authorities are given wide ranging powers and regulatory functions in relation to gambling. These include:

- issuing a statement of licensing policy setting out expectations about how gambling will be regulated in their area
- the power to grant, refuse and attach conditions to premises licences for gambling activities
- the power to review premises licences and attach conditions or revoke them as a result
- to consider notices given for the temporary use of premises for gambling

- to grant permits for gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners' welfare institutes
- to regulate gaming and gaming machines in alcohol-licensed premises
- to grant permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines
- to grant permits for prize gaming
- to consider occasional use notices for betting at tracks
- to register small societies' lotteries that fall below certain thresholds
- to set and collect fees

4. The Statement of Licensing Policy

Licensing authorities are required to develop, consult on, and publish a statement of their licensing policy. The statement must set out the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Gambling Act 2005. It is expected that licensing authorities will use the policy to set out the local issues, priorities and risks that inform and underpin its approach to local regulation.

The Gambling Act 2005 requires licensing authorities to publish a statement of policy every three years.

Gateshead Council's current policy came into effect on 18 January 2016.

5. The Licensing Framework

The Act creates three types of licence:

- operating licences, which are required by businesses in order to provide gambling facilities lawfully
- personal licences, which are required by some people working in the gambling industry
- premises licences, which are required to authorise premises to provide gambling facilities

The Gambling Commission has responsibility for granting operating and personal licences for commercial gambling operators and personnel working in the industry.

Licensing authorities have responsibility for licensing gambling premises within their area, and for authorising the temporary use of premises for gambling, for issuing permits for a range of gambling activity and machines and registering small society lotteries.

6. Premises Licences

Premises licences are granted by licensing authorities, to existing operating licence holders and may authorise the provision of facilities on :

- casino premises
- bingo premises

- betting premises (including tracks)
- adult gaming centres (AGCs)
- family entertainment centres (FECs)

Applications for premises licences are made to the licensing authority on prescribed forms which require the applicant to detail how the licensing objectives will be promoted and must be accompanied by a plan of the premises. Notice of applications must be published in a local newspaper, displayed outside the premises and sent to responsible authorities (public bodies that are entitled to make representations to the licensing authority including the Gambling Commission, the police, the local safeguarding children board and HM Revenue and Customs).

Licensing authorities are obliged to consider any representations from responsible authorities or interested parties when making decisions about applications. Interested parties may include people living near premises those with business interests that might be affected by an application.

Where no representations are made with respect to an application then the licence will be granted by officers under delegated powers. If representations are made then the licence application will be considered by a Sub Committee of the Licensing Committee.

Existing premises licences may be reviewed by the licensing authority itself or by responsible authorities or interested parties. Review applications are also considered by a Sub Committee of the Licensing Committee.

7. Casinos

Licensing authorities have the role of issuing premises licences for casinos and monitoring these licences. The issue of new casino premises licences is subject to specific legislation which defines in which licensing authority areas casino premises licences may be issued and there is currently no prospect of a casino licence being permitted in Gateshead.

8. Bingo

There are two types of bingo – cash bingo and prize bingo. Cash bingo is the main type of bingo played in commercial bingo premises with a bingo premises licence. Prize bingo is usually also offered in commercial bingo premises between main stage cash bingo games but it is also found in a range of other gambling premises most traditionally in arcades and funfairs.

The holder of bingo premises licences can also make a restricted number of higher stake and prize gaming machines available at the premises.

Bingo is a class of equal chance gaming permitted on alcohol licensed premises and in clubs and miners' welfare institutes with controls in place to ensure that it remains a low stake and prize activity in these settings.

There are currently 3 licensed bingo premises in the borough of Gateshead.

9. Betting

A betting premises licence enables the provision of facilities for betting, by making or accepting bets or by acting as a betting intermediary. There are currently 42 betting premises in Gateshead.

As well as making provision for betting the holder of a betting premises licence can make up to four higher stake and prize gaming machines available subject to category restrictions.

There are currently 42 licensed betting premises in Gateshead.

10. Adult Gaming Centres (AGCs)

AGCs are arcades for adults providing gaming machines with higher payouts than family entertainment centres.

Licensed AGCs are permitted to offer a number of higher stake and prize (Category B) gaming machines and are strictly for over 18's only.

There are currently 11 licensed adult gaming centres in Gateshead.

11. Family Entertainment Centres (FECs)

Licensed FECs are able to offer an unlimited number of lower stake and prize (category C & D) gaming machines. Children are allowed to enter licensed family entertainment centres, but they are only permitted to gamble on category D machines. All category C machines must be located in over-18 areas, that is sectioned off from the category D machines. There are currently 1 licensed family entertainment centres in Gateshead.

12. Gaming machines in gambling premises and other premises

The term 'gaming machine' covers all machines on which people can gamble other than home computers. There are a number of exceptions including skill machines and self service betting terminals.

The legislation defines four categories of gaming machine, A,B,C and D according to the maximum amount that can be paid for playing the machine and the maximum prize it can deliver and describes number and categories of machine that are permitted in each type of gambling premises.

Pubs and other alcohol licensed premises are automatically entitled to two category C or D gaming machines upon notification to the licensing authority of their intention to make gaming machines available for use. Currently 145 such notifications have been made in Gateshead. Licensing authorities can issue gaming machine permits which allow additional category C and D gaming machines to be provided. 13 such permits have been issued in Gateshead.

Family entertainment centres (FECs) are most commonly found at seaside resorts, in airports, and at motorway service centres. FECs cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young people. As described above Licensed FECs are able to offer an unlimited number of lower stake and prize (category C & D) gaming machines.

Unlicensed FECs are able to offer category D machines if they obtain a gaming machine permit from their local licensing authority. Any number of category D machines can be made available with such a permit (subject to non-gambling considerations, such as fire regulations and health and safety). Three such permits are currently issued in Gateshead.

Club gaming permits and club machine permits granted by licensing authorities allow the provision of no more than three gaming machines in total in clubs and miners' welfare institutes. One club gaming permit and 40 club machine permits have been issued in Gateshead.

13. Other permits

Prize gaming is gaming where the nature and size of the prize available is not determined by either:

- the number of people playing
- the amount paid for, or raised by the gaming.

Prize gaming permits can be issued by licensing authorities, to those who would like to run prize gaming from a premises they occupy, or plan to occupy, if the premises does not already have an existing premises licence or a club gaming permit. There are currently no prize gaming permits issued in Gateshead. Club gaming permits, described above, also allow equal-chance gaming (for example, poker) and games of chance (for example, pontoon, chemin-de-fer) under certain restrictions.

14. Small Society Lotteries

Society lotteries are lotteries promoted for the benefit of a non-commercial society. A society is non-commercial if it is established and conducted:

- for charitable purposes
- for the purpose of enabling participation in, or of supporting, sport, athletics or a cultural activity
- for any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain.

A small society lottery:

- does not have proceeds that exceed £20,000 for a single draw
- does not have aggregated proceeds from lotteries in excess of £250,000 in any one year.

Small society lotteries do not require a licence but must be registered with the local authority in the area where the principal office of the society is located. Details of registration requirements and procedures should be available from the licensing department of the relevant local authority.

There are currently 82 registered small society lotteries in Gateshead.

15. Further evidence gathering sessions

The next evidence gathering sessions will focus on local and national concerns about gambling and will include evidence and observations from local and national regulators, operators, trade bodies, treatment providers, charities and public agencies.

There will also be an exploration of developing research evidence on gambling related harm and a review of recent developments and best practice and how it can be used in Gateshead to minimise gambling related harm.

16. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee gives its views on the evidence presented.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Reducing Carbon Emissions - progress update

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director of Communities and Environment

Summary

This report presents a progress report on initiatives to reduce carbon emissions within Gateshead Council, and the borough as a whole. Issues and challenges for further investigation are also suggested.

OSC is requested to note the progress made, and consider proposals for issues to be investigated further.

Background

The Sustainable Communities Place OSC has agreed that it receive annual progress reports on reducing carbon emissions, following on from its consideration of a carbon reduction case study within its work 2010-11 programme.

In Gateshead's Community Strategy, Vision 2030, Gateshead has targets to reduce energy and carbon emissions. The Gateshead Strategic Partnership has also adopted a Climate Change Strategy in March 2010, to deliver these targets, and the Council Plan 2012-2017 identifies "Reducing Carbon Emissions" as one of Gateshead's Strategic Needs, to be addressed through the Green Gateshead Strategic Intervention.

The Council also has its own Carbon Management Plan, adopted in March 2009, which is aiming to cut Council carbon emissions by 35%.

The Council has also made several public declarations on its aspirations to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions, as follows:

Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change
Eurocities Declaration on Climate Change
EU Covenant of Mayors

Previously, the OSC agreed that more needs to be done to achieve the above ambitious carbon emissions targets, and has reviewed this as case study in January 2011, and received progress report in April 2012, April 2013, April 2014 and June 2015.

3 Reducing Carbon Emissions

The Energy Services Team within Communities and Environment group lead the Council's strategy for reducing carbon emissions, and co-ordinating programmes of carbon reduction initiatives. For clarity, the topic of reducing carbon emissions is split into two areas; Council carbon emissions, and community carbon emissions.

3.1 Reducing Council Carbon Emissions

Current position up to 2014/15

The Council's Carbon Management Plan was adopted in March 2009 and now has a target of reducing Council carbon emissions by 35% by the end of 2016.

As of March 2016, actual greenhouse gas emissions from Gateshead Council operations fell again by almost 13%, and are now 26% lower than in 2007/8. This is most savings that have been achieved in a single year, since the Carbon Management Plan began. Accounting for variability in annual temperatures, weather-corrected emissions are 27% lower

Approximately 9% of the reduction was due to actual energy consumption reducing. The further 4% was due to the carbon content of UK electricity returning to normal levels, following a temporary increase during 2014/15.

In terms of energy consumption across all buildings and streetlights, the Council is using 22% less energy, than in 2017/8.

Notable progress is as follows

- Building energy consumption overall is now 19% lower than in 2007/8, with notable changes as follows:
 - The Civic Centre continues to lead the way in savings, with energy consumption down again, to 24% below 2007/8, in due to the installation of solar panels.
 - Electricity consumption fell by 6% in 2015/16 due to further energy efficiency, and solar PV installations - and this has included growth due to new school construction, and increased occupation of the Council's managed workspaces.
 - A colder than normal Spring led to a small increase in actual gas consumption but the weather corrected figures show an 11% reduction.
- Streetlight consumption now stands at 44% less than in 2007/8, showing the significant effect of the continued streetlight upgrade works to date
- Business travel figures show that travel emissions have fallen further and are now 46% lower than in 2007/8.
- Fleet transport emissions remained the same as last year, which is 24% less than in 2007/8.
- Landfill gas emissions have dropped significantly during 2015/16 and are now at 51% of 2007/8 levels, as a result of improved gas capture and flaring at a number of sites.

The financial benefit of the above is clear, with the reduced energy consumption over the past 8 years avoiding £2.0m of increased energy costs to the Council, Schools and Gateshead Housing Company.

What has been achieved in 2015/16?

SALIX invest to save Fund

Since last April, an additional £258k of energy efficiency projects has been delivered, bringing total invested since 2009/10 to £1.96m of projects.

Almost all projects delivered in 2015/16 focused on installing LED lighting, which is becoming the highest priority measure. Projects included:

- Replacement LED lighting throughout at Gateshead Leisure Centre commenced (completion due December 2016)
- Replacement LED lighting installed in Blaydon and Heworth Leisure Centre gyms, coordinated with the lease renewal for gym equipment.

Projects have been commissioned with some design works commenced in 2015/16 for:

- LED Lighting at Gateshead International Stadium (out to tender)
- LED Lighting to Dunston Leisure Centre Gym (completed April 2016)
- LED Streetlighting to South Shore Road + various Parks
- BMS optimisation/inverter driven pump installation at the Civic Centre, Priory Court and Warwick Court

In addition, energy efficiency works at schools and academies continued:

- £33k of energy efficiency works at Windy Nook Primary School was completed.
- £12k scheme to install LED lighting + BMS optimisation at Brandling Primary School.
- Interest-free loans have also been secured to progress energy efficiency works in 2016/17 at Bensham Grove Nursery and Heworth Hall.
- The Council secure and delivered £450k energy efficiency scheme for Joseph Swan Academy. Furthermore, the Council made a successful bid to the Condition Improvement Fund for a further £490k to fund asbestos cleaning, which will allow the final LED Lighting works to be installed during summer 2016/17

Projects commissioned to date will be saving the Council and schools

- Ca. £600k per annum
- Over 3400 tonnes of CO2 per annum (which accounts for more than one third of all the reductions in carbon emissions to date)

Streetlighting upgrade

Between April 2015 and April 2016 an additional 1,749 residential street lighting columns were fitted with more efficient LED lanterns, completing the current phase of streetlight upgrades.

New trials of streetlighting dimming commenced:

- From Jul 2015, ca. 1200 main road lights, on strategically selected roads, were switched off at midnight and switched back on at 5.30am each morning.
- From September 2015, ca. 19,000 residential LED lanterns were dimmed, starting at 50% power, then reducing to 25% power from midnight until 5.30am, then back to 50% power.

Apart from a few changes required to a few of the main road lights dimmed, due to localised traffic management concerns, the trials have been successful, with little or no issues arising.

Approvals were put in place for further streetlighting upgrades, which are scheduled for future years:

- Approximately 1000 concrete lighting columns left in the borough which still have HID lanterns. These are currently being replaced by new tubular steel columns with LED lanterns. This project is due for completion 2017/18.
- Funding has also been approved for the replacement of 10,000 existing main road lanterns with LED lanterns (these were upgraded at the start of the upgrade programme, but technologies and costs have progressed to make the conversion of these lanterns to LED viable). This project is currently in the tender stage, with installations projected to start mid 2017.

Overall, the streetlighting upgrade has so far achieved the following

- A 44% reduction in electricity consumption, equivalent to at least £800k per annum in electricity costs at current rates (not including reduce maintenance costs, and inflation of electricity rates)
- Over 3,700 tonnes of CO₂ per annum (equal to 8% cut in Council carbon emissions)

Solar PV installation programme

During 2015/16, a total of £2.8m of solar PV schemes were installed, totalling 2 MW, across 34 buildings. In summary, the installations included:

- 0.62 MW installed on 7 operational Council buildings
- 0.62 MW installed on 17 maintained schools
- 0.27 MW installed on 4 academies
- 0.15 MW installed on 4 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle schools
- 0.34 MW installed on 2 public sector partner buildings

The panels have been confirmed to be performing as expected, and will recover all finance costs and generate an estimated £2.5m in surplus income or savings over their 20 year life.

The scheme is estimated to have cut Council carbon emissions by 900 tonnes per year, or a further 3% towards the Council's target of 35%.

Council transport

The Council Travel Plan (CTP) has been reviewed and revamped with a more interactive and responsive approach to promotion of sustainable and active travel. A website for employees to easily access information about public transport, corporate passes, cycle loan or purchase, pool car booking, etc., is now in place - see www.travelsmartergateshead.co.uk Staff can also view profiles of colleagues who commute and/or make business journeys sustainably, and a different aspect of the website is highlighted monthly in the Council Info email. The website will continue to be regularly refreshed to ensure it remains current and relevant.

As part of the CTP review, staff bus passes (Go North East Key Cards) for business journeys have been put in place to facilitate staff travelling by bus; these have been very well-received and are proving popular. A project to install 2 electric bikes (plus storage and charging facilities) for staff business use is now complete. These and pool pedal bikes now benefit from an improved and more prominent storage location, as well as regular maintenance. As part of the travel plan, the Council has 18 pool cars including 3 electric ones, 16 based at the Civic Centre; these are provided to reduce dependency by employees on use of private cars or additional purchase of a car purely for work purposes.

Future work and challenges

Ongoing work and challenges are as follows:

- Energy efficiency works in schools continue to be offered, but take up by schools is challenging, and availability of interest free loan finance is reducing, particularly for academies.
- Energy efficiency projects are focusing increasingly on LED lighting replacements, and its expected that the pipeline of projects will continue for several years across operational buildings.
- 2016/17 will see further work on progressing connections of more Council buildings to the Town Centre District Energy scheme, in particular for Park Road, Shearlegs Road, Gateshead Leisure Centre, Central Library and Prince Consort Road.
- The Council had allocated up to £11m to invest in solar PV on Council buildings, schools and Council homes. However, new installations were halted from September 2015, due to the government issuing consultation regarding the future of Solar FITs. From January 2016, Feed in Tariffs were significantly reduced, making the case for installing solar PV less viable, and the weakening strength of the pound in recent months has increased the cost of some components. While the Council is exploring potential further solar PV installations, installation costs need to come down considerably, before these become viable again

Current position

We can report on 2 years progress of carbon emissions, having revised the timing of this report. Gateshead's carbon emissions fell over 2013 and 2014, by 2% then 8% respectively, now standing at 30% less than in 2005.

The main cause of this decrease was significant reductions in both domestic emissions (19%) and employers emissions (17%) - while this was in part due to a return to average winter temperatures, after the colder 2012, this does not explain the majority of the change, which must be down to better energy efficiency.

Employers' energy use is also now 34% less than in 2005. It is encouraging to see emissions overall still reducing, while the economic recovery from the recession in 2009 continues, suggesting increasing energy efficiency is taking effect within businesses.

Carbon emissions from traffic also continues to fall, albeit at a slower rate - and transport carbon emissions in Gateshead are now 15% less than 2005 levels. This is a 1% drop from 2012, despite traffic volumes increasing by 2% over the same period, indicating that vehicles and fuel continue to become more efficient and lower carbon.

What has been achieved in 2015/16?

Energy efficiency in homes:

The Council continued to promote the North East's "Warm up North" partnership. While Warm up North has faced significant challenges, particularly managing changes to national grant funding, over 50% of the spend of Warm up North across the region has been within Gateshead, with a corresponding high proportion of outputs delivered in Gateshead.. Progress in 2015/16 includes:

- Warm Up North has to March 2016 completed 322 measures to support affordable warmth, funded by £460k of grants (including 144 new boilers / heating systems, and 178 insulation measures).
- Works were ongoing to 210 Gateshead Council properties in Leam Lane and Heworth Grange are to benefit from External Wall Insulation, to be completed by May 2016. The cost of this scheme is £1.5m, with £180k grant funding supplied by British Gas.
- Final proposals were agreed for improvements to 144 homes across 3 high rise blocks - Beacon, Lough and Fell Court - which will receive new windows, External Wall Insulation and new roof covering, The scheme is due to commence May 2016 and be complete November 2016. Cost of this scheme £2.3m, with £445k grant funding provided by British Gas.
- The Council has promoted a new Free Gas Boiler scheme for qualifying households via Warm Up North, with articles in the Council News, leaflet distribution for promotion - located within Council premises, email distribution to Private Sector Landlords.

Outside of Warm up North, the Council and the Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) remains committed to improving energy efficiency across the social housing stock. During 2015/16, the following progressed:

- 456 boilers were renewed with modern A rated appliances. In addition to the boiler replacement, any undersized radiators are replaced; thermostatic radiator valves were stalled and modern thermostats and controls installed to give customers greater control over their central heating and energy use.
- 665 homes had their single glazed timber windows replaced with modern efficient Upvc double glazed units.
- In addition to traditional element replacements targeted work has been carried out in 414 properties. This work has seen insulation improvements in specific locations that have been prone to heat loss, cold bridging or mould growth.
- The Council and TGHC also submitted an outline application for ERDF grants, to fund new district heat and power schemes for up to 750 high rise homes, in the Gateshead HEIGHTs scheme (High-rise Energy Infrastructure for Gateshead Housing Tenants).

In terms of performance, as of March 2016, 55% of all homes in Gateshead now exceed the recommended energy efficiency rating (SAP = 65), compared to only 14% 10 years ago in 2003. Over 34,000 homes have been improved into the highest energy efficiency band.

New housing and development

- Felling Local Centre opened in April 2016, and the development achieve BREEAM Good, and features 2 electric charging points, air source heat pump system, solar thermal hot water system, roof mounted photovoltaic system, and LED lighting.
- The Gateshead Regeneration Partnership built 33 units in Saltwell and 40 units in Birtley, each achieving Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, including solar panels on the roof, enhanced insulation and energy efficient boilers. The Partnership also secured planning permission for a further 147 units to be built to the equivalent of Code 4.
- In June 2015, the Council started construction of the Energy Centre for the Gateshead Town Centre District Energy Network. In January 2016, construction of the heat and power network commenced. The initial phase aims to include commercial customers, including Hilton Hotel, and Baltic Place offices, in addition to the 6 public and domestic buildings to be connected.
- Other Progress since then includes:
 - Gateshead Energy Company was incorporated in October 2016, and has been awarded the contract to operate the network for 40 years.
 - The Council progressed further feasibility work, funded by the government's Heat Network Delivery Unit. to explore extensions to other areas in the town centre. On the back of this, the capital programme now includes funding for potential extensions of the

district energy network, to the Gateshead Leisure Centre area, and Trinity Square.

- Contractors have also been commissioned to start feasibility studies on District Energy schemes for the Metrocentre and Team Valley, which will be carried out from June 2016.

Transport

The Government supported 'Go Smarter To Work' initiative ~~is promoting~~ continues to promote sustainable travel promotion in the workplace. The initiative is focussed on the A1 corridor, including Team Valley, Metro Centre and central Newcastle/Gateshead, with each area having its own dedicated team of practitioner the programme is currently supported by Sustainable Travel Transition Year (STTY) funding, and a bid to the Access Fund for Sustainable Travel is being prepared for Sept 2016 submission. If successful, this would cover the period 2016-20.

The Schools Go Smarter programme, supporting sustainable travel to school projects, also continues to be fully implemented, with a combination of funding from STTY and NSRI sources. The profile of sustainable and active travel is much higher in schools as a result of the complementary initiatives, and cycling levels in many primary schools have risen markedly.

Local Transport Plan and other funding continues to be used to give priority to promoting alternatives to the car. This includes a range of measures to improve the attractiveness of public transport, cycling and walking across Gateshead.

Future work and challenges

- High-cost home energy efficiency measures, like solid wall insulation, still remains challenging to deliver for private and social housing, as the funding from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) has been further reduced, making this measure unviable for social landlords or homeowners. Lower cost alternatives are being explored, through Warm up North.
- The challenge going forward is to seek more innovative ways to tackle the hard-to-heat property types - tower blocks, and solid wall housing - which still require gap-funding. Funding bids have been made to ERDF for tower block schemes, but these are yet to be confirmed, and still subject to developments regarding the UK's exit from the EU.
- It remains challenging for the Council to require new developments to reach energy standards higher than building regulations. In addition, in March 2015, the government scrapped the Code for Sustainable Homes, preferring to use Building Regulations to enforce the move to more sustainable housing.
- But opportunities remain still. 2016/17 will see the start of operation of the town centre District Energy Scheme, and approval of extensions to the network, which will further reduce carbon emissions whilst providing cost savings to private, public and domestic customers.

- The opportunity to deliver, and potentially expand, other energy schemes, at Team Valley, Metrocentre, and incorporating new battery storage technologies, continues to be explored, which offer opportunities to continue to reduce carbon emissions, save energy costs, whilst generating income for the Council, and attracting new businesses and sustainable housing to Gateshead, boosting economic and housing growth.

4. Recommendations

- OSC are requested to note and provide comments on the current position, progress made so far, and future work and challenges.
- OSC to receive a report at a future meeting on progress with those items identified

Contact: Jim Gillon	ext: 3923
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TITLE OF REPORT: **Monitoring of OSC Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead**

REPORT OF: **Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment**

SUMMARY

This report provides a summary update on the actions arising from the OSC Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead.

Purpose of the Report

1. To highlight progress on the implementation of the OSC Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead and to seek the Committee's views on progress to date and future planned actions.

Background

2. The Council agreed in 2015 that the OSC should carry out a review examining the promotion of rural Gateshead as both a tourism and business location. Rural communities have significant economic potential and can contribute to the economic growth of both the borough as a whole but also the wider region. The review recognised the role of tourism in protecting, preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage and identity of the area, and that it can create opportunities for new businesses and job creation via more effective use of rural assets.
3. The scope of the review was agreed as:
 - **Business Growth** – To review services that support economic growth in the rural areas examining the potential for new businesses based around key assets. It will also review the partnerships approach to rural economic growth and the potential for new business and visitor accommodation to help improve economic performance.
 - **Emerging Places** – To review the services that deliver enhanced visitor potential, e.g. tourism activities, (including events,) environmental sustainability, volunteering opportunities etc. It will also explore better use for of key assets for economic purposes such as the Angel of the North.
4. The committee concluded their work would result in:
 - Ensuring that clear arrangements are in place within the Council and in

partner agencies for improving the promotion of the rural area as both a tourism and business location.

- Enhancing effective and efficient working and avoiding duplication.
- Providing direction as to the adherence of national policy.

5. The following issues were identified by the review –

- The untapped potential of many of the boroughs rural assets and a lack of visitor accommodation.
- The need to continue to work with local, regional, national and international partners to grow the number of day visitors and overnight stays.
- The need to work with the private sector to maximise the investment in the tourism businesses infrastructure.
- The lack of suitable, affordable business space in rural areas.
- The need to improve business communication and collaboration and ensure access to business support.
- Recognition of the need for enhanced partnership working to maximise the economic benefit for rural communities.
- Recognition of the impact of the rural area on health and wellbeing.

Final Recommendations

6. This report aims to summarise the key findings from the OSC's review of promoting rural Gateshead as a tourism and business location:

- (i) The Council should maximise the visitor potential of rural assets, thereby creating the best possible environment for tourism, new business development and job creation. Further research should be undertaken into the development of a 4 star hotel and to explore how the wider accommodation offer can be enhanced. The economic potential of key sites such as Gibside and the Angel of the North should be encouraged.
- (ii) There is scope to ensure that Council spending in the rural area seeks to maximise benefits to local businesses, residents and visitors – to make best use of resources and impact multiple agendas.
- (iii) There is scope to improve the tourism offer by increasing the choice and quality of the food offer, and also to identify gaps in the provision of rural services.

- (iv) Highly skilled people are needed if the tourism potential of rural Gateshead is to be realised. Apprenticeships opportunities should be explored.
- (v) There is the need to better coordinate the promotion of events in the borough, including those of public private and voluntary sector bodies. This would help promote the borough as a day visitor location and support the growth of jobs and businesses.
- (vi) There is a need to continue to support the work of the Land of Oak and Iron Landscape Partnership and maximise the potential for economic and cultural benefits arising from the programme.
- (vii) Discussions have highlighted a desire for NGI to have a more proactive role in marketing Gateshead as a whole including maximising the opportunities for promoting the rural areas of the borough.
- (viii) Research has demonstrated a continued lack of high quality, affordable business space in rural communities, therefore support to develop new enterprise hubs should continue, including the opportunities for existing cultural venues to generate income to support their future sustainability.
- (ix) The Council provides a borough wide business support offer, however opportunities to enhance this should be considered. External funding should be sought where possible to provide business support and help overcome isolation and provide networking opportunities. Opportunities to train people in key growth sectors should be encouraged as part of an approach to create higher level jobs in rural areas.

What has happened since completion of the review?

- 7. A **Cultural Tourism Project Manager** post has been created within the Economic and Housing Growth Service to deliver Cultural Tourism based initiatives in rural areas. This has been funded through the re-designation of resources. The work programme of this post will be jointly managed by Economic and Housing Growth and the Culture Team in Culture, Communities, Leisure and Volunteering.”
- 8. The **Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership** is now fully up and running with Groundwork NE & Cumbria the lead partner. Work has already taken to place to uncover the remains of a 17th century iron works in Derwenthaugh Park with further work planned to restore the scheduled ancient monument. Work is also underway to restore another scheduled ancient monument; Whinfield Coke Ovens near Highfield. Both projects involve providing better access and interpretation. Improvements to the public rights of way network are also planned with work taking place at Milkwellburn Woods, near Chopwell and in Greenside later in the year.

The Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre is at the planning application stage with Groundwork NE & Cumbria the applicant. This £1 million plus scheme has been developed in partnership with the Council and Northumbria University, who held a design competition for its architecture students. Over 35 designs were submitted with the 'water wheel' by Matthew Glover the overwhelming favourite at a public consultation. Work to secure the complete funding package is ongoing with decisions expected later this year from the two major funders.

9. **Angel of North site** – initial work has started to gather an information pack regarding the site by working with officers across the council. This will help assess 'what we know' and identify gaps in our knowledge that will need to be filled through the outcome of a feasibility study. A tender call will be designed and sent out to potential consultants in the New Year, with a report outlining an options appraisal returned in the spring/ summer.
10. **Promoting Rural Gateshead.** Further discussions have taken place with NGI to develop a marketing campaign to promote the rural area. This will address the need for greater relevance to be given to the rural assets of Gateshead in future Newcastle Gateshead Initiative (NGI) Visitor Guides/ marketing materials. £40k of NGI support time has been allocated, along with officer time to move this work forward. This **marketing campaign will be launched in spring 2017.**

Additionally, the Council is working with the Destination Management Organisations (DMO's) across the NELEP area, including the NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI) to enhance the collective assets of the region, with the aim of attracting more overnight visitors and therefore retaining spend in the area. It is exploring access to funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to support this approach.

Plans for the first calls for EAFRD funding are still being developed and are expected to be launched in late September. The programme is expected to provide grants to support the development of high quality accommodation and tourism development including attractions. Opportunities for public sector projects will be explored.

11. **The Council has identified the following funding opportunities to support the development of rural assets and attract additional visitors to the area:**

The RGN's Strategic Economic Infrastructure Fund supports the development of Strategic Tourism initiatives, whilst its Rural Business Growth Fund provides funding for capital equipment to support the growth of new and existing businesses. A new round of Rural Growth Network funding closes on the 3rd October, with the council promoting access to the grants widely through its networks and contacts. In addition funding from the LEADER programme will become available to support economic growth activity.

12. Work has continued with the private sector to **maximise the investment in the tourism businesses infrastructure in Gateshead:**

Daniel Farm near Crawcrook which opened earlier this year now employs 25 staff has been awarded the North East Rural Business start-up award at the recent NE awards sponsored by NCJ Media and ARCH, the Northumberland Development Company. The owner has recently purchased an adjoining farm and is currently exploring opportunities to extend recreational and tourism activity both at this and the existing site. The Council continues to explore opportunities to support this work.

Bradley Gardens, also located near Crawcrook employing approximately 38 people is exploring options for develop the site to improve parking, kitchen facilities and enhance commercial activities and increase staffing levels further.

13. Supporting the development of **affordable business space in rural areas:**

The Enterprise Hub based at the Kibblesworth Village Millennium Centre is now fully occupied, with three new and existing businesses. The numbers of jobs supported through the facility were underestimated, with 12 posts now supported. The income generated by the hub is helping the sustainability of the centre.

Marley Hill Community Centre has received first stage approval for Rural Growth Network funding to develop an enterprise hub. The centre is now developing more detailed plans, relating to a second stage application.

Clara Vale Community Association is also in the process of developing such a hub. Whilst the Council provided initial support on the concept, the centre has secured funding for some external consultancy to assist the process. Funding has now been secured to develop stage one of the hub.

14. The council continues to explore opportunities to access external funding to **support the business development process**. Officers continue to support businesses via the services provided through the Economic and Housing Growth Service – including externally funded provision. This includes support for business plans, networking opportunities and grants to support jobs and employment opportunities. Support is also provided to grow the social enterprise provision.

Recommendation:

15. Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to comment on whether sufficient progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Review of opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead.

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