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Date: Wednesday, 17
February 2021

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams at **2.30 pm on Thursday, 25 February 2021** to transact the following business:-

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

- 1 **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme** (Pages 3 - 16)
- 2 **Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26** (Pages 17 - 38)
- 3 **Fees and Charges 2021/22** (Pages 39 - 90)
- 4 **Budget and Council Tax Level 2021/22** (Pages 91 - 174)

Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL MEETING

25 February 2021

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of:
 - The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2021/22;
 - The proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the indicative programme for the period 2022/23 – 2025/26.
2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account.
3. The Housing Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme with an annual review. The financial implications of the programme are incorporated into the HRA Business Plan. The Housing Capital Programme is also incorporated into the Council's overall Capital Programme.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) Approves the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2 of the attached report
 - (ii) Approves the Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2021/22 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 3 of the attached report.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme

REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.
Colin Huntington, Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities.

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2021/22.
 - the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the indicative programme for the period 2022/23 – 2025/26.

Background

2. On the 17 November 2020, Cabinet approved the re-integration of the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock into the Council from April 2021. This will also involve the consolidation of wider housing functions and responsibilities into a new integrated housing service.
3. The significant changes in the provision of the Council's operational as well as strategic housing functions and services will enable the planning and implementation of new and more effective ways of working and the identification of the revenue efficiencies necessary to support a short and longer term viable and fully funded HRA Business Plan.
4. Work is also underway in producing a new 5 and 30-year HRA Asset Management Strategy and Investment Plan. This strategy and related investment plan will consider all investment risks and challenges and play a significant part in producing a viable and fully funded HRA Business Plan for both the short and longer term.
5. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account.
6. On the 21 January 2021, Council agreed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charges 2021/22. The rent increase for 2021/22 is 1.5% in line with the rent standard of CPI as of September 2020 (0.5%) plus an additional 1%. Service charges are generally based on full cost recovery.
7. The Housing Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme reviewed annually. The programme is supported from resources available within the HRA and therefore considering the HRA and the Housing Capital Programme together

allows the Council to consider the choices necessary to maintain and enhance housing stock in the future. The financial implications of the programme are incorporated into the HRA Business Plan. The Housing Capital Programme is also incorporated into the Council's overall Capital Programme (agenda item 7).

8. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply, a new Affordable Housing Plan and Programme will be presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval at its meeting in March 2021.

Proposal

9. The proposed Housing Revenue Account budget 2021/22 requires the use of £4.973m reserves. This is set out in Appendix 2 together with indicative budgets for the subsequent four-year period 2022/23 – 2025/26.
10. The proposed Housing Capital Programme over the next five years 2021/22 to 2025/26, Appendix 3 provides for investment of £104.268m. In 2021/22 the proposed Capital Programme totals £25.603 of which £21.671m will be met from the HRA. The Programme will be kept under regular review by Cabinet to ensure that investment plans remain affordable.

Recommendations

11. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - (i) The Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2.
 - (ii) The Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2021/22 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 3.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To set a Housing Revenue Account for 2021/22 that is not in debit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI).
- (ii) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy in order to maintain and enhance Council Housing provision in Gateshead.
- (ii) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone Thrives.

CONTACT:

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Policy Context

1. The proposals support the overall vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives including achieving the following outcomes: providing good quality housing with a mix of tenures and affordable options that meet the needs of local people including families and older people enabling them to live healthy lives and to make healthy choices, preventing ill health.
2. The Housing Strategy 2019-2030 identifies clear housing objectives and priorities, puts forward a vision for housing in Gateshead, and sets a framework for how the Council will deliver services and interventions, and work in partnership with others, in a way that will help achieve those objectives using increasingly scarce resources proportionately and effectively. It includes three overarching strategic objectives:
 - Sustainable housing and economic growth
 - Sustainable neighbourhoods
 - Improved health & wellbeing
3. In addition to these overarching objectives one of the key themes embedded in the strategy is supporting the long-term sustainability of the Council's housing stock and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Background

4. On 17 November 2020 Cabinet approved the re-integration of the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock into the Council from April 2021. This will also involve the consolidation of a number of additional housing functions and responsibilities. This major change in the provision of its operational as well as strategic housing functions and services will enable the planning and implementation of new and more effective ways of working, as well as the identification of the revenue efficiencies necessary to support a short and longer term viable and fully funded HRA Business Plan.
5. The rules governing the HRA were established pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and require the Council to:
 - a. Formulate proposals in respect of HRA income and expenditure for the financial year which, on the best assumptions and estimates that the Council can make at the time, ensure the HRA does not show a debit balance.
 - b. Determine a strategy that is designed to ensure the HRA is in balance taking one year with another.
 - c. Ensure, that as a ring-fenced account, the costs of managing and maintaining its homes, including debt charges and administration costs, are met from HRA income.
6. It is essential that the 30-year HRA Business Plan considers all risks and challenges, including the need for efficiencies, and ensures that any investment decisions, including any HRA funded new build, are affordable both in the short and longer term.

HRA Business Plan

7. The HRA Business Plan sets the Council's long-term investment strategy to maintain the quality of its housing stock. The plan is reviewed, at least, annually and uses current levels of income and expenditure information and projects this for the next 30 years applying several key assumptions in relation to the anticipated stock changes arising from right to buy sales, acquisitions and new build and regeneration plans, the number of void properties, the policy on rent and service charge increases, repairs and maintenance and property management costs, capital investment requirements based on stock condition information and forecast borrowing costs.
8. In previous years a significant number of challenges have been placed on the HRA Business Plan because of:
 - Legislative change such as the impact of the Housing and Planning, and Welfare Reform Acts.
 - The imposition of a social rent cut of 1% per year, for 4 successive years commencing April 2016.
 - Increased buildings compliance and regulatory requirements, particularly post-Grenfell and including new targets for carbon neutrality.
9. In addition, there is a need to:
 - a. Address uneconomic and poor performing housing stock in Gateshead. Stock condition and demand information confirms that the required expenditure on some schemes over the short and longer term significantly exceeds any income from those schemes due to poor or no demand, coupled with the need for high value investment works. There is an outstanding need to appraise all available options for these schemes over the coming months.
 - b. Identify operational efficiencies and more effective ways of working to ensure they are providing value for money and maximising HRA performance, particularly in relation to voids, income collection and day to day maintenance.
10. The current HRA Business Plan shows reserves to be exhausted by 2029/30, and the plan falling into a cumulative deficit. This needs to be addressed at an early opportunity to ensure a statutorily compliant business plan, and one that is viable, stress-tested and able to fully fund capital investment requirements over the short and longer term. Work is underway in producing a new 30-year HRA Business Plan and specialist consultants have been commissioned to support this work, including the building of a new fit for purpose business plan modelling tool, consistent with best practice within the wider social housing sector.

Budget Position 2020/21

11. The 2020/21 HRA Budget is currently projected to underspend by £3.201m which represents a reduction in the use of reserves required. The main variances relate to a reduction in the level of income which is due to an increase in the void loss offset by a reduction in borrowing costs resulting from more preferential interest rates and slippage in the capital programme. This is detailed in Appendix 2.

Budget Proposal 2021/22

12. The budget proposal for 2021/22 has been prepared considering known changes to housing stock numbers, ongoing management and maintenance requirements, proposed investment needs and assumptions in line with the Council's medium-term financial plan around pay and inflationary increases.
13. The budget proposal takes account of the continuing detrimental impact of Welfare reform on rent collection and tenancy sustainability. As at 6 January 2021, 5,503 (30%) of council tenants were in receipt of UC payments, this will continue to increase as new claims or change of circumstances are submitted. Rent collection rates for UC claimants is 96.88% compared to 99.95% for other tenants.
14. Void loss and tenancy turnover remain a challenge and the resultant loss of income for the HRA. A major review of the voids process is underway together with a review of the associated lettings and allocations systems and practices. The outcome of this work will be to identify the necessary measures to reduce void loss, and to allocate and enable occupation of homes more rapidly and effectively.
15. Work is underway to complete a number of improvements to repairs and maintenance services. The scope of these improvements are wide ranging including a review of the stores function, out of hours working arrangements and work scheduling and planning. It is anticipated that these improvements will be implemented during 2021/22 and will have an impact on future HRA efficiencies and savings.
16. The proposed HRA budget 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 2 requires the use of £4.973m of HRA reserves. The use of reserves is largely driven by the HRA capital programme and the need to ensure buildings compliance and ongoing investment in the existing housing stock.
17. A contingency of £3m per annum has been included within the HRA Business Plan for the next and subsequent 4 financial years to cover any future legacy liabilities and unforeseen pay and price increases.

Housing Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2025/26

18. Capital investment in the HRA is funded from the Major Repairs Reserve through a combination of the depreciation charged each year to the HRA and using additional voluntary HRA revenue contributions where possible to maximise the level of planned investment in the stock.
19. There are significant capital investment requirements over at least the next 5 years if the Council is to achieve its requirements and ambitions in the key areas of maintaining regulatory and buildings compliance such as decent homes and in maintaining the safety and security of high rise blocks; in achieving carbon reduction targets; securing catch-up investment in wider HRA assets and responsibilities such as environmental and 'street scene' requirements, garages, open spaces and communal areas; and in continuing to maintain / or increase social housing stock provision in Gateshead.

20. The proposed Housing Capital Programme for the period from 2021/22 to 2025/26 is set out in Appendix 3. It is estimated that £89.934m of the £104.268m funding requirement will be met from within the Major Repairs Reserve to support capital investment within the HRA over the next five years which will be supplemented using external funding and HRA capital receipts. The planned investment in the Housing Capital Programme is flexible and is subject to ongoing review especially as more detailed knowledge of the housing stock develops as a result of on-going stock condition surveys.
21. Improving knowledge and data relating to stock condition also confirms significant ongoing demands on the HRA over the full 30-year term. It is currently projected that the HRA will move into an overall deficit position in 2029/30. The short- and longer-term capital investment requirements will be considered as part of the emerging HRA asset management strategy.
22. At this stage it is envisaged that over the next five years the investment will include:
- £74m investment in undertaking estate based major works in accordance with the Decent Homes standard, including the replacement of kitchens, bathrooms and electrical improvements, a £3.8m boiler replacement programme and £2.8m to continue window replacement programme and door entry system upgrades.
 - £13.7m investment in general stock improvements, including the renewal/refurbishment of lifts, communal electrics and investment in external insulation to improve thermal efficiency of existing dwellings as well as the continuing provision of major and minor adaptation works to homes.
 - £4.8m investment in building safety improvements including works to address required fire safety improvements in response to ongoing risk assessments.
 - £11.5m investment in previously approved new build/acquisition and estate regeneration.
23. The Capital Programme will continue to be reviewed regularly to reflect the progress on committed projects and the availability of resources within the HRA to support capital investment.
24. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply, a proposed Affordable Housing Plan and Programme will be presented to Cabinet in March. This proposed affordable housing programme will include a planned HRA funded new build programme over a rolling 3-year period, to be reviewed annually as part of the annual refresh of the HRA Business Plan. As this is still an emerging strategy the implications of this are currently not provided for in the rolling programme considered in Appendix 3.
25. Given the impact newbuild schemes could have on the HRA Business Plan, and the need to consider other investment requirements arising from the existing housing stock, additional borrowing powers will be considered as part of the overall Business Plan review. Any additional borrowing will need to be prudent, affordable and sustainable within the HRA in line with the Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators. Opportunities will also continue to be explored to attract external funding, such as Homes England grant funding to support HRA led new build.

Consultation

26. Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Housing.

Alternative Options

27. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

28. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the financial implications are reflected in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

The proposed 2021/22 HRA budget (Appendix 2) requires the use of £4.973m from the HRA reserves. As at 31 March 2021 the HRA reserve is projected to be 29.785m. The current HRA 30-year Business plan currently anticipates that the HRA reserve level will fall below the minimum £3m reserves level in 2029/30.

The budget 2021/22 includes efficiencies of £0.377m related to a reduction in the void loss resulting from the ongoing transformation work which enables the HRA to be more sustainable over the medium term. Management and supervision efficiencies of £0.493m have been reinvested to strengthen the strategic housing function and provide capacity, some of which is one off, to effect further change and efficiencies following the re-integration of the management and maintenance of the housing stock into the Council.

- b. **Human Resources Implications** – Nil.

- c. **Property Implications** – Capital investment in HRA assets helps to improve the overall sustainability of the HRA and supports the delivery of corporate priorities under the Thrive agenda. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

29. **Risk Management Implications** – The added risks arising from self-financing and welfare reform mean that the Council must continue to manage and maintain its housing stock from the rents collected. The 30-year HRA business plan is being updated to enable this to be monitored and to ensure that decisions are made, where appropriate, to ensure the housing stock is maintained in the future.

30. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Nil

31. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Nil

32. **Health Implications** – Nil

33. **Sustainability and Climate Emergency Implications** – The report contains a number of measures, which will help deliver a more Sustainable Gateshead and support the review of the HRA Asset Strategy which includes carbon neutrality targets for the Council's housing stock.
34. **Human Rights Implications** – Nil
35. **Ward Implications** – All wards will be affected by the proposals in this report.

Background Information

Direction on the Rent Standard 2019

The Housing Revenue Account Self Financing Determinations February 2012

Welfare Reform Act 2016

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

HRA Budget 2021/22 to 2025/26

	Budget 2020/21 £'000	Projected 2020/21 £'000	Variance 2020/21 £'000		Budget 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000
Dwelling rents (gross)	(72,776)	(71,879)	897	Voids/Decommissioned Units	(73,512)	(74,893)	(76,791)	(78,653)	(79,725)
Non-dwelling rents (gross)	(1,325)	(1,312)	13		(1,312)	(1,319)	(1,325)	(1,332)	(1,345)
Charges for services and facilities	(3,983)	(3,716)	267		(4,127)	(4,179)	(4,263)	(4,345)	(4,404)
Water & Other Income	(1,115)	(946)	169		(931)	(950)	(973)	(998)	(1,027)
HRA investment income	(250)	(270)	(20)		(204)	(176)	(164)	(158)	(109)
Total Income	(79,449)	(78,123)	1,326		(80,086)	(81,516)	(83,517)	(85,486)	(86,609)
Supervision and Management	25,874	25,638	(236)		27,142	27,950	28,446	28,930	29,284
Repairs and Maintenance	23,067	23,100	33		23,269	23,586	24,055	24,513	24,847
Interest on borrowing	13,468	12,624	(844)	Borrowing costs	12,207	12,077	12,077	11,824	11,784
Capital Programme Funding	20,721	17,240	(3,481)	Capital slippage	21,671	17,818	17,945	16,225	16,275
Increased provision for bad debt	700	700	0		700	750	769	787	840
Debt management expenses	70	70	0		70	71	73	75	77
Total Expenditure	83,900	79,373	(4,527)		85,059	82,253	83,366	82,354	83,107
Net Operating Cost/(Surplus)	4,451	1,250	(3,201)		4,973	737	(151)	(3,131)	(3,502)
HRA Reserves									
Opening Balance	31,035	31,035			29,785	24,812	24,075	24,226	27,358
Net Operating Cost for the year	4,451	1,250	(3,201)		4,973	737	(151)	(3,131)	(3,502)
Closing Balance	26,584	29,785	3,201		24,812	24,075	24,226	27,358	30,860

Housing Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26

Housing Capital	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Improvement Works							
Lift Replacement/Refurbishment	Planned works to replace lifts within the Council's housing stock in accordance with their lifecycle, building safety & compliance requirements.	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
Replacement of Communal Electrics	Essential works to upgrade communal electrical circuits and services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	696	300	300	300	300	1,896
T-Fall insulation	Targeted insulation and ventilation work to reduce the risk of condensation, disrepair and litigation claims.	90	40	30	20	20	200
Warden Call Renewal	Replacement of equipment to utilise Gateshead Council's Care Call scheme, an emergency service which supports older, disabled and vulnerable people allowing them to live safely and independently in their home.	240	200	200	200	200	1,040
Aids and Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	7,500
Neighbourhood Improvements	Improvements to neighbourhoods that reduce risk and asset liability and have a positive impact on helping communities thrive.	170	100	100	100	100	570
Total Improvement Works		3,196	2,640	2,630	2,620	2,620	13,706
Building Safety Works							
Fire Safety Work / Compliance	Works to address required fire safety improvements in response to ongoing risk assessments.	1,134	500	400	400	400	2,834
Equality Act Works	Improvements to ensure that residents and visitors can safely access, use and move around building and blocks	54	100	100	100	100	454
Basement Improvements	Targeted work upgrade and improve basement areas to ensure they are free from disrepair and meet our requirements for building safety.	100	150	150	100	50	550

Building Sustainability Improvements	Targeted budget to tackle structural voids and interventions linked to the Housing Health & Safety Rating System, Fitness and disrepair litigation	-	240	240	240	240	960
Total Building Safety Works		1,288	990	890	840	790	4,798
Major Future Works							
Decent Homes - Investment Programme	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	9,844	9,575	10,175	9,615	9,715	48,924
Programme Management	The allocation is used to fund the programme management costs and associated fees relating to the delivery of all capital schemes within the Housing Capital Programme.	550	550	550	550	550	2,750
Strategic Maintenance	This scheme carries out significant capital works identified by the repairs and maintenance contractor, undertaking improvements to help reduce the level of responsive repairs.	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Window & Door Entry Replacements	Continuation of the window replacement and door entry system replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	751	500	500	500	500	2,751
Option Appraisal Recommendations	The undertaking of recommendations that have been approved following the completion of an asset options appraisal. This could involve work to invest, improve, convert, repurpose or divest in property(s).	-	150	500	1,000	1,200	2,850
Total Major Future Works		13,145	12,775	13,725	13,665	13,965	67,275
Contingent Major Works							
Timber Replacements	Planned timber renewals/replacement identified through the prior to painting programme.	100	100	100	100	100	500
Back Boiler Renewal and Replacements	Replacement of failed and obsolete boilers, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	750	750	750	750	750	3,750
Stock Condition Surveys and Scheme Design	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	550	550	550	550	550	2,750

Total Contingent Major Works		1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	7,000
Housing Developments							
Estate Regeneration	The acquisition, demolition and clearance costs associated with the Felling regeneration project.	1,000	1,500	1,800	200	-	4,500
New Build/Acquisition - Various	Investment to provide additional dwellings within the Council's HRA.	5,574	1,415	-	-	-	6,989
Total Housing Developments		6,574	2,915	1,800	200	-	11,489
Total Housing Capital Budget		25,603	20,720	20,445	18,725	18,775	104,268
Funded by							
Major Repairs Reserve Contribution		-	-	-	-	-	-
HRA Capital Receipts		21,671	17,818	17,945	16,225	16,275	89,934
Grant Funding		-	-	-	-	-	-
		2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		1,432	402	-	-	-	1,834
Total Funding		25,603	20,720	20,445	18,725	18,775	104,268



COUNCIL MEETING

25 February 2021

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2025/26

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the Capital Programme for the next five years to provide significant levels of strategic investment to help maintain and deliver financial sustainability and support the Council's strategic approach to Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.
2. The 2020/21 Capital Programme totals £142.9m, with £117.3m relating to the General Fund and £25.6m investment within the Housing Revenue Account. Over the five years to 2025/26, the level of capital investment is forecasted to be £398.0m, of which £293.7m relates to General Fund schemes. Despite the current pressure on resources this represents a significant level of strategic investment in the Council's assets and is affordable within the assumptions included in the current MTFS.
3. The proposed Capital Programme includes all commitments and schemes identified as high priority and the provisional capital financing as set out in Appendix 3.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) Approves the capital programme for 2021/22, and the provisional programmes for 2022/23 to 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 2, subject to external funding approvals being received.
 - (ii) Notes the provisional capital financing for the programme, as set out in Appendix 3, and delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to enter prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26**REPORT OF:** Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources & Digital

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council approve the proposed Capital Programme for the next five years to continue to provide significant levels of strategic investment to help maintain and deliver financial sustainability and support the Council's strategic approach to making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. In line with good practice and the Council's approved Capital Strategy, the Council continues to set a rolling capital programme with an annual review. The Capital Programme has been prepared for the next five years; all financial implications are incorporated within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that aligns resources to support the Council's five key priority areas.
3. The Council's existing MTFS, approved by Cabinet in October 2020, maintained a provision to fund sufficient prudential borrowing to support the proposed capital programme. Prudential borrowing remains the only source of funding for a number of schemes however external funding is utilised where available.
4. Local authorities are free to invest in General Fund capital schemes so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. Under new rules introduced in November 2020 the Council cannot borrow primarily for yield. There is an increasingly important link with the revenue budget, especially considering the significant reductions in available capital and revenue resources.
5. This report should be considered alongside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme, which will seek approval for a five-year Housing Capital programme. As part of self-financing, the housing capital programme must be supported from the resources available within the HRA. The position will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the level of capital investment can be supported. Investment within the housing capital programme also remains a significant part of the Council's wider capital investment plans. Where schemes are brought forward for funding through the additional borrowing powers within the HRA, these will be considered against the agreed prudential indicators and HRA Business model to ensure they are prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Proposal

6. The 2021/22 Capital Programme totals £142.9m, with £117.3m relating to the General Fund and £25.6m investment within the Housing Revenue Account and this is proposed to be recommended to Council for approval. Over the five years to 2025/26, the level of capital investment is forecasted to be £398.0m, of which £293.7m relates to General Fund schemes. Despite the current pressure on resources this represents a significant

level of strategic investment in the Council's assets and is affordable within the assumptions included in the current MTFS.

7. Capital investment has a positive impact on the local economy and will support the economic recovery within Gateshead post Covid, with an estimated creation of over 2,400 new jobs and 39 apprenticeships. Investment in schemes to encourage economic and housing growth will enable an estimated 2,000 new homes to be developed over the next 5 years. Investment also addresses the climate emergency, reducing carbon emissions by circa 1,850 tonnes of Co2 per annum.
8. The programme includes projects that are key to delivering the Council's priority areas which underpin the pledge to make "Gateshead a place where everyone thrives":
 - Projects which support the Council's commitment to Climate change and making the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2030;
 - Projects that promote the health and housing priority, providing good health through housing and improved access to homes including the development of sustainable homes are considered a high priority;
 - Projects which focus resources on transport within the borough, improving air quality, improving public transport and creating more sustainable forms of transport;
 - Projects which support the economy within Gateshead, promoting and supporting business growth within the borough; and
 - Projects that help combat poverty and equality, maximising household income, ensuring children are safe and have the opportunity to thrive and creating sustainable employment.
9. The Council's Capital Strategy provides a framework for strategic capital investment and detailed business cases are required prior to the inclusion of potential projects within the Capital Programme. This will ensure that the investments will contribute towards the achievement of Council priorities and are consistent with the key priorities and financial estimates included within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
10. There may be opportunities to include additional schemes in the Capital Programme during the year should a business case demonstrate that capital investment will achieve savings to at least meet the associated borrowing costs to satisfy the prudential framework, or in the event that additional external resources, such as capital grants, developer contributions, Community Infrastructure Levy or capital receipts become available to support capital investment.
11. The proposed Capital Programme at Appendix 2, includes all commitments and schemes identified as high priority and the provisional capital financing is set out in Appendix 3.

Recommendations

12. Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:
 - (i) Approves the capital programme for 2021/22, and the provisional programmes for 2022/23 to 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 2, subject to external funding approvals being received.
 - (ii) Notes the provisional capital financing for the programme, as set out in Appendix 3, and delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital to enter prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To continue to provide significant strategic investment to deliver the Council's priority outcomes.
- (ii) To assist with the medium- and longer-term financial sustainability of the Council.
- (iii) To maximise resources available within the Council's capital programme to assist in the delivery of the five key priority areas which underpin the thrive agenda.
- (iv) To assist the Councils response and recovery following the global pandemic.

Policy Context

1. All Council capital expenditure is consistent with the Council's strategic priority 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives'. This means that the Council's decision making, including the setting of the Capital Programme, will be policy and priority led and driven. The financial implications of the capital programme are incorporated within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Background

2. Details of potential future capital schemes for the 2021/22 to 2025/26 Capital Programme were considered alongside the schemes within the existing programme. The capital and revenue implications of each proposed scheme were considered to ensure that they were affordable and could be accommodated within the level of revenue support available within the MTFS and HRA.
3. The basic principle of the prudential system is that local authorities are free to borrow so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. Councils are prohibited to borrow to fund commercial investment. There is, therefore, an explicit link with the Council's revenue spending plans which have been considered as part of the MTFS process and setting the 2021/22 revenue budget.
4. The self-financing implications have been considered as part of setting the HRA capital programme and have been addressed as part of the process to set the HRA budget for 2021/22. The five-year capital programme was updated to cover the period 2021/22 to 2025/26 and is set out within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme report.

Proposed Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26

5. The basis for considering the programme for 2021/22 – 2025/26, as detailed in the Council's Capital Strategy, gives priority to capital schemes which:
 - Are consistent with the Council strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives; and
 - Supports the principles set out within the Councils MTFS;
 - The overall financial strategy will be to ensure that the Council's resources are directed to the Thrive agenda framework. Financial sustainability will be achieved and maintained through targeted investment, reducing costs and more efficient ways of working.
 - The Council will consider a range of delivery mechanisms and funding sources to support capital investment to deliver thrive priorities, including the use of prudential borrowing, and will ensure that the full costs associated with financing the investment are taken into account when investment decisions are taken.
 - The Council will aim to promote and stimulate strong and sustainable economic growth leading to wellbeing and prosperity for residents and communities and this will be supported by a planned approach to strategic investment managed through the Council's capital programme.

Existing Scheme Review

6. All existing schemes are reviewed to ensure they remain high priority and are contributing to the Council's corporate strategic approach and continue to support the MTFs. Where schemes continue to meet the criteria, they are included in the draft Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2025/26. These schemes include:
- Health & Housing – investment of £43.8m to support housing within the Borough, including £35.0m investment in the housing development at Clasper, delivering 191 sustainable homes of which 29 will be affordable, contributing to the local economic recovery with the creation of an estimated 592 new jobs, 6 apprenticeships and supporting local suppliers;
 - Climate Change – investment of £15.8m to address climate change, including £5.6m for the development of a mine water energy centre at Shearlegs Road Depot;
 - Economic Growth, Employment & Community Wealth Building – investment of £100.3m to encourage economic recovery and growth within the Borough, including £23.0m for the construction of a 1,000 space multi storey car park at Baltic Quarter to support existing and future development in the area, including the Gateshead Quays scheme;
 - Poverty & Equality – investment of £34.2m included within the programme to address poverty and inequality, including £7.6m to purchase an intermediate care facility which is being developed by a third party, this will replace the three intermediate care facilities currently being operated by the Council leading to efficiencies and revenue savings;
 - Transformation – investment of £19.1m in transformational schemes such as £2.0m to support new ways of working; and
 - Transport – investment totalling £51.3m to improve transport within the Borough, including £16.4m planned maintenance and investment in highways infrastructure, facilitating sustainable transport and improving air quality.
7. In addition, there are also ongoing investment programmes to improve assets and core services delivery, including investment in:
- Strategic Maintenance;
 - ICT intrastate, networks and digital systems; and
 - Replacement of fleet vehicles.

Potential additional schemes

8. Along with existing schemes, which account for around 82% of the planned investment, a number of additional projects have been proposed which are high priority. The following additional projects are recommended for inclusion within the capital programme:
- Investment of £6m has been included to deliver a replacement one form entry Blaydon West Primary School on land within the school's existing catchment area;
 - Investment of £5.9m in enabling works and site infrastructure to facilitate the proposed Clasper housing development;
 - Investment of £14.7m has been included to improve public and sustainable modes of transport through the Transforming Cities initiative, this would primarily be financed through grant funding with around £3.8m required as match funding to be funded via Council resources.
 - Investment of £0.1m to improve access roads and car parks (Urban and Countryside Parks) across the Borough;
 - Investment of £1.8m in parks and open spaces; and

- Investment of £0.7m to aid the implementation of the IT Strategic Action Plan.

9. The proposed capital programme allows for total investment in General Fund schemes of £117.3m in 2021/22 and £293.7m over the five-year programme allocated across the following key priority areas:

General Fund 2021/22 – 2025/26	Existing Schemes (£m)	Potential Additions (£m)	Total (£m)
Climate Change	15.8	-	15.8
Economy	100.3	-	100.3
Health & Housing	43.8	5.9	49.7
Poverty & Equality	34.2	7.9	42.1
Transformation	19.1	0.7	19.8
Transport	51.3	14.7	66.0
Total Investment	264.5	29.2	293.7

10. A summary of all schemes, including prior year commitments identified as being high priority and a limited number of new schemes have been included in the proposed capital programme in Appendix 2.

Capital Resources Available

11. The Council continues to maximise the use of external funding where possible, including the following grants:
- £20.0m of DfT Transport grant funding over the next five years to improve the Council's transport infrastructure in accordance with the principles set out in the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan;
 - An estimated £9.4m of externally funded investment in the Council's Schools, helping to address both condition and capacity issues as part of the School Condition and Basic Need programmes;
 - Over £7.1m Public Sector Decarbonisation funding to help address climate change in the Borough;
 - £6.3m Homes England funding, to support the development of new homes across the Borough.
 - £5.5m of LEP Get Building funding to support regeneration at Gateshead Quays and Baltic Business Quarter; and
12. In some cases, the external funding allocations are based upon provisional allocations and the detailed investment plans will be reviewed following confirmation of the specific external funding award to ensure that the proposed investment can be delivered within the available resources.
13. The Council has the ability to fund schemes through prudential borrowing. This allows the Council more flexibility to fund capital projects, however in practice this is limited by pressures on revenue budgets and the need to generate budget savings. An allowance has been made in the revenue budget for the costs associated with the level of prudential borrowing required to support the capital programme set out in Appendix 2.
14. The development of detailed business cases to support capital investment helps to ensure that the proposed capital schemes do not add to the existing funding gap. It is important to identify a guaranteed income stream or sufficient revenue savings to support the costs associated with prudential borrowing.

15. The final source of funding currently available to support the capital programme is from the use of capital receipts received from the sale of Council land and buildings. The Council has a five-year rolling programme of disposals which is used to identify the level of receipts available. For 2021/22 capital receipts totalling £1m have been included within the capital financing projections, however this will be monitored in year and may be subject to change. In addition to this it is anticipated that the Council will receive £31.4m housing sales receipts over the five-year period, this will be monitored closely, and any anticipated changes reported through the Councils capital monitoring.
16. Following the November 2015 Spending Review, the Government announced that it would introduce additional flexibility for the period of the Spending Review to enable Local Authorities to use capital receipts from the sale of non-housing assets to fund the up-front revenue costs of service reform and transformation provided there is a clear link to the generation of future ongoing revenue savings. Further information regarding the Council's ability to utilise this flexibility is set out in Appendix 4. In developing the capital programme and setting the revenue budget, potential schemes that may benefit from this flexibility have been identified. At this stage there are no capital receipts allocated to finance the qualifying expenditure, however this will be reviewed during the year as the actual level of capital receipts due becomes more certain.
17. The proposed capital programme is shown in Appendix 2 and the proposed financing of programme is detailed in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

18. There continues to be significant pressure on the resources available to support capital projects. The planned investment of £142.9m in 2021/22 has been set at a level which is sustainable and the impact of this has been included within the Council's revenue and HRA budgets. This level of capital programme represents a significant investment in the local economy and forms a key part of the delivery of the Council's strategic approach 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives'.
19. The limitations on both revenue and capital resources mean that whilst the current commitments within the capital programme can be supported, there are still a number of capital projects that cannot be fully supported as part of the proposed capital programme. Work will continue to progress additional schemes and source alternative funding or consider alternative delivery models where appropriate.
20. Additional schemes may be added to the capital programme following the completion of a detailed business case provided that they generate sufficient revenue savings to satisfy the prudential framework, or utilise available external funding, and do not add additional pressure on the revenue budget.

Consultation

21. The development of detailed project proposals arising from this report will involve consultations with all stakeholders.

Alternative Options

22. No alternative options were considered.

Implications of Recommended Option

23. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** -The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital confirms that the financial implications are set out in the report and appendices. The proposed capital programme can be accommodated from within the provision currently included within the Council's MTFS and Revenue budget.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Capital projects require project management resources to ensure that the planned investment is successfully delivered. In accordance with accounting regulations, where it can be demonstrated that a project management resource is integral to the delivery of major capital investment this cost can be capitalised and funded as part of the specific project. The human resources implications of individual schemes are considered prior to implementing a project.
- c) **Property Implications** - Capital investment optimises the use of property assets to support the delivery of the Council's priority outcomes. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

24. **Risk Management Implication** - There is a risk that resources identified to fund the proposed programme are not realised. The impact of this will be managed through the monitoring process and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

25. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The framework for the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Council's spending plans is based on legislative and policy priorities of the Council which include:

- The Equality Act 2010; and
- The Local Government Improvement and Development Equalities Framework.

The Equality and Diversity implications will be considered for each individual scheme within the capital programme.

26. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

27. **Health Implications** - There are no health implications arising directly from this report.

28. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - The capital programme will provide a framework for ensuring a sustainable financial position over the medium and longer term. The proposed works will help to deliver high standards of environmental sustainability through the delivery of energy efficiency measures and the use of more energy efficient materials and practices in the refurbishment of existing Council buildings and the construction of new buildings. Projects will strictly follow the Council's Sustainable Construction policy.

29. **Human Rights Implications** - There may be interference or disturbance to tenants and residents while works are carried out. However, such interference or disturbance will be kept to a minimum and the works will result in benefits to tenants and residents.

30. **Ward Implications** - The proposals will have implications for all wards in Gateshead.

31. **Background Information** - The following background papers have been used in preparing this report:
- (i) Report for Cabinet, 23 February 2021 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme
 - (ii) Report for Cabinet, 19 January 2021 – Capital Programme 2019/20 – Third Quarter Review
 - (iii) Report for Cabinet, 17 November 2020 – Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26
 - (iv) Report for Cabinet, 20 October 2020 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26
 - (v) Report for Cabinet, 25 February 2020 – Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25

Appendix 2 – Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2025/26

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME						
Climate Change						
Street Lighting LED Replacement - Phase 4	Completion of lighting replacement programme, installing LED lanterns to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs and energy consumption.	939	0	0	0	0
Gateshead DES - Solar PV	To install up to 2MW of solar PV systems on Council buildings, Council car parks, and major development sites in Gateshead Town Centre, which are connected to Gateshead DES.	4,265		0	0	0
2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 DH and PW connection	Extension of the heat and power network to Shearlegs Rd, Park Rd and Gateshead International Stadium	4,268				
Salix Energy Efficiency Works	Ongoing investment in energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings, delivering revenue savings.	150	150	150	150	150
Loan to GEC Co. District Energy extension HNIP	Loan to Gateshead Energy Company to fund the development of a mine water energy centre, reducing carbon emissions in pursuit of the Council's net zero target by 2030.	4,678	902	0	0	0
Total Climate Change		14,300	1,052	150	150	150
Economic Growth, Employment & Community Wealth Building						
Quays Pedestrian Improvements	Pedestrian improvements around the Gateshead Quays area, including wider footpaths and crowd control measures, to support the Gateshead Quays development.	1,000	1,050	0	0	0

ADZ Investment - Gateshead Quays	Investment within the Council's ADZ area to provide infrastructure to facilitate the Gateshead Quays development, helping to generate significant economic growth.	14,529	27,652	19,004	1,059	0
Baltic Quarter Enabling Infrastructure	Creation of a road and sustainable drainage infrastructure at Baltic Quarter to facilitate future development.	8,250	4,020	0	0	0
Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park	The development of a multi storey car park on Baltic Quarter to support existing and future development in the area, including the Gateshead Quays scheme.	15,764	6,994	0	0	0
Major Projects - Project Management Costs	Capitalisation of dedicated Project Managers to co-ordinate the delivery of major strategic capital projects.	290	290	290	0	0
Metrogreen	Development of delivery strategy and action plan for Metrogreen to help progress future development.	78	0	0	0	0
Total Economic Growth, Employment & Community Wealth Building		39,911	40,006	19,294	1,059	0
Housing						
Loan to Keelman Homes - Bleach Green Affordable Housing	Loan to facilitate the provision of affordable housing at Bleach Green.	600	0	0	0	0
Loan to Keelman Homes to support Empty Homes 2016-21	Loan to support the acquisition and refurbishment of empty homes to increase the supply of affordable housing within the Borough and bring long-term empty properties back in to use.	700	0	0	0	0
Development Site Preparation Works	Works to facilitate housing development on Council owned sites, addressing site constraints and viability issues.	500	500	0	0	0
High Street South Regeneration	Investment to maintain project momentum; continued assembly of development areas through acquisition and demolition of properties, enabling private investment.	583	583	583		

Clasper Housing Development	Proposed Council led development of 191 homes as part of a regeneration scheme, funded through projected sales revenue.	4,996	9,905	8,305	7,565	4,207
Capital Contribution to Clasper	Investment in enabling works and site infrastructure to facilitate the proposed Clasper development which will deliver 191 sustainable homes.	5,281	181	175	155	100
GRP Urban Core - Exemplar Neighbourhood	Investment in enabling works to facilitate the development of 300 homes by Gateshead Regeneration Partnership at the Freight Depot site.	3,700	1,100	0	0	0
Total Housing		16,360	12,269	9,063	7,720	4,307
Poverty & Equality (Core Services)						
Gibside New School Provision	Completion of the replacement for Gibside School to provide additional capacity within the Borough.	251	0	0	0	0
Additional Budget Requirement - Blaydon West Primary School New Build	Delivery of a new, replacement one form entry Blaydon West Primary School on land within the school's existing catchment area	2,600	3,400	0	0	0
School Condition Investment	Externally funded investment programme to address condition issues within the Council's Schools.	2,147	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417
Schools Devolved Formula Funding	External funding awarded directly to Schools to purchase equipment or contribute to larger capital schemes.	250	250	250	250	250
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	Grants to private individuals to facilitate adaptations to their homes to ensure people can continue to live independently, typically helping over 350 residents per annum.	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950
Improvements to Access Roads and Car Parks	Improvements to access roads, car parks and parks and open spaces to encourage their use.	100				
Parks and Open Spaces	Investment in parks and open spaces, promoting health and wellbeing	340	370	370	360	360

Fixed Play Facility Renewals	Programme of renewal and replacement of fixed play equipment throughout the Borough.	350	350	350	0	0
Replacement Bins	Annual procurement of refuse and recycling bins for new developments and existing households	100	100	100	100	100
River View Intermediate Care Facility	Purchase of a 50-60 bed purpose-built care facility to consolidate the provision of intermediate care to enable recovery, rehabilitation and reablement.	3,817	2,754	952	167	0
Follingsby Salt Store	To provide a covered facility for the storage of the Council's main stock of salt on the existing site at Follingsby	878	0	0	0	0
Children's Two Bed Residential Assessment Service in Gateshead	To provide a 2 to 4 bed assessment service for assessment of children entering looked after services, aiding the child's transition into care and understanding their specific needs.	740	0	0	0	0
Children's Three bed Residential Home	Acquisition and conversion of a property to provide a 3 bed residential children's home for looked after children.	690	0	0	0	0
Specialist Therapeutic Children's Home in Gateshead	Development of a 2 bed residential children's home designed to meet therapeutic needs.	520	0	0	0	0
Extensions and adaptations to the homes of foster carers	Funding to enable foster carers or special guardians to enlarge their homes to accommodate looked after children and provide additional capacity to secure permanence for sibling groups.	160	160	160	160	0
Gateshead Leisure Centre Investment	Upgrade to the kitchen and café area, creating a social area for people visiting the leisure centre.	652	0	0	0	0
Gateshead International Stadium Investment	Investment in replacing and improving the lighting and the track at Gateshead Int Stadium.	1,476	68	230	0	0
Library Service Review	Completion of the library's activity vehicle	20	0	0	0	0
Total Poverty & Equality Transformation		17,041	10,819	5,779	4,404	4,077

Digital Gateshead	Ongoing investment in the Council's Digital Platform to improve the delivery of Digital services, generating efficiencies and revenue savings.	699	0	0	0	0
ICT Strategic Plan	Investment in capital improvements and service transformation as part of the implementation of the ICT strategic plan.	241	241	241	0	0
Health & Safety	Programme of works to address health and safety related issues in the Council's property assets.	500	500	500	500	500
Strategic Maintenance	Programme of preventative maintenance works to address condition issues within the Council's operational buildings.	1,336	500	500	500	500
Technology Plan: Infrastructure	Ongoing investment in ICT infrastructure to ensure the effective delivery of Council services and the provision of a reliable, robust and secure network.	2,739	2,996	2,370	1,870	0
Technology Plan: Transformation Through Technology & New Ways of Working	Additional investment in mobile devices and technology improvements to ensure effective service delivery.	1,160	401	286	204	0
Telecare Equipment	Provision of telecare equipment to residents over 75, helping to preserve their independence.	75	75	75	75	75
Broadband Delivery UK	Ongoing investment relating to the provision of broadband infrastructure to rural areas of the Borough as part of the Broadband Delivery UK Project, which has helped provide high-speed broadband access to over 14,000 properties in the Borough to date.	80	80	0	0	0
Occupational Health Management Software	The system is required to support the Occupational Health Service in its aims to provide an effective offer to services across the Council, schools and TGHC.	18	0	0	0	0

Total Transformation		6,848	4,793	3,972	3,149	1,075
Transport						
Flood Alleviation Investment	Strategic investment to create sustainable surface water management schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in Gateshead using Environment Agency funding.	3,137	2,280	1,037	0	0
Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment	Rolling improvement programme to replace the Council's fleet, primarily high value Refuse Collection Vehicles.	1,750	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Street Lighting Column Replacement and CMS Removal	Rolling investment programme to replace street lighting columns throughout the Borough.	1,000	1,000	1,698	1,698	1,698
Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	Externally funded investment in improving sustainable transport infrastructure, traffic management and road safety.	1,233	1,233	1,233	1,233	1,233
Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	Externally funded investment in undertaking planned maintenance to improve highways infrastructure.	3,238	3,288	3,288	3,288	3,288
Additional Budget Requirement - Transforming Cities (Tranche 2)	External funding to support the delivery of major, strategic transport improvement schemes, seeking to improve public transport and encourage sustainable travel, delivering schemes such as Gateshead Interchange bus lane, Hill Street / Gateshead Quays sustainable access and improvements to the Birtley to Low Fell cycle route.	7,350	7,350	0	0	0
West Askew Road junction improvements	Introduction of a signalised all movements junction to facilitate residential development on Council owned land to the north side of Askew Road.	3,508	0	0	0	0
Flagged Footways	Structural work to footways throughout the borough.	333	333	333	333	0
Traffic Sign Replacement	Programme of traffic sign replacement and improvements throughout the borough.	256	263	269	276	0

Unclassified Road Resurfacing - Micro Asphalt	Unclassified road micro asphalt resurfacing throughout the borough.	500	500	500	500	0
Traffic Signal Renewal - Borough Wide	Programme of investment in replacing traffic signals throughout the borough.	500	0	0	0	0
Total Transport		22,805	17,497	9,608	8,578	7,469
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL INVESTMENT		117,265	86,436	47,866	25,060	17,078

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT						
Improvement Works						
Lift Replacement/Refurbishment	Planned works to replace lifts within the Council's housing stock in accordance with their lifecycle, building safety & compliance requirements.	500	500	500	500	500
Replacement of Communal Electrics	Essential works to upgrade communal electrical circuits and services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	696	300	300	300	300
T-Fall insulation	Targeted insulation and ventilation work to reduce the risk of condensation and disrepair.	90	40	30	20	20
Warden Call Renewal	Replacement of equipment to utilise Gateshead Council's Care Call scheme, an emergency service which supports older, disabled and vulnerable people allowing them to live safely and independently in their home.	240	200	200	200	200
Aids and Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Neighbourhood Improvements	Improvements to neighbourhoods and public realm to provide a positive impact on helping communities thrive.	170	100	100	100	100

Total Improvement Works		3,196	2,640	2,630	2,620	2,620
Building Safety Works						
Fire Safety Work / Compliance	Works to address required fire safety improvements in response to ongoing risk assessments.	1,134	500	400	400	400
Equality Act Works	Improvements to ensure that residents and visitors can safely access, use and move around buildings and blocks.	54	100	100	100	100
Basement Improvements	Targeted work upgrade and improve basement areas to ensure they are free from disrepair and meet our requirements for building safety.	100	150	150	100	50
Building Sustainability Improvements	Targeted budget to tackle structural voids and interventions linked to the Housing Health & Safety Rating System.	0	240	240	240	240
Total Building Safety Works		1,288	990	890	840	790
Major Future Works						
Decent Homes - Investment Programme	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	9,844	9,575	10,175	9,615	9,715
Programme Management	The allocation is used to fund the programme management costs and associated fees relating to the delivery of all capital schemes within the Housing Capital Programme.	550	550	550	550	550
Strategic Maintenance	This scheme carries out significant capital works identified by the repairs and maintenance contractor, undertaking improvements to help reduce the level of responsive repairs.	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Window & Door Entry Replacements	Continuation of the window replacement and door entry system replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	751	500	500	500	500
Option Appraisal Recommendations	The undertaking of recommendations that have been approved following the completion of an asset options appraisal. This could involve work to invest, improve, convert, repurpose or divest in property(s).	0	150	500	1,000	1,200
Major Future Works		13,145	12,775	13,725	13,665	13,965
Contingent Major Works						
Timber Replacements	Planned timber renewals/replacement identified through the prior to painting programme.	100	100	100	100	100
Back Boiler Renewal and Replacements	Replacement of failed and obsolete boilers, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	750	750	750	750	750
Stock Condition Surveys and Scheme Design	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	550	550	550	550	550
Total Contingent Works		1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Housing Developments						
Estate Regeneration	The acquisition, demolition and clearance costs associated with the Felling regeneration project.	1,000	1,500	1,800	200	0
New Build/Acquisition - Various	Investment to provide additional dwellings within the Council's HRA.	5,574	1,415	0	0	0
Total Housing Developments		6,574	2,915	1,800	200	0
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL INVESTMENT		25,603	20,720	20,445	18,725	18,775

Appendix 3 – Capital Financing

PROJECTED CAPITAL FUNDING	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Council Resources					
Prudential Borrowing	81,534	65,773	29,000	6,887	700
Capital Receipts	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sales Receipts – Housing Developments	-	4,190	9,484	9,760	7,965
Confirmed Capital Grant Funding					
DFT Local Transport Plan	4,146	4,146	3,896	3,896	3,896
DEF School Capital Grant Funding	2,648	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667
Environment Agency Funding	3,091	2,260	969	-	-
LEP Get Building Fund	5,500	-	-	-	-
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	7,132	-	-	-	-
Better Care Fund	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850
Anticipated Capital Grant Funding					
Transforming Cities Tranche 2	5,550	5,550	-	-	-
Homes England	6,246	402	-	-	-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL FUNDING	117,265	86,436	47,866	25,060	17,078
Housing Revenue Account Resources					
Major Repairs Reserve Contribution (HRA)	21,671	17,818	17,945	16,225	16,275
Homes England	1,432	402	-	-	-
HRA Capital Receipts	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL FUNDING	25,603	20,720	20,445	18,725	18,775
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING	142,868	107,156	68,311	43,785	35,853

Appendix 4 – Additional Flexibility Regarding the Application of Capital Receipts

1. In the Spending Review 2015, the Government announced that Local Authorities could use capital receipts (excluding housing receipts) to meet the revenue costs associated with the delivery of transformational and reform projects. In December 2017, this flexibility was extended for a further three years to 31 March 2022. The key criteria are that the expenditure must generate ongoing savings to the Council's net service expenditure.
2. The guidance suggests that:
 - The Council can only use capital receipts generated from the sale of property, plant and equipment in the years in which the flexibility is offered and any existing capital receipts cannot be used to finance the revenue costs of service reform;
 - Qualifying expenditure is up-front revenue costs that will generate future ongoing savings and transform service delivery. This includes initial set up and implementation costs but excludes any ongoing revenue costs of the new processes;
 - In applying the flexibility, the Council must have regard to the requirements of the Prudential Code and CIPFA Local Authority Code of Practice; and
 - The Council must confirm the plans for the proposed use of this flexibility for the relevant financial year and provide details of the expected costs, funding sources and benefits associated with specific projects and the impact on the Prudential Indicators.
3. Examples of types of qualifying expenditure include:
 - Driving a digital approach to the delivery of more efficient public services;
 - Funding the cost of service reconfiguration or rationalisation where this leads to ongoing efficiency savings or service transformation;
 - Setting up commercial or alternative delivery models to deliver services more efficiently and generate revenue income;
 - Integrating service delivery with other public sector bodies to generate savings; and
 - Improving systems and processes to tackle fraud and corruption in line with the Local Government Fraud and Corruption Strategy.



COUNCIL MEETING

25 February 2021

FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2021/22.
2. The Council reviews its fees and charges annually and proposes revised and new charges from 1 April each year.
3. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered. The review of fees and charges has been undertaken in the context of guidance indicating an uplift to reflect the consumer price index and potential employee pay awards of 0.5% and 2.75% respectively. (12-month CPI rate was 0.5% in September 2020).
4. A summary of the proposed changes to fees and charges for 2021/22 is presented in Appendix 1 and the full listing is presented in Appendix 2.
5. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.329m which includes a £0.200m increase in budgeted income that is reflected in the budget proposals considered as part of the revenue budget and council tax setting report.
6. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) approves the fees and charges as set out for 2021/22 in Appendix 2; and
 - (ii) authorises the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Fees and Charges 2021/22

REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Purpose of the Report

1. The review of fees and charges is an integral part of the annual budget process. The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to agree to recommend to Council the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2021/22.

Background

2. In 2019/20, the Council raised £25.8m from fees and charges. The forecast for 2020/21 is to raise in the region of £17.8m with the impact of Covid-19.
3. The Council reviews its fees and charges annually, revised and new charges are implemented from 1 April each year. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered. The review of fees and charges has been undertaken in the context of guidance indicating an uplift to reflect the consumer price index and potential employee pay awards of 0.5% and 2.75% respectively. (12-month CPI rate was 0.5% in September 2020)
4. In the Councils' Constitution under delegations to individual managers, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has delegated authority to:
 - Amend statutory fees and charges and those tied to service level agreements or charged annually;
 - Approve commercially sensitive traded fees and charges in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - Amend fees and charges during the financial year for any changes in legislation, changes to statutory fees or any changes to the rate of VAT.

Proposal

5. A summary of the recommended changes to fees and charges for Gateshead Council in 2021/22 is presented in Appendix 1 and the full listing is presented in Appendix 2.
6. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.329m which includes a £0.200m increase in budgeted income that is reflected in the budget proposals considered as part of the revenue budget and council tax setting report.

Recommendations

7. It is asked that Cabinet agrees to recommend to Council:

- (i) The fees and charges as set out for 2021/22 in Appendix 2;
- (ii) Authorisation for the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure that Fees and Charges are set in accordance with Council priorities.
- To support the delivery of the Council's budget and the strategic approach to making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council's strategic approach 'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives'. The Council recognises there are huge financial pressures on not just Council resources, but those of partners, local businesses and residents. This means that the Council's decision making, including the setting of fees and charges to support the budget, will be policy and priority led and driven.
2. In the Councils' Constitution under delegations to individual managers, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has delegated authority to:
 - Amend statutory fees and charges and those tied to service level agreements or charged annually;
 - Approve commercially sensitive traded fees and charges in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - Amend fees and charges during the financial year for any changes in legislation, changes to statutory fees or any changes to the rate of VAT.
3. The Council has explored the potential for new fees and charges for discretionary services afforded to it under its trading and charging powers.

Background

4. A review of fees and charges has taken place and the outcome of this review has informed the changes to fees and charges for 2021/22.
5. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered.
6. Proposals have been made to increase 33% of charges by either 0.5% or 2.75% and a further 1% by above the recommended level. In doing so demand and delivery of Council objectives will not be adversely affected.
7. 65% of charges remain unchanged, three new charges have been proposed and 1% of the 2021/22 charges are proposed to be removed as the Council no longer offer the service, changes to service delivery are proposed or charges have been consolidated. It is also proposed to reduce a charge.

Changes to Fees and Charges

8. The main changes to proposed fees and charges are listed below and the full listing of all fees and charges for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 2.

Increases by Inflation

It is proposed that 34% are to increase (38% in 2020/21): 33% are proposed to increase by inflation, and 1% are proposed to increase by above inflation. These proposals include:

- **Adult Social Services:** The proposal is to increase the day services, meals and care call charges by inflation. The charges for the Home Care Service and Extra Care are increased in line with the commissioned service rates.
- **Children's services:** It is proposed to increase Active Kidz daily charge, the cost of replacement bus passes and the Early Years Childcare service by inflation. Other charges are to remain the same.
- **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** The service have proposed to increase all Cemeteries and Crematoria charges by the recommended 2.75%.
- **Highways and Transport:** The charges for costs associated with development, Street Naming and Numbering, Network Management and clearance of drains have been increased by the recommended 2.75%.
- **Building Control** – The service have proposed to increase all services by inflation in relation to inspections, building notices and regularisation charges.
- **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** There are proposals to apply the recommended increase to the charges relating to Housing Act 2004 Actions, HMO Licenses and renewals, immigration inspections and redress schemes for lettings Agency work.
- **Licensing:** The majority of non-statutory licences have been increased by the recommended 2.75%.
- **Hire of Facilities:** The majority of charges have been increased in line with inflation.
- **Sport and Leisure:** The majority of charges have had a price freeze with the exception of the 2.75% inflationary increase for sports pitches due to the need to move further towards cost recovery.
- **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** It is proposed to increase the supply and delivery of replacement bins by 2.75%.
- **Recreation:** The majority of the charges have had the recommended inflationary increase applied with the exception of Allotments.
- **Planning:** The charges for planning history searches are proposed to increase by 2.75%.
- **Corporate Services:** The majority of the charges have had the recommended increase applied.

Increases Above inflation:

1% of charges are proposed to increase by more than inflation.

- **Registrars:** An increase of 20% to the administrative fee for new ceremonies.

- **Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance:** The charge for Green Waste collections has increased by 10%. The price had not increased for over 5 years therefore it equates to an increase of approx. 2% per year over the 5 years of no price increase. (Approved by Cabinet 20 October 2020)
- **Highways and Transport:** The charges for Road Traffic Collision Data (1-4) items are proposed to increase by 6.25% and for subsequent items a 7.5% increase for parity with other local authorities.
- **Business Centres:** The charge for Contribution to Overheads is proposed to increase by 8%.

No Change

65% of charges are proposed not to change, 15% of which are Statutory. These include:

- **Children's Services:** No proposed increase to most of the charges to continue to be affordable to families from the most deprived areas.
- **Car Parking:** No changes proposed in line with other local authorities in the area. Permits are linked to car parking charges and in turn will remain the same.
- **Property and Land:** No changes proposed to search fees.
- **Development and Public Protection:** The majority of the charges are not proposed to change as they are set by statute.
- **Highways and Transport:** No increase to Streetworks charges as overall impact on revenue is negligible. Road Works and Street Works Permit Scheme unable to change for first 2 years and this is year 2.
- **Libraries-Hire of Facilities:** No proposed changes to the charges for hiring facilities within libraries.
- **Libraries:** Suspension of reservation charges and fines has been requested for 2021/22.
- **Registrars:** Most non-statutory charges have not increased as prices increased significantly last year.
- **Business Centres:** No increases have been applied to the majority of business centre charges due to market conditions.
- **Sport and Leisure:** The service proposes a price freeze on charges. Due to the pandemic, the operation of the service has been severely affected with most activities and services being unavailable. Customers will therefore be asked to meet a 2 year increase in costs at a crucial time of recovery of the industry. It is felt that an increase in fees will result in further inequality of access as residents will be priced out of important health and wellbeing activities. The service also has to consider local rates to remain competitive.

- **Recreation:** Allotments have not had any increases applied as the rents can only be increased every three years. The next increase due 1 April 2022.
- **Licensing:** There have been no increases applied to Statutory services or Taxi Fees pending a full review.
- **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** No increase proposed to small/medium sized items collection helping reduce the potential impact on the environment as an increase may risk an increase in fly tipping. MOT test fees also to remain the same in line with no proposed increase to taxi fees in Licensing.
- **Planning:** There have been no change to Statutory services and most Non-statutory services.

Reduced Charges

- **Business Centres:** A 50% reduction in the full day charge for Motion Capture. Businesses based in Gateshead were able to reduce the cost by 50% to £1,500 per day. Businesses not based in Gateshead were unwilling to pay the £3,000 per day price therefore it is recommended to reduce the charge to £1,500.

New Charges

The following charges are to be included in 2021/22:

- **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** A new charge for Webcasting Service.
- **Adult Social Services:** A new Platinum Care Call package to include activity monitoring service.
- **Business Centres:** A new charge for Day Office Hire.

Removals

The following charges are proposed to be removed from the 2021/22 brochure:

- **Car Parking:** Removal of charges for Mill Road Car Park which closed 26 November 2020.
- **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** The removal of charge for Caution Issue (as an alternative to prosecution).
- **Corporate Services:** Removal of charges for access to information.

Consultation

9. The Budget Consultation 2021/22, which closed on 9 February 2021, sought the views of people who live, work and do business in Gateshead, on the Council's budget options for 2021/22 which will help to direct Council resources over the next year.

Alternative Options

10. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources

a. Financial Implications – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the financial implications are detailed in the attached appendices and that the full financial implications of this report are included in Council's Budget and Council Tax Level 2021/22 report presented elsewhere on the agenda. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.329m which includes a £0.200m increase in budgeted income.

b. Human Resources Implications – There are no direct human resource implications as a consequence of this report.

c. Property Implications – There are no direct property implications as a consequence of this report.

12. **Risk Management Implications** - The risks associated with the impact on demand for services have been assessed when considering increases in fees and charges.
13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - These are reflected in the proposed fees and charges, which also consider where appropriate the individual's ability to pay. Integrated impact Assessments have been completed for any of the new or significantly increased fees and charges within the report and will be used to evaluate and take action, if necessary, to mitigate the effects of any equality and diversity implications.
14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no immediate crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
15. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no immediate implications arising from this report.
16. **Health Implications** - There are no immediate health implications arising from this report.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no immediate Human Rights implications arising from this report.
18. **Ward Implications** – The recommendations apply to all Wards.

Background Information

19. Budget 2021/22 - Revenue Savings Proposals – 19 January 2021

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Gateshead Council

Fees and Charges

2021/22

CONTENTS

Adult Social Services	3
Children's Services	4
Building Control	5
Car Parking	8
Cemeteries and Crematoria	13
Development and Public Protection	15
Highways and Transport	17
Hire of Facilities	19
Housing Related Charges and Licencing	22
Licensing	23
Sport and Leisure	28
Libraries	32
Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance	33
Planning	34
Recreation	36
Business Centres	37
Corporate Services	39
Registrars	40
Property and Land Charges	42

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Residential Accommodation for Older People Minimum (per week) £122.60 Maximum - Gateshead residents (per week) £991.40	
Short Term Residential Accommodation for all Adults All Establishments (per week) £122.60	
Transport to Day Centre (per journey) £3.30	
Home Care Service* (per hour) £16.52	
Extra Care (per hour) £14.80	
Day Services* (per day) £26.30	
Day Services* (per half day) £13.20	
* Excluding referrals under S117 of Mental Health Act 1983	
Service users will be financially assessed to determine their contribution to the cost of their care. The assessment includes a £10 disregard for disability related expenditure and takes account the Department of Health tariff income for savings and capital (currently between £14,250 and £23,250)	
Provision of Meals Day Centres (per meal) £4.20	
Telephones for Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons 50% of rental	
Care Call Fees Model Sheltered Schemes £4.00 Bronze - Monitoring, response and annual visit £5.20 Silver - Monitoring, response, annual visit and 1 additional item of assistive technology £5.90 Gold - Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit and unlimited assistive technology £9.00 Platinum - Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit, unlimited assistive technology and activity monitoring service £19.80	
Smoke Alarm Monitoring £0.72	
Installation charge £15.40	
Supporting Independence Service (per hour) £16.50	
Sporting Clubs for People with Disabilities (Per session) £5.30	
MATP (per person per session) £5.30	
Rebound Therapy (per person per session) £26.70	
iMuse (Per person per session) £16.20	
Wheelchair Dance (per person per session) £10.70	
Guidepost £3.20	
S* where installation of the alarm is requested by tenant VAT is standard rated. If alarm is already built into the property and part of the rent or is part of care package VAT is outside the scope. Tenants with disabilities VAT is zero-rated.	

CHILDREN'S SERVICES	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Replacement of lost Bus Passes (Age 11-16 only)	£6.70
Equipment Hire	
Electric Breast Pump (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£25.50
TENS machine (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£11.50
Equipment Purchase	
Manual Breast Pump	£17.00
Toy Library	
Parent Membership:	
6 months	£5.50
1 year	£10.00
Small organisation membership	£15.00
Large organisation membership - 1 year	£55.00
Equipment loans - per item dependent upon item and will range between	£1 - £50
Active Kidz	
Per day	£15.70
Elgin Centre	
Community Play Provision (per session)	£1.00
Sensory Room Per child	£1.00
Sensory Room Exclusive Booking	£16.00
Early Years Childcare Training Service	
Single Setting Child Protection Training	£334.00
Single Setting Designated Persons Training	£334.00
Children's Centres	
Activities (per session)	£1.00

BUILDING CONTROL	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Standard Charges for New Build Houses	
1 Dwelling	
Plan Charge	£209.60
Inspection Charge	£628.80
Building Notice Charge	£838.40
Regularisation charge	£1,100.50
2 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£314.40
Inspection Charge	£838.40
Building Notice Charge	£1,152.90
Regularisation charge	£1,441.10
3 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£419.20
Inspection Charge	£1,006.10
Building Notice Charge	£1,425.30
Regularisation charge	£1,781.70
4 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£524.00
Inspection Charge	£1,152.90
Building Notice Charge	£1,676.90
Regularisation charge	£2,096.10
5 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£628.80
Inspection Charge	£1,310.10
Building Notice Charge	£1,938.90
Regularisation charge	£2,423.70
6 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£670.80
Inspection Charge	£1,551.10
Building Notice Charge	£2,221.90
Regularisation charge	£2,777.30
7 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£712.70
Inspection Charge	£1,792.20
Building Notice Charge	£2,504.80
Regularisation charge	£3,130.50
8 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£754.60
Inspection Charge	£2,033.20
Building Notice Charge	£2,787.80
Regularisation charge	£3,484.80
9 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£796.50
Inspection Charge	£2,274.30
Building Notice Charge	£3,070.80
Regularisation charge	£3,838.50
10 Dwellings	
Plan Charge	£838.40
Inspection Charge	£2,515.30
Building Notice Charge	£3,353.80
Regularisation charge	£4,192.20
<p>For applications with number of dwellings in excess of 10 – please contact the Building Control team to discuss the relevant charge. Email D&E Building Control</p> <p>An additional charge becomes payable when electrical work is not carried out by a Part P Registered Electrician and is set to recover additional Local Authority costs – currently set at £466.67 + VAT per unit.</p> <p>A Part P Registered Electrician is a qualified electrician who also has the necessary Building Regulations knowledge to enable his accreditation body to certify his work.</p>	
Domestic Extensions to a Single Building	
Single storey extension floor area not exceeding 10m²	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£251.50
Building Notice Charge	£450.70
Regularisation Charge	£563.40
Single storey extension floor exceeding 10m²	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£440.20
Building Notice Charge	£639.30
Regularisation Charge	£799.20

Two storey extension	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£660.30
Building Notice Charge	£808.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,074.30
Loft conversion	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£545.00
Building Notice Charge	£744.10
Regularisation Charge	£930.20
Erection or extension of a non exempt attached or detached single storey domestic garage or carport up to 100m²	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£199.10
Building Notice Charge	£398.30
Regularisation Charge	£497.80
Conversion of a garage to a dwelling to a habitable room(s)	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£272.50
Building Notice Charge	£471.60
Regularisation Charge	£589.60
Alterations to extend or create a basement up to 100m²	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£545.00
Building Notice Charge	£744.10
Regularisation Charge	£930.20
* An additional charge is for work when the relevant building work, or part thereof, has not been carried out by a person referred to in regulation 7(5) (g) or (h) of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 applies. It is additional to the inspection charge, building notice charge or regularisation charge	
Domestic Alterations to a Single Building	
Underpinning	
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price	
Plan Charge	£199.10
Inspection Charge	£230.60
Building Notice Charge	£429.70
Regularisation Charge	£537.20
Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling	
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price	
Plan Charge	£125.80
Inspection Charge	£115.30
Building Notice Charge	£241.10
Regularisation Charge	£301.40
Internal alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or, structural alterations (If ancillary to the building of the extension no additional charge)	
Basis of Charge	
Fixed Price Based on Estimated Cost Bands	
Building Notice Charge	£188.60
Regularisation Charge	£235.80
Estimated cost less than £2,000	
Estimated cost less than £5,000	
Plan Charge	£125.80
Inspection Charge	£115.30
Building Notice Charge	£241.10
Regularisation Charge	£301.30
Estimated cost exceeding £5,000 up to £25,000	
Plan Charge	£125.80
Inspection Charge	£356.30
Building Notice Charge	£482.10
Regularisation Charge	£602.60
Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 up to £50,000	
Plan Charge	£125.80
Inspection Charge	£607.90
Building Notice Charge	£733.60
Regularisation Charge	£917.00
Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 up to £75,000	
Plan Charge	£125.80
Inspection Charge	£974.70
Building Notice Charge	£1,100.50
Regularisation Charge	£1,375.00
Window replacement (non competent persons scheme)	
Basis of Charge - Fixed price grouped by numbers of windows:	
Per installation up to 20 windows	
Building Notice Charge	£115.30
Regularisation Charge	£144.10
Per installation over 20 windows	£0.00
Building Notice Charge	£283.00
Regularisation Charge	£353.20
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.	

Electrical work (carried out by installer not registered to an approved self-certifying Competent Persons Scheme).	
Basis of Charge - Fixed price based on extent of works	
Any electrical work other than the rewiring of a dwelling:	
Building Notice Charge*	£115.30
Regularisation Charge**	£733.60
The re-wiring or new installation in a dwelling:	£0.00
Building Notice Charge*	£283.00
Regularisation Charge**	£733.60
* If controllable electrical work is not carried out by a person qualified to inspect and test the installation in acc. with BS 7671, an additional charge of £425.53 + vat will be incurred by the applicant to cover the costs of the Council or its appointed consultant carrying out the completion inspection and testing of the electrical installation.	£0.00
** Electrical work Regularisation Charge is 150% of the additional charge (£425.53 x 150% = £638.29) exclusive of vat.	
Other, Non-Domestic Work - Extensions and New Build	
Floor area not exceeding 40m²	
Other Residential (Institution and Other)	
Plan Charge	£262.00
Inspection Charge	£524.00
Regularisation charge	£943.20
Non residential buildings	
Floor area exceeding 40m² but not exceeding 100m²	
Other Residential (Institution and Other)	
Plan Charge	£262.00
Inspection Charge	£869.90
Regularisation charge	£1,414.90
Non residential buildings	
Plan Charge	£262.00
Inspection Charge	£869.90
Regularisation charge	£1,414.90
The amount of time to carry out the building regulation functions varies, dependent on the different use categories of buildings.	
All Non-Domestic Buildings, Domestic Alterations and Extensions	
Estimated Cost of Work £0-£5,000	
Plan Charge	£209.60
Inspection Charge	£157.20
Building Notice Charge	£366.80
Regularisation charge	£458.00
Estimated Cost of Work £5,001 - £10,000	
Plan Charge	£0.00
Inspection Charge	£209.60
Building Notice Charge	£209.60
Regularisation charge	£419.20
Estimated Cost of Work £10,001-£15,000	
Plan Charge	£503.10
Inspection Charge	£209.60
Building Notice Charge	£262.00
Regularisation charge	£471.60
Estimated Cost of Work £15,001-£20,000	
Plan Charge	£589.00
Inspection Charge	£209.60
Building Notice Charge	£314.40
Regularisation charge	£524.00
Estimated Cost of Work £20,001-£100,000	
Plan Charge for each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA
Inspection Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA
Building Notice Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA
Regularisation charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA
Demolition Charge	
	£209.60
Window Replacement up to 20 windows	
Building Notice Charge	£115.30
Regularisation charge	£144.10
	£0.00
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.	
Scaffold Registration Fee	£72.00
Skips *	
Annual Permit Scheme Membership	£52.00
Standard Permit (Permit Scheme Member)	£21.00
Standard Permit (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£26.00
Same Day (Permit Scheme Member)	£47.00
Retrospective	£94.00
Renewal (Permit Scheme Member)	£10.50
Renewal (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£15.70
Retrospective Application for skips on highways	£94.00
* The skip provider/supplier is responsible for payment. Copy of waste carrier licence and public liability insurance must be provided.	
General	
Copies of Approvals and Certificates	£26.70
Safety Advice - per hour	
	£80.00
Scaffold and hoardings	
12 weeks permit	£131.00
12 weeks permit (competent contractor with appropriate, current qualifications)	£81.00
If a site visit is required	£52.50
For up to 28 days extension	£26.00
Re-inspection fee	£52.50

CAR PARKING

**2021/22 AGREED
CHARGE (Incl VAT
where applicable)**

CAR PARKS - OFF STREET

Off-Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge)*

Minimum	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00

*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment

Back Regent Terrace / Back Walker Terrace Car Park

(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00
Up to 3 hours	£3.00
Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£840.00
Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,260.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£480.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£672.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£255.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (All days)	£357.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days (per day))	£184.80

£75 flat fee + £5.00
per bay per day

Charles Street Car Park

(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm 3hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£1.30
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	£2.60
Up to 3 hours	£3.90

£75 flat fee + £7.80
per bay per day

Church Street Car Park

(Monday - Sunday all times, max stay 3 days)	
Up to 2 hours	£2.60
Up to 12 hours	£5.00
Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 72 hours)	£7.50
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£840.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,260.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£480.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£672.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£255.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£357.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£184.80

£75 flat fee + £7.50
per bay per day

Civic Centre Car Park A

(Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm)	
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	Free
Up to 1 hour	£1.20
Up to 2 hours	£2.40
Up to 3 hours	£3.60
Up to 4 hours	£4.80
All day	£6.00
Saturday, Sunday & BH fixed daily charge	£1.50
Annual staff permit	£425.04

£75 flat fee + £6.00
per bay per day

Coach Park

(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 9.00pm)	
Up to 1 hour	£2.00
Up to 2 hours	£3.00
Up to 3 hours	£4.00
Over 3 hours/All Day	£6.00

£75 flat fee + £12.00
per bay per day

Bay reservation fee (inclusive of full day's parking fee)

£12.00 per day

Computer House Car Park

Annual staff permit	£260.04
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£75 flat fee + £1.50
per bay per day

Cross Keys Lane Car Park

(Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) (per hour)	£0.40
All Day	£2.00
Seasonal Permits (All days)	£150.00

£75 flat fee + £2 per
bay per day

Felling Metro Car Park (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm) Up to 2 hours All day Sunday (Fixed daily charge) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£2.00 £3.40 £1.50 £75 flat fee + £3.40 per bay per day
Garden Street Car Park (Oakwellgate) (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 9.00pm) Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours Up to 3 hours Over 3 hours/All Day 12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 12 Month Seasonal Permit specified days) (per day) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£0.80 £1.60 £2.40 £3.20 £538.00 £806.00 £307.00 £430.00 £163.00 £228.00 £118.36 £75 flat fee + £3.20 per bay per day
Gateshead Leisure Centre Car Park Loading Bay Permit (per vehicle per day) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£10.00 £75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day
Heworth North Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm) Up to 12 hours Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 168 hours) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (specified days) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£2.50 £3.50 £420.00 £630.00 £240.00 £336.00 £128.00 £179.00 £92.40 £75 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day
Heworth South Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm 4hr max stay) Up to 2 hours Up to 4 hours Sunday (Fixed daily charge) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£2.00 £3.50 £1.50 £75 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day
Hilda House Car Park Annual staff permit Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£260.04 £75 flat fee + £1.50 per bay per day
Lowrey's Lane Car Park (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) First 20 minutes Per hour All day Suspension of Car Park or Bay	Free £0.40 £2.00 £75 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day
Pipewellgate Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm) All Day 12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday-Friday) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£2.70 £454.00 £680.00 £259.00 £363.00 £75 flat fee + £2.70 per bay per day

Quarryfield Road Car Park	
(Monday to Sunday all times, maximum stay 3 days)	
Up to 2 hours	£2.00
Up to 4 hours	£3.00
Up to 12 hours	£4.50
Up to 24 hours	£6.50
Up to 48 hours	£13.00
Up to 72 hours	£19.50
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£756.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,134.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£432.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£605.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£230.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£321.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£166.32
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £6.50 per bay per day
Regent Court Car Park	
(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm)	
Up to 2 hours	£2.10
Up to 3 hours	£3.00
Up to 4 hours	£3.90
All day	£4.70
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.50
12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£790.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,069.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£451.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£570.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£240.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£303.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£173.80
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £4.70 per bay per day
South Shore Road Car Park	
(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 9.00pm)	
Up to 1 hour	£2.00
Up to 2 hours	£3.40
Up to 3 hours	£4.90
All Day	£6.50
Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) (only available for 6 months at 50% of the annual fee)	£1,092.00
Seasonal Permit (All days) (only available for 6 months at 50% of the annual fee)	£1,638.00
Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£1,638.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £6.50 per bay per day
Sunderland Road (Tynegate) Car Park	
(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)	
All day	£1.00
Annual Staff Permit	£260.04
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£168.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£252.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day
Swinburne Street Car Park	
(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)	
Up to 2 hours	£1.80
All Day	£3.60
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.20
Annual Staff Permit	TBC
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £4.60 per bay per day
Town Hall Car Park	
(Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)	
Up to 2 hours	£1.80
All day	£3.60
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.20
Suspension of car park or bay	£75flat fee + £4.60 per bay per day
Whickham Shopping Centre (East) Car Park (short stay)	
(Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm 4hr max stay)	
Per hour	£0.40
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £3 per bay per day
Whickham Shopping Centre (West) Car Park (long stay)	
(Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm)	
Per hour	£0.40
All Day	£2.00
Seasonal Permit (All days)	£150.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £2 per bay per day

Other car parks where no parking charge is payable	
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day
Replacement permit fee (all car parks, all circumstances)	£50.00
ON STREET PARKING	
On Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge) *	
Minimum	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00
*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment	
Church Street (Nos 1-3) Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£1.60
Up to 2 hours	£3.10
Up to 3 hours	£4.60
Ely Street, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 15 mins	£0.30
Up to 30 mins	£0.50
Up to 45 mins	£0.70
Up to 1 hour	£0.90
Up to 1 hr 15 mins	£1.10
Up to 1 hr 30 mins	£1.30
Up to 1 hr 45 mins	£1.50
Up to 2 hours	£1.70
Half Moon Lane/Hudson Street/Wellington St, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£0.80
Up to 2 hours	£1.30
Up to 3 hours	£1.80
High Street, Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 20 mins	£0.70
Up to 40 mins	£1.40
Up to 1 hour	£2.10
Up to 1 hour 20 mins	£2.80
Up to 1 hr 40 mins	£3.50
Up to 2 hours	£4.20
Hopper Street, Gateshead (Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00
Mulgrave Terrace, Gateshead (Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5.30pm)	
Per hour	£0.40
Peterborough Close, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2 hr max stay)	
Per Hour	£0.60
Queen Elizabeth Avenue (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£0.70
Up to 2 hours	£1.40
Swinburne Street/Swinburne Place, Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£0.50
Up to 2 hours	£1.00
Bensham Rd (Walker Terrace), Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 20 mins	£0.70
Up to 40 mins	£1.40
Up to 1 hour	£2.10
Up to 1 hr 20 mins	£2.80
Up to 1 hr 40 mins	£3.50
Up to 2 hours	£4.20
Warwick Street, Gateshead (Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 1 hour	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00

Worcester Green access road, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)	
Up to 15 mins	£0.30
Up to 30 mins	£0.50
Up to 45 mins	£0.70
Up to 1 hour	£0.90
Up to 1 hr 15 mins	£1.10
Up to 1 hr 30 mins	£1.30
Up to 1 hr 45 mins	£1.50
Up to 2 hours	£1.70
BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT (subject to Council and Secretary of State approval)	
Penalty Charge Notices under S144 Transport Act 2000 for being in a bus lane	£60.00 (discounted by 50% if paid within a statutory period)
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents (per permit)	
First Permit	£25.00
Second permit (if applicable)	£50.00
Third permit (if applicable)	£75.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents' Visitor	
Book (10 vouchers) (3hr max stay)	£5.00
OAP/Blue Badge Residents (3hr max stay) permit valid for 3 years	£15.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Businesses (charge per permit)	£150.00
Blue Badge (Statutory Charge)	£10.00
Replacement permit charge	£20.00
Change of vehicle charge	£10.00
Health Professionals' permit	£100.00
Landlord Permit	£50.00
Trade permit (maximum 2 weeks)	£5.00 flat fee plus £2.00 per day
West Street Loading Bay	£150.00
Parking Dispensation Notice	£75.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 for each 6 metres or part thereof
Suspension Notice (Parking Bays)	£75.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 per bay/space per day
Site visit charge (per visit)	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Interments	
For the interment in a grave taken in rotation of an adult 18 years of age or over. (This does not include the Exclusive Rights of Burial)	£859.00
Additional cost of a grave taken out of rotation	£74.00
For the interment of cremated remains in a grave taken in rotation	£248.00
Interment fee Mon - Thurs 2pm - 4pm, Fri 1.45pm - 4pm	£1,080.00
Interment Saturday up to 3pm (by prior arrangement only)	£1,717.00
For any interment taking place more than 15 minutes before or after the appointment time, an additional fee for every further 15 minutes or fractional part thereof	£56.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in full graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:	
For period of 50 years	£740.00
For period of 60 years	£888.00
For period of 70 years	£1,035.00
For period of 80 years	£1,182.00
For period of 90 years	£1,331.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in cremated remains graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:	
For period of 50 years	£432.00
For period of 60 years	£517.00
For period of 70 years	£604.00
For period of 80 years	£691.00
For period of 90 years	£775.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in childs grave. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the follolwing duration:	
For period of 50 years	£432.00
For period of 60 years	£517.00
For period of 70 years	£604.00
For period of 80 years	£691.00
For period of 90 years	£775.00
Note- The fees indicated include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof. On the expiry of original term referred to above, an option may be exercised to extend the period of Exclusive Right of Burial for a further period (total term must not exceed 90 years).	
Extention to existing Exclusive Rights of burial on expiry of initial lease (Must not extend beyond 90 years in total)	
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of Burial - Full Grave	
20 years	£296.00
30 years	£444.00
40 years	£592.00
Extension to existing to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Cremated Remains Grave	
20 years	£173.00
30 years	£259.00
40 years	£346.00
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Childrens Grave	
20 years	£173.00
30 years	£259.00
40 years	£346.00
Note - In some instances double fees may apply for non - residents. Please check with Bereavement Office.	

Gravestones, Tablets and Monumental Inscriptions	
For the right to erect or place a grave or vault in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted:	
A memorial stone 450mm up to 915mm in height and 450mm to 915mm in width (vertical)	£290.00
NB All stones over 915mm in height or width will be priced on application	POA
Additional inscription on a headstone	£60.00
Half kerbstones - lawn section width of stone 600mm in front (full burials only)	£185.00
Kerbstones or border stones enclosing a space not exceeding the measurements specified in the Regulations.	£370.00
Horizontal Plaque to be placed between kerb stones not exceeding 750mm x 750mm.	£70.00
A Memorial Seat	
Memorial seat without the need for a base to be constructed	£1,336.00
Memorial Seat with the need for a base to be constructed	£2,055.00
Memorial cast iron plaque on existing seat in Saltwell Park for 10 years	£562.00
Additional or replacement plaque on an existing seat	£205.00
Renewal of 10 year lease for plaque	£356.00
Miscellaneous Charges	
Exhumation fees (excluding charges for re-interring)	POA
Free standing vase, tablet, or flower stand (right to place) up to 450mm x 300mm	£30.00
Coffin Cover	£656.00
Register transfer of ownership of grave or vault	£41.00
Use of cemetery chapel for services (only if available) fee is in addition to interment fee.	£103.00
Replacement memorial stone	£70.00
Replacement kerbstone (Half Kerbs)	£93.00
Replacement kerbstone (Full Kerbs)	£183.00
Renovation - regilding, cleaning etc	£43.00
Service cancellation (less than 72 hours notice)	£177.00
Cremation	
Of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 18 years	£671.00
Environmental Surcharge	£49.00
Non-Resident Surcharge	£36.00
Additional service time of 20 mins at Saltwell Crematorium for 12 noon & 3 pm services only	£67.00
Note - These fees apply where a cremation takes place between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm on weekdays, in any other cases, the fee will be increased by 100%. The cremation fee includes: Use of Chapel, waiting room, etc, and all attendance after coffin placed on catafalque by undertaker. The fees include the disposal of cremated remains in the garden of remembrance and a polycontainer for cremated remains.	
Entries in Book of Remembrance including touch screen visual display of entry accessible throughout the year	
Each line of entry (entries must consist of either 2, 5 or 8 lines)	£36.00
For Emblem or Service Badge	£119.00
Family Crest or Coat of Arms	£141.00
Token Entry charged at actual cost plus:	
Admin fee	£35.00
Miscellaneous Charges	
Medical Referee	£41.00
Disposal in Garden of Remembrance of a person cremated elsewhere	£59.00
Family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free). Charge applicable for all other searches. Charge is for one name, at one location.	£36.00
Memorial Wall Plaque for 10 years	£470.00
Extension of memorial wall plaque or memorial kerb plaque for period of 10 years (on expiry of lease)	£265.00
Memorial Kerb Tablet including plaque, inscription & vase (for a period of 10 years)	£819.00
Memorial Wall / Kerb Tablet - replacement plaque (for remainder of 10 year lease)	£207.00
Appointment with staff to be shown grave location for family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free)	£39.00
Dignified disposal of body parts - charged at 50% of the appropriate charge for an interment or a cremation.	POA
Webcasting Service	£50.00

DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

**2021/22 AGREED
CHARGE (Incl VAT
where applicable)**

Trading Standards

Fees for the purpose of any work carried out under the provisions of Weights and Measures Act 1985 and for any other metrological activity. For the testing of any equipment, the fee will be determined by the hourly rate of the Weights and Measures Inspector and will include a fee for time for preparation and travelling to the place of verification or testing. Where the nature of the equipment requires the presence of support staff, an additional fee will be charged to include an hourly rate for the member of staff and will include travelling to the place of verification or testing. An additional charge will be made to cover the cost of hiring any additional equipment required for the test.

Hourly rate for an Inspector of Weights and Measures	£87.30
Hourly rate for a member of support staff	£38.50
General Trading Standards Advice - per hour	£80.10

Authorisations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 / Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 Local Authority Pollution Control

Application Fee - All charges are Statutory

Standard Process	£1,650.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00
PVR 1 & dry cleaners	£155.00
PVR 1 & 2 combined	£257.00
Vehicle refinishers & other reduced fee activities	£362.00
Reduced fee activities*: Additional fee for operating without a permit	£99.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant	£1,650.00
For the third to seventh applications	£985.00
For the eighth and subsequent applications	£498.00

Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application, an extra charge is added to the above amounts £308.00

Annual Subsistence Charge

Standard Process - Low Risk	£810.00
Standard Process - Low Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£110.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk	£1,215.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£165.00
Standard Process - High Risk	£1,830.00
Standard Process - High Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£215.00
Reduced fee activities - Low Risk - Statutory Charge	£79.00
Reduced fee activities - Medium Risk - Statutory Charge	£158.00
Reduced fee activities - High Risk - Statutory Charge	£237.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Low Risk	£120.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Medium Risk	£235.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - High Risk	£357.50

* Reduced fee activities are service stations, vehicle refinishers, dry cleaners

Vehicle refinishers, Low Risk**	£240.00
Vehicle refinishers, Medium Risk**	£380.00
Vehicle refinishers, High Risk**	£575.00
Odourising of natural gas, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£79.00
Odourising of natural gas, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£158.00
Odourising of natural gas, High Risk - Statutory charge	£237.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£646.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£1,034.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, High Risk - Statutory charge	£1,506.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£473.00
Additional charge if subsistence payment is made by quarterly instalments - Statutory charge	£38.00

**Where part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation, an extra £98.00 must be added to the above amounts.

Transfer and surrender - All charges are Statutory

Standard process transfer	£169.00
Standard process partial transfer	£497.00
Surrender: all Part B activities	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: transfer	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: partial transfer	£47.00
(2010/11) New Operator at low risk reduced fee activity	£78.00

Temporary Transfers for Mobiles - All charges are Statutory

First Transfer	£53.00
Repeat following enforcement or warning	£53.00

Substantial Changes (Sections 10 and 11 of the Act) - All charges are Statutory

Standard Process	£1,050.00
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	£1,650.00
Reduced fee activities***	£102.00

***All above charges include the extra £98 for reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation

Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control - All charges are Statutory	
Application	£3,363.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00
Annual Subsistence - Low	£1,446.00
Annual Subsistence - Medium	£1,610.00
Annual Subsistence - High	£2,333.00
Additional charge of subsistence payment is made by quarterly instalments	£38.00
Late Payment Fee	£52.00
Substantial Variation	£1,368.00
Transfer	£235.00
Partial Transfer	£698.00
Surrender	£698.00
LAPC and LAPPC mobile plant charges (Application/ Subsistence) - All charges are Statutory	
1 authorisation, Application fee	£1,650.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00
2 authorisations, Application fee	£1,650.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Application fee	£985.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Application fee	£498.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£473.00
Land Contamination queries	
General Queries	£154.00
Large or Complex Queries - actual cost using hourly charge out rates	POA
Environmental Enforcement	
Littering	£75.40
Dog control offences	£75.40
Graffiti	£75.40
Fly-posting	£75.40

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Road Opening Notice	
Section 171 Licence (Road Opening Notice)	£250.00
Amendments to Section 171 Licence	£60.00
Permission to maintain apparatus in Public Highways	
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (new apparatus)	£550.00
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (existing apparatus)	£275.00
Amendments to Section 50 Licence	£60.00
Temporary Traffic Signals Fees (for non-statutory undertakers)	
Approval of temporary traffic management proposals	£35.00
2 Way Signals application	£50.00
Amendment	£25.00
Site Visit (per visit where required, additional to other fees)	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof
Highways Inspection Reports	
Highways Inspection Reports (per street per year)	£51.50
Request for Service / Complaint Records (per street per year)	£51.50
Works Orders (per street per year)	£51.50
Street Works Records (per street per year)	£34.40
Plan extract of adoption records (additional/follow up) (per OS plan used)	£12.10
Plan extract of adoption records (duplicate) (per OS plan used)	£24.90
Standard search additional questions (per question)	£12.80
Non-Standard search additional questions (per question)	£20.10
NRASWA Inspection Fees (Statutory fees)	
Sample Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£50.00
Defective Reinstatement Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£47.50
Third Party Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£68.00
Traffic Regulation Orders	actual cost
NRASWA Penalty Charges (Statutory fees)	
Street Works Fixed Penalty Notices	£120.00
	(£80.00 if paid within a statutory period)
NRASWA S74 Charges (Statutory fees)	
Overrun charges under S74	variable
Road Works and Street Works Permit Scheme	
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£81.00
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 3-4 and non-traffic sensitive)	£72.00
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£171.00
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£115.00
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00
Standard works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00
Standard works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00
Minor works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00
Minor works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00
Immediate works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£49.00
Immediate works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£36.00
Permit Variation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£45.00
Permit Variation (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive)	£35.00
Traffic and Accident Data Unit Charges	
Traffic and Accident Data - 1-4 items	£188.40
Unit - Charge for Data for each subsequent item	£46.80
Road Traffic Collision Data - 1-4 items	£204.00
Road Traffic Collision Data for each subsequent item	£51.60
Annual fee for access to CIRTAS or TRADS	£1,634.40

Transport Costs Associated with Development	
Where changes to the transport network are required in order to accommodate development.	
Checking of Designs - Estimated cost of works:	
<£25,000	£1,069.00
£25,000 - £75,000	£1,603.50
£75,000 - £250,000	£3,207.00
> £250,000	£5,345.10
This does not include any charges for checking the design of highway structures, exceptional or complex works or traffic signals.	
Supervision/ Inspection of Works - A charge of £1,000 +9% of the estimated cost of the works will be levied. - (This charge may be varied by agreement in exceptional circumstances).	
Street Naming and Numbering (SNN)	
Assignment of name to a new street	£205.50
Postal numbering for a new development on a new or existing street	£205.50 1st plot and £5.14 per additional plot
Alteration at the request of the developer/applicant in either street name or property numbers to new development after initial SNN has been undertaken, this charge is in addition to the above charges where applicable	£205.50
Renaming or the assignment of a name to an existing street at developer's/occupier's request	£205.50 plus £20.55 per property
Changing the assigned postal numbering/street of an existing single property at the developer's/occupier's request, which does not involve the creation or renaming of a street.	£102.80
Subdividing/merging of an existing property to create new postal addresses.	£51.38 per unit
Allocating/altering a house name to an existing address.	£51.38 per unit
Confirmation of postal address to property occupiers/owners/solicitors/conveyancers and other third parties	£51.38 per address
Network Management	
Footway crossing applications	£205.50
Temporary sign (including tourist sign applications)	£135.60
H Bar road marking applications	£92.50
H Bar road marking maintenance	£85.43 to maintain the line when required
Multiple phase temporary traffic signal application	£488.00 or £308.25 if 21 days' notice is given
Temporary traffic regulation order (by order)	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by notice)	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by emergency notice)	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by the Police Clauses act)	POA
ID Badge for Central Transport Unit contractors (per badge) (this is needed for contracted runs)	£10.50
Clearance of stopped private drains	
Normal Hours	£117.10
Other Times	£233.10
Installation of Vehicle Crossings - Base price will be £700 but subject to survey	POA
Private Hardstands (private driveways)	POA

HIRE OF FACILITIES

**2021/22 AGREED
CHARGE (Incl VAT
where applicable)**

Multipurpose Buildings

Room Bookings Hourly Rate

Small room (less than 10 people)

Weekday £19.50

Saturday £25.60

Sunday £32.30

Medium room (11-20 people)

Weekday £24.60

Saturday £30.20

Sunday £40.00

Large Room (more than 20 people)

Weekday £29.20

Saturday £31.30

Sunday £40.00

Room Bookings Daily Rate

Small room (less than 10 people)

Weekday £126.10

Saturday £172.20

Sunday £220.90

Medium room (11-20 people)

Weekday £162.50

Saturday £209.10

Sunday £276.80

Large Room (more than 20 people)

Weekday £198.40

Saturday £217.80

Sunday £276.80

Elgin Centre

Meeting Room - as per small room hire shown above

Multi Use Games Area (per hour) £13.80

Sports Hall (per hour) £45.10

Sports Hall (per day) £314.70

LIBRARIES

Caedmon Hall* - day time rate

up to 2 hour session - use of room £141.00

up to 5 hour session - use of room £226.00

up to 8 hour session - use of room £362.00

*A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead based not-for-profit organisations). All evening hires incur an additional £25.50 per hour cost for staffing. Caedmon Hall requires 2 additional members of staff after the day time occupancy hours for safety due to the design of the building and the location of the hall. Technicians charges, use of piano and extra staff are costed at the actual rate of the charge to the council as they are sourced externally

Community Library Rooms - Central Library - day time rate

up to 2 hour session - use of room £35.00

up to 3 hour session - use of room £54.00

up to 4 Hour Session - use of room £73.50

8 hour hire £135.00

Sowerby Room - Central Library - rate per hour £11.25

Community Library Rooms - Blaydon Library - day time rate

up to 2 hour session - use of room POA

up to 3 hour session - use of room POA

up to 4 Hour Session - use of room POA

8 hour hire POA

Cancellation of Bookings - Central Library

Within 48 hours of intended use 100% of hire charge

Within two weeks prior to date of the event 75% of hire charge

Between two and four weeks prior to date of the event 50% of hire charge

St Mary's Heritage Centre**

Daytime rate

Main Hall (per hour) £60.50

Chancel (per hour) £35.00

**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations. A discount of 20% is available for hire of the whole building. All evening hires incur an additional £25.50 per person per hour cost for staffing.

SALTWELL PARK

Weekdays

Wailes Room (half day) £167.30

Wailes Room (full day) £313.70

Training Room (half day) £65.90

Training Room (Full day) £109.80

Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight) £784.20

Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day) £784.20

Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day) £1,568.40

Saturday	
Wailes Room (half day)	£167.30
Wailes Room (full day)	£313.70
Training Room (half day)	£65.90
Training Room (Full day)	£109.80
Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight)	£784.20
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£784.20
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,568.40
Sunday	
Wailes Room (half day)	£167.30
Wailes Room (full day)	£313.70
Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight)	£1,568.40
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£1,568.40
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,568.40
** Where hire of room is for wedding facilities (ceremony, wedding breakfast or evening reception the whole charge is standard rated).	
CIVIC CENTRE	
Bewicks B (half day) Weekdays Only x 4 Hours	£151.50
Bewicks B (full day) Weekdays Only	£273.40
Bewicks A&B Friday Evening	£1,025.10
Bewicks A&B (half day) Sat or Sun x 4 Hours	£2,050.20
Bewicks A&B (full day) Sat or Sun > 4 Hours	£2,050.20
Weekday per Half Day	
The Lamesely Room	£92.30
The Bridges Room	£92.30
The Whickham Room	£92.30
The Blaydon Room	£92.30
Saltwell Room	£92.30
Dave Hopper Room	£63.00
The Council Chamber	£195.80
Weekday per Full Day	
The Lamesely Room	£184.00
The Bridges Room	£184.00
The Whickham Room	£184.00
The Blaydon Room	£184.00
Saltwell Room	£184.00
Dave Hopper Room	£126.10
The Council Chamber (per session)	£392.10
PARKS AND PAVILIONS	*Negotiable
** Where the charge is negotiable – A session is of no fixed period but is dependent upon the needs of the individual organisation.	
DRYDEN CENTRE	
Non Commercial Organisations **	
Weekdays	
(Discount of 20% if five consecutive weekdays (Mon-Fri 18:00 - 22:00) booked. May be subject to sole user charge £50.00)	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£72.30
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£197.30
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£54.80
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£165.00
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£18.50
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£52.80
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£28.20
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£73.30
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£32.30
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£92.80
Conference Room (per hour)	£36.40
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£107.60
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£165.00
Saturday	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£105.60
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£296.30
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£66.60
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£198.40
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£24.60
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£71.20
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£33.30
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£96.90
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£34.30
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£101.00
Conference Room (per hour)	£43.10
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£120.40
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£198.40

Sunday and Bank Holiday	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£124.00
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£343.40
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£66.60
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£198.40
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£27.00
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£77.40
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£43.10
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£118.40
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£46.10
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£131.20
Conference Room (per hour)	£49.70
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£139.90
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£198.40
Photocopying - per copy	£0.11
Commercial Organisations **	
Weekdays	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£84.10
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£248.60
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£21.50
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£63.60
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£33.30
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£98.90
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£43.10
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£127.10
Conference Room (per hour)	£49.70
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£147.60
Saturday	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£127.10
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£377.70
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£27.20
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£77.40
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£46.10
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£137.90
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£49.70
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£147.60
Conference Room (per hour)	£55.90
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£168.10
Sunday and Bank Holiday	
Conference Hall (per hour)	£144.50
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£430.50
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£31.30
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£91.70
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£54.80
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£165.00
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£62.50
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£186.60
Conference Room (per hour)	£67.70
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£203.50
Photocopying - per copy	£0.21
Refreshments - Buffet Lunch menu available for choices and price.	POA
Cancellation of Bookings	
Up to 2 weeks' notice	50% of Hire Charge
Up to 5 working days notice	75% of Hire Charge
Up to 2 working days notice	100% of Hire Charge
Cancellation on day of hire	100% of Hire Charge
** Equipment hire is included in relevant charges above. Where a separate identifiable charge is made for equipment hire this will be subject to VAT at the standard rate.	
***Includes use of specialist sound and lighting equipment and access to stage, under stage area, use of piano i.e. all specialist facilities for a stage performance.	

HOUSING RELATED CHARGES AND LICENSING	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Baltic Road Gypsy and Traveller's Site Entry Deposit Site Rental Double Pitch - per week Electricity sale tariffs to be adjusted in line with Electricity Board increases	£233.00 £52.00
Housing Act 2004 Action Housing Act Notices and Orders - Charge imposed when Housing Act Notices are served or orders made under Part 1 of the Act (except Hazard Awareness Notices). Works in default - A charge for the administration of carrying out works in default for notices served under Town and County Planning, Housing, Public Health, Environmental Protection Prevention of Damage by Pests and Building Acts and for the administration of emergency remedial action carried out under the Housing Act 2004. £228 or 20% is charged whichever is the greater.	£425.00 Minimum £228.00 or 20%
Mandatory HMO Licencing* HMO Licence (up to 14 bedrooms) (£517 payment due at the time of application / £343 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence) HMO Licence (15+ bedrooms) (£594 payment due at the time of application / £343 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£860.00 £937.00
Renewal of Mandatory HMO Licencing* HMO Licence Renewal (up to 14 bedrooms) (£413 payment due at the time of application / £343 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence) HMO Licence Renewal (15+ bedrooms) (£490 payment due at the time of application / £343 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence) Variation of HMO Licence (at Licence Holders request)	£756.00 £833.00 £165.00
Immigration Inspections - Charge imposed when EHO's inspect properties in respect of immigration and visa purposes.	£126.50
Housing Grants Support fee on Housing Grants - A 15% support fee is charged for the administration of all private sector home repair, renovation and disabled facility grants.	15% oncost of relevant fee
Selective Licencing - Central Gateshead Ph2 and The Avenues Phase 1 Early Application Fee (complete application received prior to scheme live date, or before licensable property is purchased / managed mid scheme) Standard Fee (complete application received within 28 days of becoming licensable) Standard Fee Plus (complete application received more than 28 days of property becoming licensable and reminder sent) Late Application Fee (complete application received more than 28 days of becoming licensable and application had to be pursued on multiple occasions)	£550.00 £750.00 £850.00 £1,000.00
Discounts Accredited property (paid at expiry if licence) (£100 18% discount from standard fee) * Unaccredited on application - discount repaid if property accredited within agreed timescales and property meets standard for full licence duration * Accredited at time of application - £50 upfront discount for properties already accredited and £50 paid at licence expiry if standard maintained * Accredited member of a National Landlords Association (or equivalent) (£100 up front discount for current accredited members / licence holder commits to and attends foundation course / joins association. £65 additional discount at end of scheme if accredited status and association membership maintained for full licence duration. * Multiple properties (discount on the fit and proper element of a licence after the first application) (£10 per subsequent application)	
Licence Variations Change of licence to new licence holder (where proposed licence holder is not an existing licence holder) either £550 (where application is received prior to the revocation of the current one or prior to the property requiring a licence) , £750 (where application provided within 28 days of the property becoming licensable), £850 (where application provided more than 28 days later of the property becoming licensable and a reminder has been sent) or £1000 (where provided more than 28 days of the property becoming licensable and has had to be pursued for an application on multiple occasions). Change of licence to new licence holder (where property owner stays the same and proposed licence holder is an existing licence holder)	£854.30 £50.00
Charges Charge for provision of and receipt of a paper application (for applications received after online system becomes available) Charge for each incomplete / deficient application received Phased payment plan (per property) Charge for failing to return requested property / licence information mid scheme Caution issue (as an alternative to prosecution) Public register - request for paper copy	£50.30 £25 + fee £25.10 £25.10 £301.50 £50.30
Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Penalty Charge - First Warning Letter Issued Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and First Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served* Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and Second Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter, persistent and multiple non-compliance - Notice of Intent Served * Reduced to a penalty of £2040 where the agent has failed to comply with the requirements under the regulations, but has ceased to operate in that capacity at the time of the issue of a Notice of Intent	£107.00 £3,206.00 £4,275.00 £5,345.00

LICENSING	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Animal Welfare (Licencing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018	
Pet Shop Licence*	£277.70
Pet Shop Renewal*	£218.00
Animal Boarding Establishment - Licence*	£281.90
Animal Boarding Establishment - Renewal	£199.10
Host Licence	£76.50
Host Licence Renewal	£76.50
Dog Breeders - Licence*	£277.70
Dog Breeding Renewal	£199.10
Dangerous Wild Animals - Licence	£152.00
Riding Establishment - Licence*	£277.70
Riding Establishment - Renewal*	£239.00
Performing Animals Registration	£256.80
Performing Animals Renewal	£218.00
Performing Animals - Amendment to a current listed above	£15.70
Performing Animals - Copies of licence	£15.70
Zoo Licensing *	£314.40
Any additional work for variations of the above will be charged at the hourly rate of £36	
* Plus cost of veterinary inspection	
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013	
New Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£374.10
New Application (3yrs) - Collector Licence	£153.90
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£276.90
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Collectors Licence	£83.40
Variation Application - Site Licence	£73.80
Variation Application - Collector Licence	£41.20
Variations (address/ vehicles/ contact details)	£11.20
Replacement Licence or Badge	£9.80
Provision of scrap metal licensing advice	£78.00 per hour
Practice of acupuncture or the business of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis	
Person (one off charge)	£131.00
Premises (one off charge)	£256.80
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licences	
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£180.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£180.30
A full refund (less a variable administration fee) on any licence fee will only be made following a written request made within 28 days of the licence having been processed. After 28 days, the value of the refund will equal the vehicle plate deposit, plus (if the 6 month test has not been taken) the vehicle test fee.	
Private Hire Operators Licence	£157.00
Operators Annual Fee (Years 2-5)	£105.00
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£84.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£119.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£154.00
Upgrade to dual driver licence from hackney carriage or private hire driver	£32.10
Replacement of Licence or Badge	£10.70
Vehicle Plate Deposit	£14.50
Locality Test Fee	£14.50
Transfer of vehicle proprietor of change of vehicle	£27.00
Replacement door crest (each)	£5.10
Copy of CSE course attendance certificate - Hackney, Private, or Dual driver	£10.90
Expedited Applications (48 hour response)	
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£230.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£230.30
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£134.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£169.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£204.00
Provision of hackney carriage and or private hire licensing advice	£76.50 per hour

Pleasure Craft Licences	
Vessel (Annual)	£75.80
Person (Annual)	£23.40
Sex Establishments	
Sex Shop	£2,058.90
Sex Cinema	£2,058.90
Sexual Entertainment Venue	£2,058.90
Sex Establishment Variation/ Transfer Fee	£921.50
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice	
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice - per hour	£84.30
Food Safety export certificates	£82 plus £82 per hour
Food Hygiene Rerating	£172.60
General Licensing Advice - per hour	£80.10
Copy of CSE Course Attendance Certificate	£11.20
Initial purchase fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges	
Rateable Value	
£0 - £4,300	£100.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£190.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£315.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£450.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£900.00
£125,001 & Over	£635.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,905.00
Annual renewal fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges	
Rateable Value	
£0 - £4,300	£70.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£180.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£295.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£320.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£640.00
£125,001 & Over	£350.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,050.00
Other Statutory Charges	
Minor Variation of Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate	£89.00
Theft/Loss of Club Premises Certificate, Premises Licence or Summary	£10.50
Change to Name or Address	£10.50
Change of Club Name or Alteration to Rules	£10.50
Change of Registered Address of Club	£10.50
Additional fees for Premises (Large Scale Venues) Contact Licensing Section on 0191 433 4741 or licencing@gateshead.gov.uk	
Variation of DPS on Premises Licence	£23.00
Application to Transfer Premises Licence	£23.00
Interim Authority for Premises Licence	£23.00
Disapplication of a Mandatory Alcohol Condition	£23.00
Interest in Premises (Right of Freeholder to be Notified)	£21.00
Temporary Event Notice	£21.00
Theft/Loss of Temporary Event Notice	£10.50
Provisional Statement	£315.00
Theft/Loss of Provisional Statement	£10.50
Personal Licence (Grant or Renewal)	£37.00
Change to Name or Address	£10.50
Theft/Loss of Personal Licence	£10.50
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges	
Grant	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00
Prize Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges	
Grant	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00
Club Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges	
Grant	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00
Variation	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00

Club Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges	
Grant	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00
Variation	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges	
Application Fee	£150.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00
Variation	£100.00
Transfer	£25.00
Annual Fee	£50.00
Change of Name	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00
Licensed Premises Automatic Notification Process - Statutory charge	
Notification	£50.00
Small Lottery Registration - Statutory Charges	
Grant	£40.00
Annual Fee	£20.00
Street Trading Consent	
1 Day (1 to 6 days)	£26.70
1 Week	£106.90
Summer Season (1 May to 31 October)	£454.40
Winter Season (1 November to 30 April)	£454.40
12 Months	£801.80
Consent for Markets with Multiple Traders (per stall)	
Daily (1-6 market days)	£26.70
1 Week	£106.90
Summer Season	£454.40
Winter Season	£454.40
12 Months	£801.80
Market	
Daily per stall per day (1-6 market days)	£26.70
Up to monthly per stall (7-12 market days)	£106.90
Up to weekly per stall (13-52 market days)	£454.40
Block Consent Annual Fee	£1,731.70
Provision of street trading and Market advice	£78.00 per hour
Gambling Act Fees	
Bingo Club	
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,030.10
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,750)	£1,750.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,030.10
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00
Betting Premises	
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,624.90
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £600)	£600.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,500)	£1,500.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,607.80
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00
Track betting	
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,030.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,250)	£1,250.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,030.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00

Adult Gaming Centres	
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.40
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,123.50
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,404.40
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,123.50
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00
Family Entertainment	
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.30
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £750)	£750.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.40
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00
Provision of advice about gambling Act applications	£78.00 per hour
Planning, highways and environmental enforcement	
Provision of enforcement services	£291.30 per day
Provision of enforcement advice	£78.00 per hour
Highway Licensing	
Planting Trees, Shrubs in the Highway	
New Licence Application (subject to additionally)	£272.60
Annual Inspection and monitoring fee (this is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted)	£81.30
Licence transfer	£26.70
Hoardings	
Per Hoarding - Up to 6 months	£108.00
Portable Cabins (including storage containers)	
Up to 28 days	£59.80
Up to 28 days extension	£26.70
Where cabins or containers are required for considerably longer than 56 days, contact should be made directly with Officers.	
Building Materials, Rubbish, etc.	
Up to 10 days	£33.10
Up to 10 days extension	£26.70
Building materials will not be permitted in the highway for longer than 20 days.	
Buildings	
0 - 5 years	£1,352.30
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90
Annual inspection fee	£135.70
To transfer the licence	£26.70
The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.	
Bridges over the Highway*	
0 - 5 years	£1,352.30
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90
Annual Inspection fee	£135.70
To Transfer the Licence	£26.70
Beams, Cables, Wires and Pipes along over or across the highway*	
0 - 5 years	£352.70
For every 5 years thereafter	£178.50
Annual Inspection fee	£81.30
To transfer the licence	£26.70
Cellars and Vaults under the Highway*	
0 - 5 years	£1,352.30
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90
Annual Inspection fee	£135.70
To transfer the licence	£26.70
Openings into Cellars and Vaults under the streets*	
Additional fees may be incurred where there are multiple openings.	
0 - 5 years	£272.60
For every 5 years thereafter	£135.70
Annual Inspection fee	£81.30
To transfer the licence	£26.70
*The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.	

Crane Oversailing (fixed)	
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.	
0 - 6 months	£700.20
For every 3 months thereafter	£135.70
Variation of Licence	£135.70
Site Inspection fee	£81.30
To transfer the Licence	£26.70
Crane Oversailing (mobile)	
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.	
Per day	£163.60
Part Day (4 hours)	£106.90
Multiple sites (2 or more)	£106.90
- thereafter (per site)	£48.10
Variation of the Licence	£54.50
A Boards (annual licence fee)	£38.40
Variation Fee	£26.70
Removal of unlawful advertising	
Per Item	£26.70
Storage per Day	£5.30
Removal of unlawfully parked advertising trailers, large A Boards	
Per Item	£26.70
Storage per Day	£5.30
Enforcement Investigation, per hour	£80.10
Pavement Displays (annual licence fee)	£38.40
Pavement Cafes (annual licence fee)	£128.20
Projecting signs, canopies and projections from buildings Licence Fee	
For 5 Years	£320.70
For every five years thereafter	£133.70
Annual inspection fee	£80.10
To transfer the licence	£26.70

SPORT AND LEISURE	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Use of coin retain locker	£0.20
Use of showers, changing facilities	£4.20
Group 1 - Standard Charge (no GO Card) - any customer without a GO Card.	
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card) - 18-64 years of age with a GO Card.	
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	
Group 4 - Junior (GO Card) - 0-17 Years.	
Group 5 - GO Access - Customers meet the criteria for GO Access.	
Activity Charges	
Table Tennis per table per hour	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£5.30
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£4.60
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£3.40
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£2.70
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.15
Badminton per court per hour	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£13.75
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£11.25
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£8.50
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.40
Group 5 - GO Access	£4.20
Major Games (4 Badminton courts per hour)	
Standard charge (no Go Card)	£60.00
Go Card	£45.00
Go Card - Club fee without Club Mark	£40.00
Go Card - Club fee with Club Mark	£37.50
Go Card Junior Club hire -without Club Mark	£35.00
Go Card Junior Club hire -with Club Mark	£30.00
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA
Ancillary Hall (Birtley Leisure Centre) per hour	
Standard charge (no GO Card)	£35.00
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA
Go Card	£30.00
Hire of Equipment	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£3.50
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£2.95
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£1.75
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	Free
Group 5 - GO Access	Free
Fitness Room	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.10
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.10
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£4.70
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.10
Fitness Room (Birtley Leisure Centre)	
Standard charge (all users)	£7.65
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£3.85
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.85
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.85
Coaching Fees - Keep Fit classes	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£6.20
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£5.20
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£4.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.25
Squash (per court per session)	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£9.15
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£8.00
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£6.40
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.20
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.90
Track	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£6.05
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£5.10
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£3.90
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.10
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.50

Track Pass (Indoor track only) - 3 months	
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£50.60
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£32.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£25.30
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£25.30
Track Pass (Outdoor track only) - 3 months	
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£50.60
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£32.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£25.30
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£25.30
Track Pass (Indoor & Outdoor Track) - 3 months	
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£79.70
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£50.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£40.60
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£40.60
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Gateshead International Stadium)per hour	£85.00
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Blaydon Leisure Centre)per hour	£75.00
Artificial Turf Pitches	
Lower Field (Sand based - GIS)	£35.00
Lower Field - Event/ Commercial Rate	POA
3G pitch Hire (half pitch)	
Standard	£60.00
Chater Standard Club Hire	£40.00
3G pitches (Full pitch)	
Standard	£100.00
Chater Standard Club Hire	£60.00
Event/ Commercial Rate	POA
3G Pitch - Club League Future Bookings	POA
GO Bears Den	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£5.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.00
Loyalty pay for 9 vists get 10th free	
Exclusive Use* - Subject to availability 1.5hrs	£300.00
Clip n Climb	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£12.00
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£12.00
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£12.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£10.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£10.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m	£8.00
Group bookings for affiliated groups i.e scouts, clubs etc	£8.00
Vertical drop slide & Leap of Faith (can only be booked as part for Clip n Climb)	£2.50
Clip and Climb Crew (booked in blocks term time after school club)	£5.00
Toddler 1/2 hour clip & climb / GO Bears Den Includes hot drink and juice	£10.00
Swimming**	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£4.90
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£3.90
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£2.90
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£2.60
Group 5 - GO Access	£1.70
Children under 4 years	Free
** casual swimming is free for children and adults enrolled on Council-run swimming lessons with a paying adult	
Family Swim (up to 2 adults and 2 children)	
Standard price (no GO Card)	£16.00
GO Card	£11.00
GO Access	£7.00
Pool hire per hour including staff	
Small Pools - Monday to Friday	£25.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£14.20
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£17.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£40.00
Small Pools - Saturday & Sunday	£30.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£17.70
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£22.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£40.00
Large Pools - Monday to Friday 7am to 10pm	£100.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£69.00
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£82.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00

Large Pools - Monday to Friday before 7am or after 10pm	£120.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£86.00
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£103.30
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00
* Large Pools - Saturday & Sunday 8am to 4pm	£100.00
* Club Hire - With a club Mark	£73.00
* Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£87.50
* Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00
Large Pools - Saturday & Sunday Before 8am or after 4pm	£120.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£95.15
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£114.20
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00
Gala Fee per hour - (includes Dunston Leisure Centre Pool only, gallery and changing areas). Also included F.O.C. will be use of Sauna Steam rest area, circulation areas for the clubs purposes and a meeting room for officials.	
Large Pool - Weekday	£90.00
Large Pool - Weekend during normal pool operating hours	£90.00
Large Pool - Weekend out of normal pool operating hours	£160.00
Small Pool - Weekday	£40.00
Small Pool - Weekend during normal pool operating hours	£60.00
Small Pool - Weekend out of normal pool operating hours	£75.00
Swimming Lessons	
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.98
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£5.64
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.67
Group 5 - Juniors GO Access	£4.25
Group 6 - Adult GO Access	£4.65
Group 7 - Adult - (Go member)	£4.65
Group 8 - Junior - additional swimming lessons (used if booking more than one lesson per week)	£4.25
Group 9 - Trainee Teacher Lessons	£2.00
Joining Fee - Junior Lessons only	£15.00
One-to-one swimming lesson (per half hour)	
Adult	£20.00
Junior	£20.00
Premium small group lessons (no more than 6 per group.Price per person	£10.30
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks)	£3,200.00
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks) less than 20 pupils	£1,890.00
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 10 pupils	£30.00
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 20 pupils	£60.00
Flowrider	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£12.00
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£12.00
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week) (GO Card)	£12.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£10.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£10.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m	£8.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m Monday - Friday - Full flow rider 8 riders	£50.00
School Term, After 4.00p.m Monday - Friday and weekends - Full flow rider 8 riders	£80.00
Sauna per 2 hour sessions	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.20
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.10
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week) (GO Card)	£4.20
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.70
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.95
Gymnastics- per person per lesson - 10 lessons	
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.70
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.85
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.65
Grassed Pitch Hire -seasonal hire	
Adult with changing facilities	£848.70
Junior with changing facilities	£356.50
Additional games with changing facilities	
Adult	£111.00
Junior	£56.70
GO Unlimited Membership (12 month contract) - per month	
GO Unlimited - Adult	£32.00
GO unlimited - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£26.00
GO unlimited - Junior* / Active Access	£19.00
GO unlimited - Joint	£57.00
GO unlimited - Corporate	£25.00
GO kids- 0-7 years	£19.50
GO Kids 8-13 years	£19.50
* Junior is a month to month DD contract paid by someone over 18 years of age, now available from the age of 11 years.	
Annual membership pay for 12 months upfront and get 13 months membership on any category	

Joining Fee - GO Gateshead Memberships	£15.00
Gym induction	£10.00
GO Unlimited Non-contract Membership - per month CASH PAYMENT	
GO Unlimited - Adult	£45.00
GO Unlimited - Concession	£45.00
GO Unlimited - Junior	£25.00
Go Unlimited - Access	£36.00
Swim only pass - Birtley Swimming Centre (12 month contract) - per month*	
Adult	£22.00
All other concessions	£15.00
* Direct debit payment	
Gateshead GO Card	
Adult	£10.00
65+ & Students	£10.00
Juniors	£1.00
Juniors (non-resident)	£2.00
Replacement Cards	£1.00
Room Hire including studios for school, clubs*	
* Clubs who already hire the facility for other bookings	
Up to 2 hours	£20.00
2 - 4 hours	£50.00
Full Day	£85.00
Open - Close	£120.00
Standard Rate	
Up to 2 hours	£25.00
2 - 4 hours	£75.00
Full Day	£100.00
Open - Close	£150.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite up to 4 hours (5 rooms)	£175.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite up to 8 hours (5 rooms)	£300.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite over 8 hours (5 rooms)	£475.00
School Bookings - schools to receive 20% off bookings badminton and squash courts Monday - Friday Term time only	

LIBRARIES	2020/21 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Reservations	
Adult Books - on shelves (per item)	£0.30
Adult Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.80
Junior Books - on shelves	Free
Junior Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.30
Pensioners Books - on shelves (per item)	£0.30
Pensioners Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.55
Audio Visual (per item)	£0.30
Vocal Scores (per item)	£1.30
Item borrowed from other library service (per item)	£4.20
Audio / Visual Loans	
Compact Discs	£0.90
Fines	
Books and CD's - per item per day (limit £9.25 per item)	£0.20
Books (Pensioners) - per item per day (limit £4.60 per item)	£0.11
Books (Children)	Exempt
Books and Audio Visual items not returned by borrower - Current value of item to be repaid, with 10% reduction per year after 2 years subject to minimum replacement charge for Audio/Visual.	
Audio/Visual Minimum replacement charge	£10.10
Lost Library Tickets	
Replacement of tickets	£2.35
Photocopying	
A4 B & W per sheet	£0.10
A3 B & W per sheet	£0.20
A4 Colour per sheet	£0.50
A3 Colour per sheet	£0.90
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A4)	£0.60
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A3)	£1.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) B & W per sheet	£0.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) Colour per sheet	£0.50
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) B & W per sheet	£0.20
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) Colour per sheet	£0.90
Book Cradle Scan(upto A3)	£0.60
Fax Service	
Outgoing UK only (Initial Sheet)	£1.15
Outgoing UK only (any additional sheets)	£0.95
International:	
Bands 1-6	£1.55
Bands 7-13	£2.15
Incoming	£1.35
Exhibition Service	
Providing arts exhibition sales facilities - minimum 20% commission on sales	£0.20
Booking charge for selling exhibitions (non-returnable in case of customer cancellation)	£8.20
Local History Service	
Photographs - price varies depending on format, quality and size (price quoted is minimum)	from £0.60
Initial enquiry to Local History Service is free of charge. Each subsequent enquiry	£30.00

WASTE SERVICES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Trade Refuse Standard Dustbins per bin per week	POA
Wheel Bins 240 litres 360 litres 1100 litres	POA POA POA
Supply and delivery of replacement and new property bins Refuse Wheeled Bin Recycling (Blue) Wheeled Bin Garden Waste Wheeled Bin Blue Bin Decontamination Charge	£36.00 £26.00 £36.00 £11.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up before 31 Jan 2021)	£34.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up after 31 Jan 2021)	£36.00
Bulky Household Waste - Special Collection Charges	
Large sized items	
Garage Door, Bathroom Suite, Dismantled Shed, Window Frames	£43.00
Note - all collections subject to a minimum charge of £16, this can be made up of a mix of medium and small items listed below:	
Medium sized items	
Mattress, Carpet, Bed, Fridge/Freezer, Large Table, Wardrobe, Door, Washer, Armchair, Cabinet, Sofa	£8.00
Small sized items	
Bag of Household Waste, Bag of Garden Rubbish, Boxes, Small Table, Vacuum Cleaner, Headboard, Television Stand, Lawnmower	£2.00
Asbestos removal	POA
Graffiti Removal	
Removal of non offensive graffiti from private property.	POA
Removal of syringes from private property	POA
Supply and delivery of bagged rock salt to e.g. hospitals, emergency services properties etc. per bag	£7.80
Floristry service products	POA
MOT Tests	
Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (major)	£54.85
Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (minor)	£27.42
Test Fee - Private Hire	£54.85
Class IV Vehicles	£54.85
Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats	£57.30
Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats (with seat belt check)	£64.00
Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats	£59.55
Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats (with seat belt check)	£80.50
Class V Vehicles over 16 seats	£80.65
Class V Vehicles over 16 seats (with seat belt check)	£124.50
Class VII Vehicles	£58.60
Duplicate Section 50 Certificate	£18.30
MOT (at same time as Section 50 test)	£27.70
Disinfestation	
Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Private Houses / Allotments	
Standard Treatment	POA
Special Treatment	Actual Cost
Rodent Control	
Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Allotments / Private Houses	
Standard Treatment	POA
Special Treatment	Actual Cost
Other pests	
Feral cats	POA
Recovery of stray dog from kennels	
Statutory Fee	£27.00
Administrative Fee	£30.80

PLANNING	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Formal confirmation that planning application conditions have been fulfilled* *An additional hourly rate is applied to the above charge (per hour)	£14.00 £67.00
Pre Planning Advice	
Householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£25.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning application following advice that their development needs permission	£20.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning advice	£40.00
Non householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£45.00
Telecommunications enquiry for pre planning application	£200.00
Advert pre application advice	£50.00
Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£200.00
Revised Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£100.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£1,000.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£500.00
Strategic Development Enquiry (additional charges may apply)	£2,000.00
Planning History Search (per hour)	
Major Applications	£69.00
Minor Applications	£47.00
Other and householders applications	£25.00
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FEES - STATUTORY CHARGES	
Outline Applications	
Where the site area does not exceed 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00
Where the site area exceeds 2.5 hectares (price for the first 2.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£11,432.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £150,000 applies	
Full Applications	
The erection or creation of a dwelling(s)	
Where the number of dwellings to be created is 50 or fewer (per dwelling)	£462.00
Where the number of dwellings to be created exceeds 50 (charge for the first 50 dwellings) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00
For each additional dwelling in excess of 50 (per dwelling)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies	
The erection of buildings	
Where floor space is created or the gross floor space created does not exceed 40sq.m	£234.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 40sq.m but does not exceed 75sq.m	£462.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 75sq.m but does not exceed 3,750sq.m (charge for each 75sq.m)	£462.00
The development exceeds 3,750sq.m (charge for 3,750sq.m.) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00
For each additional 75sq.m	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies	
The erection of buildings to be used for agricultural purposes on agricultural land	
Where the gross floor area does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 465sq.m but does not exceed 540sq.m	£462.00
The floor area exceeds 540sq.m but does not exceed 4,215sq.m £462 for the first 540 sq.m then an additional £462 for each 75sq.m in excess of 540 sq.m	£462.00
The gross floor area exceeds 4,215sq.m (charge for 4,215sq.m) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00
For each additional 75sq.m in excess of 4,215sq.m (per 75sq.m)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies	
The erection of glasshouses on agricultural land	
The gross floor space does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00
The gross floor space does exceed 465sq.m	£2,580.00
The erection, alteration or replacement of plant and machinery	
The site area does not exceed 5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00
The site area exceeds 5 hectares (price for the first 5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies	
Householder Application works to a single dwelling (including works within the boundary)	£206.00
Alterations/extensions to 2 or more dwellings (flat rate)	£407.00
The construction of car parks, service roads and and other means of access where the development is incidental to the existing use of the land	£234.00
The carrying out of any operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas	
The site area does not exceed 7.5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£508.00
The site area exceeds 7.5 hectares (price for the first 7.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,070.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 7.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies	
Other Operations - winning and Working of Minerals	
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies	

Other Operations for the winning and working of Oil and Natural Gas	
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£257.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,520.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies	
Use of land for waste disposal or mineral storage or external mineral storage	
The site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00
The site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies	
Other Operations (not coming within any of the above categories)	£234.00
Change of use	£462.00
Application for a non-material change to a planning permission	
Householder applications	£34.00
Any other applications	£234.00
Variation of condition including renewals of temporary permissions (unless submitted within 12 months of permission - if so no fee) equalling that for a full application for entire site	£234.00
Reserved Matters - where applicants earlier reserved matters applications have incurred total fees equalling that for a full application for entire site	£462.00
Advertisements	
Advertisement specifically relating to the site where they are displayed or 'advance signs'	£132.00
All other advertisements	£462.00
Prior Approval	
Larger Homes Extensions	£96.00
Determination of Prior Approval - Agricultural and Forestry buildings and operations or Demolition of buildings	£96.00
Determination of Prior approval (telecommunications)	£462.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use where there are no associated building operations	£96.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use with associated building operations	£206.00
Playing fields for (non profit making sports clubs etc)	£462.00
Lawful Development Certificates	
Existing use	Normal fee
existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	£234.00
Proposed use	Half normal fee
Existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	£234.00
Application for Permission in Principle - for 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£402.00
Applications by Parish etc Councils	Half normal fee
Development crossing planning authority boundaries, requiring several applications. Only one fee, paid to the authority having the larger site but calculated for the whole scheme.	Based on relevant fee category
Alternative applications for one site. Highest of fees applicable for each alternative and a sum equal to half the rest.	Based on relevant fee category
Applications required only because of the removal of permitted development rights, by a condition restricting changes of use within a class, or by an Article 4 direction	No Fee
Works to improve a disabled person's access to a public building, or to improve his/her access, safety, health or comfort at his/her dwelling house	No Fee
One revised or fresh application by the same applicant for the same character or description with 12 months of receiving permission or refusal, or the making of the application if withdrawn.	No Fee
Formal Discharge of Planning Conditions	
Conditions imposed on householder approvals (per request)	£34.00
Conditions imposed on non-householder approvals (per request)	£116.00
S106 Monitoring - ability to charge allowed in Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019	
Financial Monitoring Financial Contribution with commencement trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£258.63
Financial Monitoring Financial Contribution with future trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£517.26
Physical Monitoring Obligations on site during construction and post occupation e.g.	
•Employment & training Plans	£517.26
•Local workforce commitments	
•Restriction of occupation (per obligation and per trigger point)	
Physical Monitoring Developer provision e.g.	
•Open Space/Play	£517.26
•Affordable Housing	
•Highway works (per obligation and per trigger point)	
Very large or complex developments may require a longer monitoring with commensurate monitoring charges	PAO
Request to confirm compliance with S106 Obligations (per obligation)	£52.42

RECREATION	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
BOWLS	
Seasonal Permit (Club Members Only)	£49.30
FOOTBALL PITCHES (including electricity)	
With Changing Rooms	
Seniors per season (alternate weeks)	£848.70
Juniors per season (alternate weeks)	£356.50
Without Changing Rooms	
Seniors per season (alternate weeks)	£433.90
Juniors per season (alternate weeks)	£185.50
CRICKET PITCHES	
Hire per season	£515.60
Casual booking per game	POA
LAND FEES	
Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session peak times	£10.50
Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session off peak	£7.90
6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer)	£125.80
6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer)	£188.60
6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter)	£94.30
6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter)	£157.20
Daily land use fee:	POA
Set up / dismantle fee 60% of daily fee charged	POA
Hourly activity sessions	£10.30
Memorial Trees	POA
Filming in Parks	POA
ALLOTMENTS	
Rents per annum	
Area up to 200m ²	£42.00
201m ² - 300m ²	£57.00
301m ² - 400m ²	£77.00
Rents above 400m ² to be charged the 400m ² fee together with the next band fee appropriate to make up the size e.g. a 600m ² allotment will be charged at the 400m ² and 200m ² combined total	
Lettings for Fairgrounds and open space events - (charges per day)	
To set up and dismantle	£60.30
To operate	£170.90

BUSINESS CENTRES	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Blaydon, Greenesfield and Gateshead International Business Centres, Northern Design Centre	
Occupancy Fees - per sq ft	
Blaydon Business Centre (Workshop)	£8.50
Blaydon Business Centre (Office)	£15.50
Greenesfield Business Centre	£27.00
Gateshead International Business Centre	£26.00
Northern Design Centre	£33.00
Baltimore House	£30.00
PROTO	£27.00
Day Office Hire	Day Rent Rate + Day NNDR rate + 5%
Contribution to overheads (all centres)	£6.50
Virtual Office Service (GIBC, GBC, BLBC, BH, NCET)	£75.00
Virtual Office Service (NDC)	£100.00
Virtual Office & Access to Lounge (GIBC)	£125.00
Dedicated Desk (NDC)	£150.00
Dedicated Desk (PROTO)	£150.00
Use of Additional Office/Unit for Temporary Storage - 50% of standard licence fee (Licence agreements for storage last for 3 months and can be renewed once. Thereafter a full licence agreement must be entered into).	
Gateshead International Business Centre	
12 people meeting room - per day	£75.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£40.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£12.00
5 people meeting room - per day	£55.00
5 people meeting room - per half day	£30.00
5 people meeting room - per hour	£8.00
Northern Design Centre	
12 people meeting room - per day	£120.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£60.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£18.00
5 people meeting room - per day	£66.00
5 people meeting room - per half day	£36.00
5 people meeting room - per hour	£9.60
Greenesfield Business Centre	
12 people meeting room - per day	£80.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£46.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£15.00
Blaydon Business Centre	
8 person meeting room - Occupiers	Included in rent
8 person meeting room - per day (non-occupiers)	£60.00
8 person meeting room - half day (non-occupiers)	£30.00
Broadband Charge per month	£30.00
Baltimore House	
12 person meeting room - per day	£120.00
12 person meeting room - half day	£60.00
12 person meeting room - per hour	£18.00
6 person meeting room - per day	£66.00
6 person meeting room - half day	£36.00
6 person meeting room - per hour	£9.60
PROTO	
Immersive Lab (Meeting space only no access to equipment)	
Per day	£120.00
Half day	£60.00
Per hour	£18.00
Photogrammetry Capture Stage	
Per day*	£2,400.00
Half day*	£1,200.00
Per hour*	£360.00
Optimised Model	£600.00
5+ day Consecutive discount	Cost -20%
Motion Capture Stage	
Per day*	£1,800.00
Half day*	£900.00
Per hour*	£300.00
Post Production Clean Up	£5 per second
5+ day Consecutive discount*	Cost -20%
Sound Capture Stage	
Per day*	£240.00
Half day*	£120.00
Per hour*	£36.00
5+ day Consecutive discount*	Cost -20%

Multi Purpose Hall	
Per day	£500.00
Half day	£250.00
Per hour	£75.00
5+ day Consecutive discount	Cost -20%
Technical Support	
Per day	£600.00
Half day	£360.00
Per hour	£120.00
*These are discretionary services to be delivered subject to availability. 50% reduction in cost for businesses based in Gateshead (Primary location or NNDR payer).	
PROTO Educational Package 10 (per year)	£21,600.00
PROTO Educational Package 15 (per year)	£32,400.00
PROTO Educational Packgae 20 (per year)	£43,200.00
School Day Package	£600.00
School Half Day Package	£300.00
School Taster Session	£120.00
Sponsorship	
Sponsorship of boardrooms at Business Centres (each)	£3,060.00
Photocopying / Black & White Printing	
A4	£0.30
A4 (double sided)	£0.30
A3	£0.30
A3 (double sided)	£0.40
Multiple copies /colour printing charged at cost from Central Print Unit plus 25%	Cost + 25%
Buffet	Cost + 25%
Tea / Coffee - per cup	£1.20
Biscuits - per plate	£3.50
Additional Refreshments (not buffets) available at cost plus 200%	Cost + 200%
Stationery available at cost plus 25%	Cost + 25%
Replacement or additional key fobs and keys	£10.00
Business Support Services*	
Business Development Consultancy (per day)	£250 - £500
Business Planning Support - subject to negotiation up to	£1,200.00
*These are discretionary services to be delivered subject to availability and demand to potential and existing occupiers of business centres. It is likely that costs will be met via third party public funding.	

CORPORATE SERVICES	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Charge for Funeral and protection of property arrangements	Up to a maximum of £950
Charge for appointeeship cases	Up to a maximum of £1,080
Charge for administering deferred payments	Actual cost
Charge for arranging care packages for self funders	Actual cost
Deferred payment interest rate	The lower of 1.15% or the rate set by the Department of Health
Disclosure and Barring Service	
Enhanced Check (includes administration fee of £10)	£50.00
Standard Check (includes administration fee of £10)	£33.00
Identity Cards	
Charge per card	£2.40
Charge per card (chipped)	£6.40
Design Fee	£15.70
Clip	£0.30
Lanyard	£0.40
Card Holder	£0.40
Yo-Yo	£0.40
Electoral Services	
Street Index	£12.20
Confirmation of entry on Electoral Register	£16.00
Registers - paper - Statutory Charge	£10.00 plus £5.00 per 1,000 entries
Registers - data - Statutory Charge	£20.00 plus £1.50 per 1,000 entries
Monthly register updates	as above
Copies of marked register	
Paper Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£30 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries
Data Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£10 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries

REGISTRARS	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES	
From the Registrar who registered the birth, death, marriage or civil partnership (Statutory Charges):	
Standard Certificate at the time of registration	£11.00
Standard Certificate after the time of registration	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate at the time	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate	£11.00
Certificates are available from the Registrar only at the time of registration or shortly afterwards. Once a register is filled, it is passed to the Superintendent Registrar and certificates are no longer available from the Registrar.	
From the Superintendent Registrar:	
Standard Certificate in Person at Registered Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate in Person at Registered Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00
Application and receipt of certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00
Searches	
General searches at a Superintendent Registrar's Office - Statutory Charge	£18.00
Any certificates purchased as a result of a search are subject to charges above - Statutory Charge	as shown above
Marriages	
From the Superintendent Registrar:	
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£47.00
For attending a marriage of a detained person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£68.00
For entering notice of marriage in a marriage notice book (notice to be given in each area in which party resides) - Statutory Charge	£35.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge	£84.00
For attending a marriage of a detained person - Statutory Charge	£94.00
Copy Marriage certificate (collection within 15 working days)	£11.00
Copy Marriage certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00
From the Registrar:	
For attending a marriage solemnized in a register office Mon-Thursday only - Statutory Charge	£46.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge - Reduced by the General Registry Office	£81.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound or detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00
Standard certificate of marriage or civil partnership at the time of registration	£11.00
Certificate for Worship and Registration for Marriage	
From the Superintendent Registrar	
Certification of a place of meeting for religious worship - Statutory Charge	£29.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages - Statutory Charge	£123.00
Registered Buildings	
Registrar Attendance (church) - Statutory Charge (additional £11 for cost of certification also applies)	£86.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couple (previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£64.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples (not previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£123.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of equal marriage - Statutory Charge	£123.00
Change the time or date of wedding	£20.10
Booking fee for all ceremonies - non refundable	£30.00
Ravensworth - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Thursday	£169.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£229.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£284.00
Tyne Suite - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Thursday	£114.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£174.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£214.00
Mayor's Parlour - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Friday	£360.00
Saturday	£550.00
Bewicks (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Friday	£350.00
Saturday	£550.00
Blaydon Room (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Friday	£350.00
Saturday	£550.00
Lamesley Room (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Friday	£306.00
Saturday	£357.00
NB If rooms are available on Sunday then the 'Friday to Saturday' charges will apply	

Civil Partnership	
Notice of Civil Partnership (per person) - Statutory Charge	£35.00
Formation of Civil Partnership in a register office (with or without a ceremony) Statutory Charge - Additional £11.00 for cost of certificate also applies	£46.00
Full certification at the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00
Extract at time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00
Full extract or certificate after the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00
On giving notice to a registration authority under the Civil Partnership Order 2005 (Certificate of No Impediment) - Statutory Charge	£35.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for housebound person - Statutory Charge	£81.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00
Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships	
Attendance at an approved premises (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)	
Monday to Thursday	£439.00
Friday and Saturday	£504.00
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£569.00
Civil Partnership Conversion to Marriage	
Administration Service Conversion Only in Superintendent Registrars Office	£45.00
Administration Service Conversion 2 stage	£27.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony- at the Tyne suite	
Monday to Thursday	£138.00
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£210.00
Friday and Saturday After 12	£258.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony - Ravensworth suite	
Monday to Thursday	£202.80
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£274.80
Friday and Saturday After 12	£340.80
Re-affirmation of Vows - at an Outside Venue	
Monday to Thursday	£526.80
Friday and Saturday	£604.80
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£682.80
Conversion Marriage Certificates	
On the day	£11.00
Thereafter	£11.00
Statutory priority certificate fee Same day collection or next day post (24hr Service)	£35.00
Certification of a building as a place of worship	£29.00
Registration of Approved Premises	
Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership	£1,785.00
Renewal of Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership - 3 years	£1,530.00
Registering a building for the solemnisation of marriages	
Fee for Certification of Approved Premises	£123.00
British Citizenship Ceremony	
Personal British Citizenship Ceremony (at Civic Centre)	£155.00
Booking fee for citizenship ceremony - non refundable	£25.00
Amendment fee for changing ceremony date or time	£20.00
Corrections to registration entries - involvement by general register office	£94.30
Corrections to registration entries - without involvement by general register office	£78.60

PROPERTY AND LAND	2021/22 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Property Transactions	
Registration of assignments and mortgages on Commercial Leases	£117.80
Dealings in respect of Commercial Property (including Wayleaves, easements and surrenders) (Hourly Rate)	£117.80
Registration of dealings on Residential Lease (Former Council Flats) (Per Dealing)	£80.90
Consent to assign on Commercial Leases (charge dependent on time spent) (a minimum charge applies)	£113.00
Application for depositing landowner statements and declarations	£426.40
For each additional parcel of land contained within a statement and declaration	£96.10
Retrospective Consent on alteration to former Council House	£92.90
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Consent given by letter	£63.30
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Lender requires formal Deed sealed	£92.90
Redemption of Council Mortgage on residential property	£153.70
Engrossment of Standard Council House Transfer	£38.60
Copying Charges for all Legal Documents	
Standard retrieval fee	£68.90
Copy charges A4	£0.21
Copy Charges A3	£0.31
Per Plan	£6.80
Copy extract of Covenants	
Standard retrieval fee	£28.20
Copy charges A4	£0.21
Copy Charges A3	£0.31
Per Plan	£6.80
Draft and negotiate s.106 Agreements	
Commercial	£1,354.00
Non-Commercial	£677.00
Licence	£462.00
Draft and negotiate s.278 s.38 Agreements	£1,932.00
Emergency Road Closure	£161.20
Temporary Traffic Orders	£268.80
Permanent Traffic Orders	£644.00
Stopping Up Orders	£2,040.00
*If the charge relates to a commercial property for which no option to tax has been made, the charge will be exempt from VAT. If the charge relates to a commercial property for which an option to tax is in place, the charge will be subject to VAT at the standard rate. If the charge relates to a residential Council property, it will be considered to be non-business.	



COUNCIL MEETING

25 February 2021

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVEL 2021/22

**Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Corporate Management Team**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the Budget and Council Tax level for 2021/22. As part of the council tax setting process the Council is asked to approve the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in the attached report. The budget forms a key element of the Council's strategic approach to making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives and agreeing a balanced budget is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Council.
2. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Council is asked to approve the recommendations set out in section 19 of the attached report.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Budget and Council Tax Level 2021/22**REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey – Chief Executive
Corporate Management Team**

Purpose of Report

1. To request Cabinet to recommend to Council on 25 February 2021 the Budget and Council Tax level for 2021/22. As part of the council tax setting process, Cabinet is also asked to recommend to Council the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement set out in this report. The Budget forms a key element of the Council's strategic approach to making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, and agreeing a balanced budget is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Council and is required by statute.

Background

2. On 19 November 2020 Council agreed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that covered the period 2021/22 to 2025/26 which presented an extremely challenging financial position over the medium term and identified an estimated funding gap of £54.8 million over the five-year period. The MTFS identified a financial gap of £18.6 million to be closed for 2021/22 to achieve a legally balanced budget. The MTFS also identified significant uncertainty in the future funding of the Council by Government.
3. On 15 December 2020 Council agreed the local council tax support scheme for 2021/22 which continues to support a minimum contribution rate of 8.5% for working age benefit claimants that will continue to assist 12,300 council taxpayers. It is anticipated that these numbers will significantly increase as the longer term impacts of covid become clearer over the coming months.
4. On 17 December 2020 the Government announced the provisional local government finance settlement for 2021/22, including council tax referendum principles.
5. On 15 January 2021 the Council responded to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22 Consultation.
6. On 19 January 2021 Cabinet agreed the council tax and business rates base forecasts for 2021/22.
7. On 4 February 2021 the final local government funding settlement figures were announced. The final settlement debate and vote by parliament took place 10 February 2021. Overall funding was in line with the provisional settlement.
8. This report represents the final stage of the budget setting process in determining the budget and council tax level for 2021/22.

Proposal

A Budget to Deliver Council Priorities

9. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives provides a framework to demonstrate how the Council makes decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is predicated on the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead
10. In November 2019 Cabinet agreed a new approach to budget setting that will involve five-year planning of budgets with a focus on achieving priorities. The Council has developed a set of core principles that will underpin our approach, specifically the approach will be:
 - Priority driven – the Council will focus on what matters most;
 - Performance driven – a focus on measurable outcomes;
 - Council wide rather than service focus;
 - Over an extended budget time horizon of 5 years to enable effective planning;
 - Iterative to reflect a continuous approach;
 - Supported by investment to deliver improvement and efficiencies;
 - Targeted approach to those with the greatest need;
 - Community focussed to maximise local wealth; and
 - Integrated to cover all aspects of the Council's budget including revenue, capital, schools, and housing.
11. The approach will focus on five key areas to drive forward progress in achieving thrive outcomes for targeted improvements in;
 - i. Economy - Strong business growth with good quality jobs at all levels that are accessible to local people and delivery of key developments, such as Gateshead Quays, attracting visitors and business to Gateshead.
 - ii. Health and Housing - Good quality housing with a mix of tenures and affordable options that meet the needs of local people including families and older people enabling them to live healthy lives as well as enabling people to make healthy choices and prevent ill health.
 - iii. Poverty and Inequality – Helping to ensure that everyone gets the opportunities and support they need to thrive.
 - iv. Climate Change – environmentally sustainable policies and approach across council activities to reduce carbon and harmful emissions across Gateshead, reducing waste and securing a better future.
 - v. Transport – A transport system that supports the economy, reduces emissions and encourages more sustainable forms of travel including cycling and public transport.

12. This report proposes a balanced budget in 2021/22 that moves forward a priority driven approach to revenue resource allocation. The annual budget savings cycle will be a continuous approach with budget developments brought to Cabinet for consideration throughout the year to allocate resources to Services and consider consultation outcomes.
13. Government have announced a maximum council tax uplift of up to 5% for council services including another year of the adult social care precept. The maximum uplift is included in the funding settlement assumptions.
14. The proposed budget will result in a council tax increase of 1.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of Gateshead Council expenditure plus an additional council tax increase of 3% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of the Government's charge for adult social care expenditure.
15. This will result in a combined council tax increase of 4.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead (excluding precepts from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and Lamesley Parish) resulting in £1.17 a week rise for the majority of council tax payers in Gateshead living in the lowest value properties (Band A) or £1.75 a week for those in Band D. This report recommends a 4.99% council tax increase in the Council's council tax for 2021/22.
16. The proposed balanced base budget for 2021/22 after investment, savings and budgeted use of reserves of £29.106 million is £246.875 million. Available funding for 2021/22 is £238.758 million based on the settlement. Including a council tax increase of 4.99%, council tax income and collection fund transfers resulting in a budget savings requirement of £8.117 million. This can be summarised as follows:

Budget Savings Requirement 2021/22	£m
Agreed Base Budget and contingency	241.694
Plus, priority growth	2.639
Less budget savings	(8.117)
Plus Budget Funded from Earmarked Reserves	2.542
Proposed Net Budget 2020/21	238.758
Funded by;	
Local Funding (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(120.614)
Government Funding	(89.038)
Reserves Supporting Business Rates	(26.564)
Earmarked Reserves	(2.542)
Total Funding 2021/22	(238.758)

17. Proposed areas of budget identified for savings are outlined in the appendices to this report. Cabinet will receive future reports to consider the outcome of consultations and potential redirection or alternative budget savings.
18. The Council recognises the impact of the recommended council tax increase on some of the most vulnerable in society and particularly those on fixed incomes. However, a combination of continued cost pressures and significant funding reductions has left the Council with little choice but to increase council tax to protect the delivery of essential Council services to the residents of Gateshead. The Council will continue to provide the current council tax support scheme that enables targeted support for those residents that are likely to be most affected by the increase.

Recommendations

19. Cabinet is requested to make the following recommendations to Council:
- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2021/22 is increased by 4.99% (including a 3% adult social care Government charge) to £1,914.92.
 - (2) The revenue estimates of £238.758 million for 2021/22 are approved.
 - (3) That Cabinet approve to extend a council tax hardship scheme into 2021/22 using £2.779m of support grant as set out in the report.
 - (4) The budgeted use of £29.106 million Earmarked Reserves in 2021/22 be approved (includes £26.564m ringfenced covid support to retained business rates).
 - (5) That the indicative schools funding presented in Appendix 2 be agreed.
 - (6) To note the conclusions of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in respect of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves.
 - (7) That the prudential and treasury indicators set out in Appendix 6 to this report be agreed.
 - (8) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 7 be approved.
 - (9) That the initial proposed areas of priority investment and savings included in the budget in Appendix 2 be agreed with further specific consultation and reporting to Cabinet to take place throughout the year as required.
 - (10) That the outcome of initial budget consultation outlined in appendix 3 be noted.
 - (11) That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2021, Cabinet agreed the following amounts for the year 2021/22 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
 - (a) **52,483.9** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year;
 - (b) **1,198.4** for Lamesley Parish being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

(12) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31A,31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'):

- (a) **£604,606,039** being the aggregate total of the expenditure amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Lamesley Parish Council
- (b) **(£504,091,243)** being the aggregate total of the income amounts, which the Council estimate for the items, set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act
- (c) **£100,514,796** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
- (d) **£1,915.1549** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (11)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
- (e) **£12,105.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (f) **£1,914.9243** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (11)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item (Lamesley Parish Council) relates
- (g) Part of the Council's area: Lamesley Parish
£1,925.0253 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (11)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (Lamesley Parish Council) relate

h)

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6.73	1,276.62
B	7.86	1,489.38
C	8.98	1,702.15
D	10.10	1,914.92
E	12.34	2,340.46
F	14.59	2,766.00
G	16.83	3,191.54
H	20.20	3,829.84

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (13) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
	£	£
A	95.89	57.09
B	111.88	66.61
C	127.86	76.12
D	143.84	85.64
E	175.80	104.67
F	207.77	123.70
G	239.73	142.73
H	287.68	171.28

- (14) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (12) (h) and (13) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish	All other parts of the Council's area
	£	£
A	1,436.33	1,429.60
B	1,675.73	1,667.87
C	1,915.11	1,906.13
D	2,154.50	2,144.40
E	2,633.27	2,620.93
F	3,112.06	3,097.47
G	3,590.83	3,574.00
H	4,309.00	4,288.80

- (15) That under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

For the following reason:

- To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2021/22.

Policy Context

1. Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives sets the policy direction for the Council, redressing the imbalance of inequality, championing fairness and social justice. This approach determines future budget proposals and the development of business planning for each of the Council's Services.
2. Full Council is responsible for approving the Council's annual budget following recommendation from Cabinet, in line with the budget and policy framework outlined within Gateshead Council's constitution.

Background

3. This budget follows a period of ten years of austerity and major government policy changes including welfare reform, housing and schools reform, finance reforms as well as unfunded cost pressures such as national living wage, care act duties and the apprenticeship levy. This has resulted in huge pressures on local authority budgets. The Council recognises there are huge financial pressures on not just council resources, but also those of partners, local businesses, residents and the voluntary and community sector.
4. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives provides a framework to demonstrate how the Council will work and make decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is aligned to the timeframe of the Council's MTFs and is predicated on the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead
5. To deliver on the strategic approach, the Council will need a radical rethink about how it works, how resources are spent, how the Council works with partners, organisations, businesses, trade unions, employees and the local people and communities of Gateshead. The strategic approach will set the major policy directions for the Council within the resources available and seek new funding sources to redress the imbalance of inequality, champion fairness and social justice.
6. The Council has developed a set of core principles that will underpin our approach, specifically the approach will be:
 - Priority driven – the Council will focus on what matters most;
 - Performance driven – a focus on measurable outcomes;
 - Council wide rather than service focus;
 - Over an extended budget time horizon of 5 years to enable effective planning;
 - Iterative to reflect a continuous approach;
 - Supported by investment to deliver improvement and efficiencies;
 - Targeted approach to those with the greatest need;
 - Community focussed to maximise local wealth; and
 - Integrated to cover all aspects of the Council's budget including revenue, capital, schools, and housing.

7. The approach will focus on five key areas to drive forward progress in achieving thrive outcomes for targeted improvements in;
 - Economy
 - Health and Housing
 - Poverty and Inequality
 - Climate Change
 - Transport
8. The ability to invest in priority areas will initially require additional resources. Ultimately this investment will need to be resourced from other areas of the Council where services could be reduced, delivered differently or stopped. Areas of cross council efficiencies and service delivery models will be developed to ensure the Council is focused on delivering priorities and statutory functions in the most effective way and making the best possible use of resources. The Council intends to take a longer-term approach to the shift in resources to achieve priority outcomes.
9. The Council's budget estimates to achieve a balanced budget for 2021/22 are attached at Appendix 2 and have been prepared in accordance with the new priority approach and after consideration of the outcome of the initial budget consultation. Further formal consultation will take place throughout the financial year on specific proposals and the outcome reported to Cabinet.

Considerations

10. In finalising the budget and council tax for 2021/22, the following issues require consideration and are set out in the body of this appendix: -
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy context;
 - Final settlement 2021/22;
 - Projected revenue outturn 2020/21;
 - Budget guidance and base budget requirements 2021/22;
 - Areas of proposed budget growth and savings 2021/22; (See also appendix 2)
 - Projected business rates 2021/22;
 - Council tax 2021/22;
 - Adequacy of reserves and robustness of budget estimates;(See also appendix 5)
 - Agreed use of reserves 2021/22;
 - Approval of prudential indicators for 2021/22 (see also appendix 6);
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) (see also appendix 7).

Medium Term Financial Strategy

11. The Council has adopted a longer-term approach to its strategic and financial planning. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was updated and agreed by Cabinet in October 2020 and is based on a financial forecast over a rolling five-year timeframe to 2025/26. This sets the financial context for the Council's resource allocation process and budget setting.
12. Due to proposed funding reforms for local government there is no certainty of funding levels beyond 2021/22 and an absence of guidance in this area. The hugely challenging financial context is expected to continue over the medium term and the general uncertainty around future funding reforms and the economy following the UK exit from the European Union and future impacts arising from the pandemic add to the potential for financial volatility and risk.

Final Settlement 2021/22

13. On 4 February 2021, the final local government funding settlement was announced. Overall funding was in line with expectations from the provisional settlement. The final settlement debate and parliamentary vote took place on 10 February.
14. The announcement stated that the government will “revisit the priorities for finance reform in time for the next Spending Review, taking account of wider work on the future of business rates and how best to organise and finance adult social care.” No announcements have been made in respect of the planned timing of the next Spending Review, but further details may be announced alongside the Budget on 3 March 2021.
15. There remains a substantial funding gap facing children’s and adult social care both nationally and locally. There continues to be huge funding pressures facing local authorities to continue to protect the vital services which care for older and disabled people, protect children and support families. Long term planning for these vital services is undermined through a lack of information on the levels of future funding available. It should be a priority of Government to secure a longer-term funding stream for care services.
16. It is essential that all new burdens should be funded, including the potentially significantly higher cost of the Living Wage over the next few years.
17. It is vital that any future funding approach for local government is fair and provides recognition of the support required in those areas of greatest need. Government must consider the impacts of their policy decisions and the level of local government statutory duties at a time of significantly reducing funding.
18. The Council has been able to close the £18.621m financial gap and set a balanced budget through revisiting the MTFs cost pressures, unforeseen additional funding and a review of the revenue cost of capital investment alongside a savings requirement of £8.117m

Projected Revenue Outturn 2020/21

19. The agreed net revenue budget for 2020/21 is £243.507m. On 19 January 2021, Cabinet received a report on projected spending considering performance to 30 November 2020. The 2021/22 projected outturn at the third quarter shows a projected overspend of £0.531m for the year.
20. Given the significant financial challenges ahead, work is being undertaken in year to reduce costs, increase income and achieve underspends wherever feasible. This is good financial management that aids financial sustainability. The Council has an exceptionally strong track record of delivering the outturn within budget.
21. This has been a uniquely challenging year due to the impacts arising on services and wider economy from a world pandemic. The outturn will reflect one off government Covid grants and unique variations to budgets arising from increases or decreases in demand, loss of income as well as savings.
22. The final outturn position will be reported to Cabinet in June 2021 and due to active budget management, it remains the intention that the outturn will be delivered within budget estimates.

Base Budget Requirement 2021/22

23. The budget requirement has been kept to a minimum. Budgets funded from temporary covid grant in 2020 have been removed and pressures will be reviewed. The following key assumptions have been made in development of the 2021/22 budget;
- Budget uplifts for general inflation on areas such as utilities and contractual inflation. Resources have been included in relation to pay pressures (£5.5m)
 - Budget provision for service pressures identified within the MTFs such as social care, waste services and home to school transport (£4.5m)
 - Provision has been made in the budget for the North East Combined Authority Transport, Environment Agency and Port of Tyne Levies. The agreed reduction in the NECA levy has been included (£0.073m) reducing budget provision to £10.8m.
 - Revenue support grant inflationary increase from £15.2m to £15.3m
 - An estimation of funding available to support the budget from retained business rates and Section 31 business rates grant based on the National Non-Domestic Rates Return (NNDR1) return to Government.
 - An increase to £100.5m in the amount of council tax income receivable (excluding Lamesley) arising from growth in the tax base (£0.06m) and agreement of the proposed council tax increase (£4.8m).
 - The pay award for 2021/22 has yet to be announced, the draft Budget includes provision for a pay award within contingency.
 - The amount of Improved Better Care Fund payable via Clinical Commissioning Group is unconfirmed to date but is expected to be a minimum of 2020/21 funding levels.
 - Maintained levels of public health budget were announced in the Spending Round 2020. However, the Provisional Settlement did not include information about the national total, or individual authority allocations of the Public Health Grant for 2021/22. Therefore, this grant has been assumed at 2020/21 levels in the absence of an announcement from the Department of Health.
 - If final allocations of these grants differ from the estimates the impact will be managed through contingency or an amendment to budget requested through Council.
24. Growth in the Council budget has been kept to a minimum with provision being made in a general contingency of £9.1m (3.8% of total net budget) to protect against one off in year unforeseen events and provide for budget allocations in relation to the pay award, budget pressures from changes in the national living wage, workforce, risk and demand pressures. This is consistent with MTFs principles and good financial management.
25. A budget savings mitigation contingency of £2.7m has been provided for within the budget. This is to facilitate the fact that budget consultation will be required throughout 2021/22 and some specific savings will not be deliverable from 1 April. This contingency will be allocated as appropriate to service areas upon consideration of consultation outcomes and reasonable timings of full saving delivery

26. The base budget figures and draft proposals are presented in Appendix 2, including all comparative figures for 2020/21.

Budget Growth and Savings Proposals 2021/22

27. Work continues to consider the shift in resources needed to achieve priority outcomes through five-year planning. This year the approach to budget setting is different. A balanced budget will be agreed by Cabinet and Council including savings that will be subject to further formal consultation. To support delivery of priorities, several areas have received investment to allow for different ways of working and to generate future savings. These areas are;
- £1m investment to continue social work in schools and to address increased demand in children's social care looked after children
 - £1.1m intervention to address pressures and different ways of working in locality hubs, working with the voluntary sector as well as digital and IT services, economy and jobs.
 - £0.440m investment in parks and open spaces
28. The consultation issues raised through the initial budget consultation process have been considered. Following consideration of many factors including the consultation responses themselves, the deliverability the overall financial position of the Council and specific potential impact of this proposal, it is proposed not to take forward the commissioning of a long term home care service and all service users / family carers have been directly notified of that decision.
29. Any subsequent changes to budget proposals following formal consultation will be the subject of future reports to be agreed throughout the year.

Projected Business Rates 2021/22

30. As part of the 2021/22 settlement, the Government provided a baseline figure for retained business rates of £43.114m. The National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) 2021/22 submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 31 January 2021 estimated that the Council's retained element will be £20.439m (adjusted for cost of collection). Unlike previous years this will be supported with Section 31 grants of £26.564m received in 2020 and held in reserves to support the collection fund from the pandemic impacts. An additional estimate of £5.604m is included in the base budget funding in relation to reliefs which are reimbursed through a Section 31 grant.

Council Tax 2021/22

Statutory Requirements: Calculation of Council Tax Requirement

31. Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set an amount of Council Tax for each financial year for each category of dwellings in its area. The council tax must be set before the 11 March in the preceding financial year. For a category of dwellings, the amount of Council Tax is the aggregate of: -
- (i) the amount of tax in relation to the year that the Authority itself has calculated, and
 - (ii) the sum of the amounts of tax in relation to the year that major precepting authorities have calculated in precepts issued to the authority by major precepting authorities.
32. Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the 1992 Act (the 1992 Act) require the Authority to calculate its own amount of tax for each category of dwellings in its area, reflecting its council tax requirement. In calculating its council tax requirement, the Authority must make the following calculations: -
- (1) In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must make the calculations required by the section 31A of the 1992 Act.
 - (2) The Authority must calculate the aggregate of: -
 - (a) the expenditure which the Authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a Business Improvement District (BID) Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (b) such allowance as the Authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (c) the financial reserves which the Authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure;
 - (d) such financial reserves as are enough to meet so much of the amount estimated by the Authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for;
 - (da) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2B) of the of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Act (the 1988 Act);
 - (e) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97 (4) of the 1988 Act;
 - (f) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

- (3) The aggregate of: -
- (a) the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (aa) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2A) of the 1988 Act;
 - (b) any amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97 (3) of the 1988 Act;
 - (c) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and
 - (d) the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b), (e) and (f) above.
- (4) If the aggregate calculated under (2) above exceeds that calculated under (3) above, the authority must calculate the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is to be its council tax requirement for the year.
- (5) In making the calculation under subsection (2) above the authority must ignore payments which must be met from its collection fund under section 90(2) of the 1988 Act or from a trust fund and, subject to paragraphs (da), (e) and (f) of subsection (2) above, sums which have been or are to be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund.
- (6) In estimating under subsection (2)(a) above the authority must consider: -
- (a) the amount of any expenditure which it estimates it will incur in the year in making any repayments of grants or other sums paid to it by the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) the amount of any precept issued to it for the year by a local precepting authority and the amount of any levy or special levy issued to it for the year.
- (7) But (except as provided by regulations under section 41 of the 1992 Act or regulations under section 74 or 75 of the 1988 Act) the authority must not anticipate a precept, levy or special levy not issued.
- (8) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c) above an authority's estimated future expenditure is: -
- (a) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year following the year in question, will charge to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices and will have to defray in the year before the following sums are sufficiently available: -
 - i. sums which will be payable for the year into its general fund and in respect of which amounts will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, and
 - ii. sums which will be transferred as regards the year from its collection fund to its general fund, and

- (b) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year referred to in paragraph (a) above or any subsequent financial year in performing its functions and which will be charged to a revenue account for that or any other year in accordance with proper practices.
- (9) In making the calculation under subsection (3) above the authority must ignore: -
- (a) payments which must be made into its collection fund under section 90(1) of the 1988 Act or to a trust fund, and
 - (b) subject to paragraphs (aa), (b) and (c) of subsection (3) above, sums which have been or are to be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund.
- (10) The Secretary of State may by regulations do either or both of the following: -
- (a) alter the constituents of any calculation to be made under subsection (2) or (3) above (whether by adding, deleting or amending items);
 - (b) alter the rules governing the making of any calculation under subsection (2) or (3) above (whether by deleting or amending subsections (5) to (9) above, or any of them, or by adding other provisions, or by a combination of those methods).
- (11) Calculations to be made in relation to a particular financial year under this section must be made before 11 March in the preceding financial year, but they are not invalid merely because they are made on or after that date.
- (12) This section is subject to section 52ZS of the 1992 Act (which requires a direction to a billing authority that the referendum provisions in chapter 4ZA of the 1992 Act are not to apply to the authority for a financial year to state the amount of the authority's council tax requirement for the year).

Calculation of Basic Amount of Tax

- (13) In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must calculate the basic amount of its council tax by applying the formula: -

$$\frac{R}{T}$$

where: -

- R is the amount calculated (or last calculated) by the authority under section 31A (4) of the 1992 Act as its council tax requirement for the year;
- T is the amount which is calculated by the authority as its council tax base for the year and, where one or more major precepting authorities have power to issue precepts to it, is notified by it to those authorities ("the major precepting authorities concerned") within the prescribed period.

- (14) Where the aggregate calculated (or last calculated) by the authority for the year under subsection (2) of section 31A does not exceed that so calculated under subsection (3) of that section, the amount for item R above is to be nil.
- (15) The Secretary of State must make regulations containing rules for making for any year the calculation required by item T above; and a billing authority must make the calculation for any year in accordance with the rules for the time being effective (as they are in force for that year) under the regulations.

- (16) Regulations prescribing a period for the purposes of item T above may provide that, in any case where a billing authority fails to notify its calculation to the major precepting authorities concerned within that period, that item must be determined in the prescribed manner by such authority or authorities as may be prescribed.
- (17) The Secretary of State may by regulations do either or both of the following:
- (a) alter the constituents of any calculation to be made under subsection (13) (whether by adding, deleting or amending items);
 - (b) provide for rules governing the making of any calculation under that subsection (whether by adding provisions to, or deleting or amending provisions of, this section, or by a combination of those methods).

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

33. The Council's approach is to operate a support scheme to mitigate the impact on working age claimants by utilising council resources. Removal of the ring-fence within Government funding for scheme operation and into revenue support grant means that Government funding for this area has been significantly reduced. The current scheme means that approximately 12,300 council taxpayers will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax (around £121 per year/£2.33 per week). This is based on current numbers of claims. It is anticipated that these numbers will significantly increase as the longer term impacts of covid become clearer over the coming months. A discretionary fund of £25,000 is available to be used to support the most vulnerable claimants in exceptional circumstances.

Council Tax Support Hardship Fund

34. In 2020/21 funding of £2.67m was received by the council with the expectation that billing authorities would provide all recipients of working age Council Tax Support (CTS) with a further reduction in their annual council tax bill of £150, using their discretionary powers to reduce the liability of council tax payers outside of their formal CTS scheme during 2020/21.
35. Grant conditions also allowed councils to use some funding to deliver increased financial assistance through other local support mechanisms, having considered local circumstances. The guidance allowed councils to provide:
- Council tax relief using existing discretionary discount and hardship policies
 - Additional support outside the council tax system through Local Welfare or similar schemes;
 - A higher level of council tax reduction for those working age LCTS recipients whose annual liability exceeds £150.
36. To date the Council Tax Hardship funding has been allocated to 16,610 accounts in receipt of council tax support to date with over 10,000 claimants liability reduced to nil. As per the guidance, cases have also been identified where residents are financially struggling but are not eligible for council tax support and any remaining funding will be used to increase support for winter fuel and hardship.

37. The spending review announced that a further £670 million of un-ringfenced grant nationally would be provided to local authorities aimed directly at supporting councils to meet the anticipated costs of additional costs of providing Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) in 2021/22, resulting from increased unemployment. Unlike the 2020 funding it is at the Council's discretion how this grant is utilised.
38. The council is expected to receive £2.779m council tax support grant funding in 2021/22 and it is proposed that Cabinet agree for this to be made available to continue the hardship fund for 2021/2022 with allocations following the same approach as 2020/21 in order to continue support for those in need.

Council Tax Referendums

39. A council tax bill is made up of several different elements. Alongside the element to fund council services which includes the costs Councils pay in levies or special levies to any number of bodies, there can be precepts which consist of council tax that will be redistributed to bodies to provide specific services to the area. For Gateshead these are for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and Lamesley Parish.
40. Each year ministers set out in advance what they deem to be an excessive tax rise. This report has been prepared in accordance with published guidance "The referendums relating to council tax increases (Principles) (England) report 2021/22" and the principles outlined in annex A of the guidance.
41. The following council tax referendum principles were announced:
 - a core principle of up to 2% applying to local authorities and fire and rescue authorities;
 - in addition to the core principle, a continuation of the adult social care precept, with an additional 3% flexibility available for social care authorities with the option to defer some or all of the 3% ASC Precept increase until 2022/23.
 - Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) allowed increases of up to £15 on a band D from their 2020/21 level;
 - The Government proposed to continue with no referendum principles for town and parish Councils in 2021/22 but have said they will keep this matter under active review for future years.
42. Where a major precepting authority determines that its council tax increase is excessive it must notify the billing authority to which it issues a precept. The billing authority will then be required to make arrangements to hold a referendum in relation to the precepting authority's council tax increase. The costs of holding the referendum are the sole responsibility of the authority which triggered it. Consequently, billing authorities are entitled to recover from a precepting authority the expense incurred in holding a referendum on its behalf.

43. This year no principles are specified for local precepting authorities (Lamesley Parish), However, the usual general administrative law principles will apply to the Parish Council's own decision setting the budget i.e. they must act reasonably; they will have to take the decision based on all material considerations, discarding immaterial considerations and the incurring of expenditure must be relevant to the needs of the Parish as well as being in accordance with their own financial rules.
44. The consequences of setting an increase in the relevant basic amount of council tax which is excessive would mean that the Council would have to make arrangements to hold a referendum and make "substitute calculations" of a relevant basic amount of council tax which does not exceed the excessiveness principles. The substitute calculations would automatically take effect if voters reject the Council's increase.
45. Against the backdrop of continued Government funding reductions, new burdens and spending pressures which cumulatively are having a significant impact on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities during 2021/22, this report recommends that Gateshead Council agrees a council tax increase of 4.99% (including a 3% adult social care charge) This will mean the Council will be exempt from the Government's excessiveness principles.
46. The proposed council relevant basic amount of council tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

Council Tax Requirement 2021/22

47. In calculating the council tax requirement as required by the legislation, the local Parish precept and use of reserves must be considered.
48. The Parish of Lamesley agreed at the parish meeting of 8 February 2021 to issue a budget precept for 2021/22 of £12,105 which is a 4.99% increase on the 2020/21 precept of £11,530. However, due to a reduction in the council tax base level this means a band D precept increase of 6.3% is required to result in a £12,105 precept value.
49. In arriving at the Council's council tax requirement, general grants such as Settlement Funding Assessment (revenue support grant, retained business rates and top up grant), other grants in revenue spending power and public health must be deducted.
50. Any amount transferred to or from the collection fund and the general fund in relation to council tax must also be deducted or added. For 2021/22 this figure has been estimated to be a £0.328m deficit transfer from the general fund.

51. The 2021/22 Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley), based on an increase of 4.99% is £100,514,796, summarised as follows: -

	£
Net Budget 2021/22 Gateshead Council	238,758,169
<i>Less - Use of Earmarked Reserves</i>	(2,542,480)
<i>Add - Lamesley Parish Precept</i>	12,105
Budget Requirement 2021/22 (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	236,227,794
<i>Less - Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)*</i>	(51,134,354)
<i>Less - Use of Reserves Supporting Retained Rates**</i>	(26,564,000)
<i>Public Health</i>	(16,540,836)
<i>Other Grants</i>	(41,801,353)
<i>Balance to be raised locally</i>	100,187,251
<i>Transfer from Collection Fund (Council Tax)</i>	327,545
Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	100,514,796

**Includes transfer to/from Collection Fund for retained business rates*

*** Covid grant support to Collection Fund see report for details*

Council Tax Resolution

52. The council tax for Gateshead is calculated by dividing the council tax requirement by the council tax base of 52,483.9 This calculation gives a basic amount of council tax of £1,915.15. However, from this figure, the legislation requires the Parish element to be deducted (£0.23). This gives a Band D Council Tax for Gateshead of £1,914.92. Section 36 of the 1992 Act requires the council tax to be calculated by reference to Band D.
53. The amount payable for dwellings in different valuation bands is calculated using the following proportions for each valuation banding: -

A	6/9
B	7/9
C	8/9
D	9/9
E	11/9
F	13/9
G	15/9
H	18/9

Thus, giving the following council tax amounts for the Gateshead area, (including a 3% precept to fund adult social care but excluding other precepts)

Valuation Band	Gateshead Council £
A	1,276.62
B	1,489.38
C	1,702.15
D	1,914.92
E	2,340.46
F	2,766.00
G	3,191.54
H	3,829.84

54. The council tax for the Parish area is calculated by dividing the Parish precept by the council tax base for the Parish area. This calculation gives a Band D precept of £10.10 for Lamesley Parish area in 2021/22
55. These result in the following additional council tax amounts for the Lamesley Parish area (excluding Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire precepts):

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £
A	6.73
B	7.86
C	8.98
D	10.10
E	12.34
F	14.59
G	16.83
H	20.20

56. To these must be added the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. On 3 February 2021 the Police and Crime Panel agreed to increase the Band D charge by £6.84 which is permitted under the current referendum principles of up to £15. The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority agreed a precept increase of 1.99% (£1.67 on band D) at their meeting on 15 February 2021. These are as follows;

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	95.89	57.09
B	111.88	66.61
C	127.86	76.12
D	143.84	85.64
E	175.80	104.67
F	207.77	123.70
G	239.73	142.73
H	287.68	171.28

57. These result in the following total council tax amounts (including precepts);

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,436.33	1,429.60
B	1,675.73	1,667.87
C	1,915.11	1,906.13
D	2,154.50	2,144.40
E	2,633.27	2,620.93
F	3,112.06	3,097.47
G	3,590.83	3,574.00
H	4,309.00	4,288.80

Schools Budget

58. The Council will receive an indicative £168.5m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is estimated to be £55.7m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Funding for 2-year olds is estimated at £2.2m in 2021/22 and will be confirmed in June 2021 based on actual take up.
59. The Pupil Premium for 2021/22 will be £1,345 for primary school children and £955 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,345 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £310 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £9.7m, of which an estimated £3.7m will be recouped for academies.
60. Early Years Pupil Premium for eligible 3 & 4-year olds have been confirmed at £302 per pupil for a full financial year. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.53 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.182m.
61. The number of schools with projected deficits is increasing, but with the current turbulent times and the additional Covid-19 related grants the position is difficult to estimate. Increased pressure on Government has resulted in some increased funding to mainstream schools however the majority of this funding relates to teacher's pay and pension grants being added to the DSG. Every mainstream school will receive at least 2% increase in per pupil funding. The increase in funding is expected to continue for 2022/23 at a similar level, but no detailed announcements have been made.

Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget Estimates

62. The Council keeps a level of reserves to strengthen its financial position so that it has enough reserves and balances to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen events without jeopardising key services and delivery outcomes. This is considered best practice and demonstrates sound financial planning. The Council's policy on reserves is outlined in the MTFS.
63. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to undertake an assessment of the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves. In assessing the robustness of the budget, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has considered the following issues:
- The general financial standing of the Council
 - The adequacy of the budget monitoring and financial reporting arrangements
 - The adequacy of the Council's internal control system
 - The future budget pressures faced by the Council, as identified in the Council's MTFS
 - The impact of reduced income and funding
 - The proposed Capital Programme
 - The delivery of agreed budget cuts/income targets
64. In addition to the above, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has undertaken a risk assessment of the underlying budget assumptions applied to income and expenditure estimates. This includes an assessment of the estimates for inflationary increases. Further details are shown at Appendix 4.
65. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has also considered the adequacy of reserves to cover any potential financial risks faced by the Council. The Council's general and earmarked reserves are maintained at a prudent level and are subject to continuous review. Appendix 5 to this report shows the opening balances as at 1 April 2020 and an estimate of reserves through to 31 March 2022 subject to the proposals in this report. The position on reserves will be further reviewed following revenue outturn in June 2021 and as part of the review of the MTFS. It is likely that reserves will need to be replenished over the MTFS period.
66. The Council maintains a general fund reserve which acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen expenditure. This currently stands at £16.538m. This figure includes £5.479m LMS Schools reserves which are ring-fenced and £11.059m General Reserve which is at the minimum level of 5% net revenue budget.
67. The proposed 2021/22 base budget includes £2.542m budgeted use of the following earmarked reserves;
- Financial Risk and Resilience £0.388m
 - Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment £1.566m
 - Poverty, Health and Equality Investment £0.588

68. It is possible that the MTFs requirement of a 5% minimum (£12m) general reserve level will be met after deployment of reserves to support the 2021/22 Budget. There are several alternatives to address this, which will be reviewed. A full review of reserves will take place at outturn, which will include a review of the earmarked reserves.
69. Some reserves are agreed by Council to be earmarked and held for specific strategic purposes. This may be to help achieve key priorities or held for specific purposes primarily to mitigate unforeseen events, risks or provide insurance. Other reserves are ring fenced and committed to be used for specific projects or activities, usually prescribed by Government, and cannot support the general Council budget such as school's reserves, developer contributions and the Public Health reserve.
70. Reserves can only be used once and are therefore not a sustainable source of financing without placing the Council's financial position at risk. This is an area of interest to external audit who will look at both how the Council has planned to use and actually uses its reserves. Due to the reduced funding from Government coupled with increasing demand, the Council will be required and is intending to, find a permanent solution to the funding gap, rather than a short-term solution by using reserves, a fundamental principle of the MTFs.
71. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have produced a financial resilience index in an attempt to objectively compare reserve levels with Local Authorities and measure financial risk. Comparisons available of Gateshead's reserves to nearest neighbours show a relatively low level of available reserves but a stable level. Reserve sustainability shows a medium to high risk.
72. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that, after taking account of these issues, the revenue estimates are considered robust and that the level of reserves is considered adequate to cover the financial risks faced by the Council in the medium term. This assessment is based on the requirement that spending will be reduced to meet the funding gap in the MTFs as any shortfall will put the Council's sustainable financial position at risk.

Workforce Management

73. There are several proposals put forward for consultation that will, if agreed, have an impact on the Council's workforce. Where applicable these are expressed as FTEs (full-time equivalents). This means posts totalling this FTE figure would have to be deleted permanently from the Council's employee establishment to make the identified saving from staffing budgets.
74. In accordance with the statutory redundancy process as set out under section 188, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, consultation must be undertaken with the appropriate trade union representatives of employees who may be affected by any of the proposals.

75. The statutory redundancy consultation period is either 30 days, or 45 days if more than 100 redundancies are proposed. The Council's Redundancy Policy states that *where there is the potential for large-scale redundancies, the Council will endeavour to apply a 90-day consultation period*. Since in 2021/22, it is proposed that formal detailed redundancy consultation on a service by service basis commences **after** the Cabinet meeting on 23 February, a 45-day consultation will be undertaken. This will allow for full and constructive consideration to be given to how redundancies might be avoided; how the number of redundancies might be reduced; and mitigating the consequences of any redundancies.
76. In order to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies, applications for voluntary redundancy will be considered in areas not at risk of redundancy. The Council has a modestly enhanced redundancy payment scheme which is applicable to both voluntary and compulsory redundancies, and where an employee volunteers for redundancy to provide an employment opportunity for an employee otherwise at risk themselves (i.e. a 'bumped redundancy') or an efficiency saving.
77. Employees will also be encouraged to consider whether a reduction in hours might be appropriate for them, thereby enabling savings to be made from staffing budgets which are not dependent on redundancies.
78. Any voluntary redundancy application and applications for reduced hours will only be approved if they are in the best interests of the service, balanced against employees' preferences. Such applications will be considered constructively with a view to agreement if possible.
79. Where compulsory redundancies are implemented, all reasonable efforts will be made to secure alternative employment in accordance with the Council's Redeployment Policy.
80. A range of support measures are also in place to offer employees at risk, or on notice of redundancy, which are detailed in the Council's Redundancy Policy.

Reform of Local Government Exit Payments

81. The statutory provisions governing exit payments to public sector workers are in the process of reform.
82. Revised draft statutory provisions have been published which are currently subject to a national legal challenge. Unlike the £95k cap regulations (which have recently been rescinded), these provisions will affect workers with much smaller severance payments i.e. potentially all cases where pension is released with a redundancy payment. Proposed changes include:
- Preventing an employer making a discretionary redundancy payment in addition to a payment of the pension strain cost, except in very limited circumstances.
 - Provisions to limit payments an employer can make into the LGPS (pension strain cost) where an employee receives a statutory redundancy payment (by reducing the strain cost payment by the amount of the statutory redundancy payment).

83. New Regulations were expected early in 2021, however, recent information from the LGA indicates that as there are several legal challenges to the Regulations, clarification on the final position may not be available until later this year. In addition, the government has emphasised that it is *'vital that exit payments deliver value for the taxpayer'*, stating that *'employers should always consider whether exit payments are fair and proportionate'*. It has also been announced that HM Treasury will be *'bringing forward proposals at pace to tackle unjustified exit payments'*. What this means in practice is yet to be confirmed.
84. These changes and the uncertainty as to what the final outcome will be make it extremely difficult to manage a redundancy process at this time. Until the government provides clarity on its proposals the Council is unable to advise employees, with any certainty, on the specific implications in relation to their pension benefits and redundancy payments, especially for proposals that may take effect later in the year.

Prudential and Treasury Indicators

85. CIPFA's Prudential Code is a professional code of practice to support local authorities in taking decisions about capital investment. All local authorities are required to have regard to the Prudential Code under part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Prudential Framework for Local Authority Capital Investment was refreshed in 2017 to include a greater focus on non-treasury investments and commercial activities the Council may undertake.

The key objectives of the Codes are: -

- To ensure that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable;
- To ensure that treasury management decisions are taken in line with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how these risks will be managed to levels that are acceptable to the Council;
- To ensure consistency with the organisational strategy and resources and ensure that decisions are being made with enough regard to the long-term financial implications and potential risks to the Council. Effective financial planning, option appraisal, risk management and governance processes are essential in achieving a prudential approach to capital expenditure, investment and debt.

The Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services sets out a range of prudential and treasury indicators that need to be agreed by the Council. In setting and revising prudential and treasury indicators, the Council is required to take account of the following issues: -

- affordability, including the impact on council tax;
- prudence and sustainability;
- value for money;
- stewardship of assets and asset management planning;
- service objectives;
- practicality.

86. Appendix 6 to this report details the prudential indicators required under the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services recommended for approval.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

87. MRP is the amount that needs to be charged to revenue to reflect the repayment of debt. It is proposed that the Council continues to use the annuity method for charging MRP in respect of PFI contracts and the asset life method on self-financed expenditure. The Council's annual MRP statement for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 7.

Consultation

88. Section 65 of the 1992 Act requires the Council to consult with persons or bodies subject to non-domestic business rates in Gateshead about spending proposals. A meeting was held with the North-East Chamber of Commerce on 20 January 2021.
89. There has been initial online public consultation on the council tax and budget proposals and responses are included at Appendix 3 of this report.
90. Unlike in previous years, formal consultation on specific savings will be ongoing throughout the 2021/22 financial year. At this stage the full impact of any changes identified in the budget have not been assessed in detail. The Council's budget decision will identify the areas of spending upon which it proposes to concentrate including the potential areas in which savings may be made. Cabinet retain discretion over the detail of how such savings are made (subject to the outcome of the consultations envisaged). Since this different approach is being taken to consultation in 2021/22, Cabinet should
- note, in respect of statutory or common law duties to consult arising from a changes in services including under the Public Sector Equality Duty and other service specific consultation obligations, that the duty to consult will arise when identifiable changes to services and spending on them are proposed; and
 - note that in relation to redundancy consultation, it is proposed that 45-day consultation periods are applied following approval of the Council's budget. This period may be extended should a Service Director, in consultation with HR, agree it is necessary to enable meaningful consultation
91. As the longer-term budget approach is developed, the Council will ensure that there is appropriate engagement throughout the year at the right time and in the right way, where proposals may have an impact on employees, residents, businesses, the voluntary and community sector or other stakeholders. Engagement activities will vary and may be broad in their focus or primarily targeted at a specific group of service users.

92. Although recognising the budget planning process this year has been exceptional the Council remains committed to continual constructive engagement with its recognised trade unions, whose contributions are welcomed and valued. The trade unions have been fully consulted on all proposals within the report and have been thanked for their engagement to date and the representation they have made.
93. Councillors have been consulted on the draft budget proposals through a Corporate Advisory Group, portfolio meetings and briefing sessions.

Alternative Options

94. There are no alternative options. The Council is statutorily required to agree a lawfully balanced budget each year. To not identify budget cuts and additional income in order to bridge the funding gap, would be to jeopardise this requirement and put the Council's financial sustainability at risk.

Implications of Recommended Option

95. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that these are set out in the report and appendices to reflect the position to achieve a legally balanced budget for the start of 2021/22. Due to the new long term and corporately owned approach to budget further reports will be brought forward for consideration on an ongoing basis throughout the financial year as proposals are finalised and financial implications clarified.
- b. **Human Resource Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance confirm that implications for the Council's workforce are considered within the report. Further reports will be brought forward for consideration on an ongoing basis throughout the financial year as proposals are finalised and human resource implications confirmed.
- c. **Property Implications** – The Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth confirms the implications for the Council's asset portfolio will be set out in detail in future separate reports. The Council will continue to implement its Asset Management Strategy and seek to reduce the costs associated with buildings and property through a corporate landlord model and seek to use the Council's assets to deliver the Thrive agenda and to help deliver the corporate priorities.

96. **Risk Management Implications** – Appendix 4 to this report is a financial risk assessment of the budget. This seeks to capture risks and identify mitigation where possible. Overall the financial context faced by the Council, as identified in the MTFS, poses significant risks to the Council's continued ability to provide essential services to the residents of Gateshead over the medium term. This risk is mitigated to an extent by effective financial management and planning that supports delivery of council priorities identified within the new strategic approach.

97. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Appendix 3 provides an overview of the new approach to using Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA's) to consider how proposals that emerge as part of the Councils 5-year budget approach may impact on protected characteristics, health, environment or socioeconomic disadvantage or cumulatively. Any IIA will be developed as part of the decision-making process when proposals are taken for consideration.

98. **Crime and Disorder Implications** –The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area”. Individual proposals have been assessed as to their impact on crime and disorder and no direct impacts have been identified.
99. **Health Implications** – Appendix 3 highlights health and wellbeing impact.
100. **Climate Change and Sustainability Implications** –. The draft proposals put forward could impact on activities that support operational and financial sustainability. There is a need to balance short term budgetary requirements with the achievement of medium-term financial sustainability. Addressing Climate Change remains a priority of the Council and this is considered as part of the approach to budget setting.
101. **Human Rights Implications** – The implications of the Human Rights Act must be considered in any decision that involves a change of policy or function, or a Service change that arises from the choices. These will be identified, where necessary, in the IIA’s which are available from the Council.
102. **Area and Ward Implications** – The proposals in this report cover the whole of Gateshead.

Background Information:

- Budget Approach 2020/21 - 19 November 2019
- Budget and Council Tax Level 2020/21 – 25 February 2020
- Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 25 February 2020
- Gateshead Council’s response to COVID-19 – Financial update, wider implications and steps towards recovery – 23 June 2020
- Gateshead Council’s response to COVID-19 – steps towards recovery – 14 July 2020
- Medium Term Financial Context 2021/22 – 2025/26 – 20 October 2020
- Budget – Approach to Recovery 2021/22 – 15 December 2020
- Budget 2021/22 - Revenue Savings Proposals – 19 January 2021

REVENUE BUDGETS 2021/22

Base Budget and Contingency 2021/22 £000	Group and Service (Net Budgets)	Priority Growth	Proposed Savings	Budgeted Reserves Use	Proposed Budget
		2021/22 £000	2021/22 £000	2021/22 £000	2021/22 £000
	<u>Children, Adults and Families</u>				
36,273	Children's Social Care	1,098	(500)	0	36,871
4,230	Education, Schools and Inclusion	0	0	0	4,230
6,736	Quality Assurance and Commissioning	0	0	0	6,736
71,714	Adult Social Care	0	(4,925)	0	66,789
	<u>Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)</u>				
20,477	Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)	0	(1,295)	580	19,762
	<u>Office of the Chief Executive</u>				
1,209	Office of the Chief Executive	0	(203)	0	1,006
	<u>Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities</u>				
3,886	Housing, Compliance and Traded Services	250	(186)	562	4,512
402	Housing General Fund	0	0	0	402
16,031	Highways and Waste	0	(39)	0	15,992
2,771	Environment and Fleet Management	440	0	340	3,551
	<u>Economy, Innovation and Growth</u>				
770	Business, Employment and Skills	405	(63)	129	1,241
2,258	Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	0	0	209	2,467
(2,602)	Major Projects and Corporate Property	0	(232)	0	(2,834)
	<u>Corporate Services and Governance</u>				
3,640	Legal and Democratic Services	0	0	0	3,640
1,055	Human Resources and Workforce Development	0	(50)	388	1,393
463	Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	0	0	0	463
528	Public Service Reform	0	0	0	528
	<u>Resources and Digital</u>				
1,964	Financial Management	0	(92)	0	1,872
2,673	Customer Experience and Digital	300	(160)	334	3,147
200	Housing Benefits	0	0	0	200
3,719	IT	146	(82)	0	3,783
2,088	Commercialisation and Improvement	0	(50)	0	2,038
1,512	Other Services	0	(240)	0	1,272
9,051	General Contingency	0	0	0	9,051
6,130	COVID Funding	0	0	0	6,130
2,718	Contingency: Savings Mitigation	0	0	0	2,718
2,779	Hardship Funding	0	0	0	2,779
33,427	Capital Financing Costs	0	0	0	33,427
(5,421)	Investment & Trading Income	0	0	0	(5,421)
	<u>Levies</u>				
174	Environment Agency Levy	0	0	0	174
10,816	North East Combined Authority	0	0	0	10,816
23	Port of Tyne Levy	0	0	0	23
241,694	Total Net Budget	2,639	(8,117)	2,542	238,758
	<u>Financed By</u>				
	Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)				(51,134)
	Other Grants				(41,801)
	Public Health				(16,541)
	Council Tax (Excluding Parish Precept)				(100,503)
	Collection Fund				328
	Reserves to Support Retained Rates				(26,564)
	Earmarked Reserves				(2,542)
0	Total Funding	0	0	0	(238,758)

SCHOOLS - ESTIMATES 2021/22

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Dedicated Schools Grant (Indicative)	156,604	(156,604)	0	168,449	(168,449)	0
Use of Schools Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Recoupment for Academies and commissioned Non-Maintained Special Schools	(50,871)	50,871	0	(55,721)	55,721	0
Total Retained in Council	105,733	(105,733)	0	112,728	(112,728)	0
Less: DSG funding allocated to High Needs, Early Years and other service areas	(29,859)	29,859	0	(32,346)	32,346	0
Schools Budget (Maintained)	75,874	(75,874)	0	80,382	(80,382)	0
Pupil Premium	9,294	(9,294)	0	9,696	(9,696)	0
Less: Academies Recoupment	(2,091)	2,091	0	(3,668)	3,668	0
Pupil Premium (Maintained)	7,203	(7,203)	0	6,028	(6,028)	0
TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET 2021/22						0

The Council will receive an indicative £168m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is £56m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

For 2021/22, High Needs Block funding increased by £2.9m. The Pupil Premium for 2021/22 will be £1,345 for primary school children and £955 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,345 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £310 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £9.7m, of which an estimated £3.7m will be recouped for academies.

Early Years Pupil Premium for eligible 3 & 4 year olds has been confirmed at £302 per pupil for a full financial year. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.53 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.163m.

CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Children's Social Care	45,973	(10,809)	35,164	47,059	(10,786)	36,273
<u>Priority Growth</u>						
Children's Services				850	0	850
Social Workers in Schools				248	0	248
<u>Savings Proposals Subject to Consultation</u>						
Review of Business Support				(160)	0	(160)
Restructure of Children's Centres				(40)	0	(40)
<u>Savings</u>						
Therapeutic Support Team				(100)	0	(100)
Increase in-house Foster Carers				(200)	0	(200)
				598	0	598
Total Children's Social Care 2021/22				47,657	(10,786)	36,871

CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND INCLUSION

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Education, Schools and Inclusion	42,006	(38,439)	3,567	43,171	(38,941)	4,230
Total Education, Schools and Inclusion 2021/22				43,171	(38,941)	4,230

CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND COMMISSIONING

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Quality Assurance and Commissioning	7,119	(363)	6,756	7,097	(361)	6,736
Total Quality Assurance and Commissioning 2021/22				7,097	(361)	6,736

CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Adult Social Care	97,519	(27,880)	69,639	99,623	(27,909)	71,714
<u>Savings Proposals Subject to Consultation</u>						
Outcome based assessments and targeted reviews				(2,500)	0	(2,500)
Review Client Income				0	(200)	(200)
Closure of one PIC				(300)	0	(300)
Redesign Day Services				(400)	0	(400)
Review of in-house supported living schemes				(75)	0	(75)
<u>Savings</u>						
Continuation of current discharge to assess model				0	(1,000)	(1,000)
Delete/ review vacancies				(200)	0	(200)
Extend the Shared Lives offer				(250)	0	(250)
				(3,725)	(1,200)	(4,925)
Total Adult Social Care 2021/22				95,898	(29,109)	66,789

HEALTH AND WELLBEING (including Public Health) - ESTIMATES 2021/22

Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)	30,849	(5,278)	25,571	27,293	(6,816)	20,477
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure (Duathlon Event)				10	0	10
Major Sporting Events (Athletics and Cycling Event)				570	0	570
<u>Savings Proposals Subject to Consultation</u>						
Leisure / Libraries / Culture				(1,200)	0	(1,200)
<u>Savings</u>						
Reconfiguration of Arts Team				(46)	0	(46)
Review Community Safety Team				(49)	0	(49)
				(715)	0	(715)
Total Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health) 2021/22				26,578	(6,816)	19,762

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - ESTIMATES 2021/22

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Office of the Chief Executive	1,100	(88)	1,012	1,296	(87)	1,209
Savings						
Graphics trading income				0	(5)	(5)
Deletion of posts				(198)	0	(198)
				(198)	(5)	(203)
Total Office of the Chief Executive 2021/22				1,098	(92)	1,006

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

HOUSING, COMPLIANCE AND TRADED SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Housing, Compliance and Traded Services	16,740	(11,962)	4,778	16,311	(12,425)	3,886
<u>Priority Growth</u>						
Locality Hubs				250	0	250
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme				42	0	42
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme Match Funding				315	0	315
Poverty Programme				25	0	25
Community Advice at Citizens Advice Bureau				40	0	40
Locality Working in Gateshead				140	0	140
<u>Savings Proposals Subject to Consultation</u>						
Remove Thrive Fund				(130)	0	(130)
Corporate Landlord Delivery Review				(56)	0	(56)
				626	0	626
Total Housing, Compliance and Traded Services 2021/22				16,937	(12,425)	4,512

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

HOUSING GENERAL FUND

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Housing General Fund	2,090	(1,495)	595	1,897	(1,495)	402
Total Housing General Fund 2021/22				1,897	(1,495)	402

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

HIGHWAYS AND WASTE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Highways and Waste	26,686	(9,909)	16,777	26,595	(10,564)	16,031
Savings						
Reduction in Directorate Support				(39)	0	(39)
				(39)	0	(39)
Total Highways and Waste 2021/22				26,556	(10,564)	15,992

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2021/22

ENVIRONMENT AND FLEET MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Environment and Fleet Management	5,869	(2,561)	3,308	5,472	(2,701)	2,771
<u>Priority Growth</u>						
Parks, Open Spaces & Cycle Ways				440	0	440
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Bowling Green Savings Mitigation				90	0	90
Environment Investment Plan				250	0	250
				780	0	780
Total Environment and Fleet Management 2021/22				6,252	(2,701)	3,551

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2021/22

BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Business, Employment and Skills	3,418	(2,369)	1,049	3,184	(2,414)	770
<u>Priority Growth</u>						
Economy & Jobs				405	0	405
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Business Support North East Partnership				41	0	41
Work Inspiration Gateshead				24	0	24
Northern Design Centre				15	0	15
Working Gateshead				49	0	49
<u>Savings</u>						
Riga office development rental income				(63)	0	(63)
				471	0	471
Total Business, Employment and Skills 2021/22				3,655	(2,414)	1,241

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2021/22

PLANNING, POLICY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	5,270	(2,668)	2,602	5,085	(2,827)	2,258
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Chopwell Plan				64	0	64
Climate Change				145	0	145
				209	0	209
Total Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport 2021/22				5,294	(2,827)	2,467

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2021/22

MAJOR PROJECTS AND CORPORATE PROPERTY

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Major Projects and Corporate Property	6,695	(8,074)	(1,379)	5,784	(8,386)	(2,602)
<u>Savings Proposals Subject to Consultation</u>						
Property Services				(140)	0	(140)
<u>Savings</u>						
Gateshead Energy Company concession charge				(92)	0	(92)
				(232)	0	(232)
Total Major Projects and Corporate Property 2021/22				5,552	(8,386)	(2,834)

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2021/22

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Legal and Democratic Services	4,706	(1,073)	3,633	4,755	(1,115)	3,640
Total Legal and Democratic Services 2021/22				4,755	(1,115)	3,640

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2021/22

HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Human Resources and Workforce Development	2,011	(544)	1,467	1,601	(546)	1,055
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Workforce Development Savings Mitigation				273	0	273
Workforce Development Apprenticeship Coordinator				41	0	41
Workforce Development Counselling Support				4	0	4
Workforce Development Leadership Development Programme				70	0	70
<u>Savings Subject to Consultation</u>						
Reduce Mileage Budgets				(50)	0	(50)
				338	0	338
Total Human Resources and Workforce Development 2021/22				1,939	(546)	1,393

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2021/22

CORPORATE COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	644	(190)	454	1,072	(609)	463
Total Corporate Commissioning and Procurement 2021/22				1,072	(609)	463

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2021/22

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Public Service Reform	334	0	334	528	0	528
Total Public Service Reform 2021/22				528	0	528

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Financial Management	3,866	(2,152)	1,714	4,017	(2,053)	1,964
Savings						
Reduction to Establishment				(72)	0	(72)
Early Payment Programme				(20)	0	(20)
				(92)	0	(92)
Total Financial Management 2021/22				3,925	(2,053)	1,872

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND DIGITAL

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Customer Experience and Digital	5,404	(1,524)	3,880	5,071	(2,398)	2,673
<u>Priority Growth</u>						
Customer Experience & Digital Investment				300	0	300
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Discretionary Payments				50	0	50
Benefits Officer Posts				124	0	124
Welfare Benefits Posts at Citizens Advice Bureau				120	0	120
Specialist Welfare Benefits Advisor at Citizens Advice Bureau				40	0	40
<u>Savings</u>						
Reduced management				(55)	0	(55)
Cease Systems Contract				(45)	0	(45)
E-billing for Council Tax and Benefits				(60)	0	(60)
				474	0	474
Total Customer Experience and Digital 2021/22				5,545	(2,398)	3,147

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

HOUSING BENEFITS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Housing Benefits	53,148	(52,726)	422	52,926	(52,726)	200
Total Housing Benefits 2021/22				52,926	(52,726)	200

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

IT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
IT	5,644	(2,441)	3,203	6,086	(2,367)	3,719
Priority Growth						
IT Strategic Action Plan				146	0	146
Savings						
MFD Contract / Reduction in Print				(50)	0	(50)
Software Budget Consolidation and Removal of Backup Internet connection				(32)	0	(32)
				64	0	64
Total IT 2021/22				6,150	(2,367)	3,783

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

COMMERCIALISATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Commercialisation and Improvement	1,986	(255)	1,731	2,254	(166)	2,088
<u>Savings</u> Reduction to Performance Management team				(50)	0	(50)
				(50)	0	(50)
Total Commercialisation and Improvement 2021/22				2,204	(166)	2,038

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2021/22

OTHER SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Capital Financing	33,700	0	33,700	33,427	0	33,427
Trading & Investment Income	0	(4,535)	(4,535)	0	(5,421)	(5,421)
Contingencies	12,804*	0	12,804*	9,051	0	9,051
COVID Funding	0	0	0	6,130	0	6,130
Other Services	1,678	(48)	1,630	1,560	(48)	1,512
Levies	11,086	0	11,086	11,013	0	11,013
Savings Mitigation	0	0	0	2,718	0	2,718
Hardship Funding	0	0	0	2,779	0	2,779
Total	59,268	(4,583)	54,685	66,678	(5,469)	61,209
Savings						
Insurance				(240)	0	(240)
				(240)	0	(240)
Total Other Services 2021/22				66,438	(5,469)	60,969

* includes COVID funding pending allocation £2.9m

SUMMARY OF BUDGET GROWTH BY COUNCIL PRIORITY		AMOUNT £000S
Economy		405
Poverty and Inequality		1,348
Economy		405
Economy & Jobs		405
Poverty and Inequality		1,348
Locality Hubs		250
Children's Services		850
Social Workers in Schools		248
DELIVERY ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES		886
Customer Experience & Digital Investment		300
IT Strategic Action Plan		146
Parks, Open Spaces & Cycle Ways		440
BUDGET GROWTH Total		2,639

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED USE OF RESERVES		AMOUNT £000S
Budget Sustainability Reserve		388
Workforce Development Savings Mitigation		273
Workforce Development Apprenticeship Coordinator		41
Workforce Development Counselling Support		4
Workforce Development Leadership Development Programme		70
Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment Reserve		1,566
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme		42
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme Match Funding		315
Business Support North East Partnership		41
Work Inspiration Gateshead		24
Bowling Green Savings Mitigation		90
Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure (Duathlon Event)		10
Major Sporting Events (Athletics and Cycling Event)		570
Chopwell Plan		64
Climate Change		145
Environment Investment Plan		250
Northern Design Centre		15
Poverty, Health and Equality Investment Reserve		588
Discretionary Payments		50
Benefits Officer Posts		124
Welfare Benefits Posts at Citizens Advice Bureau		120
Working Gateshead		49
Poverty Programme		25
Specialist Welfare Benefits Advisor at Citizens Advice Bureau		40
Community Advice at Citizens Advice Bureau		40
Locality Working in Gateshead		140
BUDGETED USE OF RESERVES TOTAL		2,542

SUMMARY OF SAVINGS	AMOUNT £000S
Savings proposals subject to consultation:	
Public Health and Wellbeing	
Leisure / Libraries / Culture	(1,200)
Children, Adults and Families	
Review of Business Support	(160)
Outcome based assessments and targeted reviews	(2,500)
Review Client Income	(200)
Closure of one PIC	(300)
Redesign Day Services	(400)
Review of in-house supported living schemes	(75)
Restructure of Children's Centres	(40)
Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	
Remove Thrive Fund	(130)
Corporate Landlord Delivery Review	(56)
Economy, Innovation and Growth	
Property Services	(140)
Corporate Services and governance	
Reduce Mileage Budgets	(50)
Savings	
Office of the Chief Executive	
Graphics trading income	(5)
Deletion of posts	(198)
Public Health and Wellbeing	
Reconfiguration of Arts Team	(46)
Review Community Safety Team	(49)
Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	
Reduction in Directorate Support	(39)
Economy, Innovation and Growth	
Riga office development rental income	(63)
Gateshead Energy Company concession charge	(92)
Resources and Digital	
Reduction to Establishment	(72)
Insurance	(240)
Early Payment Programme	(20)
Reduced management	(55)
Cease Systems Contract	(45)
E-billing for Council Tax and Benefits	(60)
MFD Contract / Reduction in Print	(50)
Software Budget Consolidation and Removal of Backup Internet connection	(32)
Reduction to Performance Management team	(50)
Children, Adults and Families	
Therapeutic Support Team	(100)
Increase in-house Foster Carers	(200)
Continuation of current discharge to assess model	(1,000)
Delete/ review vacancies	(200)
Extend the Shared Lives offer	(250)
Total	(8,117)

Gateshead Council Budget Consultation 2021/22 Feedback and Impact Assessment Statements

Introduction

1. The Council sought views its budget options as part of the Budget setting process for 2021/22.
2. With an estimated funding gap of £58.4m anticipated over the next five years, and £18.6m identified for 2021/22, a set of budget options were developed using the Council's strategic approach "Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives", and the budgetary framework of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
3. From 19 January views on the budget options and council tax proposals were sought online, with a closing date of 9 February 2020.

Method

4. An online budget survey ran from 19 January until 9 February, with feedback enabled via the Council's consultation portal.
5. Promotion of the consultation was carried out using social media and Gateshead Now and was also publicised through Council News articles on the council website.
6. A Corporate Advisory Group was held for councillors to consider and comment on the context, budget approach and budget options.
7. Discussions have been held with key stakeholders including trade unions, community and voluntary sector organisations, as well as the North-East England Chamber of Commerce. Formal submissions in response to the budget consultation have been received from key stakeholders including Connected Voice - on behalf of the VCS, Healthwatch Gateshead, GMB and Unison trade unions .

Public Consultation

8. Overall, there has been a good response in the number of people who have engaged with the Council on its budget consultation.
9. The following data has been gathered from the council website, social media and emails:
 - Council budget news article webpage views totalled 3,893
 - Budget consultation webpage views totalled 7,203
 - Gateshead Now email featured the budget consultation on two occasions, with a total of 3,107 clicks
 - Seven Twitter posts received 13,452 impressions and 473 engagements
 - Seven Facebook posts achieved a reach of 54,236 people (9,151 liked, commented or shared the posts and there were 399 comments)
 - 15 emails received into budgetconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk

10. There were 425 respondents by Gateshead residents, via the consultation portal, to the questions regarding Council Tax.
 - 48% said they tend to agree or strongly agree with applying a 3% increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept, with 47% saying tend to disagree or strongly disagree
 - 51% said they tend to agree or strongly agree with a 1.99% increase in Council Tax (Council's element) to assist in the funding of essential local services next year, with 45% saying tend to disagree or strongly disagree
11. There were 489 comments received via the consultation portal, on the Council's budget options, and a further 154 general comments submitted, the results of which are attached at **Appendix 3a below**.
12. 440 respondents answered the question should the Council target its resources to support the most vulnerable residents in Gateshead, with 59% saying strongly agree or tend to agree, whilst 35% saying strongly disagree or tend to disagree.
13. The most commented on budget options highlighted by respondents to the consultation were the public health and wellbeing offer review, e-billing of council tax and benefit notifications, review of day services, removal of the thrive fund and commission a long-term home care service.
14. In addition, there were a significant number of general comments made by respondents to the budget consultation. Initial analysis of these shows the greatest numbers of comments were on not increasing council tax, how to make efficiencies within the council and against the reduction of budget for leisure and libraries.

Trade Unions

15. Although recognising the budget planning process this year has been exceptional (see consultation section within appendix 1), the Council remains committed to continual constructive engagement with its recognised trade unions, whose contributions are welcomed and valued. While consultation on the proposals was indeed later than in previous years, this was the case for all stakeholders, including Cabinet and the wider Council membership. As highlighted in the workforce management section of appendix 1, formal redundancy consultation will take place, as necessary, when proposals for service changes relating to budget reductions are developed at appropriate times throughout the year.
16. Trade Unions have been thanked for their engagement to date and the representation they have made.

Other public consultation

17. Over the past twelve months there have been a number of consultations undertaken by the Council that have helped to inform council policy, including:
 - Covid-19 Household Impact survey
 - Tackling Climate Change in Gateshead
 - School Admission Arrangements for 2022
 - Making Spaces for Growing Places 2020
 - Kingsmeadow Community School Sixth Form Consultation
 - Sports and Leisure Facility Management Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020
 - Gateshead Home Adaptations Policy
 - Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service Review
 - Public Space Protection Order in Gateshead Town Centre 2020

- Gateshead Quays Multi-Storey Car Park and Baltic Quarter North/South Link Road
- Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document - Second Review

Integrated Impact Assessment

18. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives identifies a commitment to reduce the levels of inequality that are apparent within the borough.
19. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Nearly 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas.¹
20. The population of Gateshead is ageing: it is projected that by 2041 there will be an additional 12,100 people aged 65 or older, an increase of 31%. There will also be a slight decrease in the number of children and young people aged 0-15 of around 1,100 or 3.2%.²
21. To achieve a balanced budget in 2020/21, the Council has reviewed its base budget. This has resulted in a 5-year approach identifying growth or invest to save to help achieve council priorities. Some proposals to be developed during 2021/22 could change service provision that directly supports the protected characteristics as defined under the Equality Act 2010.
22. An integrated impact assessment (IIA) will be developed for any budget proposal brought forward for decision. This IIA approach considers any impact, whether negative or positive, on the protected characteristics alongside health, environment, socio-economic disadvantage and takes into account cumulative impact. The Council's role will be to mitigate the levels of disproportionate impact identified in the integrated impact assessments, wherever possible, following implementation of proposals.
23. Updated impact assessments have been published following feedback from the budget consultation survey and initial engagement undertaken with employees, service users and stakeholders.
24. This year a number of budget proposals will be undertaking additional consultation and engagement as part of a review of the council service or activity. At this point it is not possible to identify the likely impact on employees or service users until reviews have developed specific proposals in more detail. Impact assessments will be reviewed throughout the development of these budget options during 2021/22 and updated as knowledge of any likely impact is understood.
25. The consultation issues raised through the initial budget consultation process have been considered. Following consideration of many factors including the consultation responses themselves, the deliverability and impact of the budget options, the overall financial position of the Council, and the specific potential impact of this proposal, it is proposed not to take forward the commissioning of the Council's long term home care service and all service users / family carers were directly notified of that decision.

¹ Index of Multiple Deprivation, MHCLG 2019

² ONS 2016 based sub national population projections, 2016 (ONS website).

Voluntary and Community Sector

26. The Council continues to value the contribution of the community and voluntary sector in Gateshead and the significant impact that is made in supporting residents across the borough. The Council will engage, support and collaborate with the voluntary sector leaders groups and through developing relationships with key community partners look to mitigate the impact of the Council's budget proposals by bring forward new ways of working to meet the needs of residents and securing funding from external sources.
27. The Strategic Lead for Poverty and Inequality has and will continue to forge new relationships establish pre pandemic and as part of the community response to Covid-19 to ensure ongoing support to residents who are vulnerable and continue to require help and support with the assistance of the Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering Team.
28. The Council's relationship with Connected Voice remains strong and the collective capacity building that results will ensure the VCSE continues to receive help and support from the Council and this key partner.

Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health Statement of Assessment of Impact on Health and Wellbeing of Gateshead Council's Budget Proposals (2021/22)

Purpose of the Health Impact Statement

This statement:

- provides a brief overview of current health and wellbeing challenges in Gateshead in the context of austerity and welfare reform and Covid-19
- highlights the potential health impact of the Council's budget proposals on the delivery of the Thrive agenda and sets out key areas relevant for mitigation.

The Council takes its statutory duty, 'to protect and improve the public's health', seriously and recognises that many Council activities impact upon health and wellbeing. Consequently, it is important that an assessment of the health and wellbeing impact of all the Council's budget proposals is undertaken.

In the context of a prolonged period of austerity which has been amplified by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, this health impact approach aims to:

1. Understand which proposals will result in the least negative impact.
2. Understand any negative consequences, which may require mitigation.

The purpose of this statement is to reflect on work undertaken across the Council to assess the impact of the budget approach and provide a **high-level overview** statement of impact and mitigation.

Principles of a health impact assessment

This health impact assessment statement has been completed to help the Council to consider the impact of the budget proposals (both positive and negative) on health and wellbeing, consistent with its Thrive agenda but recognising the complexity brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes:

- Direct impact on physical health, mental health and wellbeing e.g. it would cause or worsen ill health, or affect social inclusion, independence and participation;
- Impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health e.g. it would affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, green space or climate change;
- The effect on people's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing e.g. it would affect their ability to be physical active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking; or
- Change in demand for or access to health and social care services e.g. Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services.

These impacts may be observable in the short, medium or long term depending upon the nature of the proposal itself. The impacts may be felt by individuals or communities or by the population of Gateshead as a whole.

Budget Approach

The council is required to close a gap of £58.4m over the next five years with an £18.6m gap to be closed in 2021/22. A new budget approach which seeks to reduce this gap over a five-year period has been agreed. A set of budget options were developed using the Council's strategic approach "Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives", and the budgetary framework of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In addition, some areas of budget saving were taken in 2020/2021 but activity paused due to covid. These will arise from contract savings across the Council, facilities management and savings from a move to a Corporate Landlord model of ensuring a productive use of land and assets to deliver Thrive outcomes. These proposals may impact on the Council's ability to improve the health and wellbeing of Gateshead's residents. As this is the start of the process of ongoing consultation and engagement for some 2021/22 budget options, impact will be looked at as services further identify and develop how delivery may change in the future. In response the Council will assess possible impacts via Integrated Impact Assessments, including any health implications, to be considered as each saving proposal is brought forward for decision in-year.

Overview

In the year when COVID-19 entered our lives, the link between inequalities and poor health outcomes has become increasingly clear. As we are still in the pandemic phase, we are unable to fully quantify the impact of COVID-19 in Gateshead, but there are some early observations to make about the likely impacts on local people.

Recently published data suggests that the most deprived areas of England have twice the rate of deaths involving COVID-19 than the most affluent. But COVID-19 is not unique in this respect: inequalities in mortality have long been evident. Indeed, deaths from suicide, conditions such as liver disease and cancer as well as overall mortality rates, all show that death rates for people living in the most deprived areas of the country are higher than those in the least deprived. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Around 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England.

As Director of Public Health for Gateshead I am concerned that the Government funding for local authorities is under enormous pressure. Even prior to the pandemic funding had been constrained and in response to this the Council, like many others, has been forced into decisions to make savings in the short-term which are likely to have a detrimental impact on future sustainability.

Furthermore, the Council has received no indication of future funding beyond next year which presents a significant challenge to the effective management of the resourcing of vital services.

Whilst the Council will fulfil its responsibilities regarding duties set out in the Equality Act, I am concerned that protected groups may not be sufficiently protected due to the disproportionate cuts imposed on areas with high levels of deprivation.

Evidence suggests that COVID-19 may have a disproportionate impact on people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups. The relationship between ethnicity and health is complex and likely to be the result of a combination of factors. People of BAME communities are likely to be at increased risk of acquiring the infection.

BAME communities are also likely to be at increased risk of poorer outcomes if they acquire COVID-19. For example, people of Bangladeshi and Pakistani background have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than people from White British ethnicity, and people of Black Caribbean and Black African ethnicity have higher rates of hypertension compared with other ethnic groups.

COVID-19 has affected different sections of the population to different degrees. As the pandemic goes on, we are becoming more aware of groups who are at risk for many different reasons.

We also know that during the COVID-19 lockdown that social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, has resulted in increased levels of gender-based violence. Many have been forced to 'lockdown' at home with an abusive partner while services to support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible. Our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 will become clearer in the future as we are better able to analyse and understand the data and experiences of different groups.

The longer-term and largest consequences of the 'lockdown' for health inequalities will be through political and economic choices. Economists fear that the economic impact will be far greater than the financial crisis of 2007/2008, and they say that it is likely to be worse in depth than the Great Depression.

The economic pain inflicted by COVID-19 will be felt unequally across the UK. Compared to the UK as a whole, the North East and the North West of England both have a higher proportion of employment in 'shutdown sectors' such as retail and manufacturing.

The closure of our schools will potentially increase educational inequality, as it is most likely to impact the most disadvantaged young people through their time in education and into the workplace.

In Early Years education, even in normal circumstances, the poorest children are already 11 months behind their better-off peers before they even start at school. There are significant risks of both short term and long-term impacts on the most disadvantaged children, who may not have a suitable home learning environment. Extra support will be needed for many children when returning to school.

Early research suggests that the pandemic and subsequent measures are having significant impacts on the mental health of children and young people. This group are already at higher risk of developing mental health issues compared with adults. Children are experiencing increased anxiety and stress about the virus, and school closures and social distancing measures have led to a loss of structure and social contact. Such circumstances, coupled with reductions in support services, will lead to a range of poor mental health outcomes.

Children and young people from certain groups (such as those from poorer households, young carers and those with disabilities) are already disproportionately affected by higher levels of mental health issues. For example, one study found that children from the poorest 20% of UK households are four times as likely to have serious mental health difficulties by the age of 11 as those from the wealthiest 20%. Experts express concern that the COVID-19 outbreak may widen these mental health inequalities, as well as increasing the overall prevalence of mental health issues in children.

Women make up almost 80% of the health and social care workforce and as such they are most exposed to COVID-19. This has impacted on women's mental well-being and inequalities, particularly amongst women who are single mothers. Single mothers are less likely to own houses, cars, and the most at risk for depression. The complexity of these many stresses on family life and the impact of these inequalities, will become apparent in the future.

In combination, austerity, welfare reform and the impact of Covid-19 provide a perfect storm, where outcomes for those most disadvantaged in Gateshead are set to get progressively worse.

Mitigation

It is noted that any savings have the potential to be detrimental to health and wellbeing. Therefore, our decisions on how and where to implement those savings should be consistent with the five Council Pledges as part of the Thrive agenda to:

- Put people and families at the heart of everything we do
- Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
- Support our communities to support themselves and each other
- Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough
- Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead.

In addition, consideration should be given to the aims of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Gateshead:

- Give every child the best start in life (with a focus on the first 3 years of a child's life)
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all, in accordance with international law on economic and social rights
- Create and develop sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

While the Council has no choice but to make savings to meet the budget cuts allocated by central Government, the identification of priority areas is positive and as they are set out above these are congruent with improved public health and wellbeing as part of the Thrive agenda. However, they should be closely monitored during their implementation to ensure that the desired positive outcomes are being realised. If this is not the case, then there needs to be flexibility built in to enable timely changes to prevent any detrimental impact.

The five strategic mitigations identified in 2019/20 remain pertinent and the decision to invest in priority areas over a five-year period suggests progress on them has been made. I believe that they should continue to be applied as the Council progresses with more integrated approaches in support of Thrive:

- 1. Health in all policies** – I consider that the Thrive pledges provide a strategic framework for the Council, and its partners, to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our community in all our decision-making processes. Implementation of a health in all policies approach will ensure that negative impacts are understood so mitigation can be implemented where possible.
- 2. Proportionate resourcing based on need** – The pledge to put people and families at the heart of everything we do and tackle inequality, so people have a fair chance underpins everything we do and should remain central to the budget decisions. In this context it is vital that the Council considers those proposals, however unpalatable, that will have the ‘least worst’ impact on the communities, families and individuals most in need. This means that difficult decisions will have to be made so that resources are proportionately used based on need (e.g. those who are most in need will receive the greatest level of support).
- 3. Working with and for communities** – With regard to mitigating the potential negative impact, I consider that our partners and our communities will be able to design and/or offer some solutions to the challenges faced by our communities. There are many examples where the community and VCS organisations have been able to effectively take on some of the work that was previously done by the council (e.g. asset transfers for Community Centres and responsibility for maintenance of parks and leisure spaces). A focus should be on enabling those communities that are able to do more for themselves to have greater freedom to lead work in their local community. At the same time, we must ensure support is proportionately targeted to communities which require more assistance in gaining the confidence to lead work in their community.
- 4. Strengthen our partnerships** – It is vital that our focus remains on nurturing and strengthening the partnerships and relationships that we have. In view of the pledge to work together and to fight for a better future for Gateshead, we need to work together as a whole system including with local partners and communities. This will go some way to minimise the impacts of the proposed budget reductions and help to protect the people of Gateshead.
- 5. Focus on the whole budget** – In the future I would recommend a continued focus on maximising the use of the remaining budget, for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of people living in Gateshead, rather than focusing specifically on cuts.

Budget 2021-22 Survey results

Response (489 comments received on individual proposals and a further 154 general comments)	No. of comments
Review of Business Support (Children's Social Care)	18
Restructure of Children's Centres	17
Reduction in high cost placements from the recruitment of a Therapeutic Support Team - attraction of funding from CCG for clinical staff (Invest to Save agreed)	13
Increase the number of in-house foster carers particularly for sibling groups	12
Continuation of current discharge to assess model	13
Outcome based assessments and targeted reviews	13
Review Client Income and potentially increase some client charges. Remove automatic entitlement to some payments so they are more bespoke.	19
Extend the Shared Lives offer to improve the independence and outcomes for clients.	11
Close one Promoting Independence Centre (PIC) in preparation for the new build in 2022.	19
Redesign of all day services to develop an Activity Based Care function which will reduce the use of building based care but enable a more bespoke programme to be offered to clients which meets their interests and needs.	33
Review of in house supported living schemes. Commission three schemes from external providers. Develop complex reablement function for transitions, hospital discharge and people moving out of residential care.	20
Commission long term home care service	27
Public Health Wellbeing Offer - total budget 20% reduction (Leisure/ Libraries/ Culture)	135
Corporate Landlord Delivery Review	14
Remove the Thrive Fund	28
Property Services (Review of Corporate Property database)	17
Reduction to the establishment (Review of Financial Management)	20
Early Payment Programme	13
E-billing for council tax and notifications for benefits	47
I want to give general comments about the budget proposals	154

Analysis of general comments about the budget proposals	No. of comments
Council Tax should not be increased (reduce salaries, expenses, Cllrs etc.)	57
Make efficiencies e.g. sell land and property assets	25
Don't reduce budget for Leisure and Libraries	23
Don't spend on traffic schemes e.g. 20 mph zones / temp cycle lanes	18
The proposals are difficult to understand - need to be clearer	13
Don't reduce support for Children and Families	10
Spend more on clearing litter	8
Overall support / recognise difficult decisions	8
Save money through working in partnership more e.g. other authorities, VCS	7
Don't support the uneven distribution of resources across the borough	7
Don't support big projects e.g. further development of Gateshead Quays	5
More affordable housing needed	3
Invest more in parks	2
Other	6

Q. Are you a Gateshead resident?**(i.e. You pay your Council Tax to Gateshead Council)****This single response question was answered by 448 respondents.**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	425	94.9%
No	23	5.1%

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should apply a 3% increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept which will contribute towards the cost of services for older and vulnerable residents? (This will mean for most properties in Gateshead, which have a band A Council Tax, an increase of 70p per week)

This single response question was answered by 442 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents	% of Respondents (combined)
Strongly agree	90	20.4%	48.2%
Tend to agree	123	27.8%	
Tend to disagree	56	12.7%	47.3%
Strongly disagree	153	34.6%	
Don't know	20	4.5%	4.5%

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should also apply a 1.99% increase to Council Tax to fund essential local services? (This will mean for most properties in Gateshead, which have a band A Council Tax, an increase of 47p per week)

This single response question was answered by 440 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents	% of Respondents (combined)
Strongly agree	105	23.9%	51.1%
Tend to agree	120	27.3%	
Tend to disagree	59	13.4%	44.5%
Strongly disagree	137	31.1%	
Don't know	19	4.3%	4.3%

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should target its resources to support the most vulnerable residents in Gateshead?

This single response question was answered by 440 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents	% of Respondents (combined)
Strongly agree	115	26.1%	59.1%
Tend to agree	145	33.0%	
Tend to disagree	81	18.4%	34.8%
Strongly disagree	72	16.4%	
Don't know	27	6.1%	6.1%



Mr M Barker
Strategic Director Corporate Services & Governance
Gateshead Council
Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

10th February 2021

Dear Mike,

Budget Response – 2021/25

Below is the joint Trade Union response to the recently received budget proposals. We would again like to stress that these proposals were presented with no prior discussion or input from the TUs, which has been common practice for many years. This clearly moves away from the Council's stance of working in partnership with TU's on all matters – including budget setting. It should, by now, be well noted that we object in the most strenuous terms to this change but we are providing it again here in our formal response and would like this recorded in the TU response section of the upcoming reports to both Cabinet and Council.

Some of the proposals include again the potential outsourcing of services. This could see the transfer of services for some of Gateshead's most vulnerable residents into external providers, some of whom have inexcusable and proven employment and service delivery reputations implicitly designed to extract profit over care. Back in 2017 a huge amount of time effort was spent disputing both the budget savings and operational validity – whilst at the same time TU members deployed significant operational efficiencies. It is hugely disappointing and must be a source of concern these types of duplicitous and misleading proposals have emerged again.

We reiterate again that the council's unit cost for salaries is high due to the inflated overheads imposed by the Council. The only other ways the private sector can carry out these roles cheaper is by either reducing the service, offering staff poor wages and terms and conditions or more likely both.

Furthermore, additional savings have been sought from those areas Gateshead residents 'see and value' the most - especially during the incredibly troubling times we are now living through.

In response to specific proposals, we put forward the following;

1. **Adult Social Care - Transitions.** The TU's welcome this proposal, we have supported many similar initiatives over many years now. We would therefore appreciate regular updates on the effectiveness of this 'new' approach and the progress linked to the savings target.
2. **Adult Social Care - Project Delivery Support.** For many years now budget savings in this area have been linked to a categorised 'overspend.' However, we believe the council spend in this area is broadly consistent with other local authorities especially those who have **not** undertaken mass Adult Social Care outsourcing exercises. We would therefore again welcome a timely update on the data that suggests the council is overspending in this area. In response to the broader proposal - we have, and will continue to, support the council to make services efficient and effective, including reducing demand. However, reducing the overall cost of care cannot include outsourcing which results in the burden being picked up by some of our members in reduced pay, pension provision etc. whilst at the same time, vulnerable people receive a worse service. It's worth noting there is a growing resentment to outsourcing; a view shared by the leader who has repeatedly stated 'there are no real savings only a fragmented, worse service'. Observations we categorically agree with.

A56 Promoting Independence Centre (PIC) – Close one Unit.

TU's and members have worked constructively and understood the reasoning for creating one future PIC centre, however the decision to close one of the three PIC's before the new building has been created is creating concerns. It appears to be rushed due to budget pressures and has come as a shock to those staff who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic. Capacity concerns have also been raised i.e. demand for the service exceeds the new capacity and alternative provision will have to be sourced at a cost.

A58 Activity based Day services/reduction of buildings.

No discussions have taken place, therefore we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss these proposals in detail.

A59 Review Inhouse Independent supported Living Schemes.

As previously highlighted the TU's are disappointed this proposal has been submitted again given all the work that was undertaken in previous budget rounds. It became obvious then that outsourcing the service does not make the necessary savings and employees have worked hard with service users to reduce level of care and thus reducing the cost of the service. Evidentially, there is clearly no incentive for private providers to work with service users and their families to make them more independent - which ultimately reduces the level of care packages.

A510 Externalisation of the Long-Term Domiciliary Care Service.

Whilst we understand the service is progressing to a reablement based service we do have concerns about the proposal to outsource the remaining long- term provision before the care plans would naturally come to an end. Vulnerable residents would

undergo a big change, creating enormous levels of upset – all to achieve a relatively small saving.

3. **Children's Services - Therapeutic Support/4. Foster Plus/5. PAUSE.** We welcome this broad significant investment across the range of critical areas, However, we would welcome further discussions to look at the FTE implications over the five year plan.

6. **Children Services - LAC Advocate Post.** We welcome this initiative, however we would like to highlight for many years the TU's have challenged the continuous reductions in Youth Worker posts. Therefore, we would welcome timely discussions to establish why this investment is now needed to deal with a 'consequential impact on adolescences' when every stakeholder repeatedly highlighted these cuts made no logical sense.

7. **VCS.** No discussions have taken place. We would therefore welcome early discussions specifically around the review of Neighbourhood Management, promoting IAG and the detail around the redirection of resources and the additional savings target.

8. **Economic Growth and Redevelopment/9. Corporate Landlord.** No discussions have taken place, therefore we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss, these proposals in detail.

10. **Facilities Management.** We have and will continue to work closely with the service to develop an efficient, effective and compliant FM service. However, we would welcome ongoing discussions especially related to the proposed savings of 11 FTEs.

11. **Health and Well-being.** Again, we have concerns that £307,000 has been categorised as an overspend. We believe a significant amount of this overspend is as a direct result of costs associated to Gateshead Stadium. We would therefore welcome further discussions on the strategic plan for the stadium. The Health and Well-being service will never be able to come within budget whilst effectively subsidising the stadium and its external customers. If the Council are determined to retain GIS as a status symbol or to attract events then it should be removed from the HWB budget and funded centrally. A further point to note is libraries and culture have seen significant budget reductions for over a decade now and many of these remaining facilities/services are the last 'outposts' in our communities - any further reductions will have a devastating impact. With coronavirus highlighting socio-economic and digital divides, publicly accessible buildings with access to digital devices and well-informed staff who help facilitate this access is vital. We strongly object to any further proposed closures

12. **Environment and Street Scene.** We welcome these proposals especially the investment to tackle the stark and saddening reductions in environmental standards across Gateshead. We

further welcome this will be achieved employing local people and good quality apprenticeships.

13. **Housing.** No discussions have taken place, therefore we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss these proposals.
14. **Climate change.** We welcome this proposal and would appreciate having sight of the audit on its completion.
15. **a Recommissioning** - previous response attached. **b Communication Research and Intelligence** – previous response attached **c. Improved Customer Experience** - we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss, in detail - these proposals.
16. **Services to Schools** - we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged to discuss these proposals.
17. **Community Wealth Building** - No discussions have taken place, therefore we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss these proposals.
18. **Management Reviews** - No discussions have taken place, therefore we would appreciate timely detailed discussions to be quickly arranged by the budget holder/Director to discuss these proposals in detail.

As always we are committed to working closely with the Council for the benefit of our members and the communities we live in. Historically, the Council itself and, by implication, the wider community we all serve have benefitted from close collaboration with the recognised Trade Unions and, once again, we must emphasise our strong wish that such co-operation can be restored to see us through the current challenges.

Yours Sincerely,

Dave Smith
Karen McArthur
Kim Convery
UNISON

Dave Newton
GMB

Mark Gallon
UNITE

UNISON
Basement Office, Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

Financial Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Collection rates for retained business rates and council tax are lower than anticipated and therefore shortfall of funding to the collection fund	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of bad debt provisions • Regular monitoring of the collection fund performance • Collection rates are monitored by senior management
The impact of appeals is higher than expected affecting the amount of business rate funding projected	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earmarked risk reserve • Financial monitoring framework • Modelling of potential impacts is used to inform financial planning and completion of the NNDR1 estimates.
The cost of pay awards, fee increases, and price inflation is higher than assumed leading to a budget shortfall in service	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency budget set aside for this purpose. • Monitoring of Brexit impacts by officers.
Future spending plans are underestimated leading to a budget shortfall	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service planning process identifies future budget pressures, and these inform indicative budget forecasts and planned into the MTFS.
Anticipated savings, efficiencies or income targets not achieved leading to significant overspends	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • Non-achievement of savings requires performance managed action plans and compensating reductions in planned spending within services. • Contingency sums and general reserve funds are available to cover any significant unforeseen events. • Full review of fees and charges undertaken on an annual basis
Budget monitoring not effective leading to a Council overspend position putting a strain on the general reserve	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk budgets are monitored monthly. • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • All budget managers have access to real time financial information via the council's financial system. • Action plans developed to address problem areas. Regular reports to senior management and Cabinet. Strong track record of delivering budget.
Insufficient general and earmarked reserve balances leading to insufficient funds to deal with unforeseen cost pressures	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% minimum general reserve balance of the net revenue budget. • The General Reserve is supplemented by earmarked reserves that are set aside to cover material risk or events. • Reserves are reviewed annually both in budget setting and in the Council's MTFS.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Loss of principal deposit leading to a loss of Council reserves. Reputational risk to the Council.	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy controls prioritise security of deposit over returns. • Diverse portfolio with top rated institutions and internal funding. • Investment limits in place so that only counterparties who have government backing are used • A maximum of £20m invested with any one counterparty.
Interest rates lower than expected leading to lower investment income being realised to revenue than budgeted.	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review, monitoring and reporting on interest rates. Prudent approach and consideration of scenarios to inform financial planning.
Increase in PWLB borrowing interest rates leading to the Council paying higher interest rates on borrowing than budgeted.	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of borrowing requirement to fund the capital programme and imminent loan maturities. • Forecast interest rate increases built into budget setting.
Lack of internal controls leading to rogue spend and overspend of budget	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's system of internal control is set out in the Council's Constitution. • Internal control system is continuously reviewed by the Council's Internal Audit service, which gives an overall annual assessment of the adequacy of the Council's internal control systems to inform the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) • All managers have a responsibility to install and maintain effective internal control systems demonstrated through AGS • Service Directors are required to confirm annually that they have in place effective financial planning and budgetary control procedures in place
Revenue cost of capital is higher than expected leading to a budget shortfall	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital bid framework identifies revenue implications, and these are assessed and considered in scenario planning. • Monitoring of capital projects funding is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis as part of the capital monitoring process. • Use of the Council's treasury management advisors to assist in determining the most appropriate time to undertake new borrowing and rescheduling of existing loans.
Changes to Government policy including health and social care integration and welfare reform impacting on cost of services	Likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best estimates of funding impacts related to Government policy are factored into the MTFs. Estimates are prudent and based upon consideration of finance networks experience. Any specific areas of uncertainty are identified and subject to focussed activity and review.

Significant financial impacts of UK's exit from the European Union on 31 January 2020 leading to less income or increased costs	Possible	Medium/ High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative working with treasury advisors and financial networks to assess potential budget impacts whilst the Government attempts to ensure an effective transition to a new economic relationship between the UK and the EU. New burden costs will be logged and raised with Government. Any known potential implications will be considered annually as part of the council's MTFS review.
Significant financial impacts arising from COVID-19	Likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular financial monitoring of impact on revenue and capital. • Maximising the government support and grants available to claim • Regular impact returns submitted to Government. • Lobbying through network groups such as LGA, SIGOMA etc

Conclusion;

Although the financial context continues to be increasingly challenging, the Council has a strong track record of identifying and delivering significant savings and delivering the budget supported by a framework of effective financial planning. This approach will need to continue to ensure that a sustainable medium-term financial position can be maintained.

ESTIMATED USE OF RESERVES

	ACTUAL		ESTIMATED PROJECTIONS		
	Balance		Balance		Balance
Gateshead Reserves	1-Apr-20	Movement	31-Mar-21	Movement	31-Mar-22
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<u>General Fund</u>					
General Reserve	(11,059)	0	(11,059)	0	(11,059)
LMS (School) Budget Share Reserve *	(5,479)	(500)	(5,979)	1,000	(4,979)
Total General Fund Reserve	(16,538)	(500)	(17,038)	1,000	(16,038)
<u>Earmarked Fund Reserves</u>					
Financial Risk and Resilience	(14,161)	353	(13,808)	388	(13,420)
Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment	(8,404)	762	(7,642)	1,566	(6,076)
Poverty, Health and Equality Investment	(7,293)	402	(6,891)	588	(6,302)
COVID Funding	(7,593)	7,593	0	0	0
Developers' Contributions *	(1,762)	192	(1,570)	444	(1,125)
Dedicated Schools Grant *	(1,211)	0	(1,211)	0	(1,211)
Unapplied Revenue Grants *	(1,316)	200	(1,116)	447	(670)
Public Health *	(1,651)	108	(1,543)	321	(1,222)
Total Earmarked Fund Reserves	(43,391)	9,610	(33,781)	3,754	(30,026)
Total Reserves	(59,929)	9,110	(50,819)	4,754	(46,064)

* Ring fenced - not available to support the revenue budget & council tax requirement

General Fund

The General Fund is made up of two reserves as follows:

General Reserve

This acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen expenditure. The Council is required to maintain a General Reserve of 5% of its net budget as a minimum which is circa £11m.

Schools LMS

Combined with the General Reserve, this reserve forms part of the General Fund but use of this reserve is ring-fenced to schools and there is a duty to report planned use to Schools Forum. The reserve is made up of individual balances relating to each maintained school.

Earmarked Reserves**Financial Risk and Resilience**

This reserve was created to set aside funds in respect of key financial risks identified through the risk management process and the savings required as part of the Council MTFs. The key financial risks identified include grant clawback, business rates, insurance and workforce pressures.

Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment

This reserve was created to stimulate economic growth and to tackle environmental issues across the borough. It provides funding to support the key themes which underpin the MTFS and the Thrive agenda.

Poverty, Health and Equality Investment

The reserve was created to support the Anti-Poverty Strategy and to alleviate the impact of welfare reform and austerity on the residents of Gateshead, which is consistent with Thrive priorities.

Earmarked Reserves – Ring Fenced

Developer Contributions

This reserve consists of developer contributions in respect of agreed regeneration schemes following Section 38 and 106 agreements. The movement on the reserve will fluctuate depending on the use of the contributions to support regeneration schemes such as play areas in new housing developments.

Dedicated Schools Grant

This reserve is ring-fenced for schools use and cannot be used for other priorities within the Council. Use of this reserve will be agreed by Schools Forum.

Unapplied Revenue Grants / Receipts

This reserve was created as a result of changes to the Accounting Code of Practice whereby unused grants and contributions, without conditions attached, should be appropriated to reserves to fund future expenditure rather than creating creditors on the Balance Sheet. The reserve represents proper accounting treatment.

Public Health

The responsibility for Public Health transferred to local authorities on the 1 April 2013. The funding is ring-fenced for future Public Health use.

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS

1. The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2019/20 and the estimates of capital expenditure to be incurred for the current and future years that are recommended for approval are: -

	2019/20 £000 Actual	2020/21 £000 Estimate	2021/22 £000 Estimate	2022/23 £000 Estimate	2023/24 £000 Estimate	2024/25 £000 Estimate	2025/26 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	59,458	57,319	117,265	86,436	47,866	25,060	17,078
HRA	20,070	20,093	25,603	20,720	20,445	18,725	18,775
Total	79,528	77,412	142,868	107,156	68,311	43,785	35,853

2. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2019/20 are: -

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Estimate	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Non-HRA	11.08%	17.40%	18.59%	19.97%	20.56%	20.52%	20.76%
HRA	40.51%	44.25%	42.39%	36.64%	35.83%	32.65%	32.15%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in this budget report.

3. The actual Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March 2020 and estimates of the end of year Capital Financing Requirement (excluding PFI) for the Council for the current and future years are: -

	31/03/20 £000 Actual	31/03/21 £000 Estimate	31/03/22 £000 Estimate	31/03/23 £000 Estimate	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	359,575	378,413	441,220	499,956	521,932	521,735	514,483
HRA	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505
Total	705,080	723,918	786,725	845,461	867,437	867,240	859,988

4. The Capital Financing Requirement measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In accordance with best professional practice, the Council does not associate borrowing with particular items or types of expenditure. The Council has an integrated treasury management strategy and has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Council has, at any point in time, a number of cash flows both positive and negative, and manages its treasury position in terms of its borrowing and investments in accordance with its approved treasury management strategy and practices. In day to day cash management, no distinction can be made between revenue cash and capital cash. External borrowing arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the Council and not simply those arising from capital spending. In contrast, the Capital Financing Requirement reflects the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

5. CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities includes the following as a key indicator of prudence: -

"In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Financing Requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional Capital Financing Requirement for the current and next two financial years."

The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital reports that the Council had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2019/20, nor are any difficulties envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this budget report.

The following table shows the actual external debt against the underlying capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), highlighting any over or under borrowing.

	31/03/20 £000 Actual	31/03/21 £000 Estimate	31/03/22 £000 Estimate	31/03/23 £000 Estimate	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate
Actual gross debt at 31 March	694,738	678,033	743,423	802,159	824,134	823,133	821,930
Capital Financing Requirement	705,080	723,918	786,725	845,461	867,437	867,240	859,988
Under / (over) borrowing	10,342	45,885	43,302	43,302	43,303	44,107	38,058

6. In respect of its external debt, it is recommended that the Council approves the following Authorised Limits for its total external debt gross of investments for the next five financial years, and agrees the continuation of the previously agreed limit for the current year since no change to this is necessary. These limits separately identify borrowing from other long-term liabilities. The Council is asked to approve these limits and to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long-term liabilities, in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the Council. Any such changes made will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

Authorised Limit for External Debt					
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Borrowing	865,000	920,000	940,000	940,000	935,000

7. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital reports that these Authorised Limits are consistent with the Council's current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in this budget report for capital expenditure and financing and with its approved treasury management policy statement and practices. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that they are based on the estimate of most likely, prudent but not worst-case scenario, with sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for operational management, for example unusual cash movements. Risk analysis and risk management strategies have been taken into account, as have plans for capital expenditure, estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement and estimates of cash flow requirements for all purposes.
8. The Council is also asked to approve the following Operational Boundary for external debt for the same time period. The proposed Operational Boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit, but reflects directly the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst-case scenario, without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit to allow, for example, for unusual cash movements, and equates to the maximum of external debt projected by this estimate. The Operational Boundary represents a key management tool for in year monitoring by the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital. Within the Operational Boundary, figures for borrowing and other long-term liabilities are separately identified. The Council is also asked to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital within the total Operational Boundary for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed figures for borrowing and other long-term liabilities, in a similar fashion to the Authorised Limit. Any such changes will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

<i>Operational Boundary for External Debt</i>					
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Borrowing	850,000	905,000	925,000	925,000	920,000

9. The Council's actual external debt at 31 March 2019 was £650.341m comprising £650.341m borrowing and no other long-term liabilities. It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time.
10. In taking its decisions on this budget report, the Council is asked to note that the Authorised Limit determined for 2021/22 (see paragraph 6 above) will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
11. The Council shall ensure that the revenue implications of capital finance, including financing costs, are properly taken into account within option appraisal processes, the capital programme and the medium-term forecast. In assessing affordability, the Council will consider the council tax implications of its capital programme, borrowing and investment decisions.

12. The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (2017), which requires key Treasury Management indicators.
13. The purpose of these indicators is to contain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby reducing the risk or likelihood of an adverse movement in interest rates or borrowing decisions impacting negatively on the Council's overall financial position. However, if these indicators were set to be too restrictive, they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs.
14. It is recommended that the Council sets upper and lower limits for the maturity structure of its fixed and variable rate borrowings as follows: -

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	19%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	21%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	27%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	22%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	18%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	44%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	46%	0%
50 years and above	16%	0%

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Variable Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	20%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	20%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	20%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	20%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	20%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	20%	0%
50 years and above	20%	0%

15. It is recommended that the Council sets an upper limit on its principal sums invested for periods longer than 365 days for the next five years as follows: -

<i>Upper Limit on amounts invested beyond 365 days</i>					
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Investments	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT 2021/22

The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the charge made to the revenue account to reflect the repayment of borrowing where the Council has a positive Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This is the mechanism by which council tax payers fund capital expenditure that has been supported by borrowing.

In accordance with regulations and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 21 (1A) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council is required to calculate an amount of MRP each year which is considered to be prudent. The guidance includes four options with the broad aim of a prudent provision being to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with the period where the capital expenditure is expected to provide benefits.

The legislation requires the Council to prepare a statement of its policy on making MRP before the start of each financial year.

Supported Borrowing MRP

From 2017/18 MRP relating to capital expenditure financed from borrowing taken before 1 April 2008 is calculated at a fixed 2% of the opening CFR relating to capital expenditure incurred prior to 1 April 2008. This will make provision to fully repay the borrowing over a 50 year term.

Unsupported or Prudential Borrowing MRP

MRP relating to capital expenditure financed from borrowing taken after 1 April 2008 will be calculated using the Asset Life method. This makes provision over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken.

The MRP will normally commence in the financial year following the one in which the expenditure is incurred, but in accordance with the guidance an additional MRP holiday can be taken until the period in which the asset becomes operational, particularly in the case of complex major projects.

The estimated useful life is aligned to the Council's asset register where possible, however the Council does have the flexibility to assign an alternative life to capital expenditure, provided this satisfies the requirement to make a prudent provision and is considered to reasonably reflect the anticipated period of the benefits arising from the investment.

If no life can reasonably be attributed to an asset, such as freehold land, the life is taken to be a maximum of 50 years. However, in the case of freehold land on which a building or other structure is constructed, the life of the land may be treated as equal to that of the structure where this exceeds 50 years. The estimated life of the asset is determined in the year that MRP commences and is not usually subject to further revision.

Where borrowing is used to meet expenditure, which is treated as capital expenditure by virtue of a capitalisation direction, the life is set at a maximum of 20 years in accordance with the statutory guidance.

For assets with an expected life of less than 25 years, MRP is calculated using the Equal Instalment method. This makes a fixed provision each year over the life of the asset.

For assets with an expected life in excess of 25 years, primarily major projects and construction works to significant value assets, MRP is calculated using the Annuity method. This approach is used where the flow of benefits from an asset is expected to increase over time, as the MRP is lower in earlier years and increases over the lifetime of the asset. The MRP is the principal element for the year of the annuity required to repay the capital investment in the asset that has been funded using borrowing.

Housing Revenue Account MRP

In managing the HRA debt and considering the HRA business plan there is no mandatory requirement to make provision in the HRA for annual MRP payments. The provision to repay debt within the HRA is balanced with the need for investment in the stock and any voluntary provision to repay debt will be determined when closing the HRA subject to affordability considerations.

PFI Assets and assets held as Finance Leases

For assets accounted for as on-balance sheet relating to PFI contracts and finance leases (or, when applicable, leases where a right-of-use asset is on the balance sheet) the MRP charge is based upon the annual principal payment specified within the financial model. No additional charges are included above those within the contract. Where a lease (or part of a lease) or PFI contract is brought onto the balance sheet, having previously been accounted for off-balance sheet, the MRP requirement would be regarded as having been met by the inclusion in the charge for the year in which the restatement occurs, of an amount equal to the write-down for that year plus retrospective writing down of the balance sheet liability that arises from the restatement.

Long-Term Capital Loans

The Council has provided capital loans within the Capital Programme to facilitate additional development within Gateshead, particularly relating to affordable housing. The annual repayments of the principal amounts are treated as capital receipts and set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow, rather than making a revenue MRP charge.

Voluntary Provision

In accordance with the guidance, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has the discretion to make additional voluntary provision, subject to affordability considerations, which can result in reductions to the MRP charge for future years.

Projected MRP Charge

An analysis of the projected MRP Charge for 2021/22 over the different calculation methodologies and components is set out in the table below:

Projected MRP Charge 2021/22		£m
Capital Programme	Investment funded by Supported Borrowing and Prudential Borrowing prior to 1 April 2008	2.5
	Asset Life Method – Equal Instalment	4.0
	Asset Life Method – Annuity Method	8.1
PFI	Annuity Method	3.2
Voluntary Provision	General Fund	0.0
	Housing Revenue Account	0.0
Total Projected MRP Charge		17.8

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