



COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, 18 April 2016 at 1.30 pm in the Whickham Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Jane Robinson

Item	Business
1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Minutes (Pages 3 - 8) The minutes of the meeting held 7 March 2016 are attached for approval
3.	Odour Issues Emanating from Landfill Sites in the West of the Borough (Pages 9 - 18) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
4.	Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead - Final Report (Pages 19 - 28) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
5.	Review of Domestic Energy Management / Fuel Poverty - Monitoring Report (Pages 29 - 34) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
6.	Community Safety Sub-OSC - Review of the Prevent Agenda (Pages 35 - 44) Report of the Interim Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
7.	Annual Report of TALISMAN (Pages 45 - 48) Report from The Gateshead Housing Company
8.	Annual Work Programme (Pages 49 - 56) Report of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Contact: Karen Robson Email - karenrobson@gateshead.gov.uk, Tel: 0191 4332129,
Date: Friday, 8 April 2016

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

Monday, 7 March 2016

PRESENT: Councillor P Dillon (Chair)

Councillors: T Graham, L Caffrey, B Coates, P Craig,
D Davidson, S Dickie, F Hindle, M Hood, K McCartney,
J McClurey and A Wheeler

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors J Wallace

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Dodds, K Ferdinand, J Graham, H Hughes,
C McHugh and J Simpson

CPL30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

CPL31 REVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE RURAL GATESHEAD - INTERIM REPORT

The Committee considered a report that set out the initial findings of the review which has examined opportunities to enhance the promotion of rural Gateshead as both a tourism and business location.

For the review, four evidence gathering sessions were undertaken and evidence was heard from:

- Officers from the Council – Economic and Housing Growth Service, Culture, Communities, Leisure and Volunteering
- NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI) – Destination Marketing Organisation
- The National Trust – Property Manager, Gibside Estate
- Newcastle University – Centre for Rural Economy
- A Rural Business Panel – Private Sector Businesses

As a result of the evidence gathering sessions, the following emerging issues were identified:-

- The untapped potential of many of the boroughs rural assets and a lack of visitor accommodation
- The need to work with the private sector to maximise the investment in the tourism businesses and infrastructure
- The lack of suitable, affordable business space in rural areas
- The need to improve business communication and collaboration and ensure access to business support
- The need to continue to work with local, regional, national and international

- partners to grow the number of day visitors and overnight stays
- Recognition of the impact of the rural area on health and wellbeing
- Recognition of the need for enhanced partnership working to maximise the economic benefit for rural communities

The Committee welcomed the recommendations which summarised the key findings of the review, as detailed within paragraph 19 of the report.

Reference was made to recommendation (vii) and the desire for NGI to take a more proactive role in rural destination marketing. The Committee recognise that NGI market the central area of Gateshead and Newcastle but felt that the recommendation should reflect that marketing should be for the whole of Gateshead, and that this include rural destination marketing.

It was also suggested that where there may be increased employment/tourism opportunities, potential conflicts for example increased traffic on local roads, needs to be considered and that a recommendation be included to recognise this and the need for impact assessments for any potential developments to be undertaken.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the comments of the Committee on the interim report be noted
 - ii) That the draft recommendations, including the proposed changes outlined by the Committee, be agreed as the basis for the final report

CPL32 IMPACT OF THE EARLY WORK ON PLACE SHAPING FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Consideration was given to a progress report that provided an update on the Impact of the Early Work on Place Shaping for Health and Wellbeing.

The Committee were reminded that the goals for improving health and life expectancy require a transformational approach over a period of 20 years.

The Committee were informed of progress during 2015/16 as follows:-

Take Away Nutrition Project

The Council have worked with Public Health England to identify legal barriers to controlling the proliferation of unhealthy food outlets. Gateshead has become the first area in the North East to introduce tighter controls on the basis of health on where and how many fast food outlets can be opened. The Council's Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in March 2015 and since this time, three new planning applications for hot food takeaways have been refused. The number of this type of planning applications has also reduced.

Active Travel

There has been further implementation and development of the Government funded 'Schools Go Smarter' and 'Go Smarter to Work' projects. Funding for these projects

runs out at the end of 2015/16 and work is underway on developing legacy projects to take forward elements of this work. Additional external funding was secured through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Cycle City Challenge to enable additional investment in improvements to cycle routes in Gateshead town centre. There is also continued investment in cycle and pedestrian networks using Local Transport Plan and other funding.

Financial Inclusion

The Gateshead Financial Inclusion Partnership has continued to take a multi-agency approach to addressing financial exclusion. Welfare Reform changes and the introduction of Universal Credit are being closely monitored by the partnership to identify any potential support requirements at an early stage.

In addition to the work of the Partnership, the Council's Economic and Housing Growth service have also delivered two internal Credit Union events for employees offering savings via salary reduction. In partnership with Barclays and Northumbria Police, the service has delivered Fraud and Scam Awareness Workshops aimed at Gateshead's most vulnerable residents. Sanction Prevention Workshops have also been delivered in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and Citizens Advice Bureau. Work is also ongoing with Tyne and Wear Fire & Rescue which will see a Financial Inclusion support leaflet distributed to vulnerable residents during Fire Officers regular visits to vulnerable households.

The Committee queried if there would be a move to standardise the size of takeaway food containers however they were informed that this would be unlikely and that there is little work being done to tackle the nutritional value of takeaway meals.

The Committee welcomed the policies which are in place regarding the number of hot food takeaways but commented that smartphone apps can increase the use of such premises if they provide a delivery service.

The Committee were advised that the three planning applications for hot food takeaways which were refused have all been appealed. To date there has been one decision from the Planning Inspectorate and that was to dismiss the appeal.

The Committee queried if any new applications were to come forward could there be scope to place a time limit on any permission granted but they were advised that this information would need to be clarified. The Committee were however informed that should a hot food takeaway premise close, this could be re-opened without a new planning permission as it would already have the required planning use class.

In relation to active travel, the Committee queried if there were any up to date maps available that informed of the cycling routes across the borough. The Committee were informed that this would be looked in to along with more up to date figures for those people that are now cycling or walking to work.

The Committee welcomed the work being undertaken to inform residents about illegal money lending and highlighted the importance for this work to be ongoing. The Committee also asked that where successful prosecutions have taken place against illegal money lending, the communications around such issues be reviewed

and increased.

The Committee suggested that as there are many councillors which are also school governor reps, it may be beneficial to include information relating to financial inclusion within school information packs.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the comments of the Committee and the progress made on the Place Shaping strand of work be noted
 - ii) That the activities outlined within the report be continued and that the Committee receive a further progress report in April 2017

CPL33 THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010 - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report that informed of progress in the implementation of the duties and responsibilities of the Council as lead local flood authority.

The Committee were reminded of the lead local flood authority duties that include:

Preparing, maintaining and publishing a local flood risk management (FRM) strategy to link to the Environment Agency's (EA) national and local strategies

Preparation of the strategy is ongoing and the draft document has been through consultation with FRM partners and is expected to be approved by Cabinet in April

Preparing, maintaining and publishing a register of third party FRM infrastructure assets

The register has been established and work is ongoing to identify critical culverts

Investigating reported flooding incidents and publishing a register of investigations

A register of reported flooding incidents has been established. Storms in December 2015 and January 2016 were significant but were not on the same magnitude as those in 2012 which were exceptional and well beyond the design capacity of typical piped drainage systems.

Over 50 minor infrastructure improvements to highway/land drainage to reduce the risk of future flooding have been carried out since 2012. In addition, twelve flooding locations required detailed investigations to determine the precise mechanism of the flooding and possible improvements to drainage systems

Statutory consultee to the local planning authority (LPA) for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

In April 2015 the government introduced regulations requiring major developments to incorporate SuDS as part of the site surface water management systems. The Highway and Flood Risk Management team has added a dedicated SuDS engineer to respond to SuDS approval processes.

Consenting of ordinary watercourse works (diverting, culverting, restricting flow etc)
Consenting procedures have been developed in conjunction with the EA and to date six applications for works have been received

Co-operation with and oversight of other FRM bodies

Quarterly liaison meetings have been established by officers from the Transport Strategy FRM team with colleagues from the EA and Northumbrian Water

The Committee queried information within the schedule of detailed flooding investigations (appended to the report) and why this did not include details of flooding incidents from 2015/16. The Committee were informed that following incidents of flooding in 2015/16 a programme of small improvement works was established. The schedule appended to the report contains information relating to significant flooding incidents (including flooding to properties) and large scale schemes that includes joint working with Northumbrian Water.

Reference was made to two flooding incidents within the west of the borough and the Committee were informed that communication with the residents affected has taken place.

The Committee queried if Defra are intending to release any information/regulations regarding run-off, in particular from farmer's fields. The Committee were informed that run-off from fields can be for a number of reasons but there are no regulations in place to date.

Reference was made to the One Core Strategy and the number of greenbelt sites which could now be developed and the Committee queried how potential issues relating to flooding (where there would not be a history of flooding) would be dealt with. The Committee were informed that this is something which would be addressed if a planning application was received but that this would also need to be raised with the relevant service director in relation to staff resources.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the statutory responsibilities of the Council for local flood risk management and the measures taken to comply with these duties, and the comments of the committee be noted
 - ii) That the local flood risk management outcomes of all local agencies be reviewed and that an annual progress report be received in March 2017

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TITLE OF REPORT: Progress Report - Issues Emanating from Landfill Sites in the west of the Borough

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

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the issues arising from landfill sites in the west of the Borough and in particular to highlight progress on the actions agreed at the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2015 and the original feedback on these actions reported in September 2015.

Purpose of the Report

1. To highlight progress on the actions agreed at the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the issues emanating from landfill sites in the west of the Borough and to provide a general update on these sites.

Background

2. Following concerns raised by residents in some parts of the west of the borough the matter was brought before the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2015. The Committee received a report which also featured significant input from the Environment Agency (EA) as one of the regulators of the Landfill sites.
3. During the meeting twelve actions were agreed and an update on these points was presented to the Committee in September 2015. Further updates are offered on the remaining actions below.
4. In addition, the Committee will be provided with an update on the current operations at Blaydon and Path Head Landfill sites.

What has happened since the actions were agreed?

5. The Committee has previously received feedback on action points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 and where necessary these points have been completed. The Committee will be provided with an update on action points 8, 10 and 11 (Copy of September report attached at Appendix 1).

Action 8:

That a process for the Council's cabinet, to invite comments from the relevant advisory group on applications for EA permits be explored.

Update:

An advisory group was set up to provide comments on the EA consultation on the Permit variation application for Blaydon Quarry. The response was endorsed by Cabinet at their meeting on 15th September 2015. The reviewed permit has been issued by the Environment Agency.

Action 10:

That the Council make representations to the current DEFRA consultation on waste crime and that the link to the consultation be publicised.

Update:

The Government has published its response to the consultation on the above and a link to this is provided below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/466879/waste-crime-consult-sum-resp.pdf

Action 11:

That there be a greater focus on enforcement to ensure EA permits are complied with and to look at the type of evidence required to pursue enforcement in relation to odour.

Update:

The Environment Agency continues to actively regulate both the Blaydon and Path Head landfill sites to ensure they comply with the permits they signed up to and the impacts on the local community are kept to a minimum.

In recent weeks the Environment Agency has served 3 Enforcement Notices to ensure the permits are complied with. Two of these enforcement notices were served on Suez in relation to odour problems at the Path Head site. The ongoing odour problems at Path Head remain subject to a formal investigation by the Environment Agency.

Blaydon Update

6. The revised planning permission was granted for this site in September 2015. This included a number of conditions that required further information to be submitted by particular dates or when particular works commenced on site.
 - a) The submission of planning conditions 2, 7, 20, 24, 27 (and 11) which should have been discharged by 2 October 2015
 - b) The submission of planning conditions, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 31 and 32 due by 2 March 2016
7. At the most recent meeting with the operator and their agent (29th Jan), the operator agreed to submit all of the required information by the end of February

(both those that needed to be submitted by October and March). However, this information was not submitted and is still outstanding. As such the operation is in breach of these planning conditions, so, in light of this consideration is being given to next steps, including taking enforcement action.

8. The first meeting of the Community Liaison Group following the grant of planning permission took place on 30th March 2015 following a 9 month gap where no meeting took place. One of the requirements of the revised planning permission is that the operator must host three liaison Group meetings a year one of which must include a site visit. The constitution for this meeting is being prepared.
9. At this meeting the operator, the Environment Agency and the Local Planning Authority gave an update and residents had the opportunity to raise issues that they had about the site.
10. The Environment Agency produces regular updates on its website relating to this site. The most recent update (1 April) can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blaydon-quarry-landfill-newcastle-upon-tyne/blaydon-quarry-landfill-newcastle-upon-tyne>
11. In summary tipping continues in cell 7, which is in the central part of the site. Tipping in this area is likely to continue for approximately 3 years before moving in to Cell 8 which will be the final cell.
12. The Environment Agency has asked for the cells to the east of the site to be capped this spring, which will allow these areas to be restored back to grassland in accordance with the planning requirements this summer. The Environment Agency is also expecting additional gas extraction wells to be drilled in these completed areas to maintain full extraction across the site.
13. Capping work is due to commence on 25 April subject to favourable weather conditions. Preparatory placement of soils has already started.
14. The electricity generating plant continues to run at full capacity, with any additional gas burnt in the standby flare.
15. In the last few weeks the Environment Agency has received odour complaints on its incident hotline and is instructing Octagon to take steps to reduce odour coming from this site.
16. On 19 February 2016 the Environment Agency served an enforcement notice on Octagon to submit proposals to remediate odours coming from the site. This notice was complied with and their proposals are being assessed.

Path Head Update

17. The Environment Agency produces regular updates on its website relating to this site. The most recent update (1 April) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/path-head-landfill-gateshead/path-head-landfill-site>

18. The Environment Agency is continuing to instruct Suez to take steps to reduce the odours and comply with their environmental permit. Our investigations have identified odour sources on site and we have informed Suez that further improvements are required to the gas management system on site.
19. The Environment Agency served notice on Suez to require engineering plans detailing the installation of additional gas extraction wells and capping works. This Enforcement Notice has now been complied with but a further enforcement notice has been served on Suez to ensure this work is carried out within the agreed deadlines.
20. The Environment Agency is working closely with the Councils Planning and Public Health services and with Public Health England regarding the odour.
21. The Environment Agency are also carrying out significant additional odour monitoring around both the Path Head and Blaydon sites. It has also installed a monitoring station which will constantly monitor air quality downwind of Path Head for three months. Following that, the station would be moved downwind from Blaydon.
22. Health Issues - Public Health England and Gateshead Council's Public Health team have met with local councillors and have been working with local GPs and the Environment Agency to review residents' concerns in light of findings from monitoring at the site. Whilst the odours are distressing and can cause symptoms such as sore throats, nausea, headaches and dizziness, the substances that cause the smells are not themselves harmful to health. The Council has provided updates about the health concerns of the odours on its website <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Building%20and%20Development/Planning/Gases-and-odour-at-Path-Head-landfill-site.aspx>
23. The Environment Agency, Gateshead Council and Public Health England will maintain a partnership approach to tackle this issue and will continue to keep people informed on both the Environment Agency and the Councils Websites.

What will we do next?

24. Monitoring of the sites will continue, including joint visits between the Council and the EA.
25. The planning conditions will continue to be monitored and enforcement action taken where necessary.
26. Regular updates will be given to keep people informed on both the Environment Agency and the Council Websites.

Recommendation

27. It is recommended that the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider whether sufficient progress has been made against actions to date.

Contact: Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director, Development and Public Protection ext. 3881



**COMMUNITIES AND PLACE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 SEPTEMBER 2015**

TITLE OF REPORT: Progress Report - Issues Emanating from Landfill Sites in the west of the Borough

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

SUMMARY

This report provides a summary update on the actions arising from the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the issues emanating from landfill sites in the west of the Borough.

Purpose of the Report

28. To highlight progress on the actions agreed at the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the issues emanating from landfill sites in the west of the Borough and to seek the Committee's views on progress to date.

Background

29. Following concerns raised by residents in some parts of the west of the borough the matter was brought before the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March of this year. The Committee received a report which also featured significant input from the Environment Agency (EA) as one of the regulators of the Landfill sites.

30. During the meeting twelve actions were agreed and it was further agreed that progress on these actions would be reported back to the committee in six months.

What has happened since the actions were agreed?

31. Work by the Council, together with colleagues in the EA and from Public Health England have progressed all of the agreed actions. Progress against each of the actions is presented below:

1. Action:

That the simplified table of roles and responsibilities of the EA and Gateshead Council be made available on the EA and Council websites.

Update:

The table of responsibilities is available on both the EA (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blaydon-quarry-landfill-newcastle-upon-tyne>) and Council (at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Building%20and%20Development/Planning/Landfill-sites.aspx>) websites.

2. Action:

That there be wider promotion of the EA 24 hour incident reporting telephone number.

Update:

The EA incident hotline is published on the dedicated gov.uk web pages for Blaydon and Path Head landfill sites. It is also included in all correspondence, press releases and is referred to during liaison meetings and all our interactions with members of the public including local resident action groups such as Winlaton Action Group. The EA incident hotline number can also be found on the EA website and in the phonebook.

This information is also provided on the Council's website at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Building%20and%20Development/Planning/Landfill-sites.aspx>.

3. Action:

That the number of non-conformance of permit conditions by Octagon Green Solutions Ltd since it took over the Blaydon site be reported back to members.

Update:

There have been a total of 30 permit non-compliances between 12 September 2013 and 15 March 2015 when Octagon Green Solutions Ltd have been operating the Blaydon Quarry landfill site.

As of 16 August the number is 37 of which 11 were in the last 6 months.

4. Action:

That the EA and Gateshead Council Communications team work more closely with the aim of providing more timely information.

Update:

Named contacts in the respective teams have been identified and have discussed opportunities to work more closely in future.

5. Action:

That the statement of the Winlaton Action Group (WAG) be circulated to all members of Gateshead Council and that a response be provided by the EA and Gateshead Council on each issue set out.

Update:

The statement was circulated after the meeting and a comprehensive response provided on 2 June 2015. This is attached at Appendix 1.

6. Action:

That the EA consider alternative methods of consultation (not just via the internet) during the consultation process

Update:

The EA carries out bespoke consultation for all applications that are considered to be of High Public Interest. The permit variation for Blaydon was considered to be High Public Interest and a full consultation was carried out. This included the production of CD's that contained the full application, publishing details of the application on the dedicated gov.uk web page for the Blaydon landfill site and a specific agenda item at a liaison group meeting and WAG meeting. The CD's were distributed to the Council, Secretary of WAG and the MP's Office.

7. Action:

That Members receive a report on what monitoring of ecological impacts arising from the Blaydon and Path Head sites takes place.

Update:

The report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

8. Action:

That a process for the Council's cabinet, to invite comments from the relevant advisory group on applications for EA permits be explored.

Update:

An advisory group was recently set up to provide comments on the EA consultation on the Permit variation application for Blaydon Quarry. This response has been finalised and is awaiting approval from Cabinet.

9. Action:

Explore the possibility of Public Health England to work towards a health survey of the locality, working with both Gateshead Council and the EA.

Update:

The Service Director of Public Health has contacted eight local GP practices in Ryton, Blaydon, Chopwell, Crawcrook and Winlaton who may have patients living near the landfill sites to ask if they were aware of any patients presenting with health issues that were either a) attributable to the site, or b) that they (patients or clinicians) perceived to be attributable to the site. Responses were received from all practices. Clinical staff were not aware of any health issues either observed in patients nor claimed by patients to be attributable to the landfill site.

In light of the above, it is not considered that an extremely costly health survey of the locality is required or necessary. In any event detailed studies that have investigated potential health impacts of those living near to landfill sites have not found any evidence that they cause an increased likelihood of any health condition and the GPs in the area have confirmed no pattern of ill health associated with the landfill.

10. Action

That the Council make representations to the current DEFRA consultation on waste crime and that the link to the consultation be publicised.

Update:

The consultation period closed on 6 May 2015. The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed and further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-crime-improving-enforcement-powers-to-reduce-persistent-non-compliance-at-waste-handling-sites> .

11. Action:

That there be a greater focus on enforcement to ensure EA permits are complied with and to look at the type of evidence required to pursue enforcement in relation to odour.

Update:

The policy and procedures of the EA in relation to the enforcement of permits, in particular odour, was presented to the Committee in March. There has been no change to those policies and procedures since then.

However, since the March meeting the Council and EA have continued to work closely together and are in the process of finalising a memorandum of understanding between both parties which will set out how they can work in

partnership to effectively tackle environmental crime and coordinate the regulation of waste businesses in Gateshead given the overlap of enforcement duties. This commitment will provide an agreement for a both a proactive and responsive approach and clearly sets out roles and responsibilities. To coincide with the issuing of the planning permission for Blaydon Quarry's operation as a landfill site the Council has contacted the operator inviting him to meet with the Service Director Development and Public Protection and the EA's Area Manager on a regular basis to discuss the operation of the site.

Joint enforcement visits between the EA and Council will also be put in place to ensure a high level of monitoring and compliance.

12. Action:

That the Committee notes and shares the concerns of residents within the west of the borough and the impact the landfill has on local communities.

Update:

No update from Officers required.

What will we do next?

32. As noted above, the actions arising from the March Committee are ongoing and will continue to develop over the coming months. Some points to note are:

- A meeting between the Service Director of Development and Public Protection, the Acting Environment Manager from the EA and the Director of Octagon Green Solutions has been agreed and will be held in the near future to discuss the running of the site and the need to minimise its impact on the locality.
- Monitoring of the site will continue, including joint visits between the Council and the EA.
- The new planning permission for the Blaydon site has been issued. The compliance with the conditions imposed on that permission will be proactively monitored and the operator is also required to produce an annual monitoring report.

Recommendations

33. It is recommended that the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Consider whether sufficient progress has been made against actions to date.

Contact: Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director, Development and Public Protection ext. 3881

TITLE OF REPORT: **Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead – Final Report**

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

SUMMARY

This report outlines the findings of the recent review which examined the promotion of rural Gateshead as both a tourism and business location. Following the Interim report of the 7 March 2016, it outlines the final recommendations for approval by the Committee.

REPORT STRUCTURE

1. This report outlines the findings of the Communities & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in relation to the review considering how the Council can better promotion of rural Gateshead as both a tourism and business location. This final report from the review sets out the main issues raised; evidence to support these and seeks approval for the recommendations outlined as part of the review process.
2. The report includes details of:
 - Aims of the Review.
 - How the review was carried out.
 - Issues emerging from the review.
 - Recommendations.

THE AIMS OF THE REVIEW

3. The Council agreed that the OSC should carry out a review examining the promotion of rural Gateshead as both a tourism and business location. Recognising that, like Government, rural communities have significant economic potential and can contribute to the economic growth of both the borough as a whole but also the wider region. The review recognised the role of tourism in protecting, preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage and identity of the area, and that it can create opportunities for new businesses and job creation via more effective use of rural assets.

4. Therefore the scope of the review was agreed as:
 - **Business Growth** – To review services that support economic growth in the rural areas examining the potential for new businesses based around key assets. It will also review the partnerships approach to rural economic growth and the potential for new business and visitor accommodation to help improve economic performance.
 - **Emerging Places** – To review the services that deliver enhanced visitor potential, e.g. tourism activities, (including events) environmental sustainability, volunteering opportunities etc. It will also explore better use for of key assets for economic purposes such as the Angel of the North.
5. Whilst the review was led by Gateshead Council it incorporated input from partner organisations to ensure a holistic approach that fully reflected the service delivery.
6. On 30 March 2015 the OSC agreed that the scope of the review would focus on the following;
 - An understanding of the investment needs to support economic growth in rural communities;
 - Explore how key assets can support the growth of tourism businesses and help sustain the wider business base;
 - A better understanding of local tourism assets - and how these can work together more effectively to enhance the tourism offer;
 - A better understanding of tourism, marketing and promotion - exploring ways to increase the number of local visitors and overnight stays;
 - A better understanding of the regional approach to tourism promotion – including opportunities to work together to attract and retain visitors;
 - A better understanding of the local infrastructure including the accommodation offer - outlining key issues and opportunities;
 - Providing a clear direction as to maximizing the visitor experience for the Angel of the North, including increasing visitor numbers and dwell time.
 - Agree an approach to the development of sustainable community hubs which maintain the economic and cultural integrity of rural communities;

The committee concluded their work would result in:

- Ensuring that clear arrangements are in place within the Council and in partner agencies for improving the promotion of the rural area as both a tourism and business location.
- Enhancing effective and efficient working and avoiding duplication.
- Providing direction as to the adherence of national policy.

POLICY CONTEXT

7. The approach has clear links to National, Regional and Local Policy. For example:
 - The 2012 National Planning Policy Framework outlined the need to “support sustainable development in rural areas by taking a positive approach to new development”;
 - The North East LEP’s Strategic Economic Plan recognises the tourism and heritage potential of the rural North East, relating both to the creation of new businesses and job opportunities;
 - In addition, this approach also links to the objectives of the North East Combined Authority (NECA), contributing to the need to enhance economic growth across the LA7 area. The Devolution proposal submitted to Government in September 2015 includes a rural ‘Ask’.
8. Locally, Vision 2030, the Council Plan (2012-2017) and the Local Plan outline the approaches of the Council and Partners to promoting economic growth and enhancing the borough’s tourism and cultural identity. These approaches are carried forward into delivery strategies such as the Council’s Rural Economic Strategy and Creative Gateshead, the borough’s Culture Strategy. Objectives include the need to:
 - Maximise the potential derived from a high quality living environment and improving broadband infrastructure to support business development and job creation;
 - Create a network of creative hubs and community hubs to drive economic growth and strong, cohesive communities addressing the unmet demand for business space;
 - Create a strong visitor economy, by using our rural assets more effectively and the use of private sector investment to create tourism jobs;
 - Build the skills and successes of our residents and the cultural sector.

HOW THE REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT – METHODOLOGY

9. This review is the result of four evidence gathering sessions of the OSC between September 2015 and January 2016. The sessions involved presentations to the Committee on 14 September, 2 November, 7 December and 25 January as well as a site visit on 2 November.
10. During the review the Committee heard evidence from:

- Officers from Gateshead Council – Economic Housing and Growth Service, Culture, Communities, Leisure and Volunteering;
- Newcastle Gateshead Initiative – Destination Marketing Organisation;
- The National Trust – Property Manager Gibside Estate;
- Newcastle University – Centre for Rural Economy;
- Rural Business Panel – Private Sector Businesses.

A site visit took place to:

- The Gibside Estate – Chopwell and Rowlands Gill Ward

EMERGING ISSUES FROM THE REVIEW – ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

11. As a result of the evidence gathering sessions and site visit the following emerging issues were identified
12. **The untapped potential of many of the boroughs rural assets and a lack of visitor accommodation.**

The review highlighted the historic significance of sites such as the National Trust's Gibside Estate, the Angel of the North and the Derwent Valley, with well in excess of one million visitors to the area every year. It outlined the need to protect the historic importance of these assets, whilst increasing their economic potential, recognising that income generation can help protect them for future generations whilst providing leisure and cultural venues. Members were made aware of funding opportunities that enhance the potential and future sustainability and growth of these and other sites.

Developments at the Gibside Estate were reported, with the Branch Enterprise Hub highlighted as a model of good practice in supporting the growth of local businesses. The nationally significant Georgian Walled Garden, Gibside Hall and other, potentially new visitor attractions, were outlined as part of the review process and was though likely to have a significant impact on future visitor numbers.

The importance of the Heritage Lottery funded Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership to the future economic and cultural development of the rural area was outlined. The area covered by the partnership follows the course of the River Derwent to the River Tyne and seeks to work with local communities and partners to celebrate, conserve and enhance our natural, industrial and cultural heritage. It will deliver a legacy of job creation, tourism, regeneration and economic benefits with a planned new Heritage Centre on the Derwent Walk at Winlotion supporting the economic and cultural wellbeing of the rural area and enhancing the rural assets base.

Details of visitor accommodation in the rural area were also highlighted, including the lack of a high quality rural hotel. Research highlighted the

significant potential for accommodation at tiered price points such as glamping, camping and B+B's. In the first instance, opportunities to increase midweek visitor numbers and particularly midweek visitor stays will help maximise the potential of existing assets and increase the viability of local accommodation that is often oversubscribed at weekends.

There is a need to ensure that Impact Assessments are undertaken in any proposed major development to ensure that increased traffic flow does not does not negatively impact on traffic flow and other users.

13. **The need to continue to work with local, regional, national and international partners to grow the number of day visitors and overnight stays.**

The review outlined the need to actively promote rural Gateshead within different market segments to maximise the number of people who visit and stay in rural Gateshead. It highlighted the need to encourage day visitors from both Gateshead and the wider region, but also to encourage a range of suitable accommodation (and a quality food offer) to meet the needs, and price band of different overnight visitors.

It also highlighted the need to work effectively with regional partners to develop the national and international offer, which builds on the collective heritage offer of the wider region. Whilst the "Lady of Liberty" and "Turners" classic watercolours of the Derwent Valley are of historic important in their own right, this increases with link to the regional offer including the castles of Northumberland and the World Heritage sites of Hadrian's Wall and Durham Cathedral. This collective approach (and strong narratives) provides a competing offer against other regions, encouraging overnight or longer stays. Gateshead's unique position in having both urban and rural assets to contribute to the regional tourism offer was highlighted as significant.

Members were informed of the availability of European Funding (EAFRD) to support the growth of tourism accommodation, tourism businesses and regional tourism promotion and highlighted a need for greater relevance to be given to the rural assets of Gateshead in future Newcastle Gateshead Initiative (NGI) Visitor Guides, with the need to include details of cycling routes to increase interest in rural locations. Discussions have also taken place with NGI to develop a marketing campaign to promote the rural area in the next financial year.

14. **The need to work with the private sector to maximise the investment in the tourism businesses infrastructure.**

Private sector investment in businesses such as Bradley Gardens and Daniel's Farm outlined the significant potential for developing a high quality,

privately funded tourism infrastructure in the area. An infrastructure that creates jobs and enhances the local food supply chain.

The significant potential for the growth of tourism related businesses was therefore recognised, which could be enhanced further via better utilisation and promotion of rural tourism assets. Members were made aware of funding opportunities, such as LEADER, that will support capital investment in businesses in rural areas.

The review highlighted the symbiotic relationship between maximising the economic potential of key rural assets and businesses that are often developed alongside an improving assets base. Opportunities often go hand in hand in an area that has significant untapped potential. It was also acknowledged that whilst tourism businesses will benefit from the increased tourism footfall, non tourism businesses will also benefit from more people visiting the area.

Businesses outlined that there was no shortage of people who were keen to work in the tourism and hospitality sector. Whilst many of these residents had proved to be good quality staff there is a need to support skills development to help enhance the visitor offer.

15. The lack of suitable, affordable business space in rural areas.

Members were informed of the Government's Rural Growth Review which highlighted the lack of suitable business space across many parts of rural England and the development of Rural Growth Networks (RGN) in 2012 to encourage rural growth. The North East rural area, which includes Gateshead, was identified as one of five pilots seeking to increase the quality and availability of rural business space.

The committee was informed that availability of good quality rural business accommodation remains an issue in Gateshead (and across the rural NE) despite the development of enterprise hubs at Gibside and The Kibblesworth Village Millennium Centre. Members were made aware of funding opportunities to support new enterprise hub development through RGN funding and the importance of such hubs in helping businesses collaborate and overcome the isolation felt by many businesses in rural areas.

16. The need to improve business communication and collaboration and ensure access to business support.

The review highlighted that rural businesses face the same difficulties as urban based businesses, but additionally isolation and distance from specialist business support and markets can often limit their growth potential. The success of the RGN Business Support Programme, with 135 businesses supported in Gateshead alone in the 18 months to March 2015 was

highlighted, as was the need to promote peer to peer networking given that rural businesses often work in isolation. The underdeveloped nature of Gateshead's rural business base offers opportunities for self employment and the growth of new and existing businesses.

The importance (and challenges) of the Green Belt was highlighted; however the need to explore how businesses can be supported to develop, within the context of the Green Belt and wider planning policies, was acknowledged.

17. Recognition of the need for enhanced partnership working to maximise the economic benefit for rural communities.

Members heard of the extensive work that has been undertaken to ensure that people from rural areas have the opportunity to maximise the economic potential of rural living, this included being part of the North East Farming Rural Advisory Network (NEFRAN) which has seen the borough access funding from both LEADER and RGN.

In addition to current and future plans that will see superfast broadband speed be available to 99% of households by 2019, the committee was informed of the approach taken to rebrand the Derwent Valley with new brown tourism signage and tie this to tourism promotion. Whilst the public transport access to Gibside Estate is better than at many other National Trust properties, opportunities to explore better access to rural areas should be explored.

Members were made aware that the Devolution proposal that was submitted to Government in September included a rural 'Ask'. Opportunities to work together with partners to develop this proposal should be encouraged.

The review outlined significant opportunities available to support volunteering through organisations such as the National Trust. Whilst skills shortages were not seen in customer facing jobs in tourism, the need for skilled workers is seen as a requirement for higher level tourism jobs, there is a need to support the development of higher skilled jobs in the hospitality sector, particularly around the higher quality food offer. This was seen as a key way to attract visitors. There is also a need to support the growth of other higher levels jobs in for example manufacturing.

Improved broadband speeds offer high quality living and the opportunity for jobs in creative and cultural employment to be more easily based in rural communities. Opportunities for apprenticeships need to be explored with rural businesses.

18. Recognition of the impact of the rural area on health and wellbeing.

The review outlined initiatives which encourage residents to visit the rural area, which help to promote an active and healthy lifestyle. Reference was

made to opportunities for walking and cycling, whilst more active, targeted events such as Gibside 5km park run were highlighted. Rural activities were also seen to have a positive impact on mental health, with the potential to work with businesses (and their employees) to raise awareness of such issues and to provide positive experiences and support where appropriate.

19. **Final Recommendations**

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

- (i) The Council should maximise the visitor potential of rural assets, thereby creating the best possible environment for tourism, new business development and job creation. Further research should be undertaken into the development of a 4 star hotel and to explore how the wider accommodation offer can be enhanced. The economic potential of key sites such as Gibside and the Angel of the North should be encouraged.
- (ii) There is scope to ensure that Council spending in the rural area seeks to maximise benefits to local businesses, residents and visitors – to make best use of resources and impact multiple agendas.
- (iii) There is scope to improve the tourism offer by increasing the choice and quality of the food offer, and also to identify gaps in the provision of rural services.
- (iv) Highly skilled people are needed if the tourism potential of rural Gateshead is to be realised. Apprenticeships opportunities should be explored.
- (v) There is the need to better coordinate the promotion of events in the borough, including those of public private and voluntary sector bodies. This would help promote the borough as a day visitor location and support the growth of jobs and businesses.
- (vi) There is a need to continue to support the work of the Land of Oak and Iron Landscape Partnership and maximise the potential for economic and cultural benefits arising from the programme.
- (vii) Discussions have highlighted a desire for NGI to have a more proactive role in marketing Gateshead as a whole including maximising the opportunities for promoting the rural areas of the borough.
- (viii) Research has demonstrated a continued lack of high quality, affordable business space in rural communities, therefore support to develop new enterprise hubs should continue, including the opportunities for existing

cultural venues to generate income to support their future sustainability.

- (ix) The Council provides a borough wide business support offer, however opportunities to enhance this should be considered. External funding should be sought where possible to provide business support and help overcome isolation and provide networking opportunities. Opportunities to train people in key growth sectors should be encouraged as part of an approach to create higher level jobs in rural areas.

RECOMMENDATION

- 20. The Committee is asked to agree the final recommendations as outlined above and that the Committee agrees to the Chairperson presenting this report to Cabinet as representing the Committee's findings and recommendations from the review process.

Contact: Andrew Marshall, Lindsay Murray ,

Extension: 3422, 2794

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TITLE OF REPORT: Domestic Energy Management & Fuel Poverty Review
– Monitoring Report

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

SUMMARY

This monitoring report sets out the progress made against the recommendations agreed by the overview and scrutiny committee following the domestic energy management and fuel poverty review. The review made recommendations to help reduce fuel poverty and improve residents' management of their energy bills.

BACKGROUND

1. The Council agreed that OSC should carry out a review domestic energy management and fuel poverty during 2014/15. The Council, like Government, recognises the importance of people being able to keep warm in their homes and the need for there to be increased fairness in the energy markets and therefore household electricity and gas bills. The review included four evidence gathering sessions between September 2014 and January 2015 and included a client case study and site visit to Chopwell.
3. Whilst the review was led by Gateshead Council it incorporated input from partner organisations to ensure a holistic approach that fully reflected the service delivery of domestic energy management.
4. During the review the Committee heard evidence from:
 - Officers from Gateshead Council – Energy Services, Public Health, Trading Standards
 - The Gateshead Housing Company – Asset Management and Rent & Income Team
 - Warm Up North
 - Citizen's Advice Bureau
 - National Energy Action
 - Gateshead Private Landlord Association
5. The main issues that emerged from the review were as follows:
 - Fuel Poverty is a complex problem distinct from wider poverty.
 - Households in fuel poverty are not evenly distributed across the borough in terms of geography or housing tenure.
 - Fuel Poverty and poor energy management create Cold Homes and a detrimental impact on health.
 - Consumer protection for residents undertaking energy efficiency improvements to their home is paramount

- The energy efficiency of housing stock in the borough is vastly different, but significantly improved in the past decade.
 - Many households require support to manage their energy use, bills and payments and front line staff require training on how to respond.
 - Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Funding and the Green Deal present both opportunities but challenges to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.
 - Existing and forthcoming Government Policy provide mechanisms to simplify energy tariffs and improve energy efficiency.
6. OSC agreed the following recommendations and asked the Council and its partners to take forward the following actions over the forthcoming year.
- (i) Incorporate additional performance information relating to fuel poverty domestic energy efficiency into the Council's Plan – Year End Assessment of Delivery and Performance Report
 - (ii) Continue to promote and increase awareness of the Warm Up North partnership to increase the delivery of energy efficiency measures to tackle fuel poverty.
 - (iii) That the work undertaken to protect consumers is publicised to highlight enforcement action taken against "rogue traders".
 - (iv) That the Council give due consideration of the benefits arising from external solid wall insulation when considering planning applications, to the health and comfort improvement to residents, which in certain circumstances may outweigh the visual impact.
 - (v) As the Council becomes an energy supplier, through the district energy scheme, fair pricing, and fair use of prepayment metering should be explored, as should other opportunities to supply energy, either directly or indirectly, at fairer prices than on the market.
 - (vi) Explore the feasibility of offering training and awareness courses to elected members on energy efficiency, energy tariffs and fuel debt, to help them signpost residents into referral routes of the Council and its partners.
 - (vii) That the Council promotes the Warm Homes Discount Scheme when in re-opens in Summer 2015 to increase the rebates on the electricity bills of the most vulnerable households in Gateshead.
7. The Final Report was shared with the committee on 30 March 2015 and the Committee Chair presented the report to cabinet on 23 June 2015 as representing the Committee's findings and recommendations of the review.
8. The Interim Monitoring Report was shared with the committee on 14 September 2015. This included an update on the recommendations from the committee and what we aimed to do next, as follows.
- Recommendation (i). The OSC annual progress report on Carbon emissions is to be updated to include additional performance with regard to fuel poverty

- Recommendation (ii). Good progress reported on delivery of energy efficiency measures through Warm Up North
- Recommendation (iii). Evidence presented that Trading Standards Officers were pursuing prosecutions against Company Directors of a “Rogue Trader” that mis-sold energy efficiency measures to 2000 households. Court proceedings are due later in 2016.
- Recommendation (v). Update on plans for the District Energy Scheme to be registered to the Heat Trust fair heat pricing scheme
- Recommendation (vi). The Council delivered member training, in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau and National Energy Action in June 2015.

PROGRESS SINCE PREVIOUS UPDATE

9. The following key achievements have been noted since the last update report.
10. Recommendation (ii). To increase delivery of energy efficiency measures through Warm Up North the Council in partnership with the Gateshead Housing Company has:
 - 149 Gateshead Council properties located in Leam Lane are to benefit from External Wall Insulation, delivered via Warm Up North. This will be completed April 2016.
 - 61 Gateshead Council properties located in Heworth Grange are to benefit from External Wall Insulation, delivered via Warm Up North. This will be completed May 2016.
 - Gateshead Council - Tower Blocks, Beacon, Lough and Fell Court are to benefit from, new windows, External Wall Insulation and new roof covering, delivered via Warm Up North. This scheme will provide benefits for 144 flats, with the scheme to commence May 2016 and be complete November 2016.
 - Gateshead Council - Trial scheme via Warm Up North to install Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation to 120 Council homes across Gateshead, which missed previous schemes. Surveys to take place from March 2016 onwards.
 - The Council have written to 600 Private Sector Landlords to promote via Warm Up North, the Central Heating Fund (which uses DECC funding) aimed at properties that are currently off the gas network, to install a gas supply.
 - The Council has promoted a new Free Gas Boiler scheme for qualifying households via Warm Up North, with articles in the Council News, leaflet distribution for promotion – located within Council premises, email distribution to Private Sector Landlords.

11. The Council had approved significant capital budgets, to install solar PV scheme on Council homes, to further reduce fuel poverty. However, in September 2015, the government announced plans to reduce the Feed in Tariff which supports solar PV installations, which came into force from January 2016. This made the business case for solar PV on social housing unviable, and unfortunately the scheme had to be aborted.
12. Recommendation (iv). The Council has approved solid wall insulation planning applications for Council Housing, where visual issues were of minimal concern. However, given the closure of grant schemes for solid wall insulation for private households mid 2015, there has not been the opportunity to test the planning process for solid wall insulation on other types of homes.
13. Recommendation (v). The Council has appointed Gateshead Energy Company to manage and operate the district energy scheme, which should be operational from Autumn 2016. The Council will seek to ensure GEC meet the standards required by the Heat Trust.
14. Recommendation (vii). It has been confirmed that all eligible households (those where a householder receives the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit) are contacted directly by their Energy Supplier, to make them aware of Warm Homes Discount Scheme, and the £140 discount is applied automatically.

WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT

15. The Council and partners will continue to progress initiatives that respond to the agreed recommendations and ultimately improve energy in domestic properties and reduce fuel poverty.
16. One example of such an activity is in relation Big Energy Saving Week which took place during 26-30 October 2015 and Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on 26 February 2016. Working with Warm Up North, Citizens Advice Bureau, National Energy Action and The Gateshead Housing Company we again held display stalls in the Civic Centre offering energy saving advice and guidance. This will also continue throughout 2016 on a quarterly basis.
17. The Council will continue to support the launch of Green Doctors within Gateshead. A members briefing has recently been provided detailing the project. The project led by Groundworks North East and funded via a successful bid via British Gas Energy Savings Trust funding, aims to provide advice, install draught proofing and clothing for eligible residents. Working with Groundworks North East we have looked to enhance this project further by having a direct referral route into Warm Up North for Energy Efficiency measures, including, Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation, Gas Boiler and Central Heating Fund. We have also planned additional support for residents who are not eligible for measures via Warm Up North to be referred to Warmzone. This project is also supported financially by Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
18. The Council also awaits details of proposed changes to Energy Company Obligation grant funding, which the government has indicated will be reviewed. The challenge remains that grant funding for energy efficiency continues to be limited, and is expected to reduce further in future.

19. The Council continues to review alternative models for providing energy efficiency and renewable energy to homes, and should any prove financially viable, will bring these forward for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The views of the OSC are sought on:-
- Whether the OSC is satisfied with progress against actions to date
 - Whether the OSC is satisfied for future update reports to be included within annual reports for Carbon Emissions monitoring

Contact: Peter McDermott, Energy Services Officer

Extension: 3449

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TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Sub Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of the Prevent Agenda

REPORT OF: Alison Elliott, Interim Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

The report provide details of the Final Report of the Community Safety Sub-OSC following a series of evidence gathering sessions that were held throughout 2015/16 in relation to its review of the Prevent agenda.

Background

- 1 As a reminder for members, in May 2014, the Council agreed to establish the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a Community Safety Sub-Committee to carry out the following functions on its behalf:
 - “to perform Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to the safety of communities and people in the Borough, including the functions of the crime and disorder committee, as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations”

Purpose of the Report

- 2 As part of its work programme for 2015/16, the Sub-Committee undertook a review into the Prevent agenda, which is one of the four key elements of the Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). The Review scrutinised the arrangements the Council and its partners have in place to support delivery of Prevent within Gateshead in order to identify potential service gaps, areas of duplication and/or opportunities to work more effectively.
- 3 The attached report sets out the key findings and recommendations of the Prevent review undertaken by the Sub-Committee.

Proposals

- 4 Following a series of evidence gathering sessions, the Sub-Committee identified no significant gaps in the current arrangements that are in place. However, in order to ensure we remain proactive in addressing future challenges and continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism, the Sub-Committee has identified a number of suggested actions.
- 5 The recommendations are designed to help build upon, and strengthen our existing approach and have been aligned with the three themes identified within the national Prevent Duty Guidance published by Government earlier in the year – and include: *Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities.*

Recommendations

- 6 The Committee is asked to note the findings and recommendations outlined within the Final Report of the Community Safety Sub-Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review into the Prevent agenda (as set out in Appendix 1) and note its referral to Cabinet.

Contact: Adam Lindridge

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TITLE OF REPORT: PREVENT Review – Final Report

REPORT OF: Alison Elliott
Interim Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed that its review for 2015/16 would focus upon the Prevent agenda – which is one of four key elements of the UK Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST).

The Committee has received a significant amount of evidence as part of the Review to help scrutinise the arrangements the Council and its partners have in place in order to support the delivery of the Prevent agenda within Gateshead. The Review focused on raising Committee's awareness and understanding of how Prevent is currently being delivered in order to help identify potential service gaps, areas of duplication and/or opportunities to work more effectively.

Following a series of evidence gathering sessions, this report analyses the key issues presented throughout the review and suggests recommendations to be implemented to help build upon, and strengthen, our existing approach to Prevent.

1 Introduction

1.1 This is the Final Report of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee’s review into Prevent. The Committee took the decision to focus their review for 2015/16 on Prevent following consultation with Councillors and partner agencies (and to tie in with the introduction of new legislation to prevent individuals being drawn into extremism). It has been prepared on behalf of the Committee and sets out the key findings and emerging themes identified within the evidence gathering sessions.

2 Background / Context

2.1 As a brief reminder for members, the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) has overall responsibility for the strategic direction of work in relation to international terrorism contained within the Government’s CONTEST Strategy.

2.2 The third CONTEST Strategy was published in 2011 and highlighted activity in relation to four key themes: *Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare*.

- **Pursue** is the theme of the counter-terrorism workstream that aims to stop terrorist attacks in the UK and against our interests overseas. Northumbria Police are wholly responsible for the delivery of activities conducted under this work stream.

- **Prevent** aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Preventing terrorism will mean challenging extremist ideas that are conducive to terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups. There is a clear distinction between Prevent work and the Government's programmes to support integration.
- **Protect** aims to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks in the UK or against our interests overseas, and so reduce vulnerability. One of the Protect objectives is to improve protective security for crowded places.
- **Prepare** aims to mitigate the impact of a terrorist incident where it cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end, and to recover from its aftermath.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- 2.3 An Extremism Task Force (ETF) was established by the Prime Minister in June 2013 following the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich and subsequent attacks on a number of Mosques in parts of the country. The work of the Extremism Task Force culminated in the introduction of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act legislation, which received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015.
- 2.4 The objective of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act is to reduce the risk of terrorism and includes a wide number of measures designed to:
- Prevent individuals from travelling abroad to commit terrorist related activity;
 - Disrupt the ability of terrorists, or those suspected of terrorist related activity, to return to the UK;
 - Enhance the ability of UK law enforcement and intelligence agencies to monitor and control the actions of those in the UK that pose a threat; and,
 - Combat underlying ideology that feeds, supports and sanctions terrorism.
- 2.5 Section 21 of the requires specified authorities (including local authorities, the police, prisons, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, universities and others) to have "*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*". The specified authorities subject to this duty are those judged to have a specific role in protecting vulnerable people and/or national security and in fulfilling the duty, all authorities are expected to participate fully in work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Local Governance Arrangements

- 2.6 The CONTEST agenda sits under the remit of the CONTEST Board with support from the Prevent, Protect and Prepare Group. This multi-agency Group focuses on addressing issues associated with counter-terrorism and was established in 2011. The CONTEST Board has strong links to the Community Safety, Safeguarding Adults and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.
- 2.7 A range of partners are actively engaged in this area of work including: a range of internal services from Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police (both Central Area Command and Special Branch), Gateshead Housing Company, National Probation Service, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, Gateshead College, South Tyneside Foundation Trust and intu.

3 Methodology

3.1 As a reminder, the review focused particularly on:

- The arrangements the Council and partner agencies have in place to meet the Duty and to assess whether they meet best practice.
- The national guidance, its implications for the future of the service and our capacity to respond
- Whether there are service gaps, areas of duplication or opportunities to work more effectively and efficiently.

3.2 In order to achieve the outcomes listed above, a series of evidence gathering sessions were organised, each one with a specific theme/focus. Sessions were designed in a way that allowed the Committee to hear evidence from a range of services and partners which are currently supporting the roll out of the Prevent agenda in Gateshead.

Evidence Gathering Session 1: Setting the Scene

3.3 The first evidence gathering session provided a comprehensive overview of the Prevent agenda with a particular emphasis on outlining the national legislative context and framework, details of regional work being carried out in respect of Prevent agenda as well as a synopsis of the local activity undertaken within Gateshead. This included details of the partner agencies and service involved, our achievements to date and future plans pertaining to the implementation of the Act over the next 12 months.

The following services/organisations presented evidence to the Committee:

- Community Safety: Care, Welling and Learning – Gateshead Council

Evidence Gathering Session 2: Process of Radicalisation

3.4 The second evidence provided a detailed and holistic overview of the work that is undertaken by Special Branch – Northumbria Police. This session explored the background context to Prevent, how any vulnerable person can be targeted and exploited to carry out terrorist activity, the work currently being undertaken by Police to promote Prevent across partners and services as well as details on the Chanel process. Brief information was also shared in relation to the Local Counter Terrorism Local Profile (including volume of Prevent referrals received to date) as well as setting out the role/remit of the Counter Terrorism Security Advisors. In addition, brief information was also shared with the Committee on the nature, and extent of the threat in Gateshead linked with Prevent and the use of the Vulnerable Assessment Framework.

The following services/organisations presented evidence to the Committee:

- Northumbria Police – Special Branch

Evidence Session 3: Partnership Working

3.5 The third evidence gathering session set out the local context in relation to the partnership working that is currently being undertaken in Gateshead linked to the Prevent agenda. Committee heard presentations of the proactive and innovative work that is undertaken by local educational establishments in order to raise awareness of Prevent with young people as well as the role played by health colleagues in relation to preventing radicalisation. This included details

of how teachers, governors and students are all training in WRAP as well as setting out the referral processes that have been established to raise concerns with Northumbria Police and Gateshead Council.

The following services/organisations presented evidence to the Committee:

- Gateshead College
- Safeguarding Children: Care, Wellbeing and Learning – Gateshead Council

3.6 As a brief reminder for members, the partnership has delivered a wide range of activity to address Prevent within Gateshead and includes, but is not limited to:

- Supported roll out of Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and Train the Trainer Training. In Gateshead, we have Home Office accredited trainers across a range of partners and services, who are responsible for delivering training across the Borough.
- Undertook 8 WRAP sessions since April 2015 – which equates to 129 frontline staff being made aware of the Prevent agenda. This brings the total number of Council and partner agency staff who have been trained in Gateshead to 345 since last year. A full timetable of further training for 2015/16 is included within the LSCB Training Directory – and further sessions will be arranged to take place in 2016/17.
- Toolbox talks have previously been provided to colleagues based within Waste Services, Grounds Maintenance and Fleet Management.
- A number of tailored briefings have been presented to all Designated Safeguarding Leads within Gateshead schools and childcare providers in order to make them aware of the new legal duty associated with educational establishments. Further sessions are planned to take place next year.
- Worked closely with Counter Terrorism Security Services to minimise the potential risk to local sites deemed to be at risk of terrorist activity.
- Established a Community Tensions Framework to identify and manage potential issues within and between communities – which includes a dedicated Response Group across Council and partner agencies.
- Gateshead College have developed a Prevent Policy and Training Package for staff and students providing an overview of the Prevent legislation, risks of radicalisation and process to be followed should concerns be identified.
- Community Safety / Gateshead Housing Company commissioned GemArts to undertake engagement work with young people in 2 local schools linked which focused on challenging stereotypes and hate crime awareness.
- Practice Guidance Note is currently being developed to support Social Care professionals in identifying potential vulnerability to radicalisation, accessing suitable support and making onward referrals, as necessary.
- Established greater links to Resilience and Emergency Planning processes to ensure that we have a co-ordinated response to terrorist activity.
- Representatives from Community Safety are part of the Regional Prevent Working Group established by Northumbria Police to share best practice and ideas across the Northumbria locality.

4 **Headline Findings**

4.1 Committee has received a great deal of evidence and information as part of this Review. It is clear co-ordinated and partnership-orientated arrangements are in place to meet the statutory responsibilities, outlined in the national Prevent Duty

Guidance, whilst in some areas, particularly in education, it was clear that the actions delivered in Gateshead could be seen as best practice.

- 4.2 There were no significant gaps identified in the current arrangements, although members felt it prudent that a self-assessment should be undertaken on regular basis to ensure that we continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism and to demonstrate that, as a Council, we are proactive in addressing future challenges.
- 4.3 Some slight concerns were expressed in relation to the following areas:
- Capacity of partners and Council services to continue to train practitioners in order to raise the profile of Prevent – particularly with even fewer resources at their disposal – but conveyed the need for continued partnership working in the future;
 - Perceived lack of understanding and appreciation of all community and faith groups in Gateshead has the potential to restrict community cohesion and destroy confidence in local services;
 - Greater challenge of negative and/or false stereotypes linked with terrorism (particularly with children and young people);
 - Lack of general awareness of the local terrorism context within communities and neighbourhoods (and potentially amongst frontline practitioners), and
 - Lack of awareness of Channel and Vulnerability Assessment Framework.
- 4.3 The review did identify a potential opportunity to utilise the work developed by Gateshead College to cascade awareness to a wider range of recipients (e.g. exploration of how these tools could be used in primary and secondary schools as well as with local community and residents groups.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The following recommendations are proposed for this Review and to provide a more structured framework, these recommendations have been aligned to the 3 themes identified in the national Prevent Duty Guidance: *Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities*.

Leadership

- Undertake a robust Self-Assessment to ensure appropriate activity has been developed in relation to responsibilities outlined in Prevent Duty Guidance – and to remain proactive in addressing future challenges/issues.
- Ensure all departments and/or services in Gateshead Council have a clear awareness of their role and responsibilities in complying with Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- Briefing sessions are arranged to ensure local Councillors understand about the nature of risk in their local area and the work being done to address any identified risks.
- Ensure that Gateshead Council utilises its full authority and legitimacy to challenge narratives of radicalisers and extremists, puts forward positive alternatives and works closely with local communities to condemn activities of individuals who misrepresent extremist views.
- Ensure strategic and operational links are made to relevant partnerships and Boards including: the Community Safety Board, the Local Safeguarding

Children's Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Youth Crime Management Board and others, where necessary (e.g. MAPPA).

Working in Partnership

- Undertake a programme of targeted activity in order to challenge negative stereotypes (particularly with children and young people).
- Greater dissemination of key messages contained within the CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile) in order to raise the profile of the localised context to Prevent and to support the risk assessment process.
- Continue to proactively share knowledge of possible community tensions across Council services and partner agencies to ensure all concerns can be reviewed, and actions to address issues can be implemented, in a timely and effective manner.
- Formalise Gateshead Council processes in relation to Channel to ensure all Prevent referrals are reviewed in a consistent and structured way.

Capabilities (including Training and Use of Council Resources)

- Continue to undertake training sessions in relation to WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) and/or utilising suitable training materials (e.g. use of online resources, toolbox talks etc) to upskill staff/practitioners.
- Ensure that a plan is in place to train targeted staff groups around:
 - understanding Prevent and the Council's duty;
 - recognising risk/vulnerability of being drawn into violent and non-violent terrorism – and the consequences of it;
 - how to challenge extremist ideology; and
 - how to respond and refer to services, when risk is identified.
- Develop appropriate guidance and literature on the Prevent agenda.
- Support schools to understand their role around the new Prevent duty; equip them with tools to assess compliance; encourage them to embed Prevent into safeguarding policies and have a Preventing Extremism Policy in place.
- Consider wider elements of Prevent (e.g. ensuring that organisations who are currently contracted to work with/for the Council are not engaged in any extremist activity or disseminate extremist views).

5.2 The recommendations identified above are set out in Appendix in pictorial form.

5.3 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Comment on the contents of the report;
- (ii) Approve the Final Report and agree draft recommendations (set out in Section 5.1);
- (iii) Submit the report to Cabinet for consideration and approval;
- (iv) Agree to receive a six-monthly update in relation to the progress made against delivering the draft recommendations.

Contact: Adam Lindridge

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**Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
Vision 2030 and Council Plan
Community Safety Board - Partnership Plan**

Setting the Scene**Speakers:**

- Gateshead Council:
– Community Safety

Key Points:

- Background/National Legislative Context
- Regional and Local Approaches Taken in Gateshead
- Partner Agencies and Services Involved
- Achievements
- Future Plans

Key Issues:

- New legislation – ensure capability of LA and partners to deliver with less resources.
- Partner involvement
- Understanding of faith and community groups
- Challenging stereotypes

Process of Radicalization**Speakers:**

- Northumbria Police
– Special Branch

Key Points:

- Special Branch and Work Undertaken to Promote Prevent.
- How individuals may become vulnerable to radicalization
- Measures to identify / support those at risk
- Chanel Process
- Nature and extent of local threat
- Counter Terrorism Security Advisors.
- VAF (Vulnerability Assessment Framework)

Key Issues:

- Strong measures to support those at risk.
- CT Local Profile
- Chanel Process
- Community Tensions and Cohesion

Partnership Working**Speakers:**

- Gateshead College
- Health
- Gateshead Council:
– Safeguarding Children

Key Points:

- Excellent work undertaken in Gateshead College
- Good awareness of Prevent in schools (e.g. Governors)
- Range of tools and resources available to utilize.

Key Issues:

- Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons (particularly Children and Young People)
- Sharing best practice with other areas/sectors.
- Strong links with LSCB, SAB, CSB.
- Importance of education
- Practical information and advice

Details of Local Prevent Activity**Speakers:**

- n/a – but information provided in initial report submitted by Gateshead Council:
– Community Safety

Key Issues/Themes:

- Deliver Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP), Toolbox Talks and Tailored Briefings Sessions.
- Work closely with Counter Terrorism Security Services.
- Introduced the local Community Tensions Framework
- Gateshead College implemented Prevent Policy and Training Package for all Staff and Students
- Engagement work with young people in local schools
- Challenging Stereotypes and Hate Crime Awareness.
- Regional Prevent Working Group

Leadership

- Self-assessment
- Awareness of role and responsibilities
- Greater understanding about nature of risk in local area
- Strong strategic and operational links

Working in Partnership

- Challenging stereotypes
- Counter Terrorism Local Profile – localised context to Prevent and/or input
- Community Tensions Framework
- Chanel

Capabilities

- WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) and/or other suitable training materials
- Targeted staff / groups / communities
- Guidance and literature
- Support to schools and educational establishments

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TITLE OF REPORT: TALISMAN (Tenant and Leaseholder Independent Scrutiny Management) Panel – Progress Update

REPORT OF: Managing Director, The Gateshead Housing Company

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the progress of the TALISMAN (Tenant and Leaseholder Independent Scrutiny Management) Panel

Background

1. The Tenant and Leasehold Independent Scrutiny Management (TALISMAN) panel was formed in October 2011. This followed an extensive project that considered the opportunities for the development of an independent tenants' organisation in Gateshead.
2. The purpose of the panel is to ensure that the needs and views of Gateshead residents are at the heart of how housing services are developed and delivered by The Gateshead Housing Company and Gateshead Council.
3. TALISMAN have a range of tools available to help them to effectively scrutinise a service area, which could include but are not limited to: -
 - Self assessment from Service Manager (written or in person)
 - Question and answer sessions with managers
 - Focus groups of employees or customers
 - Performance information including service standards and benchmarking information where appropriate
 - Feedback from surveys
 - Outcomes from mystery shopping
 - Co-opting of experts
 - Benchmarking or external learning to compare TGHC performance to other similar providers
4. The committee has, as part of previous update reports, received details of the findings from the following reviews that TALISMAN have carried out: -
 - Anti-social behaviour case management
 - Rent and income
 - Void management

Review of Customer Services

5. TALISMAN completed their fourth review and presented their findings to the TGHC Customers and Communities Committee in May 2015.
6. The fourth area selected for the Panel to scrutinise was customer service, specifically focusing its review on the housing office network.
7. A range of evidence was used during the course of the review including: -
 - Presentation from TGHC Involvement and Diversity Manager on overall customer service and Central Housing Manager on the local housing network.
 - Visit to each of the local offices to observe customer service
 - Focus Group with TGHC Housing Management Assistants
 - Board reports from previous housing office reviews
 - Results of mystery shopping of customer service carried out in August and November 2014.
8. TALISMAN identified a range of positive practice in their review of customer service covering: -
 - Cleanliness and tidiness of housing offices and how warm and friendly staff were to customers.
 - The website was very accessible to all customers and was clear and easy to understand.
 - The Wednesday Briefings with employees at local offices were very successful. Particular reference was made to one manager who held a quiz with staff to keep them up to date and encourage greater interaction. The Panel recommended that this was introduced by housing managers across the borough and that future briefings were delivered in a similar way.
 - Housing managers meet regularly with staff to discuss certain topics and feel able to help each other.
 - All Housing Managers had previously been Housing Management Assistants or Estate Officers and therefore understood these roles and the challenges that their offices faced.
9. The review identified 18 recommendations, a number of which could be implemented immediately. These included: -
 - Documents have been changed or deleted from the sign up procedure to reduce duplication.
 - Training on Conflict Resolution and Housing Benefit Verification has been provided and further sessions are planned.
 - Housing Management Assistants have been provided with the opportunity to shadow the Lettings Team.
 - Free phone signage in each housing office has been updated and renewed.
10. Other recommendations were identified as requiring longer to implement and target dates for completion were set. These included: -

- Reviewing of sign up procedure as part of a wider review of the allocation process.
 - Updating of TGHC procedures and locating documentation in one central location.
11. Overall, the Panel thanked all employees involved in this scrutiny review.
 12. The findings have been included within improvement plans for the service and progress against the actions has been reported back to both TALISMAN and Customers and Communities Committee.
 13. The outcomes of the review have been publicised on the TGHC website.

Review of Lettings – Hard to Let Properties

14. The Panel is currently carrying out its fifth area of scrutiny around the lettings service and is specifically focusing on hard to let properties.
15. The Panel has used a range of evidence during the review including the following: -
 - Presentation from TGHC and Council Lettings Managers on overall lettings service and TGHC Head of Customer Services on hard to let properties
 - Review of Tyne and Wear Homes Website
 - Satisfaction survey results of Tyne and Wear Homes
 - Site visits to five hard to let properties (one in each neighbourhood)
 - Focus group with Housing Management Assistants and Lettings Officers
16. The Panel has completed this review and is currently pulling together its final report which it will present to TGHC Customers and Communities Committee in May 2016.

Recruitment and development of TALISMAN members

17. As of March 2016, there are seven members on the Panel.
18. The Panel continues to actively look to recruit new members and has had articles published in TGHC News during the last year.
19. The Panel has designed a more user-friendly leaflet and to generally look at better ways of raising the profile of TALISMAN. This is currently being produced.
20. The Panel now has its own banner to take to local events and had a stand at the Gateshead World Mental Health Day in October 2015 at the St Edmunds Church and Trinity Community Centre and at a community event at Springwell Community Centre on 10 August 2015.

21. Members of TALISMAN have attended a few events during the last year which have enabled them to network with other scrutiny panels and to develop their skills and knowledge. These have included three two day tenants Futures events in Chester.
22. In addition, members of TALISMAN attended the fifth Northern Housing Consortium Annual Tenant Panel Conference in November 2015 at York Racecourse.
23. The Panel has set up its own Facebook page which it uses to provide details of the reviews they are currently carrying out and events they have attended. The Panel has also recently set up its own Twitter account.
24. Members of the Panel continue to use a dedicated secure website for TALISMAN to share and discuss information during reviews.

Next steps

25. TALISMAN has completed its review of hard to let properties and is currently pulling together its final report which it will present to TGHC Customers and Communities Committee in May 2016.
26. TALISMAN has drawn up a shortlist of five potential areas for its next scrutiny review. It will agree which area it wants to focus on at its next meeting in April.
27. Members of TALISMAN will continue to receive a six monthly development review with the Independent Mentor. The reviews also provide an opportunity to identify any collective and individual training needs.
28. The Panel continues to develop and it is expected that this will evolve further during the next year.

Recommendation

29. It is recommended that the OSC note the progress of the TALISMAN panel with further annual progress reports being brought back to the OSC in order to scrutinise the effectiveness of co-regulation.

TITLE OF REPORT:	Annual Work Programme
REPORT OF:	Jane Robinson, Chief Executive Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Summary

The report details proposals for the development of the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) and sets out the provisional work programme for the Communities and Place OSC for the municipal year 2016-17.

Background

1. Every year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee draws up a work programme based on the Council's policy framework which is then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. The Committee's work programme is a rolling programme which sets the agenda for its six weekly meetings. It is the means by which it can address the interests of the local community, focus on improving services and seek to reduce inequalities in service provision and access to services.
3. Under the Council's constitution the issues which will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees come from a number of sources:
 - During the year the Committee may choose to scrutinise decisions made by the Cabinet to ensure decisions are taken properly;
 - The Committee may be requested by the Cabinet to carry out reviews of particular issues in accordance with the Council's policy priorities;
 - The Committee will receive six-monthly reports on performance for comment to Cabinet;
 - The Committee will receive reports on relevant service improvement reviews at key stages of development to confirm to Cabinet that reviews are progressing appropriately;
 - Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Section 126 of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 enable any member of the Council to refer to a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee any local government matter and any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward or constituents (Councillor Call for Action - CCfA).
 - Members of the Committee may identify particular issues for consideration;
 - Members may also examine issues in the Council's Forward Plan; and
 - In addition, where the Committee has reasonable concerns about a particular executive decision, the call-in mechanism is available.

Proposals

4. The Council has consulted partner organisations on the emerging themes for each OSC for 2016-17.
5. Partners have been supportive of the emerging themes and the views outlined will be key in assisting the Committee in identifying the right priority areas to take forward and shape the initial focus of specific areas of work. Details of the emerging issues for potential review / case study topics and feedback from partners is set out in Appendix 2.
6. The work programmes will continue to be subject to a formal review every six months. At this stage, feedback will be provided to the OSCs on the outcomes generated by the OSCs' reviews and information provided on how it is proposed to measure the resulting impact on local people.
7. The attached provisional work programme (Appendix 1) has therefore taken account of the following:-
 - Six-monthly performance reporting
 - Vision 2030, the Council Plan and partnership work generally
 - Current issues referred to Committees
 - Details of potential review topics
 - Proposed case studies
 - Legislative provisions and guidance on the Councillor Call for Action
8. The work programme remains provisional as:
 - Cabinet has not had the opportunity to fully review its work programme and it may wish to refer further issues to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration;
 - It does not take account of new policy issues which may be identified during the year, which Cabinet may refer to Overview and Scrutiny; and
 - It does not include issues identified by members of committees on an ongoing basis during the year as a result of scrutiny of decisions, call – in and councillor call for action.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is asked to:-
 - a) Agree the review topic and areas it wishes to progress as case studies in 2016-17, having considered the proposals outlined at Appendix 2.
 - b) Endorse the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's provisional work programme for 2016-17 attached at Appendix 1, and refer it to Council on 26 May 2016 for agreement.
 - c) Note that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.

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Ext: 2138

Draft Communities & Place OSC 2016/2017	
20 June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan - Year End Assessment and Performance Delivery 2015-16 • Five Year Target Setting 2016-17 • OSC Review- Scoping report • Case Study
12 September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review - Evidence Gathering • Monitoring - OSC Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead • Progress Update - Reducing Carbon Emissions • Flood Risk Management Strategy
31 October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review - Evidence Gathering
5 December 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review Evidence Gathering • The Council Plan - Six Monthly Assessment of Performance and Delivery 2016-17
30 January 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review Evidence Gathering • Work Programme Review
6 March 17 <u>(5.30pm meeting)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review - Interim Report • The Flood and Water Management Act 2010: Annual Progress Report
24 April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review - Final Report • Monitoring - OSC Review of Opportunities to Promote Rural Gateshead • Annual Report of Talisman • Impact of the Early Work on Place Shaping for Health and Wellbeing

Issue to slot in

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Care, Health and Wellbeing OSC**Review Topic-**

Review of the role of Housing in Promoting Health and Wellbeing” (to focus on housing conditions – impact of changes in the housing market, shift to private sector provision and vulnerability of specific tenants; low income families, people with complex issues and learning disabilities, isolated older people).

Links to

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Partner Feedback**Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Board was supportive of the Review topic but suggested widening the focus to include the cost to the health and care system as well as individuals and the issue of fuel poverty. It was also considered important to link this work with any work carried out / to be carried out via Communities and Place OSC.

Gateshead Newcastle CCG

Support this topic as it brings the broader determinants of health into focus.

Gateshead Housing Company

Have indicated that they would wish to contribute to this Review.

The Housing Company has advised that two measures are likely to impact on this Review and lead to changes in the housing market

- Pay to stay – mandatory for council tenants in Gateshead when households are earning more than £30,000 – charged market rents
- Ending of secure tenancies replaced by fixed term tenancies

Case Study

Delayed Transfers of Care and Hospital Discharges (to focus on the joint work being progressed by the Council and Health Partners to avoid delayed discharges, specific challenges and examples of good practice / to be linked to evaluation of new model for Adult Social Care).

Links to

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Performance Issue – (below 2015-16 target of 88.7% and decline in performance compared to the same period last year).

Partner Feedback**Gateshead Newcastle CCG**

Support this topic as it supports the CCG’s joint work on integrating care and the CCG’s BCF work. There is also a performance issue which the CCG needs to address and the case study will provide added focus.

Gateshead Housing Company

It has been suggested that it might be helpful to include information relating to a pilot that has been running between Health (NHS NTW), ASC and Housing relating to mental health which it is considered feeds into the work in relation to preventing delayed discharges and is classed as an example of good practice.

Corporate Resources OSC

It is proposed that this OSC focus on

Two Case Studies within its 2016-17 work programme

Case Study 1 – Implementation/Roll Out of Universal Credit (examine impact on residents in light of ongoing implementation / roll out and mitigating actions being put in place)

Links to:-

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Partner Feedback

Department for Work and Pensions / Job Centre Plus – support both the areas identified for case studies and would be happy to participate / contribute in relation to the case study on Universal Credit.

Gateshead Housing Company

Suggest that the focus of the case study on Universal Credit is widened to cover other aspects of welfare reform.

Additional government Welfare Reform announcements are likely to impact further on tenants and reduce ability to sustain or maintain their tenancies including:-

- The Benefit Cap:- By 2017 it is expected that the maximum amount of out-of-work benefits working age families can receive will be £20,000, (£13,400 for single adults with no children).
- The social housing sector size criteria (bedroom tax). Currently 2300 tenants (almost 12%) of tenants have their housing benefit reduced by the social housing sector size measure.
- Local Housing Allowance Proposals affecting supported and sheltered housing.
- Local Housing Allowance Proposals for new tenants under 35. This will apply to tenancies signed after 1 April 2016, with housing benefit entitlement changing from 1 April 2018 onwards.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board was supportive of the themes and noted that implementation of welfare reform / universal credit can have important impacts on residents health and wellbeing.

Case Study 2 – Workforce Strategy (examine progress being made in preparing the workforce to meet the changing role of the Council and adapt working practices / meet the demands of the business / next steps)

Links to:-

Council Plan 2015-20

Families OSC

Review Topic

Review of Children's Oral Health in Gateshead (potential areas of focus – inequalities in access / ward variations, prevalence of dental decay in five year olds, levels of hospital admissions, commissioning and planning arrangements)

Links to:-

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Director of Public Health Report – focus on health inequalities and wider determinants of health, health in childhood and particularly the role of health services in child health improvement.

Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Consequences of Alcohol Consumption in Pregnancy (potential focus on current position/ impacts across the system and longer term / progress in tackling the issue)

Links to:-

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Director of Public Health Report – focus on significance of achieving best start in life to reduce health inequalities in subsequent years

Case Study 2 – Support for Care Leavers who are NEET (specific focus on how the Council is fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibilities in this area)

Links to:-

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Area of Improvement highlighted by Ofsted

Partner Feedback

Newcastle Gateshead CCG

Has indicated that it is supportive of the review and case study topics outlined above.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board was supportive of the themes and suggested that Case Study 1 also include reference to prevention and dealing with the consequences of FASD.

The National Probation Service (NE)

Has also indicated it is supportive of the areas of work outlined.

Partner Suggestion for Families OSC future work programme

Newcastle Gateshead CCG

Has indicated that childhood obesity is a priority area for the CCG and a major threat to health and have asked whether the OSC might focus on this issue in some way in a future work programme

Communities and Place OSC

Review Topic

Review of Impact of Gambling on the Borough (to focus on the financial /health and wellbeing impacts on Gateshead residents /consider how these issues are currently being addressed / potential areas for improvement)

Links to

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015 - 20

Area of concern identified by Cabinet members.

Case Study

Street Cleanliness – Enforcement, Education and Community Involvement (to focus on how Council and communities can work together to tackle issues such as dog fouling and litter / highlight best practice schemes being developed in communities)

Links to

Vision 2030

Council Plan 2015-20

Residents Survey 2012 – street cleanliness issue for improvement.

Partner Feedback

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board indicated that it was supportive of the themes and asked that in relation to the case study on Street Cleanliness that account be taken of the potential impact on the use of outdoor spaces if levels of street cleanliness are not maintained.