

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, 9 March 2020 at 5.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for Absence
2	Minutes of the last meeting (Pages 3 - 6)
3	Flood and Water Management Act 2010 - Annual Progress Report (Pages 7 - 10) Report of the Strategic Director of Housing Environment & Healthy Communities
4	Land of Oak & Iron - Progress and Legacy (Pages 11 - 16) Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
5	Work Programme (Pages 17 - 20) Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 27 January 2020

PRESENT: Councillor(s): T Graham, V Anderson, D Burnett, B Clelland, S Dickie, P Diston, S Hawkins, H Kelly, P Maughan, J Reay, J Turnbull, R Waugh and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): K Dodds, A Geddes, F Geddes and M Hood

CPL63 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

- (i) The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 December 2019 were agreed as a correct record.
- (ii) The Committee held a minute of silence for Councillor Neil Weatherley.

CPL64 NORTHUMBRIA POLICE OPERATING MODEL / 101 REPORT

The Committee received a report providing an overview of Northumbria Police's Operating Model in addition to a briefing note on 101 non-emergency call performance.

It was reported that part one of Northumbria Police Force's Operating model went live in November 2019. It was noted that this part of the new model saw the traditional approach of an Officer In Charge style of policing being replaced by a model which has created a dedicated 'Response Policing Team' and a 'Secondary Investigation Unit'.

The Committee were advised that since the introduction of new shift patterns, part 1 of the Police Force Operating Model has seen a number of requests to Neighbourhood Policing Teams to backfill for response teams fall significantly. It was highlighted that as a result of this police teams are able to spend more time within communities dealing with core objectives such as protecting the vulnerable.

An overview of the Police Force's Operating Model part 2 was provided. It was reported that this phase saw the restructuring of several teams and changes to shift patterns to better manage demand.

The report also provided a summary on the future uplift in Police numbers across all forces. It was stated that Northumbria Police are likely to see an increase of over 600 new officers over the next three years.

A question was asked as to whether there would be increases in local neighbourhood policing within Gateshead. It was noted that a new cohort of officers

are due to commence in March 2020 with additional officers being recruited via a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship.

The Committee also requested the contact details of PCSOs/police staff in their wards who could be contacted with queries. It was advised this would be possible and that the details of neighbourhood inspectors would be passed on to Councillors in the near future.

The Committee then received the report providing an update on 101 non-emergency call performance.

From the report, an overview of the 101-telephone number was provided since its introduction in 2014. The cost of calls was also reported, it was highlighted that 101 calls from mobiles and landlines cost 15p regardless of the length of time on the call or the time of day.

A table of call performance figures was summarised, it was stated that the answer rate for 101 calls in 2019/20 was 90%. It was asked what happened with the remaining 10% of calls. Alan Pitchford advised he would investigate this and provide feedback following the meeting.

The Committee also requested information on 101 call performance on neighbouring authorities for comparison to Northumbria Police figures. Alan Pitchford advised that he would source this information and feedback in due course.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the contents of the reports.

CPL65 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

The Committee received the report and presentation providing an overview of the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process along with key findings and recommendations arising from previous DHRs that have occurred in Gateshead.

From the presentation the Committee were provided with a summary of domestic abuse in Gateshead. It was reported that in 2018/19 there were over 5,400 incidents of domestic abuse reported. It was also highlighted that this equates to a 10% increase in domestic abuse reports compared to the previous year. It was also noted that the cost to Gateshead is estimated at around £106million based on the figures.

The Committee were advised that it is a statutory responsibility for all Community Safety Partnerships to commission Domestic Homicide Reviews. It was so noted that the definition of a domestic homicide was expanded in December 2016 to include those where a victim has taken their own life and the circumstances give rise to concern in relation to potential domestic abuse (i.e. coercive controlling behaviour).

An overview of involved agencies was presented, this included the Police, Local Authorities, Health Services and Providers of the Probation Service. The purpose of Domestic Homicide Reviews was also reported noting that their primary purpose is

to establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work to safeguard victims. It was also highlighted that DHRs aim to help prevent future domestic abuse and homicide.

From the presentation, the Committee were provided with an overview of the main characteristics of a domestic homicide based on the findings of DHRs carried out nationally. Several case studies and examples were then provided to the Committee for information. The case of Alice Ruggles was also reported, this highlighted key findings and outcomes from the now published DHR for this case.

A discussion took place on Gateshead Council's role in domestic homicide reviews; an overview of the role was provided that highlighted that Adam Lindridge's team act as coordinators amongst partners in the completion of a review.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the contents of the report.

CPL66 THE WORK OF THE TACKLING POVERTY IN GATESHEAD BOARD

The Committee received a report and presentation providing an update on the work of the Tackling Poverty in Gateshead Board. It was reported that the work identified and influenced by the Board seeks to mitigate the impact of poverty across Gateshead by encouraging place based and partnership approaches to delivering interventions across Gateshead and its communities.

It was reported that following the first Gateshead Poverty Conference in February 2018 steps were taken to create a strategic board made up of senior figures from within the Council and its partners from the private and third sectors. The board is chaired by Deputy Leader Councillor Catherine Donovan with Alison Dunn, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Gateshead in the role of Vice Chair.

The Committee were advised that to date in February 2018 and July 2019 two very well support poverty conferences have taken place with over 300 delegates in attendance and 15 speakers who are leaders in their field. It was highlighted that these conferences led to the creation of the board and the identification of 7 key themes of work:

- Food Poverty
- Fuel Poverty
- Child Poverty
- Housing
- Financial Inclusion
- Financial Education
- Employment Skills and Wages

It was noted that since the initial conference in February 2018 a great deal of intervention has taken place to tackle many of the injustices associated with poverty and in particular the key themes identified; further detail of the interventions was provided within the report.

It was stated that the Board have agreed that the following areas of work are priorities for 2020 and will run alongside the work already ongoing:

- Financial Inclusion
- Financial Education and Poverty Proofing Schools
- Employment Skills and Wages

It was further noted that the Board also seeks to align its work to the six priorities in the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, particularly the pledges around ‘fair employment and good work for all’ and ‘ensure a healthy standard of living for all’.

The Board is also considering hosting a further major poverty event for 2020 following the success of both conferences in 2018 and 2019. The Board will also be responsive to need and will direct and allocate priority and/or resources as and when it is deemed appropriate.

A comment was made noting that there does not seem to be enough publicity for the Credit Union in Gateshead. It was acknowledged that there have been challenges in raising the profile of the Credit Union but that internal personnel changes have contributed to this. It was however noted that the Credit Union will relocate to a more prominent premises on Jackson Street in Gateshead.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the contents of the report and presentation.

CPL67 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the report setting out the provisional Work Programme for the municipal year 2019/20.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the contents of the Work Programme.
- (ii) The Committee agreed that the Work Programme be brought back to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Chair.....

TITLE OF REPORT: Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – Annual Progress Report

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, Strategic Director, Housing Environment & Healthy Communities

SUMMARY

To report progress in the implementation of the duties and responsibilities of Gateshead Council as lead local flood authority.

Background

1. Following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management 2010 the Committee has received annual reports outlining:
 - the Council's statutory responsibilities and duties in relation to local flood risk management (FRM), following the introduction of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA);
 - the duties for local authority scrutiny committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk and to prepare an annual report on local actions to manage flood risk and to implement the Pitt Review.
2. Under the F&WMA each unitary authority or county council is identified as the lead local flood authority (LLFA) for their district and they are expected to provide leadership and accountability for local FRM regarding surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.
3. The Service Director of Highways & Waste is the Council's lead officer: the Highway & Flood Risk Management team is managing the function.

Lead local flood authority duties

4. The key implications of the legislation for local authorities are:
 - preparing, maintaining and publishing a local FRM strategy to link to the Environment Agency's (EA) national and local strategies;
 - preparing, maintaining and publishing a register of third party FRM infrastructure assets;
 - investigating reported flooding incidents and publishing a register of investigations;

- statutory consultee to the local planning authority (LPA) for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
- consenting of ordinary watercourse works (diverting, culverting, restricting flow);
- cooperation with and oversight of other FRM bodies.

Local flood risk management strategy

5. The local flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) was approved by full Council in January 2017.
6. In 2019 the Environment Agency consulted the Council on a proposed national flood risk management strategy (NFRMS), this is expected to be published in 2020. The LFRMS will be changed to consider the new national strategy and the Council approach to climate change.

Register of third party FRM infrastructure

7. The register must include location, size, condition and ownership details of drainage infrastructure (river embankments, walls, revetments, culverts etc.) that prevent or limit flooding on ordinary watercourses. The register has been established and work is ongoing to survey, identify and map critical assets.

Investigation of flood incidents

8. Informal flooding investigations are regularly undertaken by the FRM team. These typically result in the identification of small scale improvement works or general advice to customers.
9. No formal flooding investigations were undertaken in 2019.

Sustainable drainage systems statutory consultee

10. SuDS are natural or manmade green infrastructure features designed to store water or discharge water to the ground to limit flows to downstream drainage systems: examples include soakaways, ponds, and swales. SuDS also have the benefit of improving water quality.
11. The Government introduced regulations in April 2015 requiring major developments to incorporate SuDS as part of the site surface water management systems. The regulations established the LPA as the body responsible for approving SuDS and the LLFA became statutory consultee for the SuDS approval process. A dedicated SuDS officer is employed within the Built & Natural Environment team.

Consenting of ordinary watercourse works

12. Consenting procedures have been developed in conjunction with the EA. Typically, two or three applications each year are received for the culverting or diversion of small lengths of watercourses.

13. It is likely that the increase in house building will result in more applications for consent in the coming years.

Scrutiny and oversight of other FRM bodies

14. Biannual liaison meetings take place with officers from the FRM team and officers from the EA and NW.
15. Regional groups of LLFA officers meet regularly to share best practise, experience and local knowledge. The groups include officers with expertise in FRM, development management, planning policy and environmental management.

Recommendations

16. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - notes the statutory responsibilities of Gateshead Council for local FRM and the measures taken to comply with those duties;
 - receive an annual progress report in March 2021.

CONTACT: Carl Hodgson

EXTENSION: 3069

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TITLE OF REPORT: Land of Oak & Iron – Progress and Legacy

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman – Director of Public Health and Well-being

SUMMARY

This report provides a summary update on the key achievements of the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership, the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre and the legacy of this project.

Purpose of the Report

1. To highlight progress on the key achievements of the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership and how this has contributed to the promotion of rural Gateshead, to highlight the legacy of the overall Land of Oak & Iron partnership and to seek the Committee's views on progress to date.

Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership Project Update

2. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) since January 2016, the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership has delivered a wide range of benefits across rural west Gateshead and the wider area. NLHF awarded a grant of £2.2m against a total scheme value of £2.8m. With volunteer time, the Landscape Partnership is worth £3.2m.
3. The agreed vision is 'to work with local communities and partners to celebrate, conserve and enhance our natural, industrial and cultural heritage in an area stretching from the Derwent reservoir to the River Tyne. Through this, we will create a legacy of regeneration and local economic development'.
4. The Accountable Body for the Landscape Partnership is Groundwork North East & Cumbria, with Gateshead Council taking a lead on several access improvement schemes and the restoration of Crowley's Dam. The Council is represented on the Partnership Board and Project Delivery Group.
5. The Land of Oak & Iron covers 177km across the local authorities of Gateshead, Durham and Northumberland. The entire population is approx. 112,000 people, with the boundary based on the river catchments of the Derwent and the Tyne, similar landscape characteristics and more specifically shared industrial heritage. Partners include the other local authorities, Forestry Commission, Gateshead College and Durham Wildlife Trust among others.

6. The delivery element of the Partnership comes to an end this June 2020. Benefits to Gateshead can be summarised as:

- £1.5m / 48% of total scheme spend in the Borough;
- Over £250,000 value of volunteer time directly benefitting Gateshead;
- Strengthened partnership working with Durham, Northumberland, statutory agencies and the VCSE sector;
- £196,000 into the restoration of Whinfield Coke Ovens and removal from the Heritage at Risk Register, with improved access to and awareness of this industrial monument;
- Crowley's Dam protected and exposed for visitors to Derwenthaugh Country Park to admire as the only physical remain of Crowley's industrial empire;
- £100,000 invested in three key strategic access routes, making it easier for residents and visitors to explore the area (Woodhouse Lane in Whickham, Greenside, and Chopwell);
- £166,000 invested in a fish pass at Lintzford, allowing the passage of migrating fish for the first time in 300 years. Sensitive restoration of the River Derwent at various points, including removal of invasive species and habitat improvement for key native species;
- Traditional woodland management at Derwenthaugh Country Park, Victoria Garesfield Local Wildlife Site and Strother Hills. The latter has also been brought under long term grassland management using traditional grazing.
- £155,000 pump-primed into the restoration of Shibdon Meadow, one of the last wet meadows of the lower Tyne. Along with Shibdon Pond it provides a strategically important roosting and feeding site for wading birds.

7. A full scheme evaluation will be written by May 2020 and made available to all partners. This will be shared at a celebration event for key partners and funders on 3rd June 2020.

Landscape Partnership legacy update

8. The Landscape Partnership's mid-term review, and ongoing communication with stakeholders and partners, has identified a desire to maintain a commitment to joint working specifically around three broad themes:

- i. Brand Management
- ii. Volunteer, Events and Interpretation Coordination

iii. Woodland Owner Engagement

9. Gateshead Council is a key member of a newly formed Land of Oak & Iron Working Group, which aims 'to build on the success and vision of the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership, with a shared aim of promoting and celebrating the natural, cultural and built heritage of the Land of Oak & Iron'.
10. The Working Group will identify priorities for joint working that will benefit the Land of Oak & Iron geographical area and the shared aim of the Group. It will also support the Land of Oak & Iron Trust, a newly registered charity committed to the legacy of the Landscape Partnership through the continuation of volunteer led activities.
11. As Accountable Body for the Landscape Partnership, Groundwork will own the Intellectual Property Rights of the Land of Oak & Iron Brand. This includes the trademark for the name and the logo design. Overall management and protection of the Brand will be agreed and directed by the Working Group.

Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre update

12. A separately funded but interlinked project is the development of the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre at Winlaton Mill. It was intended that this would form part of the Landscape Partnership project, but its scale has meant it was progressed in parallel with funding provided from alternative sources. .
13. The £1.5m Heritage Centre at Winlaton Mill was officially opened on 1st October 2018. In addition to Council investment, the project secured substantial contributions from HLF Heritage Grants, Rural Growth Network and Groundwork NE & Cumbria making it the most significant investment in the west of the borough since the adoption of the Rural Economic Strategy.
14. The focus of the Heritage Centre is the incredible industrial history of Winlaton Mill. An internationally important iron works was constructed at 'old' Winlaton Mill by Sir Ambrose Crowley between 1691 and 1713. Crowley's Dam which is referenced above is what remains of a four-acre complex that was the leading supplier of iron to the Admiralty. The works were unprecedented in their scale and complexity, and some have argued that the works were in fact the birthplace of industrial revolution.
15. The visitor centre has subsequently won a number of awards and been shortlisted or been a finalist for numerous others. Appendix 1 lists these awards.
16. The visitor centre is managed by Groundwork North East & Cumbria and has achieved the following legacy of job creation, tourism, regeneration and economic benefits -
 - Nearly 100,000 visitors (132,000 to date)
 - Sample customer feedback includes:
 - "We had a lovely time and I had a bike ride" James (children)

- "Lovely food, great space. Thank you for allowing dogs"
 - "Delighted with this facility. Great to allow dogs. Well done!!"
 - "Great place - lovely for the community"
 - "Beautiful place! Gorgeous graphics in the cafe! You've left a legacy Land of Oak & Iron"
- 18 part time / 9.5 FTE. Job created with 14 members of staff from Gateshead area.
 - The café and shop seek to source produce and products for sale as locally as possible according to cost and brand fit. There are 18 Gateshead suppliers including:
 - Daniel Farm, IR8 Wood, Eco dog design, Estate Tea Co., Fell Cottage, Firebrick Brewery, Gastro North, Hogs and Strothers

17. Events at and from the centre include: 'Look Out Schools Out' heritage crafts during school holidays; evening local history talks with a light supper; folk music and creative dance in the courtyard; a regular felting class; 'Frost Fest' - a weekend of heritage related activity at the start of December; walking tours to Crowley's Dam Wall; bird walks by a local ornithologist. Local interest groups are also invited to display their items as part of an ongoing programme of interpretation, for example, Gibside Sewing Club will be hanging some commissioned pieces portraying the heritage of the site.

18. Land of Oak & Iron has worked with Filament PR to produce a business toolkit. The purpose of the toolkit will be to give local businesses the information they need to promote the Land Oak & Iron as a destination and what it has to offer to visitors. The toolkit will help businesses understand the special qualities of this area, and how to use these qualities in developing and promoting their own product. This toolkit was launched in October 2019.

Recommendation:

19. Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to comment on the work undertaken on the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership and the Land of Oak & Heritage Centre and their contribution to promoting rural Gateshead.

Contact: Gerald Tompkins

Extension: 2914

Appendix 1 **Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre** – Awards

National Awards

1. **New Built Award**, Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE), Built Environment Awards 2019
2. **Silver (Public Building)**, The Green Organisation, Green Apple Award for the Built Environment & Architectural Heritage 2019
3. **Highly Commended (Sustainability)**, Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) Built Environment Awards 2019
4. Finalist (Best Small Commercial Project), Local Authorities Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards 2019

Regional Awards:

1. **Best Small Commercial Project**, Local Authorities Building Control (LABC) Northern Building Excellence Awards 2019
2. **Commended**, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) North East Planning Excellence Award 2019
3. Finalist (Best Inclusive Building), Local Authorities Building Control (LABC) Northern Building Excellence Awards 2019
4. Finalist (Best Public Service Building), Local Authorities Building Control (LABC) Northern Building Excellence Awards 2019
5. Shortlisted (Tourism & Leisure), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) North East Awards 2019
6. Shortlisted (Sustainability), Constructing Excellence North East (CENE) Awards 2019

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TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Work Programme

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and
Governance

Summary

The report sets out the provisional work programme for Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2019/20

1. The Committee's provisional work programme was endorsed at the meeting held on 29 April 2019 and Councillors have agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues / identify any changes/additions to this programme.
2. Appendix 1 sets out the work programme as it currently stands. Any changes proposed to the programme are set out in bold and italics for ease of identification.

Recommendations

3. The Committee is asked to
 - a) Note the provisional programme;
 - b) Note that further reports on the work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

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Communities & Place OSC 2019/20 Work Programme	
24 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution / role and remit • Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives – Year End Assessment and Performance Delivery 2018-19 • Safer Gateshead Partnership Plan • Anti - social behaviour • Managing Derelict Spaces (focus on varying specific sites) • Work Programme
16 Sept 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the Environment – Update / Case Study • OSC Review of the Council's and Partner's Approach to Roads and Highways – Monitoring Report • Work Programme
28 Oct 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety – Annual Priorities • OSC Review – Work to address skill shortages and increase employment opportunities – Monitoring Report • Delivery of the Housing Strategy • Private Rented – Progress Update • New Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny • Work Programme
9 Dec 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellbeing Strategy Development • Managing Vacant Spaces across Gateshead • Tackling Homelessness in Gateshead • Implementation of Safer Gateshead Priorities – six monthly • Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives – Six Monthly Assessment of Performance and Delivery 2019 - 20 • Work Programme
27 Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northumbria Police Operating Model / 101 reports • Domestic Homicide Reviews • The Work of The Tackling Poverty in Gateshead Board • Work Programme
9 March 2020 <u>5.30pm</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land of Oak & Iron – progress and legacy • The Flood and Water Management Act 2010: Annual Progress Report • Work Programme
20 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC Review – Work to address skill shortages and increase employment opportunities – Monitoring Report • Annual Report of the Gateshead Housing Customer Scrutiny Panel • Safer Gateshead Draft Priorities 20-21 • Beamish - Annual Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing Derelict Spaces – (focus on progress being made)• Annual Work Programme Review
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Issues to slot in

a) Postal Provision