

Public Document Pack



All Members of the Council

My Ref: LCS-DLDS-DS-C-022
Your Ref:

Contact Rosalyn Patterson
Tel: 0191 4332088

Date: Wednesday, 15
November 2017

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, at **2.30 pm** on **Thursday, 23 November 2017** to transact the following business:-

1 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 21 September 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)

2 Official Announcements

(announcements may be made by the Mayor, Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive)

3 Presentation by Director of Public Health

4 Petitions

(to receive petitions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10)

5 Questions from Members of the Public

(to consider any questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 7)

6 Parent Governor Representatives on Council Bodies dealing with Education
(Pages 9 - 10)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

- 7 Gateshead Local Plan - Consultation on Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) (Development Management Policies, Allocations and Designations)**
(Pages 11 - 22)
- 8 Review of Senior Management Arrangements in Communities & Environment and Corporate Services & Governance** (Pages 23 - 32)
- 9 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review** (Pages 33 - 52)
- 10 Local Council Tax Support Scheme** (Pages 53 - 60)
- 11 Addendum to Discretionary Rate Relief Policy** (Pages 61 - 68)
- 12 Report from the Cabinet** (Pages 69 - 77)

MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

- 13 Notice of Motion**
(to consider any notices of motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1)
 - 13a** Notice of Motion - A1 Improvements (Page 78)
 - 13a(i)** Amendment to Notice of Motion - A1 Improvements (Page 79)
 - 13b** Notice of Motion - Universal Credit (Page 80)
 - 13b(i)** Amendment to Notice of Motion - Universal Credit (Pages 83 - 84)
- 14 Questions**
(to deal with any questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.1)



Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 21 September 2017

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR P DILLON (CHAIR)

Councillors: J Green, A Thompson, J Adams, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, M Charlton, B Clelland, P Craig, S Craig, D Davidson, W Dick, S Dickie, K Dodds, C Donovan, A Douglas, D Duggan, John Eagle, M Foy, P Foy, M Gannon, A Geddes, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, J Graham, M Graham, T Graham, L Green, S Green, G Haley, M Hall, S Hawkins, M Henry, M Hood, J Kielty, L Kirton, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McClurey, J McElroy, C McHugh, E McMaster, P McNally, P Mole, R Mullen, C Ord, M Ord, I Patterson, S Ronchetti, C Davison, J Simpson, L Twist, J Wallace, A Wheeler and K Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors: C Bradley, L Caffrey, K Ferdinand, H Haran, C McHatton, M McNestry, B Oliphant, J Turnbull and N Weatherley

CL44 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20 JULY 2017

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 be approved.

CL45 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) The National Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards

The Mayor announced that the Council had been successful at the recent National Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards. The awards celebrate excellence in the support for people with learning disabilities and autism and aims to pay tribute to those individuals or organisation who excel in providing high quality care. Gateshead Council's Adult Social Care Provider service was successful and was won by New Vision, a user led enterprise, who won the 'Breaking Down Barriers' award. The judges expressed that New Vision shone through as an organisation that has vision, creativity and passion.

In recognition of this achievement the Mayor presented representatives from New Vision with the award for 'Breaking Down Barriers'.

(B) The Regional Energy Efficiency and Healthy Homes Awards

The Mayor announced that at the recent Regional Energy Efficiency and Healthy Homes Awards the Council's Energy Services team was successful in being named the Council of the Year. The Award recognises the Council's many achievements

over recent years in this field, including; 56% of homes are now classed as energy efficient, compared to only 14% a decade ago. Gateshead has made the largest investment in energy efficiency and generation schemes in the region through schemes like Warm Up North and the District Energy Scheme. This year, the Council itself has reached its target of cutting its own carbon emissions by 35% since 2007/08. The judges commented that they were impressed to see independent evidence that confirmed Gateshead's leading position.

In recognition of this achievement the Mayor presented representatives from the Council's Energy Services team with the award for the 'Council of the Year'.

CL46 BEAMISH MUSEUM UPDATE PRESENTATION

Richard Evans, Director of Beamish Museum, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the background of the museum, the social interaction work undertaken with local groups and the future plans for development of the museum.

CL47 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL48 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

CL49 GATESHEAD APPOINTMENTS TO NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR AND NORTH DURHAM JOINT HEALTH OSC

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the appointment of three councillors to the Committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the three representatives appointed to the Joint Committee are Councillor Mary Foy, Councillor Lynne Caffrey and Councillor Peter Maughan.

CL50 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the appointment of an Independent Person for standards of conduct issues affecting Council and Parish Council Members and three Independent Members to the Audit and Standards Committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the re-appointment of Anthony Atkinson as the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues for a further period of four years be approved.

- (ii) That the re-appointment of Bryn Jones and George Clark as Independent Members of the Audit and Standards Committee for a further period of four years and the appointment of Stuart Bell to the other Independent Member position for the same period be approved.

CL51 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2016/17

Consideration was given to the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2016/17.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2016/17 be approved.

CL52 PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE CHARGES FOR FOOD HYGIENE RE-RATING VISITS

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the introduction of a charge for undertaking Food Hygiene Rating Scheme re-rating visits.

COUNCIL RESOLVED -

- (i) That the implementation of a charge of £160 for undertaking an FHRS re-rating be approved.
- (ii) That the charge be reviewed in 12 months.

CL53 INTRODUCTION OF A DOG CONTROL ORDER

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for a consultation on the introduction of a Dog Control Order to be carried out.

COUNCIL RESOLVED -

- (i) To consult for a period of six weeks on the introduction of a Dog Control Order, subject to exemptions as appropriate for assistance dogs.
- (ii) That the Order be adopted the Order, subject to no representation being received within the consultation period.
- (iii) That a further report be presented to Cabinet and Council, in the event that objections to the proposed Order are received.

CL54 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of key issues currently affecting the Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the information be noted

CL55 NOTICE OF MOTION - TOBACCO CONTROL

Councillor M Foy moved the following motion:

“The Council welcomes the Government’s Tobacco Control Plan for England, “Towards a Smokefree Generation” published in July 2017. Its ultimate aim of a smoking prevalence of 5% is worthy and the Plan should be commended for promoting comprehensive tobacco control strategies. It calls for a shift in emphasis from national to local action in order to achieve its aims. However, there are gaps and the Plan comes at a time when Councils and the NHS face difficult funding challenges.

Since the launch of Fresh in 2005, Gateshead has been at the forefront of local comprehensive tobacco control and through an Alliance of passionate people has done much to reduce tobacco harm. This approach led Gateshead to sign up in 2014 to a commitment to reach 5% smoking prevalence by 2025 – an ambition which makes the Tobacco Plan aim of 12% prevalence by 2022 appear unambitious. In Gateshead, 17.9% (around 29,000 of our adult population) still smoke. The Council recognises that this remains the greatest single cause of preventable death. It underlies suffering from diseases and disability, and is a key determinant of inequalities. The cost to the NHS in Gateshead of treating diseases arising from smoking is £9.92 million pounds per year. One Gateshead resident dies every 20 hours as a result of tobacco dependence.

This Council urgently calls on the Government to consider how best to support local momentum and build on the achievements of the past ten years by:

- ensuring that tobacco companies pay for the harm they cause through the introduction of a levy on the ‘polluter pays’ principle which can fund action to reduce tobacco harm
- introduce a national licensing scheme to help eliminate the illegal trade in illicit tobacco and strengthen action on the sale of tobacco to children

Additionally, the Council commits to undertake a “Year of Action” to highlight the harms arising from tobacco use and what’s happening in Gateshead to counteract them.”

On the motion being put it was declared to be carried.

CL56 NOTICE OF MOTION - TIME TO CHANGE PLEDGE

Councillor M Foy moved the following motion:

“The Council recognises the impact that mental health issues have on residents and employers in Gateshead. Mental illness brings with it costs not only to individuals and their families, but also to society as a whole with the costs of mental ill health to the economy in England estimated at £105 billion.

Mental health is an issue Gateshead Council can’t afford to ignore; just over 27% of

staff absences were related to Stress Anxiety and Depression from April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Looking after the mental health of your employees makes business sense and tackling stigma can make a real difference to; sickness absence rates, presenteeism levels, staff wellbeing and productivity, and retention. Time to Change <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/> gives a framework to tackle stigma with the employer signing a pledge and developing a Seven Point action plan. Since signing the Employer Pledge, 95% of employers said it had a positive impact on their organisation.

The Council notes the potential health benefits to its residents and employees from engaging with Time to Change and recognises the support they will provide to develop an action plan and over the first year to get our workforce talking about mental health.

The Council commit to normalising the conversation about mental health in the workplace and additionally the Council commits to sign a Time To Change pledge, marking the commitment with a public signing of the pledge at an event at St James's Park, Newcastle on 09 October 2017."

On the motion being put it was declared to be carried.

CL57 NOTICE OF MOTION - EVE TREW SCHOOL OF DANCE

Councillor S Craig moved the following motion (altered in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2):

"Gateshead Council notes that the Eve Trew School of Dance celebrates its 60th Anniversary this month.

Countless thousands of Gateshead children and generations of families have benefitted from the School's work since it began in 1957.

The Eve Trew School of Dance has and continues to make significant contributions to the cultural and artistic life of the borough and is an institution of which we are all rightly proud.

We hereby record our congratulations on this marvellous achievement to Eve Trew School and all those who have worked with them for the past 60 years."

On the motion being put it was declared to be carried.

CL58 QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted.

Mayor.....

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL BODIES DEALING WITH EDUCATION

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to appoint a parent governor representative (PGR) nominated by their fellow parent governors, and a Church of England representative to its overview and scrutiny committee that considers education matters.
2. The Council is required by law to appoint PGRs nominated by their fellow parent governors and to appoint a Church of England Representative, to its overview and scrutiny committee that considers education matters.
3. Accordingly, the Council's constitution provides for four PGRs to be appointed and a Church of England Representative to be appointed to the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The four PGR places are split between the primary and secondary sectors, but with the proviso that if there are insufficient candidates from one sector, vacancies may be filled by candidates from the other sector. Due to the resignation of the two primary sector parent governor representatives and the previous Church of England representative nominations have been sought to fill these vacancies.
4. One PGR nomination has been received and a nomination has also been received for a new Church of England Representative and it is proposed that they are formally recommended for appointment.

Name

Mrs Jill Burrell (**PGR rep**)
Ms Cheryl Lain (**C of E rep**)

School

Rowlands Gill Primary School
St Aidan's C of E Primary School

Recommendation

5. *The Council is recommended to approve the appointment of the Parent Governor Representative and the Church of England Representative outlined above.*

Contact: Angela Frisby

ext 2138

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD LOCAL PLAN – CONSULTATION ON MAKING SPACES FOR GROWING PLACES (MSGP) (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES, ALLOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS)

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the MSGP Draft Local Plan for consultation.
2. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan. In March 2015 Gateshead Council jointly prepared a Local Plan with Newcastle City Council.
3. Progression of MSGP will ensure that Gateshead has the land use policies to meet the communities' needs and deliver the Council's strategic ambitions. It will help to create and sustain thriving communities and a more prosperous economy.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) approve a delegation to the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment, following consultation with the Portfolio holders for Transport Environment Housing and Economy to make any changes or updates to the LDS and to the SCI as and when required subject to the following recommendation (vi) below; and
 - ii) amend Schedule 5 of the Constitution 'Non-Executive Functions Delegated to Managers' to include the above additional delegation.

TITLE OF REPORT: **Gateshead Local Plan – Consultation on Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) (Development Management Policies, Allocations and Designations)**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to:
 - I. Publish the Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) Draft Local Plan document for consultation (attached at Appendix 2), which sets out detailed development management policies, land allocations and designations;
 - II. Publish for consultation the draft MSGP Policies Map, which will be made available as both a printed ‘hard-copy’ document, and as an interactive web-based resource
 - III. Publish for consultation the draft Plan’s supporting evidence base. This will incorporate a fresh ‘call for sites’, allowing opportunity to submit sites for consideration in the draft (SHLAA) and Employment Land Review (ELR),
 - IV. Publish an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), as attached at Appendix 4, which sets out the programme and timescales for producing this and other Local Plan documents, and publish an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), as attached at Appendix 5, which sets out how the Council will involve the community in the preparation of the Local Plan and in planning decisions that guide development in Gateshead; and
 - V. Authorise the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment, following consultation with the Portfolio holders for Environment & Transport, Housing and Economy to make any changes or updates to the LDS and to the SCI as and when required subject to the following recommendation (vi) below; and
 - VI. Recommend to the Council to amend Schedule 5 of the Constitution ‘Non-Executive Functions Delegated to Managers’ to include the above additional delegation.

Background

2. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan. In March 2015 Gateshead Council adopted Planning for the Future Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne 2010-2030 (CSUCP), a Local Plan document which was prepared jointly with Newcastle City Council. The CSUCP forms Parts 1 and 2 of Gateshead’s Local Plan, setting out borough-wide strategic policies (including the allocation of housing and employment growth sites), while providing a detailed policy framework supporting the development of Gateshead’s Urban Core.

3. Progression of MSGP, which will form Part 3 of Gateshead's Local Plan, will ensure that Gateshead has the land use policies to meet our communities' needs, and deliver the Council's strategic ambitions. It will help to create and sustain thriving communities and a more prosperous economy. Development, including provision for new homes, jobs growth and a portfolio of employment land, will be focused in sustainable locations predominantly in the built-up area. Specifically MSGP will:
 - Allocate a range of sites for housing development, further to provision within the CSUCP, to meet Gateshead's identified housing needs, including accommodation needs for Gateshead's elderly and disabled residents
 - Encourage jobs and investment through the designation of employment areas and the allocation of a range of employment sites
 - Designate the boundaries of district and local centres in Gateshead's retail hierarchy, and set a local threshold for retail impact assessments
 - Set out policies on the design and accessibility of development
 - Designate Gateshead's natural and built environment assets, including, for example, Conservation Areas, Areas of Special Character, Local Wildlife Sites and Wildlife Corridors
 - Designate settlement envelopes within the Green Belt.
 - Promote access to a healthier environment through, for example, the designation of green infrastructure and the setting of standards for open space and play facility provision, and through policies on climate change, flood risk and air quality
 - Make provision for the management of natural resources, including minerals, the restoration of former quarry sites and sustainable waste management.
4. MSGP does not include detailed policies for the Urban Core (these are provided within CSUCP) or Metrogreen (it is intended that a forthcoming Metrogreen Area Action Plan will establish a detailed policy framework for development of Metrogreen). However, some designations will apply, including some natural environment and heritage designations, and safeguarded land for transport schemes, for example. In addition to allocating housing and employment growth sites, the CSUCP also designated a revised Green Belt boundary to reflect the extent of these allocations, and other minor adjustments to the boundary as identified through the Strategic Land Review.
5. Additional minor revisions to the Green Belt are being proposed through MSGP. This follows from the recommendation of the Inspector who conducted the Examination of the CSUCP that such sites, smaller than those considered through the CSUCP and not strategic in terms either of their effect on the Green Belt or the resulting scale of development in the relevant rural settlement, should be subject to a review. A call for sites was undertaken in 2015 as part of an updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which allowed for such sites to be submitted for consideration. Only a small number of Green Belt sites were submitted through the SHLAA process, and following a detailed assessment, only three of those sites were concluded to be suitable for residential development.

Draft MSGP therefore proposes those sites are allocated for residential purposes and the boundary of the Green Belt is changed accordingly.

Preparing the Plan

6. Preparation of the Plan began in 2012 when Cabinet approved for consultation the Scoping Report on MSGP. The intention was to progress MSGP separately to the CSUCP, however, resources were ultimately focused on getting the CSUCP progressed and adopted, at a time of significant change in national policy and legislation.
7. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that each Local Planning Authority (LPA) must ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area (para158). The Council has worked to ensure that proposals and policies in draft MSGP are informed by a proportionate and up-to-date evidence base, addressing the issues and needs relating to housing, employment, infrastructure, minerals, the natural and historic environment, health and well-being, and viability and deliverability.
8. The SHLAA and Employment Land Review (ELR) provide key elements of the evidence base supporting MSGP: these documents identify suitable sites in Gateshead that are recommended for allocation for housing and employment development. It is important that these evidence base documents are based upon sound and up-to date evidence. Accordingly, it is intended that consultation on the evidence prepared to inform MSGP will include a 'call for sites' inviting interested parties to submit sites for consideration in the SHLAA and ELR.
9. In preparing the draft Plan the Council has worked closely with colleagues in Newcastle City Council (who are at a similar stage in preparing their equivalent plan) in order to ensure alignment and conformity with policies in the Core Strategy, in updating joint evidence and in addressing common issues. Collaborative working has also provided opportunities to share resources.
10. A draft policies map has been prepared to set out the plan's proposed designations and site allocations. The intention is that the map will also be web based and interactive.
11. Once adopted MSGP will form part of the Council's development plan and guide decisions about development proposals. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Existing UDP Policies

12. The policies once adopted would supersede the majority of remaining saved policies originally published as part of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in 2007.

Updated Local Development Scheme (LDS)

13. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Authorities are required to produce a LDS which sets out its programme of plan preparation for the next three years. Cabinet approved the Council's initial LDS on 22 March 2005. Three revisions in 2007, 2009 and 2013 took place, and a 2017 update has now been drafted to take account of changing timescales and additional documents that will be prepared.
14. The LDS sets out what documents are being prepared by the Spatial Planning, Environment and Housing Growth Team, what their scope will be, and estimated timescales involved. The LDS provides will be published on the website once approved by Cabinet. Progress in preparing Gateshead's Local Plan against the timescales of the LDS is monitored in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

15. Under section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Councils are required to produce an SCI, which outlines the Council's strategy for involving community groups, stakeholders and other organisations in the preparation and review of planning policy documents, and in the consideration of planning applications. The NPPF continues to place emphasis on early and proactive engagement with interested parties in the Development Management process, and in the preparation of Local Plan documents.
16. This is an updated SCI, the previous update was in 2013, and the SCI was first adopted in 2007.
17. The approach to consultation as set out in the SCI will apply to all future Local Plan documents prepared by the Council, and in determining planning applications. The objectives and guidelines set out will be in line with those established as part of the wider Council approach to community engagement.
18. The revised SCI will be adhered to in the development of the next stage of the Local Plan, Making Spaces for Growing Places. During the examination of Local Plan documents the appointed Planning Inspector will consider whether consultation took place in accordance with the adopted SCI.
19. Changes in the approach in the SCI see a shift towards electronic forms of consultation such as email and social media which reflects both a reduction in Council resources and a shift in the way the public and other stakeholders communicate.

Proposal

20. It is proposed that Cabinet notes the content of the draft MSGP Local Plan document, and agrees that it can form the basis for public consultation starting 30th October and ending on 10th December 2017.

Recommendations

21. It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- (i) The publication for consultation of the Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) Draft Local Plan document;
- (ii) The publication for consultation of the Draft MSGP Policies Map (Appendix 3);
- (iii) The publication for consultation of the Plan's draft supporting evidence base and in connection with the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and Employment Land Review (ELR), issue a fresh "call for sites" – for sites not previously submitted for consideration in 2015;
- (iv) The publication of an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (Appendix 4 and 5);
- (v) A delegation to the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment, following consultation with the Portfolio holders for Transport Environment Housing and Economy to make any changes or updates to the LDS and to the SCI as and when required subject to the following recommendation (vi) below; and
- (vi) Recommend to the Council to amend Schedule 5 of the Constitution 'Non-Executive Functions Delegated to Managers' to include the above additional delegation.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To progress the development of the Gateshead Local Plan as required by government policy and statutory obligations under Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Localism Act 2011 and Town and Country Planning (Local Plans) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The decision to publish MSGP for consultation is the first stage in progressing through to adoption Part 3 of Gateshead's Local Plan.
- (ii) To ensure that Council's programme for producing the Local Plan, and the means by which it will engage the community, including on planning decisions, are published and kept up to date.

Policy Context

1. Work on producing a Local Plan for Gateshead that meets the NPPF guidance is ongoing, the current focus being on the preparation of the draft MSGP Local Plan document, following on from the adoption of the CSUCP in 2015.
2. As part of the Local Plan, MSGP will help deliver Vision 2030, the Sustainable Community Strategy, and address key spatial issues. To achieve Gateshead's ambition, it is necessary to plan for economic and population growth and to support health and wellbeing including new development of employment and housing (particularly family homes), and all related facilities in ways that will ensure a sustainable and positive future for Gateshead. This means directing development to accessible, sustainable locations (on previously developed land or along transport routes) benefiting and sustaining our villages and neighbourhoods, the wider economy and the environment. Gateshead Council's ambition is for a range of housing types in different locations to ensure that there is a competitive housing market in Gateshead.

Background

3. MSGP has been prepared in the context of the adopted CSUCP, which sets out the broad approach to development within Gateshead and Newcastle to 2030, and was referred to in the Inspector's Report as an inherently sustainable strategy. The CSUCP was prepared in the context of a shared vision set out in a Bridging Document - Developing Sustainable Cities – which confirms that:

By 2030 Gateshead and Newcastle will be prosperous and sustainable cities that are unique and distinctive places - where people choose to live, work and visit because everyone can realise their full potential and enjoy a high-quality lifestyle.

4. As an overarching spatial plan, the CSUCP adopts a presumption in favour of sustainable development which means all development will be expected to be:
 - fully inclusive, irrespective of cultural background, ethnicity and age, to meet the diverse needs of all residents and communities;
 - well connected and accessible by sustainable modes of transport;
 - well designed to promote community cohesion, and wellbeing, and to reflect and enhance the area's character and natural environment; and
 - contributing towards the reduction of carbon emissions and adapted to the effects of climate change
5. The Plan will ensure that the role of Gateshead Centre, as part of the Urban Core, is strengthened, and that development needs are accommodated in the most appropriate locations.
6. MSGP, once adopted, will complement the CSUCP by bringing forward and updating designations and allocations of land currently set out in saved Unitary Development Plan policies. MSGP will provide the detail against which planning applications for development can be considered and determined, ensuring that the impact of

proposals on flood risk, health and the natural and historic environment, for example, are fully taken into account. The Plan is supported by a robust evidence base including an assessment of viability and of the infrastructure needed to support proposals in the Plan.

7. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was first approved in 2005, and has since had a number of modifications. The LDS sets out the timetable for preparing the Local Plan documents, and will be amended intermittently to reflect changing timescales and other circumstances.
8. The Statement of Community Involvement was first approved in 2007, and is being amended to reflect changes in planning legislation and changes in Council resources and the ways in which people engage with the Council. It sets out how the Council will involve the public and other stakeholders in the plan making process and also when determining planning applications.

Next Steps

9. Following consultation on draft MSGP from 30th October to 10th December 2017, the Council will review the representations and comments received and revisit the draft Plan and evidence base accordingly, making any adjustments which are considered to be necessary in consultation with Portfolio and other internal consultees. The proposed timetable is as follow:

Proposed Timetable	
Consultation on draft plan (Regulation 18)	October – December 2017
Analysis of Representations	December – January 2017/18
Preparation of Submission Draft DPD	January – May 2018
Consultation on Submission Draft DPD (Regulation 19)	Sep – October 2018
Consider modifications / Prepare Submission Document	October – January 2018/19
Submission of DPD to Secretary of State	February 2019
Pre-Hearing	May 2019
Examination hearings	June 2019
Receipt of Inspector's final Report	August 2019
Considered by Full Council	October 2019
Adoption	October 2019

10. In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), once adopted, the Plan will form part of the statutory Gateshead Local Plan for the area and will be a material consideration when determining planning applications.

11. It will provide an up to date planning framework but there will still remain some policy gaps where the Council will be reliant on dated policies.
12. The Development and Allocations LDD will be a more detailed and locally specific planning document for Gateshead. The document will allocate and designate land to ensure its future protection and include robust policies for the management of development.
13. Gateshead's Local Plan will ultimately consist of 4 Parts:
 - Part 1 Strategic Policies (CSUCP Plan)
 - Part 2 Urban Core Policies (CSUCP Plan)
 - Part 3 Development Management Policies, Designations and allocations (MSGP Plan - anticipated adoption in 2019)
 - Part 4 Metrogreen Policies (Metrogreen AAP currently being progressed)

Consultation

14. The Cabinet Members for Environment and Transport have been consulted.

Alternative Options

15. There are no realistic alternatives other than to proceed with consultation and progression of the draft MSGP document. The consequence of relying on out of date policies is that they may only be accorded limited weight. Given the age of the saved UDP policies this would increase the likelihood of new developments being assessed and decided in an unplanned way and reduce the ability of Gateshead to resist inappropriate development.

Implications of Recommended Option

16. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – Some modest cost will arise in consulting on the draft Plan. The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that these costs will be accommodated from within existing resources.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications arising from this report.

17. **Risk Management Implication** – Progressing and ultimately adopting MSGP will ensure Gateshead's Local Plan has full weight when it comes to planning decisions and will help to ensure the delivery of sustainable development in Gateshead, and provide greater certainty to local communities and the development industry on where and how development should take place. A consequence of not progressing and consulting on MSGP would be a reliance on out of date policies that may only be accorded limited weight. This would increase the likelihood of new developments being assessed and decided in an unplanned way and reduce the ability of Gateshead to resist inappropriate development.

18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP incorporates an Equality Impact Assessment which has determined that the Plan meets the Council's Equality Duty.
19. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
20. **Health Implications** - The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP incorporates a Health Impact Assessment and the Plan contains proposals designed to improve health and wellbeing.
21. **Sustainability Implications** - The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP assesses the sustainability implications of the Plan.
22. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report. As part of the Local Plan process the Council has a Statement of Community Involvement in place which will be complied with in consulting and engaging with the local community.
23. **Area and Ward Implications** - All

Appendices

24. Copies of the Appendices will be available in the Members' room and can be viewed via the links below:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/PlanningPolicy/MSGP-Documents-2017/Appendix-2-MSGP-Draft-Local-Plan-October-2017.pdf>

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/PlanningPolicy/MSGP-Documents-2017/Appendix-2-MSGP-Appendices-October-2017.pdf>

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/PlanningPolicy/MSGP-Documents-2017/Appendix-3-MSGP-Policies-Map-October-2017.pdf>

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/PlanningPolicy/MSGP-Documents-2017/Appendix-4-Local-Development-Scheme-2017.pdf>

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/PlanningPolicy/MSGP-Documents-2017/Appendix-5-Statement-of-Community-Involvement-September-2017.pdf>

Background Documents

Local Plan Evidence Library

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

REVIEW OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS: COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the changes to service structures within the Communities and Environment and Corporate Services and Governance service groups.
2. The Council continues to face a number of challenges managing significant budgetary pressures, it is anticipated that changes will continue until at least 2020 so the Council needs to ensure it can adapt with pace and purpose to continue to provide the best possible services to its residents.
3. This demands the continual review of the Council's approach to deliver change to provide prioritisation on the key areas of service delivery across the organisation.
4. The proposals are for changes to the Council's senior management arrangements which strengthen the capacity in both areas of major strategic importance to the Council.
5. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that Council approves the management structure changes detailed in the attached report, to be effective from:
 - i. In the case of the Commissioning and Neighbourhoods Service, from 1 December 2017; and
 - ii. In the case of the changes in Corporate Services and Governance, from 1 January 2018

or such later date as agreed by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council and further representations from trade unions.

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TITLE OF REPORT: **Review of Senior Management Arrangements: Communities & Environment and Corporate Services & Governance**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive**

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to recommend to Council changes to service structures within the Communities & Environment and Corporate Services & Governance service groups.

Background

2. As head of paid service, it is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure the Council's discharge of its many functions is co-ordinated, and to manage the organisation of its staff. This requires regular consideration of whether the Council's management structure and distribution of functions among its service groups optimises the Council's ability to pursue its policy priorities and deliver efficient and effective services, particularly in times of significant financial pressure and increasing demand.
3. The Council continues to face a number of challenges managing significant budgetary pressures, whilst meeting increasing demand as a consequence of demographic changes and a rapidly changing policy context. It is anticipated that the scale and depth of these changes will continue throughout the timeframe of the Council Plan (i.e. until at least 2020) so the Council needs to ensure it can adapt with pace and purpose to continue to provide the best possible services to its residents.
4. This demanding context necessitates the continual review of the Council's approach to deliver change at the scale and depth required to provide greater focus and prioritisation on the key areas of service delivery across the organisation. This includes streamlining and clarifying responsibilities and accountability for delivering change, and will be supported by changes in culture and ways of working that will achieve the objective of a more flexible approach to the deployment of leadership capacity across the organisation.
5. The focus on priorities allows for a more prioritised alignment across the Council on the key strategic areas of Economic Growth, Income Generation, Cost Reductions and Demand Management, and places a greater reliance on the Council's mainstream management and governance processes in the delivery of change across the whole organisation.
6. As identified in the current Council Plan, community resilience and development are fundamental to the delivery of the Council's MTFs and the achievement of a sustainable financial position. Of equal importance is the delivery of the Council's Workforce Plan, and the continual development of a human resources policy

framework which supports the delivery of the strategic plans and recognises the Council's workforce as its most valuable asset. The proposals in this report are for changes to the Council's senior management arrangements which strengthen the capacity in both these areas of major strategic importance to the Council.

Proposal – Commissioning & Neighbourhoods, Communities & Environment.

7. It is proposed that the scope of the service incorporates the following areas:

- Leading the development and implementation of the Council's strategy for engagement with the third sector within the borough, including co-ordination of the Council's commissioning, capacity building, supporting and communicating with voluntary, community and charitable organisations.
- Leading the development and implementation of the Council's community development, neighbourhood management, capacity building and volunteering strategies and a range of multi-agency strategies, policies, programmes, plans and services to address key issue areas within neighbourhoods and communities.
- Leading and managing development of the Communities & Environment service group's commissioning, business model development, service transformation, partnership working, performance monitoring and management, new business models and group business support.
- Leading and managing the South of Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership, including commissioning, procuring, monitoring and performance management of all ancillary contracts (recycling waste, green waste, household waste and recycling centre management, waste electronic and electrical equipment, landfill) on behalf of partner authorities to ensure they comply with statutory Waste Disposal Authority functions in line with the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.
- Leading the Council's planning and response to Resilience and Emergency Planning, including representing the Council at senior multi-agency planning and emergency response forums.

Proposal – Service reorganisation: Corporate Services & Governance.

8. It is proposed that the current service arrangements within the Corporate Services & Governance service group are realigned and the existing Legal, Democratic & Property service, and Human Resources & Litigation service, are replaced with a **Legal & Democratic** service incorporating the following:

- Leading the development of the Council's corporate governance framework (including the Council's Constitution and Ethical Framework) to support the achievement of its statutory duties and policy objectives
- A comprehensive legal service to the Council in relation to all functions, powers and duties, and to public service partners (e.g. schools, the Gateshead Housing Company).
- Democratic services, providing administrative support and advice to Councillors, council services and the public.
- Scrutiny support (including the statutory role of Scrutiny Officer)
- Information rights (including the statutory role of Data Protection Officer)
- Complaints (including Local Government Ombudsman liaison)

- Electoral services
- Civil Registration services
- Land Charges

and a **Human Resources & Workforce Development** service, including:

- Leading the development and implementation of the Council's Workforce Strategy and Plan (including the priority areas: skills and behaviour development; recruitment and retention; pay, reward and recognition; employee wellbeing and engagement; performance and change)
- Strategic and operational human resources management and workforce development services, including a comprehensive human resources policy framework and providing advice and guidance to managers on matters including employment legislation and best practice; discipline and grievance cases; pay and grading; union and employee relationships; absence management and appraisal and performance
- Providing strategic and corporate direction on workforce planning and development in relation to the skills and diversity of the workforce
- The development and delivery of corporate and employee Health & Safety and Occupational Health services, including safety audits and inspections, health assessments, health and wellbeing campaigns and support for disabled employees
- Identifying corporate learning and development needs and designing, procuring and delivering interventions as appropriate
- Providing advice and guidance on service delivery models and organisational restructuring, including appropriate change interventions and advice on matters such as lean management techniques, transfer of undertakings, employee engagement and culture change
- Leading the Public Service Academy and developing its shared learning programmes

9. Management arrangements for the Council's strategic asset management and property functions are currently under review and recommendations in relation to these functions will be put to Cabinet and Council in a further report in due course.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that Cabinet:

Agrees and recommends to Council approval of the management structure changes detailed in this report, to be effective from:

- i. In the case of the Commissioning & Neighbourhoods Service, from 1 December 2017; and
- ii. In the case of the changes in Corporate Services & Governance, from 1 January 2018

or such later date as agreed by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council and further representations from trade unions..

For the following reasons:

To enable continued improvement in the co-ordination of Council functions, the organisation of its staff, and to enable Council services to be delivered in a more efficient and effective way.

CONTACT: Mike Barker ext: 2100

PLAN REF:

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The Council is operating in a challenging national policy context which has been compounded by government funding reductions and announcements that indicate further significant reductions in resources available for local government.
2. The reconfiguration of services resulting from this reorganisation will assist in the delivery of Vision 2030 and in the implementation of the Council's Corporate Priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2015-2020 and its policy framework.

Background

3. The opportunity to re-organise the functions referred to in this report has arisen from the establishment of the Trading & Commercialisation Service, and the retirement of the current Service Director, Legal, Democratic & Property Services.
4. The alignment of the volunteering, community development and neighbourhood management functions with the commissioning function in Communities & Environment strengthens the leadership capacity and enables the Service Director to take up an enhanced role in the Council's engagement and co-ordination of activity with the third sector across the Borough. This will be a vital role in the Council's policy priority areas of increasing collective responsibility and community resilience, particularly through our approach to prevention, early intervention, and managing demand, as well as in our pursuit of public service reform.
5. The creation of a post within the Council's Leadership Team dedicated to workforce matters recognises the importance of continuing to develop and support our employees across the whole organisation. The increasing and varied demands on Council services, and the reducing resources available to meet them, mean that sustained transformation in services is necessary. This is likely to involve not only the continual strengthening of the Council's human resources policy framework to drive increased job satisfaction and productivity, but also the establishment of new model of delivery and new ways of working.
6. The opportunity is also being taken to consolidate the Council's legal capacity into one service, along with the Council's democratic functions, under a single service director, who will also carry out the statutory role of Scrutiny Officer and support the Strategic Director in carrying out his responsibilities as Monitoring Officer. Maintaining a strong governance framework is vital for the Council as it seeks ever-more creative ways to encourage economic and housing growth, generate income from trading its services, and manage demand, while also making efficiencies from improving its operational practice across all services.

Consultation

7. The Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant portfolio holders have been consulted on the proposals and no objections received.

8. The Council's recognised trade unions have also been consulted and no objections received.

Alternative Options

9. The proposals are put forward by the Chief Executive as the optimum response to the demands placed on the Council, as set out in this report. While one alternative option would be to make no change to the current organisational structure of the Council in these areas, this would not make the positive contribution toward achieving the aims set out within this report.

Implications of Recommended Option

10. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the proposals contained within the report will be met from within existing resources as there is no additional cost.

The objective of the changes to structure is to enhance the Council's engagement with the third sector, develop community capacity and drive forward the development of the Council's workforce to maximise its capacity and productivity consistent with our values and principles. This will form an important part of the medium term financial strategy that will maintain and secure the future financial sustainability of the Council.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – The proposals involve the reorganisation and enhancement of existing services under new service director roles. For the Commissioning & Neighbourhoods service, the majority of these services are currently within the responsibility of the Service Director, Commissioning & Business Support, Communities & Environment: the current postholder will therefore take up this new role.

With the retirement of the current Service Director, Legal, Democratic & Property Services, the opportunity is being taken to reorganise the functions within the Corporate Services & Governance group which will consolidate the legal functions under one service director: the current Service Director, Human Resources & Litigation. The new post of Service Director, Human Resources & Workforce Development will be recruited to via an external advertisement.

- c) **Property Implications** – there are no property implications arising directly from the proposals in this report.

11. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no specific risk management implications from the recommendations within this report..

12. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

- 13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
- 14. **Health Implications** - There are no specific health implications arising from this report.
- 15. **Sustainability Implications** - There are no specific sustainability implications arising from this report.
- 16. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.
- 17. **Ward Implications** - There are no specific ward implications arising from this report.

Background Information

18.

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017/18 – SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to inform of the latest position on the 2017/18 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2017. The report also considers the impact of CIPFA's Prudential Code on the capital programme and the monitoring of performance against the Statutory Prudential Indicators.
2. The original budget for the capital programme for 2017/18, as agreed by Council on 23 February 2017, totalled £95.209m, which was revised to £96.114m at the first quarter. The second quarter review now projects the year-end expenditure to be £91.357m.
3. The proposed slippage in the capital programme is resourced by external funding and prudential borrowing and the Council continues to manage the available resources in a flexible manner to ensure that the use of external resources is maximised where possible.
4. CIPFA's Prudential Code advises the regular monitoring of performance against the prudential indicators which regulate borrowing and investment. Targets and limits for the prudential indicators for 2017/18 were agreed at Council on 23 February 2017 and borrowing and investment levels have remained within these limits.
5. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) approve all variations to the 2017/18 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the attached report, as the revised programme.
 - ii) approve the financing of the revised programme.
 - iii) confirm that the capital expenditure and capital financing

requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2017/18 have been breached.

TITLE OF REPORT: Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2017/18
 – Second Quarter Review

REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the latest position on the 2017/18 capital programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2017. The report assesses reasons for the variances from the approved programme and details the proposed financing of the capital programme. In addition, the report considers the impact of CIPFA's Prudential Code on the capital programme and the monitoring of performance against the statutory Prudential Indicators.

Background

2. The original budget for the capital programme for 2017/18, as agreed by Council on 23 February 2017, totalled £95.209m, which was revised to £96.114m at the first quarter. The second quarter review now projects the year-end expenditure to be £91.357m.
3. The proposed decrease to the capital programme at the second quarter comprises of the following movements:

	£m
Slippage of planned capital expenditure from 2016/17	0.221
Increased borrowing/external funding/contributions	3.926
Re-profiling of capital expenditure to future years	(8.384)
Other reductions	(0.520)
Total Variance	(4.757)

4. A total of £0.221m of slippage has been identified on a number of schemes throughout the capital programme which has been carried forward into 2017/18, with resources, from the 2016/17 financial year capital budget. This slippage includes £0.090m relating the replacement of fleet and horticultural equipment and £0.075m on the battery storage scheme.
5. The proposed slippage in the capital programme will be resourced by external funding and prudential borrowing. The Council continues to manage the available resources in a flexible manner to ensure that the use of any external resources is maximised where possible in the relevant financial year.
6. The proposed £3.926m increase includes £1.700m in relation to the Energy Network and £1.200m increase across the Local Transport Plan due to the reallocation of LTP funding as a result of the receipt of additional external funding to support the upgrade of Heworth Roundabout and the Vehicle Restraint System at the Felling Bypass following a successful Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund application.

7. During the quarter the Council has received notification of additional external funding to support capital investment including:
- £5m from the Department of Transport's Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund towards the improvements works at Heworth Roundabout; and
 - £2.341m from the Department of Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund for the Sunderland Road Link. This funding award applies to 2018/19 – 2019/20 and will be included in future years capital financing calculations.
8. The £0.520m of reduction within the programme relates to the reduced project costs of the Vehicle Restraint System at the Felling bypass, which has been aligned with the Heworth Roundabout project, and the Empty Property Programme.
9. Planned investment of £8.384m has been re-profiled to future financial years on a number of schemes. This includes:
- Follingsby - £3.65m: due to a delay in the landowner selecting a developer for the site. The developer submitted a planning application in October 2017, anticipates an outcome in January 2018 to enable works to start on site in April 2018.
 - Heworth Roundabout - £1.60m: due to the delay in receiving final costs and timescales for the scheme, works are expected to commence in January 2018 and complete in 2018/19.
 - Gateshead Quays - £0.750m: reflecting the latest cash flow and programme for the pre-construction work and the ongoing discussions with NELEP regarding the Local Growth Fund application.
 - Energy Network Extension - Trinity Square - £0.500m: due the ongoing negotiations with Tesco regarding the commercial terms which has impacted upon the planned delivery programme.
 - New Build Assisted Living Development at Winlaton - £0.500m: the expected start of construction works has moved from October 2017 to January 2018 due to a planning objection that was upheld resulting in a re-design of the Derwent View site. The HCA are providing supplementary funding for this scheme, and have been notified of the revised programme forecast.
 - Loan to Gateshead Trading Company - £0.430m: to reflect the latest delivery programme following the approval of the Derwentside scheme by the Trading Company Board, this is now expected to start on site in November.
10. In addition to the slippage of £0.430m relating to the loan to Gateshead Trading Company, the construction costs of the scheme have increased to £2.300m to reflect an improved specification, which has resulted in an increase in the total loan provision included in the Capital Programme from £1.500m to £2.300m. Depending on the timing of income from sales the full amount of the loan may not need to be drawn down.

Proposal

11. The report identifies planned capital expenditure of £91.357m for the 2017/18 financial year. The expected resources required to fund the 2017/18 capital programme are as follows:

	£m
Prudential Borrowing	35.484
Capital Grants and Contributions	26.221
Major Repairs Reserve (HRA)	20.774
Right to Buy Receipts	6.878
Capital Receipts	2.000
Total Capital Programme	<u>91.357</u>

12. CIPFA's Prudential Code advises the regular monitoring of performance against the prudential indicators which regulate borrowing and investment. Targets and limits for the prudential indicators for 2017/18 were agreed at Council on 23 February 2017 and borrowing and investment levels have remained within these limits.

Recommendations

13. Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Recommend to Council that all variations to the 2017/18 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 are agreed as the revised programme.
- (ii) Recommend to Council the financing of the revised programme.
- (iii) Confirm to Council that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2017/18 have been breached.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2017/18.
- (ii) To accommodate changes to the Council's in-year capital expenditure plans.
- (iii) To ensure performance has been assessed against the approved Prudential Limits.

Policy Context

1. The proposals within this report are consistent with the objectives contained within the Council's corporate Capital Strategy and will contribute to achieving the objectives and priority outcomes set out in Vision 2030 and the Council Plan.

Background

2. The original budget for the capital programme for 2017/18, as agreed by Council on 23 February 2017, totalled £95.209m. This was revised to £96.114m at the end of the first quarter.
3. The projected year-end expenditure is £91.357m at the end of the second quarter.
4. The £4.757m variance is due to a combination of slippage from the previous year, review of existing schemes and receipt of additional resources. All variations in the programme during the second quarter are detailed in Appendix 2.
5. Appendix 3 summarises the original budget and actual year end payments by Corporate Priority. The budget, projected year end payments and comments on the progress of each scheme are detailed in Appendix 4.
6. The Prudential Code sets out a range of Prudential Indicators that were agreed by the Council on 23 February 2017. Performance against the indicators for 2017/18 is set out in Appendix 5.

Consultation

7. The Leader of the Council has been consulted on this report.

Alternative Options

8. The proposed financing arrangements are the best available in order to ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2017/18.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the financial implications are as set out in the report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications arising from this report. Capital investment optimises the use of property assets to support the delivery of corporate priorities. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

10. **Risk Management Implication** - Risks are assessed as part of the process of monitoring the programme and in respect of treasury management. The Cabinet will continue to receive quarterly reports for recommendation of any issues to Council, together with any necessary action to ensure expenditure is managed within available resources.
11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
13. **Health Implications** - There are no health implications arising from this report.
14. **Sustainability Implications** - The works will help to make the environment more attractive and reduce health and safety hazards.
15. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.
16. **Area and Ward Implications** - Capital schemes will provide improvements in wards across the borough.
17. **Background Information**
 - i. Report for Cabinet, 21 February 2017 (Council 23 February 2017) - Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
 - ii. Report for Cabinet, 18 July 2017 – Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2017/18 – First Quarter Review.

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APPENDIX 2

Reason for Movement	Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Variance (£'000)
INCREASES				
Slippage from 16/17	Communities and Volunteering	CAE	Replacement Bins	42
	Culture, Sport and Leisure	CAE	GRP Public Art - Birtley	14
	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment	90
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Battery Storage	75
Other Increases	Communities and Volunteering	CAE	Bereavement Services	16
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Energy Network Extension - Gateshead Leisure Centre	822
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Gateshead Town Centre District Energy Network	900
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	180
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	1,165
	Culture, Sport and Leisure	CAE	Blaydon Leisure Centre Outdoor Sports Provision	5
	Housing	CAE	Keelman Homes	550
	Children and Young People	CAE	Ravensworth Terrace Primary School	38
Re-profiling from Future Years	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	Development Site Preparation Works	250
TOTAL INCREASES				4,147

Reason for Movement	Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Variance (£'000)
REDUCTIONS				
Other Reductions	Housing	CAE	Empty Property Programme	(70)
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Vehicle Restraint System - Felling Bypass	(450)
Re-profiling to Future Years	Communities and Volunteering	CAE	Trade Waste Servcie Expansion	(172)
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Energy Network Extension - Trinity Square	(500)
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Fllod Alleviation Investment	(187)
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Heworth Roundabout Upgrade	(1,600)
	Environment and Transport	CAE	Street Lighting LED Replacement - Phase 4	(300)
	Housing	CAE	Loan to Gatehsead Trading Company	(430)
	Housing	HRA	New Build - Assisted Living	(500)
	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	ADZ Investment - BBQ Emerging Technology Centre	(252)
	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	ADZ Investment - Gateshead Quays	(750)
	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	Coatsworth Road Regeneration - THI	(43)
	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE	Follingsby	(3,650)
TOTAL REDUCTIONS				(8,904)
TOTAL VARIANCE				(4,757)

APPENDIX 3

Portfolio	Approved Budget 2017/18	Revised Forecast Q2 30 September 2017	Variance	Actual Spend at 30 September 2017
COMMUNITIES				
Communities and Volunteering	1,015	901	(114)	115
Culture, Sport and Leisure	845	864	19	543
Total Communities	1,860	1,765	(95)	658
PEOPLE				
Children and Young People	7,801	7,839	38	3,695
Health and Wellbeing	4,425	4,425	0	524
Total People	12,226	12,264	38	4,219
PLACE AND ECONOMY				
Economy	1,036	1,036	0	571
Environment and Transport	20,626	20,731	105	7,293
Housing	36,022	35,572	(450)	1,050
Total Place and Economy	57,684	57,339	(345)	8,914
RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT AND REPUTATION				
Resources, Management and Reputation	24,344	19,989	(4,355)	11,863
Total Resources, Management and Reputation	24,344	19,989	(4,355)	11,863
Total Capital Investment	96,114	91,357	(4,757)	25,654

Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Approved 2017/18 Allocation £'000	Revised Q2 Allocation £'000	Comments
COMMUNITIES					
Communities and Volunteering	CAE	Bereavement Services□	375	391	Other Increases (Borrowing)
	CAE	Birtley Cemetery Extension□	140	140	
	CAE	Public Realm Improvement□	70	70	
	CAE	Replacement Bins □	125	167	Slippage from 16/17 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Saltwell Cemetery Extension□	60	60	
	CAE	Trade Waste Service Expansion□	245	73	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 18/19 (Borrowing)
	Total Communities and Volunteering		1,015	901	
Culture, Sport and Leisure	CAE	Blaydon Leisure Centre Outdoor Sports Provision□	15	20	Other Increases (Borrowing)
	CAE	Gateshead Leisure Centre - Clip n Climb and Soft Play□	515	515	
	CAE	Library Service Review□	200	200	
	CAE	GRP Public Art - Birtley	0	14	Slippage from 16/17 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Professional kitchen at St Mary's Heritage Centre□	15	15	
	CAE	Secondary Disinfection Systems in Leisure Pools	100	100	
	Total Culture, Sport and Leisure		845	864	
PEOPLE					
Children and Young People	CWL	Additional Childcare Provision □	455	455	Other Increases (Borrowing/External Funding)
	CWL	Ravensworth Terrace Primary School□	3,000	3,038	
	CWL	School Capacity Improvements□	2,025	2,025	
	CWL	School Condition Investment□	1,645	1,645	
	CWL	Schools Devolved Formula Funding□	250	250	
	CWL	Schools Gateway Investment	426	426	
	Total Children and Young People		7,801	7,839	
Health and Wellbeing	CAE	Falls Prevention□	100	100	
	CSG	Prince Consort Road Redevelopment	2,500	2,500	
	CWL	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)□	1,750	1,750	
	CWL	Telecare Equipment□	75	75	
	Total Health and Wellbeing		4,425	4,425	
PLACE AND ECONOMY					
Economy	CAE	Land of Oak and Iron□	301	301	
	CRS	Broadband Delivery UK□	235	235	
	CRS	Digital Gateshead□	500	500	
	Total Economy		1,036	1,036	

Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Approved 2017/18 Allocation £'000	Revised Q2 Allocation £'000	Comments
Environment and Transport	CAE	Battery Storage System	1,500	1,575	Slippage from 2016/17 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Bus Based Major Transport Scheme	0	0	
	CAE	Chase Park Restoration	657	657	
	CAE	Cycle City Ambition Fund - Hill Street	710	710	
	CAE	Energy Network Extension - Gateshead Leisure Centre	2,376	3,198	Other Increases (Borrowing)
	CAE	Energy Network Extension - Trinity Square	800	300	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 18/19 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Flood Alleviation Investment	601	414	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 18/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
	CAE	Gateshead Millennium Bridge Strategic Maintenance	98	98	
	CAE	Gateshead Town Centre District Energy Network	2,300	3,200	Other Increases (Borrowing)
	CAE	Heworth Roundabout Upgrade	2,600	1,000	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 18/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
	CAE	Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	1,566	1,746	Other Increases (External Funding)
	CAE	Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	2,854	4,019	Other Increases (External Funding)
	CAE	Salix Energy Efficiency Works	250	250	
	CAE	Street Lighting Column Replacement	1,750	1,750	
	CAE	Street Lighting LED Replacement - Phase 4	500	200	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 18/19 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Street Lighting Phase 3 LED Lanterns	284	284	
	CAE	Team Valley Flood Alleviation	30	30	
	CAE	Traffic Signal Renewal - Borough Wide	500	500	
	CAE	Vehicle Restraint System - Felling Bypass	1,250	800	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
	Total Environment and Transport		20,626	20,731	
Housing	CAE	Empty Property Programme 2015/18	170	100	Other Reductions (External Funding)
	CAE	Housing JV - Brandling	350	350	
	CAE	Keelman Homes - Affordable Housing Development	2,250	2,800	Other Increases (Borrowing)
	CAE	Loan to Gateshead Trading Company	1,500	1,070	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing)
	CAE	Loan to Keelman Homes - Bleach Green Affordable Housing	0	0	
	HRA	Aids and Adaptations	1,500	1,500	
	HRA	Back Boiler Renewal and Replacement	1,145	1,145	
	HRA	Decent Homes – Backlog/Ad-hoc Works	300	300	
	HRA	Decent Homes - Investment Programme	7,575	7,575	
	HRA	Door Entry System Upgrades	250	250	
	HRA	Equality Act Works	337	337	
	HRA	Estate Regeneration	1,500	1,500	
	HRA	External Wall Insulation Works to Non-Traditional Properties	210	210	
	HRA	Fire Safety Works - General	150	150	

Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Approved 2017/18 Allocation £'000	Revised Q2 Allocation £'000	Comments
Page 29	HRA	Lift Replacement / Refurbishment	770	770	Re-profiling from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (External Funding)
	HRA	New Build - Assisted Living	750	250	
	HRA	Programme Management	1,000	1,000	
	HRA	Regent Court Improvement Works	2,000	2,000	
	HRA	Replacement of Communal Electrics	250	250	
	HRA	Risers (Services)	0	0	
	HRA	Strategic Maintenance	2,000	2,000	
	HRA	T-Fall Insulation	150	150	
	HRA	Timber Replacements	100	100	
	HRA	Tower Block Energy Efficiency Improvements	1,465	1,465	
	HRA	HEIGHTS	8,900	8,900	
	HRA	Warden Call	250	250	
	HRA	Stock Condition Surveys	400	400	
	HRA	Window Replacement	750	750	
Total Housing			36,022	35,572	
RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT AND REPUTATION					
Page 30	Resources, Management and Reputation	CAE ADZ Investment – BBQ Emerging Technology Centre□	5,704	5,452	Re-profiled from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
		CAE ADZ Investment – BBQ Office Development	680	680	
		CAE ADZ Investment - Gateshead Quays□	2,700	1,950	Re-profiled from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
		CAE Civic Centre Workspace Strategy□	400	400	
		CAE Coatsworth Road Regeneration - THI□	890	847	Re-profiled from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing/External Funding)
		CAE Development Site Preparation Works□	500	750	Brought forward from 2018/19 to 2017/18 (Borrowing)
		CAE Follingsby□	3,650	0	Re-profiled from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (Borrowing)
		CAE Health & Safety□	540	540	
		CAE Major Projects - Project Management Costs□	240	240	
		CAE Metrogreen□	350	350	
		CAE Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment□	2,950	3,040	Slippage from 2016/17 (Borrowing)
		CAE Strategic Maintenance□	1,095	1,095	
		CAE Urban Core - Exemplar Neighbourhood□	400	400	
	CRS	Technology Plan: Infrastructure□	2,790	2,790	
	CRS	Technology Plan: Transformation Through Technology□	905	905	
	CSG	Non Operational Portfolio - Strategic Investment Plan□	300	300	
	CSG	Registrars Internal and External Public Spaces□	250	250	
Total Resources, Management and Reputation			24,344	19,989	

Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Approved 2017/18 Allocation £'000	Revised Q2 Allocation £'000	Comments
Total Capital Investment			96,114	91,357	

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PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017/18

The 2017/18 Prudential Indicators were agreed by Council on 23 February 2017 (column 1). This is now compared with the 2017/18 actual position as at the end of the first quarter, 30 September 2017 (column 2).

Certain Treasury Management indicators must be monitored throughout the year on a regular basis in order to avoid breaching agreed limits. The capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and none of the other approved Prudential Indicators set for 2017/18 have been breached.

<i>Capital Expenditure</i>		
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator	2017/18 £000 Projection for the Year at Q2
Non-HRA	65,869	60,105
HRA	29,340	31,252
Total	95,209	91,357
To reflect the reported capital monitoring agreed by Council during the year		

<i>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</i>		
	2017/18 Reported Indicator	2017/18 Projection for the Year at Q2
Non-HRA	14.89%	N/A
HRA	42.53%	N/A

<i>Capital Financing Requirement</i>		
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator	2017/18 £000 Projection for the Year at Q2
Non-HRA	340,885	330,518
HRA	345,505	345,505

Authorised Limit for External Debt	
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator
Borrowing	825,000
Other Long Term Liabilities	0
Total	825,000
Maximum YTD 30/06/2017 £645.189m	

Operational Boundary for External Debt	
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator
Borrowing	800,000
Other Long Term Liabilities	0
Total	800,000
Maximum YTD 30/06/2017 £645.189m.	

The Council's actual external debt at 30 September 2017 was £645.189 million. It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time.

Estimated Incremental Impact on Council Tax and Housing Rents

This indicator is set at the time the Council's budget is set. Therefore, there is no requirement for this Indicator to be monitored on a quarterly or annual basis.

Adherence to CIPFA code on Treasury Management

The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

UPPER LIMIT ON FIXED AND VARIABLE INTEREST RATES EXPOSURES		
Range	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator	2017/18 £000 YTD Position
Fixed Rate	652,940 424,015	Act 515,284 max 521,925 min 499,731
Variable	160,751 (15,000)	Act 24,000 max 44,000 min 24,000
All within agreed limits. (Max and Min YTD.)		

Upper / Lower Limits for Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing				
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator		2017/18 £000 Actual Position	
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual Percentage	Maximum YTD
Under 12 months	25%	0%	9.03%	9.17%
12 months to 24 months	25%	0%	1.77%	5.48%
24 months to 5 years	50%	0%	20.08%	20.84%
5 years to 10 years	50%	0%	7.98%	8.61%
10 years to 20 years	50%	0%	12.36%	14.71%
20 years to 30 years	50%	0%	1.21%	1.25%
30 years to 40 years	50%	0%	17.04%	17.30%
40 years to 50 years	60%	0%	24.04%	28.17%
50 years and above	30%	0%	0.000%	3.55%
All within agreed limits.				

On 8 March 2007, Council agreed to the placing of investments for periods of longer than 364 days in order to maximise investment income before forecasted cuts in interest rates. An upper limit was set and agreed as a new Prudential Indicator.

Upper Limit on amounts invested beyond 364 days			
	2017/18 £000 Reported Indicator	2017/18 £000 Actual Position	2017/18 £000 Maximum YTD
Investments	15,000	5,000	5,000

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2018/19

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the year 2018/19 following consultation.
2. The Council is provided with funding to deliver its own Local Council Tax Support scheme although this grant is no longer separately identifiable having been subsumed within the council's overall settlement figure that continues to reduce year on year.
3. The proposed Local Council Tax Support scheme for Gateshead has been established with due regard to the Council's statutory obligations and in order to attempt to distribute the reduced funding available amongst those claimants most in need of financial assistance, whilst still achieving a contribution to meet the funding reduction.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) approve the proposed scheme as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the attached report.
 - ii) delegate powers to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to provide regulation to give effect to the scheme.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19**REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources**

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the year 2018/19.

Background

- 2 The Local Government Finance Act 2012, paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A, established a framework for Local Council Tax Support that requires the Council for each financial year, to revise its scheme, or replace it with another scheme and to do so before 31 January in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.
- 3 The Council is provided with funding to deliver its own Local Council Tax Support scheme although this grant is no longer separately identifiable having been subsumed within the council's overall finance settlement figure that continues to reduce year on year. The regulations require that pensioner households must be protected from the impact of the local scheme and therefore any shortfall in funding will fall to working age households or the council itself.
- 4 When designing a scheme the Council additionally must also consider its responsibilities under:
 - The Child Poverty Act 2010
 - The Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986, and Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
 - The Housing Act 1996 which gives local authorities a duty to prevent homelessness with special regard to vulnerable groups
- 5 Under legislation, the Council's own Local Council Tax Support scheme must be approved each year by Council by 31 January at the latest. The proposed council tax support scheme within this report is therefore a scheme for 2018/19.

Proposal

- 6 The proposed Local Council Tax Support scheme for Gateshead has been established with due regard to the Council's statutory obligations and in order to attempt to distribute the reduced funding available amongst those claimants most in need of financial assistance, whilst still achieving a contribution to meet the funding reduction.

- 7 Apart from some minor underlying adjustments to the scheme calculations to bring the scheme in line with the Government's Housing Benefit and Universal Credit scheme, the proposed scheme for 2018/19 will remain the same as the scheme that was in place in previous years from 2013/14 and this will retain the same provision for pensioners and the original 8 underlying principles outlined below;
- Protection should be given to certain groups – all working age claimants to pay at least 8.5% of their council tax liability
 - The scheme should encourage people to work
 - Everyone in the household should contribute
 - Capital or Savings threshold should be maintained at £16,000
 - War Pensions should be disregarded
 - Minimum level of support should be £1
 - Child benefit should be disregarded as income.
 - A discretionary fund should be maintained.
- 8 The proposed scheme therefore retains the minimum contribution of all working age claimants at 8.5% of their Council Tax liability and does not recommend an increase to this figure.

Recommendations

- 9 Cabinet is requested to recommend Council to:
- (i) Approve the proposed scheme as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report.
 - (ii) Delegate powers to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to provide regulations to give effect to the scheme.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To meet the statutory requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 in relation the establishment of a framework for Localised Council Tax Support
- (ii) To mitigate the impact of budget cuts and other Welfare Reform changes on Council Tax support claimants
- (iii) To mitigate the impact of funding reductions on Council finances

CONTACT: John Jopling extension: 3582

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The proposal in this report will support the vision for Gateshead as outlined in the Council plan in particular the key council priority of ensuring a sustainable Gateshead through best use of resources.

Background

2. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 included the abolition of the Council Tax Benefit scheme with effect from 1 April 2013.

The Act created the need for each billing authority in England to develop a scheme that 'states the classes of person who are to be entitled to a reduction under the scheme'. The Council must, before developing a scheme, consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept, publish a draft scheme in such a manner as it sees fit, and then consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.

3. The Council scheme, since 2013 has been based on 8 underlying principles:
 - **Principle 1 – Protection should be given to certain groups** – All working age claimants to pay at least 8.5% of their council tax liability. The council will support through the local scheme the remaining amount up to 91.5%.
 - **Principle 2 – The scheme should encourage people to work** – The earnings taper will not be increased and the earnings disregard will not be decreased.
 - **Principle 3a – Everyone in the household should contribute: Non-Dependants** - Non dependant deductions will increase in line with government recommendations and be on a sliding scale according to income.
 - **Principle 3b – Everyone in the household should contribute: Second Adult Rebate** – there will be no second adult rebate.
 - **Principle 4 – Benefit should not be paid to those with relatively large capital or savings** – The level of savings a claimant can have will be £16,000. A tariff will be applied for savings held between £6,000 and £16,000.
 - **Principle 5 – War pensions should not be included as income** – In recognition of the sacrifices made by war pensioners, war pension income will be excluded as income.
 - **Principle 6 – There should be a minimum level of support** – The minimum award of council tax support will remain at £1 per week.
 - **Principle 7 – Child benefit will not be included as income** – All child benefit income will continue to be disregarded in the calculation.

- **Principle 8 – Establishment of a discretionary fund** – A discretionary fund will allow for additional support to be provided to the most vulnerable in exceptional circumstances.

Proposal

4. The proposed scheme for 2018/19 will retain the same 8 underlying principles and remain the same as the scheme in place in previous years apart from some very minor adjustments to the underlying entitlement calculation to reflect changes to the Government's Housing Benefit and Universal Credit schemes.

Consultation

5. Where the proposed scheme for a year remains the same as in previous years, no formal consultation is required to be undertaken.

Alternative Options

Alternative options could involve the adoption of a scheme which offers less support by increasing the minimum contribution or more support to residents by increasing at a greater rate the Council's commitment of resources.

Implications of Recommended Option

6. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The proposed approach enables the Council to operate a support scheme within the funding available and to mitigate the impact on working age claimants by utilising council resources.

Adopting the scheme means that approximately 12,000 council tax payers will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax (around £101 per year/£1.94 per week).

The full impact on the Collection Fund continues to be monitored and the behaviour of those claimants who are required to pay has been analysed during the current and previous years. Collection from this client group has exceeded previous assumptions in the first four years of the scheme and continues to do so in 2017/18.

The removal of the ring-fence within the Government funding calculation means that Government funding for this area has been significantly reduced.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resource implications directly arising from this report
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications directly arising from this report

7. **Risk Management Implication** - Retaining a scheme based on the same principles eliminates the risk of a local scheme not being supported from a technology perspective.
8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - A Comprehensive Impact Assessment has been carried out.
9. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – No impact.
10. **Health Implications** – Financial concerns arising from the Governments Welfare Reforms may adversely affect the mental and physical health of some residents.
11. **Sustainability Implications** - There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.
12. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.
13. **Ward Implications** – This scheme affects all current and future working age benefit recipients across Wards within the borough.

Background Information

Welfare Reform Act 2012
Local Government Finance Bill
Communities and Local Government - Statement of intent
Communities and Local Government - Vulnerable people –key local authority duties
Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015
Comprehensive Impact Assessment

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF ADDENDUM TO POLICY

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of additions to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy covering two new areas of local discretion in respect of business rate relief.
2. It is proposed that the following two areas of local discretion in respect of business rates relief should be included within the Council's existing Discretionary Rate Relief Policy;
 - Local Business Rates Discount – to local businesses where there are economic growth considerations
 - Revaluation Business Rates Discount – properties which have seen an increase in their rateable value after the 2017 revaluation which has caused an increase in their net rates payable.
3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) approve that the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is amended to reflect the additional proposed policies set out in paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of the attached report, regarding the Local Business Rate Discount scheme, and paragraphs 18 and 19 of the attached report, for the Revaluation Business Rate Discount.
 - ii) approve that the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources manages this policy under the delegated authority to manage the Collection Fund in accordance with statutory requirements.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Discretionary Rate Relief Addendum to Policy**REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources**

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council additions to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy covering two new areas of local discretion in respect of business rate relief. This will establish a Local Business Rate Discount and a Revaluation Business Rates Discount covering the period 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Background

2. Business rates are a tax on organisations and companies that are using a building or office space for business purposes.
3. As part of its role in the administration of business rates, the Council has several areas where it can exercise its discretion to provide reductions to the amount of business rates that are due to be paid.
4. Changes to Local Government Finance now mean that the income from business rates more directly impacts on the Council's financial position and the expectation is that this impact will increase in future years.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that the following two areas of local discretion in respect of business rates relief should be included within the Council's existing Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.
 - i) Local Business Rates Discount – Discounts to local businesses where there are economic growth considerations.
 - ii) Revaluation Business Rates Discount – Properties which have seen an increase in their rateable value after the 2017 revaluation which has caused an increase in their net rates payable.

Local Business Rate Discount

6. Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amends Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and allows the Council to grant locally determined business rate discounts.
7. This legislation recognises that the current business rates scheme is broadly prescribed by central government and its aim is to provide increased flexibility to local authorities to support organisations, recognising the variations in economic

conditions across and within Gateshead. On this basis, the Council will consider applications for a local business rates discount from organisations, based on their own merits where there are potential economic growth considerations.

8. When deciding whether to award a local business rates discount, the principal consideration will be that in granting any discount there should be a resultant substantial, positive impact for residents and taxpayers in Gateshead, as the Council must partly bear the cost of any relief granted.
9. The Council needs to ensure that the relief does not transgress the State Aid Law and the De Minimis Regulations.
10. It is proposed that applications for the Local Business Rate Discount will be approved under the delegated authority of the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources.

Revaluation Business Rate Discount

11. As a result of revaluation from 1 April 2017 all commercial buildings and offices have been given a new 'rateable value' used to calculate the amount of business rates a business occupying the space has to pay.
12. In the March 2017 Budget, the Government announced specific funding of £300 million over four years from 2017/18 for local councils to support those businesses most affected by the revaluation.
13. The Government's allocation of funding for Gateshead is set out below :

Gateshead's allocated discretionary funding (£000's)			
2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
382	185	76	11

14. The proposed Revaluation Business Rate Discount Scheme will be administered through the Council's discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Government has confirmed it is for local authorities to administer and determine the scheme. Funding cannot be carried over between years and any overspend against this funding is borne locally.
15. When designing a scheme the Council must also consider its responsibilities under State Aid Law and the De Minimis Regulations.
16. The proposed Revaluation Business Rates Discount for Gateshead has been established with regard to the Council's statutory obligations. Extensive modelling, assessing the impact of the revaluation has been carried out in order to attempt to distribute the funding available amongst those businesses most affected by the revaluation.
17. The Councils discretionary policy will target support so that all ratepayers whose property has a rateable value of less than £100,000 will not see an annual increase in their rates bill of greater than 2.5 per cent for 2017/18.

18. The proposed scheme will look to award relief where the following criteria are met:
- (i) Properties with a rateable value of less than £100,000 that have had an increase in rateable value following the 2017 revaluation.
 - (ii) Net rates payable after all other reliefs have been applied show an annual increase in their rates bill of greater than 2.5 per cent.
 - (iii) The property is occupied and was occupied by the same ratepayer on 31 March 2017 and 1 April 2017.
 - (iv) The property was in the rating list on 1 April 2017.
 - (v) The property is not an excepted hereditament (ie the rate payer is not the billing authority or precepting authority).
 - (vi) The property isn't occupied by licensed bookmakers or government bodies (ie the NHS, Police).
 - (vii) Relief will not be awarded where the business operating is a national company, chain or franchise (the award of any relief would potentially not comply with EU law on State Aid).
 - (viii) Minimum relief award is £100.00.
19. Guiding principles of the scheme:
- (i) The scheme is based on the rateable value in the valuation list on 1 April 2017 and rates payable on 31 March 2017.
 - (ii) Calculation of relief will not increase any award as a result of any other changes during the liability period. (ie change in relief entitlement).
 - (iii) Entitlement to the relief is determined with reference to an increase in the bill due to revaluation. The increase is calculated after the application of any other reliefs such as transition, small business rate relief etc.
 - (iv) Relief to continue on a pro rata basis to any subsequent occupiers in respect of occupied charges only.
 - (v) Any increase in rateable value will not attract additional relief.
 - (vi) Any reductions in rateable value will be recalculated and reductions retained in the discretionary fund.
 - (vii) If an organisation moves address within the period that they are receiving relief, relief will not be carried forward to the new property.
 - (viii) Relief will be awarded automatically with no requirement for an application to be completed.
 - (ix) A balancing fund to be administered under delegated authority of Strategic Director, Corporate Resources.
 - (x) All awards will include reference to state aid limits and a duty to notify Gateshead Council.
 - (xi) Future year awards will be based on applying a percentage to the 2017/18 entitlement amount. The percentages to be applied for the relevant years are:
 - 2018/19 – 45%
 - 2019/20 – 18%
 - 2020/21 – 2.5%

20. In order to manage the relief grant to ensure maximum uptake and also to prevent overspend the Council will:
- (i) Monitor the award on a monthly basis.
 - (ii) Where a qualifying ratepayer vacates a property the relief will be apportioned accordingly. A future occupier of the original qualifying property will be entitled to the relevant apportioned relief remaining if:
 - They occupy the property
 - Are not a type of occupier excluded from the scheme (i.e. a national company, government body)
 - A charge is due
 - (iii) Gateshead Council will only consider applying a reduction to ratepayers becoming eligible due to a reduction in rateable value in the 2010 rating list where those reductions are agreed or settled on or before 30 September 2017.
 - (iv) A fund will be set aside to target support to certain businesses which it judges require a greater level of assistance than the core revaluation relief the scheme prescribes. The value to be determined once initial awards finalised.

Recommendations

21. It is recommended that Council be asked to approve:
- (i) The Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is amended to reflect the additional proposed policies set out in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 regarding the Local Business Rate Discount scheme and paragraphs 18 and 19 for the Revaluation Business Rate Discount.
 - (ii) The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources manages this policy under the delegated authority to manage the Collection Fund in accordance with statutory requirements.

For the following reason:

- To ensure the effective management of the Council's resources.

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council's vision and medium term objectives as set out in Vision 2030 and the Council Plan and, in particular the key Council priority of ensuring a sustainable Gateshead through ensuring the best use of its resources.

Background

2. Changes to Local Government Finance now mean that the income from business rates more directly impacts on the council's financial position. This report outlines new areas of local discretion. Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amends Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and allows the Council to grant locally determined business rate discounts. These relate to:
 - i) Local Business Rates Discount – Discounts to local businesses where there are economic growth considerations.
 - ii) Revaluation Business Rates Discount – Properties which have seen an increase in their rateable value after the 2017 revaluation which has caused an increase in their net rates payable.

Consultation

3. The Leader of the Council has been consulted on the proposals. The Federation of Small Businesses has also been consulted on the principles of the scheme and they have responded positively.

Alternative Options

4. No alternative options are proposed. A regular review of the local revaluation scheme will be implemented to ensure maximum uptake and also to ensure that expenditure is contained within available funding.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. Resources:

a) Financial Implications –

The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that:

- i. In relation to Properties which have seen an increase in their rateable value after the 2017 revaluation which has caused an increase in their net rates payable, the cost of these proposals will be met from the funding allocated to Gateshead by Central Government.
- ii. In relation to discounts to local businesses where there are economic growth considerations, the benefit to the Council will accrue through increases to the business rates base and the creation of new jobs by encouraging businesses to relocate to, or expand in the borough

through short-term reductions in business rates. This will have a short-term impact on the Council's Collection Fund. Businesses will be required to submit an application for approval under the existing framework for financial assistance agreed by Cabinet on 11 February 2014.

b) Human Resources Implications – Nil

c) Property Implications – Nil

6. Risk Management Implication – The current business rates system provider, Capita, has confirmed that the schemes can be supported.

7. Equality and Diversity Implications – Nil

8. Crime and Disorder Implications – Nil

9. Health Implications – Nil

10. Sustainability Implications – Nil

11. Human Rights Implications – Nil

12. Area and Ward Implications – Nil

Background Information

13. Localism Act 2011
Local Government Finance Act 1988



COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE CABINET

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is the report from the Cabinet. Its purpose is to report on issues for the period September to November 2017.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Child Protection Information Sharing (CP-IS)

The Council has now gone live with this new joined up approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children.

The Child Protection-Information Sharing project is connecting IT systems together so that local authorities and the NHS can share child protection information securely.

It means that when a child who is Looked After or on a Child Protection Plan attends an unscheduled care setting, like an emergency department or minor injury unit:

- the health team is alerted that they are on a plan and has access to the contact details for the social care team;
- the social care team is automatically notified that the child has attended, and
- both parties can see details of the child's previous 25 visits to unscheduled care settings in England.

CP-IS is currently being rolled out to local authorities and healthcare organisations across England and is endorsed by the Care Quality Commission.

Gateshead's implementation process was ratified by NHS Digital and went live in September 2017. Automated notifications come into the Council's CareFirst system via accident and emergency departments, walk-in centres and maternity departments.

Independent Travel Training

The Council now employs a full time Travel Trainer who works four days per week with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and one day per week in Adult Social Care, supporting adults with disabilities to travel to their place of work or volunteering.

In academic year 2016/7 16 young people achieved independent travel and no longer required home to school or college transport. Since January 2017, the focus of ITT has been much more focused (in conjunction with assessment from school), with the aim of targeting and reducing taxi contracts. This has been done by successfully training

students and amalgamating transport contracts. It has also reduced the overspend on the Home to school and college transport budget.

In January 2017, Children North East were procured to also deliver their 'Bus Buddy Scheme' in Gateshead which they established in Northumberland. To date they have successfully travel trained 9 young people. As they had experience of travel training young people over large distances their first cohort was a group of Cedars students living in the west of the borough, all of whom required 2-3 buses. They had 100% success rate (7/7) and are making progress on their second and third cohort. They have assessed one person as being unsuitable, we recognise that due to their level of anxiety some people are not always ready for independent travel.

A group of young people participated in a DVD 'Journey to Independence' to tell their story to others. Their journeys show that independent travel has led to friendships, employment and even independent living. This has been used as a part of a training session to parents, Learning Support Assistants in schools and colleges and Gateshead Council's Youth Service to encourage everyone working with young people to support the use of safe public transport.

There has been a positive reaction overall to the training:

"Children North East were brilliant, he thoroughly enjoyed it. Due to his autism he is great with numbers and times and loves looking at bus timetables. He is more confident in travel and has managed to get 3 buses".

"He once walked to Gateshead with a school friend and I was beside myself. He has now done the journey to school on his own and went to a friend's house on the bus. He met a girl from school in Gateshead at the weekend. He now has a mobile phone and it's given him loads of confidence."

"Travel training is good, it finally gets me out the house. It helped me a lot. I can now go and meet up with my friends in my own time. I am going to arrange to go to the cinema."

Digital Me

Digital Me is a partnership project between the Council and Digital Voice for Communities, a Gateshead based community interest company.

The ragdoll foundation (creators of Rosie and Jim and the Teletubbies) granted approximately £21,000 to carry out this project, with an additional £4,000 in funding from the Council.

The project was completed over the summer holidays and twenty four looked after children took part. The participants were aged between 6-14 years old.

The children created timelines of their lives, took part in a photography workshop, completed a creative writing session, drew avatars which would tell their stories, wrote scripts and recorded their stories and ultimately created digital storybooks which include messages to professionals and other children.

As well as five one day workshops, the children also spent a full week at Sage Gateshead writing and recording songs that share their messages.

The project was about sharing messages from the children about their experiences. The final pieces as well as the photography created will be displayed as part of the Freedom City, our time exhibition at St Mary's Heritage Centre in October.

The work will also be used in the training of new foster carers.

A screening is being organised and elements of the project were shared at the Looked After Children celebration event on 9 November.

National Adoption Week – 16- 22 October 2017

Every year a national campaign is ran to both raise the profile of adoption and recruit prospective adoptive families. The campaign is led by First4Adoption, the national information service for people interested in adopting a child in England, and this year's campaign focussed on raising awareness of the need to find adoptive families for brothers and sisters to stay together. There are over 2000 children waiting to be adopted in England and 61% of these children having brothers and sisters who need to find their forever family. Furthermore, in the North East of England, that figure rises to 68%.

New research, by Adoption Match and based on data from the Adoption Register for England also reveals that:

- 53% of sibling groups awaiting adoption in the North East are children aged under 4
- 53% of these groups awaiting adoption are made up of boys
- 11% of these sibling groups awaiting adoption are Black and Minority Ethnic children.

Gateshead Council Adoption Service recruits adopters all year round to meet the needs of the service. We always fully support the national campaign in order to further raise our profile locally and increase the impact of the national message.

This year our campaign activities included:

- display banners on civic centre perimeter fencing,
- information published in Council Info/Intranet/website,
- information on homepage of "Our Gateshead Website",
- a week long promotional stand in Gateshead Civic Centre Atrium,
- promotional advert on plasma screen in Gateshead Civic Centre,
- information included in "Gateshead Now" direct email, and
- a social media campaign.

The Adoption Service does not typically experience an immediate increase in enquiries following National Adoption Week, as prospective adopters often spend time reflecting and researching adoption prior to seeking further information. That said, all promotional activities are beneficial as they raise awareness of the need for adopters and promote how to get in touch with the service when the time is right.

The Adoption Service will continue its recruitment activities in order to increase the number of adoptive families available.

Adult Social Care

Assurance visit to Eastwood Promoting Independence Centre

Eastwood Promoting Independence Centre has received a joint commissioner led assurance visit as part of Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) annual rolling programme of commissioner visits to provider sites. This programme is one element of the CCG's approach to obtaining assurances in relation to the delivery of safe, high quality services.

The commissioner led assurance visits provide the CCG with the opportunity to meet with staff and service users to gain their views and also to obtain first hand evidence of care delivery. Such visits focus upon core themes of user experience, general cleanliness and infection control, staffing/workforce, training, development and support, reporting concerns, service user safety and governance and facilities and environment.

Eastwood's multi-disciplinary social and health care team received very positive feedback from the Commissioners with their report stating "the visit was positive and staff demonstrated commitment and passion in delivering a bespoke service for intermediate care patients". The team were impressed with what they observed during the visit, especially "the strong and passionate commitment to work together in order to provide the best care possible".

Delayed Transfers of Care

The latest published data relating to delayed transfers of care (DTOCs) shows that Gateshead is performing well in relation to the average number of delays per day per 100,000 population at 6.89. This is lower than the national target of 8.2.

	Average delays per day per 100,000 September 2016	Average delays per day per 100,000 September 2017
Social care	7.59	1.30
NHS	5.88	5.59
Overall total	13.47	6.89

The figures are based on social care and the NHS, with 3 Trusts informing the Gateshead picture: Gateshead Foundation Trust, Newcastle Foundation Trust and Northumberland Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust.

For the same period last year, Gateshead position was averaging 13.47. Since then, there has been a steady improvement in the numbers.

The DTOC data is published nationally two months behind.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

SIGOMA

The Council has joined other northern authorities in writing to the transport minister urging him to ensure equitable investment in northern transport infrastructure through transport for the North.

Stella Riverside

Following damage by a resident to the wildlife buffer between the development and the River Tyne, a number of community outreach activities have been carried out by the Council. The aim of the activities was to deliver key messages about the importance of the wildlife buffer and included wildlife walks and children's events involving bird watching and bug hunts. It also supported the cohesion of a new community by bringing residents together. It is hoped that similar activities will take place in the future.

Local Plan

The Council has now published part 3 of its Local Plan - Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) – for a 6 week consultation period. This is a draft Plan setting out detailed policies, site allocations and designations across a number of themes:

- Economic Prosperity,
- Homes,
- Transport & Accessibility,
- People & Place, and
- Minerals & Waste.

The proposals in MSGP will ensure that the Council delivers housing and jobs growth as proposed and accepted in the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (2015). The Council has published an up to date evidence base to underpin the plans proposals (including a housing land availability assessment, and employment land review) and an interactive version of the Policies Map is available on the “Have Your Say on Planning Policy” page of the Councils website. The Plan will be re-consulted next year prior to being submitted for examination

Rapid Chargers

NECA has been successful in securing ERDF funds to implement a network of approximately six rapid charging locations across the region. Gateshead has secured two locations - one at Prince Consort Road/Gateshead Leisure Centre car parks and the other at Intu Metrocentre. Each location will have two rapid chargers able to charge up to four vehicles at a time. Cars can charge in about 20-30 minutes at a rapid charger. The Council is working with NECA on the arrangements for the Prince Consort Road/Gateshead Leisure Centre location.

Pool Car Update

The Council has 23 pool cars supplied by Co-wheels to facilitate local staff trips and provide a sustainable alternative to personal car use. Two are based at Shearlegs Road, the rest (including three electric cars) at the Civic Centre (the Civic Centre cars can be used by members of the public out of office hours).

In addition, seven Co-wheels cars are provided as a car club for members of the public. They provide an alternative to buying a car and help us to manage congestion. Over

the summer four cars that are either electric or hybrid were introduced; two at the Gateshead Leisure Centre car park and two at Cross Keys Lane car park. These cars were funded by an Air Quality Grant from DEFRA and are intended to support the Council's aim to reduce NO2 pollution in and around the town centre.

Economy

Gateshead Energy Company

The Gateshead District Energy Scheme is nearing completion. The heat network was completed and handed over by the contractor in October, following completion of works to move a water main on Gateshead High Street to accommodate the final section of heating pipe.

The Council is now flushing and commissioning the network, ready to start supplying heat to customers prior to Christmas. Future capacity on the network is to be reserved for Trinity Square, Gateshead Quays and other new development on and around Baltic Business Quarter, and commercial discussions are ongoing in these areas.

Emerging Technology Sector

Gateshead has a long-standing reputation as a hub for digital and technological industries and is experiencing significant growth in the immersive technology sector (augmented reality, virtual reality and mixed reality); home to Europe's only industry led cluster of companies in this field.

Virtual Reality (VR) is on the brink of becoming mainstream with technology companies like Oculus VR Sony, Google and Samsung all bringing hardware to the consumer market in 2016 and working with developers on cutting edge content. These technologies have the potential to significantly disrupt traditional industries, creating new products/services and helping to digitise the wider economy.

The Council worked closely with organisers Secret Sauce to bring the VRTGO Conference to Gateshead on 1-2 November. VRTGO is one of Europe's leading specialist VR and AR events with an international audience of over 300 VR decision makers, developers and innovation managers.

Earlier this year the Council also secured ERDF Funding and Local Growth Funding to develop PROTO: The Emerging Technology Centre project on Baltic Business Quarter to support the emerging technologies sector, and development of new product/services. The Centre is currently under development and will open mid-2018.

PROTO has already be selected to host one of Digital Catapult's four Immersive Labs, the only one North of London, that will provide businesses with access to state of the art equipment that would not otherwise be available to them. The Lab is temporarily housed at Northern Design Centre and was launched by Digital Catapult on 1 November 2017.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Agreement with Newcastle CVS

In April 2016, the Council agreed to enter into an Agreement with Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) for the provision of support, development, networking and representation to the voluntary and community sector in Gateshead. The Agreement with NCVS was extended, as provided for with the Agreement's terms, until 31 March 2018 at this October's meeting of Cabinet whilst the Council explored the possibility of a joint procurement approach with Newcastle City Council, with Gateshead Council acting as lead partner.

Work with Newcastle City Council is now at an advanced stage and the procurement process will commence imminently. Work is continuing to develop the OurGateshead website; the site is Gateshead's Community Web site and includes lots of information about what's going on in wards with news, events and regular activities posted by over 1000 groups and organisations working in Gateshead. To find out more or to give it a try go to www.ourgateshead.org

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Library Service Update – Children and Young People Activities

Work with children and young people remains a key priority for the Library Service. A series of recent activities with this target group of service users include Bookstart, Bookstart Week, Summer Reading Challenge, Summer Activities Programme, Hello Baby Pre-natal Project, Professional Library Services to Schools, Artsmark, Read North East, Reading Hack, Time to Read, Baltic Artists and Fill the Holiday Gap.

Rural Gateshead Marketing Campaign

Since the beginning of the year work has been undertaken in conjunction with NGI to plan and delivery a marketing campaign for the rural area to tie in with the busy summer period. The target audience was identified as day visitors from the local area and the region, with the intention to raise the profile of key rural assets and businesses. It was recognised that Gateshead's rural tourism offer is less defined and developed than the existing NewcastleGateshead urban offer. This distinct marketing approach would ensure that there was no dilution of the strong and successful NewcastleGateshead brand at a national and international level.

Bonfire Night Organised Displays 2017

As in previous years, various services within the Council worked with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, The Gateshead Housing Company and Northumbria Police in the run up to Bonfire Night with the aim of prevention, detection and removal of illegal bonfires throughout Gateshead, and therefore reduce deliberate anti-social fires.

Further partnership working was predominantly through the Safety Advisory Group Process. The key aim was to co-ordinate an informed partnership approach for the safe and high quality delivery of Bonfire activities in Gateshead. To complement the work that was undertaken by partner agencies in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and illegal bonfires, the Fire Service encouraged people to attend organised displays on 5 November. This year the displays took place at Saltwell Park, Blaydon Rugby Club, Rutherford FC, Barmoor Hub and Gateshead Rugby Club.

Enchanted Parks

The annual evening event, now in its 12th year returns to Saltwell Park this from 5-10 December. The after-dark arts 'light trail' remains a flagship event for the region's cultural calendar and continues to be delivered in partnership with NewcastleGateshead Initiative

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.

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COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor J Wallace will move the following motion:

This Council notes with disappointment the announcement by Highways England that work on upgrading the A1 between the Coalhouse roundabout and Birtley is to be delayed a year, with work scheduled to start in 2020 rather than 2019.

This Council believes that the improvements to this strategic road are vital to the economic prosperity of Gateshead and the surrounding area and a delay to implementation will be damaging to air quality.

This Council believes that a strong, representative devolution settlement, which includes Gateshead, would give our region a stronger voice to argue for greater infrastructure investment under a timetable that suits the local economy.

In the absence of such a beneficial settlement, this Council calls on Highways England to begin work on improving the A1 in 2019.

Proposed by: Councillor J Wallace

Seconded by: Councillor R Beadle

Supported by: Councillor J McClurey
Councillor D Duggan



COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Gannon will move the following amendment:

3rd paragraph, 1st line, after “devolution settlement”, delete “which includes Gateshead” and add the following

with robust governance; a fair financial settlement; substantial powers and functions and which includes Gateshead, Newcastle, Sunderland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, County Durham and Northumberland.

Proposed by: Councillor M Gannon

Seconded by: Councillor M Brain
Supported by: Councillor M Graham
Councillor B Oliphant
Councillor A Douglas



COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Gannon will move the following motion:

Universal Credit

This council recognises that the full service roll out of Universal Credit across Gateshead, which will occur over the next 6 months, will cause real hardship to many of Gateshead's citizens.

The council is particularly concerned that this hardship will be compounded by the fact that claimants will have to wait a minimum of 6 weeks for their claim to be decided.

It is unacceptable that the children or parents, whose claims may eventually be approved, will not qualify for free school meals during the assessment period.

The council is additionally concerned that the requirement for online application discriminates against those without access to a computer or who do not have adequate IT skills.

The council instructs the Chief Executive to work with schools, partners and the community sector to explore every means possible to mitigate the inevitable hardship that UC will cause for Gateshead's residents.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all Gateshead school Headteachers and Governors outlining the anticipated impacts of Universal Credit upon homelessness and child poverty, and whilst recognising current financial constraints upon schools request their assistance in ensuring that no children go hungry.

Furthermore Gateshead Council calls on the Governments to either reduce the 6 week waiting period for assessing universal credit claims and to introduce appropriate mitigation to ensure that vulnerable children do not go without free school meals, or to halt the introduction of UC until these issues are addressed.

Proposed by:	Councillor M Gannon
Seconded by:	Councillor M Brain
Supported by:	Councillor B Oliphant
	Councillor A Douglas
	Councillor C Donovan



COUNCIL MEETING

23 November 2017

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor J Wallace will move the following amendment:

- (i) Add (i) between 'that' and 'this' in line 1 of paragraph 2.
- (ii) Delete '.' at end of paragraph 2 after 'decided' and add '; (ii) that homelessness could increase as a result of rent no longer being paid directly to landlords.'
- (iii) Replace 'or' with 'of' in line 1 of paragraph 3.
- (iv) Add 'DWP' between 'schools' and 'partners' on line 1 of paragraph 5.
- (v) Replace 'Governments' with 'Government' in line 1 of paragraph 7.

Proposed by: Councillor J Wallace

Seconded by: Councillor R Beadle

Supported by: Councillor D Duggan

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