

CABINET AGENDA

Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 10.00 am in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for absence
2	Minutes (Pages 5 - 12) Cabinet is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 October 2022. Key Decisions
3	Public Health and Wellbeing Group Review - Library update (Pages 13 - 26) Report of the Director of Public Health
4	Household Support Fund (Pages 27 - 32) Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities
5	Better Care Fund 2022/23 Submission for Gateshead (Pages 33 - 40) Report of the Strategic Director, Integrated Adults and Social Care Services
6	Department for Education- Multiply Funding (Pages 41 - 50) Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning
7	Short Breaks for Children with Complex Needs - St Oswald's Hospice (Pages 51 - 56) Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning
8	Local Transport Plan: Capital Programme Mid-Year Update (October 2022) (Pages 57 - 82) Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
9	Winter 2022-23 Energy Tariffs for Gateshead HEIGHTs (Pages 83 - 90) Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

Recommendations to Council

10 Climate Emergency Strategy

ITEM DEFERRED

11 Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 (Pages 91 - 102)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

12 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28 (Pages 103 - 140)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Non Key Decisions

13 Leisure Review: Future Delivery Options (Pages 141 - 210)

Report of the Director of Public Health

14 Response to Consultation (Pages 211 - 220)

Report of the Chief Executive

15 Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Pages 221 - 256)

Report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

16 Nomination of Local Authority School Governors (Pages 257 - 260)

Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

17 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Cabinet may wish to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) on the grounds indicated:

Item	Paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
18	2&3
19	3

Non Key Decisions

18 Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) Northeast Business Case (Pages 261 - 306)

Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

19

Domestic Abuse - Remodelling Accommodation and Support (Pages 307 - 336)

Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

Contact: Kevin Ingledeu Email: kevingledew@gateshead.gov.uk tel no: 0191 4332142,
Date: Monday, 17 October 2022

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon (Chair)

Councillors: C Donovan, J Adams, M Brain, A Douglas,
J McElroy, M McNestry and B Oliphant

Also in attendance: Councillors: R Beadle and JCWallace

C35 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors L Green and G Haley.

C36 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C37 **FUTURE PROGRAMME FOR THE SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS**

Consideration has been given to the proposal to develop evidence led programme of future Selective Landlord Licensing (SLL) schemes.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the proposal for evidence led assessment of potential areas of the borough that would benefit from Selective Landlord Licensing be approved.
 - (ii) That the proposal to consider at a future Cabinet meeting, details of the proposed areas and to receive and consider at that time a report on a proposed programme of SLL scheme implementation, subject to statutory public consultation, be approved.
 - (iii) That the financial impact of the necessary development work be noted.
 - (iv) That the intention to undertake a study into the impacts of SLL in meeting the Council's wider Thrive ambitions and in delivering its Health and Wellbeing strategic priorities be noted.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) There are high levels of private rented properties in some areas, and ineffective property and tenancy management by

some landlords is having a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable private renters and contributing to the impact of deprivation.

- (B) Without SLL it is not possible for the Council to focus any proactive intervention to protect residents within these areas from the impact of poorly managed privately rented homes.
- (C) The development of a programme of SLL that phases implementation over time, is necessary to ensure that the activity is achievable within the resources available and affordable to the Council.
- (D) Current schemes must continue to be resourced until they come to an end and development work for further schemes must be carried out at the same time.

C38 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2021/22

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to endorse the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2021/22.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to endorse the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2021/22 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to strengthen the Council's arrangements for oversight by councillors of governance, audit, risk management, the internal control framework, value for money and efficiency.

C39 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve a number of amendments to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to agree the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that the Constitution remains fit for purpose and that its aims and principles are given effect.

C40 TENANCY STRATEGY AND ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve a new Tenancy Strategy and Allocations Policy and for these documents to be included as part of the Council's policy framework.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the new Tenancy Strategy and Allocations Policy as set out in appendices 2 and 3 to the report and for these documents to

be included as part of the Council's policy framework.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure we are meeting all related statutory and regulatory requirements.
- (B) To deliver on our related strategies, including our Housing Strategy, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

C41

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS

Consideration has been given to recommending to Council the appointments of six Public Analysts in accordance with the requirements of the Food Safety Act 1990.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the appointments of the following named analysts as Public Analysts for the Council:

- Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
- Michelle Evans BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
- Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC
- Mary Butts MSc MChemA MRSC

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) It is a statutory requirement for Gateshead Council to appoint one or more public analysts who have a minimum qualification.
- (B) Public Analyst Scientific Services Ltd have successfully tendered to be the Public Analysts for the Council.

C42

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2022 - 2032

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the new Physical Activity Strategy for Gateshead and for the Strategy to be included as part of the Council's policy framework.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the new Physical Activity Strategy for Gateshead as set out in appendix 2 to the report and for the Strategy to be included as part of the Council's policy framework.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and ensure that the Council is well placed to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of the borough, alongside taking action to tackle increasing health inequalities within Gateshead.

- (B) To contribute to a wide range of range of individual, social, economic and environmental benefits which result from increased levels of physical activity.

C43

ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF NEWCASTLE GATESHEAD CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP FUNDING BY PUBLIC HEALTH ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Consideration has been given to a decision accept identified funds from the Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for use on health inequalities, using delegated powers, due to urgency required to accept funds within the timeframe available.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the receipt of funds from the CCG for use on Health Inequalities and the use of the delegated powers by the Director of Public Health to accept the funding and its projected uses in accordance with Schedule 5, Part 2 General Delegations to Managers, Paragraph (4) (e) of the Council's Constitution be noted.
 - (ii) That the award of a grant over three years to Edbert's House as set out in the report and within the Section 256 Agreement between the CCG and the Council be noted.
 - (iii) That the proposal that Public Health and Wellbeing develop an evidence-based options appraisal and business case to use the funds to tackle health inequalities through actions aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To inform Cabinet that the Director of Public Health used delegated powers set out in the constitution to accept the funds and projected uses within the limited timeframe available.
- (B) The Section 256 Agreement specified that approximately £380,000 of the funding was to be used to fund the project proposal for Edbert's House to build capacity for Health Equity and a pilot a community hub at Highfield, building on learning gained from the development of other hubs in Central, South and East Gateshead. The identified method for enabling this would be through provision of a grant agreement.
- (C) The Section 256 Agreement specifies that the funding transferred will be used specifically to address health inequalities. Public Health will ensure that that an evidence-based approach is developed, in line with identified health needs among the population, and aligned with the priorities and actions set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

C44 **PURCHASE OF REMINISCENCE INTERACTIVE THERAPY ACTIVITIES (RITA)**

Item withdrawn.

C45 **HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN**

Consideration has been given to the new Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the content of the new Housing Delivery Test Action Plan be approved.
 - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members be authorised to make any minor changes to the action plan, publish and if necessary, submit it to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To increase the amount of new housing delivered in the borough to meet local housing need and in line with the Core Strategy.
- (B) The requirement to publish an action plan in accordance with paragraph 75 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

C46 **NOMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

Consideration has been given to the nomination of Local Authority Governors to schools seeking to retain their Local Authority Governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

RESOLVED - That the nominations set out below be approved for a period of four years in accordance with the Schools' Instrument of Government:

School	Nomination	Date from
Glynwood Community Primary School	Cllr J Adams	06.12.22
Ravensworth Terrace Community Primary School	Cllr J McCoid	08.11.22
Wardley Primary School	Cllr S Potts	29.12.22

C47 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C48 **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PROGRAMME**

Consideration has been given to a proposed new Housing Development Strategy for Gateshead and to a new five-year Delivery Programme (2022-2027) confirming the planned development workstreams and individual schemes that will help to achieve the much-needed building of new homes across the borough.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the proposed Housing Development Strategy and five-year Delivery Programme be approved.
 - (ii) That the proposed actions detailed in the report to help ensure the successful delivery of the five-year programme be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To contribute towards the Council's housing delivery targets to create new homes including the provision of more affordable homes.
- (B) To contribute towards economic recovery and provide training, employment and socio-economic benefits for the residents and businesses of Gateshead.
- (C) To utilise the Council's land and property portfolio to support the Council's policy priorities.
- (D) To help decrease pressure on the Council to allocate further land in the Green Belt for housing.
- (E) To bring forward vacant Council owned sites for redevelopment.
- (F) To deliver the objectives of the Housing Strategy 2019-30.
- (G) To promote the regeneration of the urban area and redevelopment of brownfield land.

Copies of all reports and appendices referred to in these minutes are available online and in the minute file. Please note access restrictions apply for exempt business as defined by the Access to Information Act.

The decisions referred to in these minutes will come into force and be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days after the publication date of the minutes identified below unless the matters are 'called in'.

Publication date: 13 October 2022

Chair.....

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TITLE OF REPORT: Public Health and Wellbeing Group Review – Library update

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health

Purpose of the Report

1. To update on the public consultation on Library buildings in Gateshead and explore the options for the future of library services.

Background

2. Public libraries remain a statutory service required by the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act. This legislation requires a comprehensive and efficient service to meet the needs of the local population. The requirements are broad and do not specify how the service should be delivered.
3. The statutory duty to provide a library service remains, but there has been recognition as part of judicial reviews that the service provided by Councils can be changed as a result of severe budgetary pressures. The key challenge is to ensure that service changes are reasonable and do not disproportionately impact on a specific group of residents, especially those protected by the Equality Act 2010.
4. A Libraries Needs Assessment has been carried out, this pulls together a range of information about the population, library usage, and benchmarking data. The Library review, as part of the wider Public Health and Wellbeing review, has highlighted that there is a need to continue to support local library services but that the existing library service model is not reaching enough residents, and services can be further developed for those most in need.

Proposal

5. The public consultation undertaken in November 2021 specifically considered changing 5 council buildings, from which library services are delivered, into VCS managed community spaces which would include library services as part of their offer.
6. After consultation with the staff and public about the role of libraries we are proposing that the 5 council library buildings consulted on (Leam Lane, Wrekenton, Pelaw, Chopwell and Crawcrook) will at this time remain under council management. The library offer in the buildings will not vary significantly from the current offer but the buildings use as a “community space” will be increased.
7. Community spaces have an important social function of bringing people together, addressing isolation, and being a safe space where anyone is welcome. Libraries

are already community spaces because of their existing position of trust within local communities, the contribution they make across a range of agendas, and their ethos of partnership working.

8. In the future the arrangement of library and other services within council buildings will vary from place to place and will be driven by local circumstances – success rests on reflecting and responding to local need so every community space will be different.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that Cabinet
 - (i) Approves the continued use of the 5 Council Library buildings as currently configured.
 - (ii) Approves the transformation of the services within those buildings to support the Councils emerging locality approach.

For the following reasons:

- i. To enable officers to make changes within Library Services to align the service offer with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- ii. To conclude the public consultation process on library services.

Policy Context

1. In February 2021 Cabinet accepted a budget report for 2021/22, in which the Public Health and Wellbeing (PHW) Group was required to identify a £1.2million saving. This report provides an update on progress of the PHW service review in respect of Libraries.

Background

2. The service review began in February 2021, following agreement of the budget saving for PHW offer by Cabinet, and there have been detailed discussions with Cabinet members and service leads over the last few months.
3. The library and heritage service is developing a new model of operation that puts a greater emphasis on 'locality working', in the context of delivering the broad outcomes, and specific targets, of the Gateshead Health and Well-being strategy, to 'help everyone be as well as they can be'.

Consultation

4. The Library consultation ran from Monday 15th November 2021 to Friday 4th February 2022 and information was collected across a range of sources.
 - The Council digital consultation platform received 1226 submissions
 - Consultation meetings were held with ward councillors
 - 20 focus group sessions were held with 152 local people
 - A series of open drop-in sessions were held in libraries to take customer feedback
 - Library staff across all statutory libraries were consulted
 - Volunteers and organisations involved in the Gateshead volunteer libraries were invited to contribute.
5. The wide-ranging response to the public consultation demonstrated the depth of feeling from Library users about how important Libraries are to them. Much of the service delivered in local libraries is valued and the residents who responded to the consultation would like it to continue.
6. There was a recognition from most respondents that there is a need to change the way that some library buildings are run, to increase use and in doing so try to ensure that the buildings remain a useful and viable asset in communities. The full consultation return can be accessed at [Gateshead Council - Gateshead Library Service Consultation 2021](#)
7. The Cabinet Members for Culture, Sport and Leisure have been consulted and support the proposals.

Alternative Options

8. Building closures could deliver savings through staff redundancy. This option would reduce the number of buildings and staff available for locality working.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. Any financial implications will be brought to Cabinet at a later date if necessary.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance advises that there are no direct human resources consequences resulting from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance advises that there are no direct property issues resulting from this report.

10. Risk Management Implication -

There are no risk management implications resulting directly from this report.

11. Equality and Diversity Implications -

There is evidence from previous reviews that the library service is heavily used by specific protected groups, including young people, older residents and residents with disabilities, however the change in building use, involving wider community partners has the potential to have a positive impact on equality and diversity. An Integrated impact assessment for this proposal is submitted with this report. The initial assessment has been revised following the results of the previous public consultation which helped us to define and understand any potential impact on library service users with protected characteristics.

12. Crime and Disorder Implications –

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

13. Health Implications –

The library service contributes to well-being. The proposed model has the potential to develop new positive health outcomes to be delivered the community spaces

14. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications -

There are no climate emergency or sustainability implications arising from this report.

15. Human Rights Implications -

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

16. Ward Implications

The views of the public and local councillors have been a part of the consultation process. There are no ward implications.

Appendix 2

Library Service Review – Integrated Impact Assessment (see separate document)

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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<p>Title of proposal:</p> <p>Public Health Wellbeing Offer – Review</p> <p>Library transformation plan</p>	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Description of potential mitigation
<p>Equality impact: (✓ all that apply. The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>Description of impact: Long Term proposal to develop a transformative approach to Public Health and Wellbeing in supporting delivery of Thrive and the Health and Wellbeing strategy.</p> <p>The Council has identified possible ways to reduce service costs by changing the way some of its buildings are run and by changing the way it delivers library services across the borough. This is a part of a 3-year transformation plan.</p> <p>The idea of a library offer being part of a community space alongside other services is not a new one.</p>	x				x					<p>Activities will be proportionately targeted to ‘vulnerable’ and ‘just coping’ communities to prevent inequality rather than ‘treat’ its symptoms.</p> <p>Propose a move away from dedicated building-based provision to the use of community and/or shared council facilities offering an ‘integrated wellbeing offer’ as part of the place-based working.</p> <p>We do not anticipate a negative impact on library users sharing protected characteristics. All library users could still access library services in local areas delivered in a different way.</p>



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<p>of library users and those who do not currently use the existing building / service.</p> <p>In the future our libraries will be managed differently and involve voluntary sector partners but it is not our intention to close any libraries</p> <p>We know from our data on current library members from the Gateshead Library Needs Assessment that the age is a protected characteristic where there could be an equality impact. A greater proportion of our library members are children and young people of school age and over 65s compared to the wider Gateshead population.</p> <p>We anticipate disability is a protected characteristic shared by a number of our library members due to the age profile of service users, with approx 25% over 65, and therefore more likely to have a health limiting condition or age related frailty.</p> <p>Our existing data on library users does not inform us of other protected characteristics.</p>		
<p>Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse)</p> <p>We know from our first phase of consultation – PHW survey Feb/Mar 2021 that many respondents feel libraries have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The transformation proposal doesn't mean the withdrawal or closure of library services. We are aiming to improve the range of things that are happening in the library buildings and to encourage local people to engage and steer the conversation about what they need locally.</p>	<p>A wider health and wellbeing offer delivered at a community level through an integrated place based approach will ensure that equality and equity of access is preserved. This could result in a positive impact on local health and wellbeing.</p>	



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<p>We hope that voluntary sector partners will bring their own services into the library building which will increase the opportunities for local people. This could be in the form of social support, advice services, targeted session for different age groups or just access to the building space to meet friends, in a safe space.</p> <p>While paid library staff may not be working from the building all of the time, access to the library will continue to be supported and visitors will still be able to borrow a book or use a computer etc during opening hours.</p> <p>Some library staff may work in different ways in the future and they will be able to take their services and support out into the community. This may mean running reading groups in community settings, supporting schools or other organisations with literacy or digital needs.</p>	
<p>Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth)</p> <p>The review will mean library staff working in deprived areas will be able to identify and develop service offers to target groups and communities of interest in most need. It is hoped that by bringing that offer out of the building and into the community, being more targeted in our approach, that more people will be able to gain confidence and skills which will enable them to be as well as they can be.</p>	<p>A wider health and wellbeing offer delivered at a community level through an integrated place based approach will ensure that equality and equity of access is preserved.</p> <p>As the PHW review progresses and options are brought forward modelling will include analysis of intelligence of our service users and local neighbourhoods for any socio-economic impact.</p>
<p>Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030?)</p> <p>All council buildings are monitored for their impact on the environment The building will still be owned by the council and all compliance aspects ensured</p>	<p>NA</p>



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)

As the PHW review progresses cumulative impact will be considered as options and proposals are brought forward for consultation. This impact assessment will continue to be reviewed and updated to reflect each stage of the review.

We do not believe a significant cumulative impact will result from the proposed different delivery model of library services.

Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment:

(eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)

Describe plan for consultation and engagement to take place during review

The initial proposal to review the Public Health and Wellbeing services was included in the Council Budget consultation survey which closed in Feb 2021. Feedback from the public indicated that the majority of respondents disagree with the proposals to reduce funding for libraries, leisure centres and the arts. Many talk about the positive physical and mental health benefits of libraries and leisure centres, and the added importance of these services post-pandemic. Some respondents were very supportive of the focus being on vulnerable and just coping, whilst others questioned this approach. Some respondents offered up alternative operating models e.g. privatisation, leisure trust. Some recognised opportunities to shift some forms of leisure centre activities 'outdoors'. Some respondents with disabilities emphasised the importance of swimming and other controlled exercise.

Phase 1 Wellbeing Survey. 1st February – 30th March 2021

Public Consultation –brought in a wide range of comments and views from local people and organisations about their health and wellbeing.

- Council online Consultation – 2442 responses
- Phone survey to tenants – 462 conversations
- Focus groups – 100+ local people participated in online discussions



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Detailed analysis of the results informed the Library Needs Assessments and development of the review proposals.

Staff focus groups to gather thoughts, suggestions and ideas from staff about how services might be delivered in the future. Those staff who did not wish to participate in groups were offered confidential email and 1-1 sessions with review leads if they felt more comfortable.

The responses and themes identified in the public and staff consultations have been discussed with portfolio holders, cabinet members and the Council senior management team.

Phase 2: Public Consultation on Library focussed on proposals to changing the way some of the library buildings are run and on changing the way it delivers library services across the borough. The consultation period was more than 12 weeks, running from Monday 15th November 2021 to Friday 4th February 2022

Service users, Gateshead residents, council employees and partner organisations had the opportunity to contribute to the public consultation on these proposals. Equalities monitoring data was collected in the survey and targeted focus groups to understand the impact on groups with protected characteristics among library users and to increase our knowledge and understanding of who accesses the service.

Results of the consultation and engagement are available at [xxxx](#)

The final decision which will be brought back to Cabinet in October 2022 concludes that the library buildings consulted on will remain under council management at this time and the transformation of the library service and its role in the emerging locality focus for council services will continue over the next 2 years.

Signed: (completing officer) Stephen Walters and Natalie Goodman
Date: 18 January 2021 (reviewed 15th September 2021)

Service Director: (approved) Andy Graham
Date: 8th October 2022



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

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TITLE OF REPORT: Household Support Fund

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet's approval of the Council's proposal for the distribution of the Household Support Fund (HSF) for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Background

2. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund has been extended until 31st March 2023, providing £1,836,629.95 of funding. The spirit of the fund remains the same, namely, to support those at risk of going cold or hungry.
3. The expectation is that the HSF should be used to support households in the most need and in particular those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available. This may include but is not limited to:
 - people who are entitled to, but not claiming, qualifying benefits,
 - people who are claiming Housing Benefit only,
 - people who begin a claim or return to payment of a benefit after the relevant qualifying date
 - people who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July.
4. There may, however, be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.
5. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low-income households during the period of the fund and Local Authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy. Support particularly encouraged can include insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders to a door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The HSF can also be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet exceptional circumstances.

6. New guidance for round 3 of the HSF scheme has to be followed and includes the requirement that every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is flexibility on exactly how this can be run, including through third parties rather than directly by the Local Authority

Proposal

7. Based on the revised guidance from the DWP and the lessons learned from implementing round 2 of the HSF the following allocations are proposed.

Children

8. It is proposed Gateshead continues to support children through the free school meals provision. This will require an estimated £465,000 to cover the two half terms (October and February) and the Christmas break.
9. Further the proposal would be to allocate £30,000 grant to the Jewish Community Council of Gateshead (JCC) to support children in Jewish schools who do not access free school meals.

Support to households through existing and new projects

10. Support to households through the following:
 - £30,000 (£10,000 x 3) Food Co-ops
 - £15,000 Gateshead Foodbank
 - £10,000 Feeding families
 - £5,000 Supply of baby milk
 - £32,500 existing Warm Spaces
 - £15,000 new Warm Spaces
 - £1,500 refreshments in Council Warm Spaces
 - £50,000 Warm Box project
 - £50,000 Food Network Grant Programme
 - £60,000 reconnection of energy (estimates of 240 households at £250 for reconnection)

Remaining funding is estimated at £1,072,629 subject to administration costs

11. The new guidance states that every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is flexibility on exactly how this can be run, including through third parties rather than directly by the Local Authority.
12. It is suggested that an application process is put in place operated by Citizens Advice Gateshead (CAG). It is suggested the following principles for the basis of the allocation:
 - The allocation is based on principles in the current Council's Local Discretionary Grants Fund
 - Applications are administered by CAG
 - An application process is developed by the Council based on set criteria to help target those residents highlighted in paragraph 3 and 4 of the report.

- Awards are based on need and are between £50 - £200 unless there is an exceptional case
- Levels of award over £100 are authorised by a manager
- A more holistic support package is offered by CAG if necessary
- Payments are made on a first come, first served basis
- Payments where possible will be made by either the existing voucher system or through Post Office payments
- The scheme to be promoted through the website, existing Council Communication channels and the voluntary and community sector

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that:
- (i) Cabinet support the proposal to support low income families identified through free school meals.
 - (ii) Cabinet supports the proposal to make a grant to the Jewish Community Council, recognising the Jewish community does not access free school meal provision
 - (iii) Cabinet supports the proposals to support the new and existing projects detailed in paragraph 10.
 - (iv) Cabinet supports the proposal to implement an application process based on the DWP guidance to be administered through CAG.
 - (v) Cabinet supports the proposal to claim a 5% administration fee to support the process.

For the following reason:

Targeting the groups identified will meet our Thrive policy objectives

CONTACT: Alison Dunn
Marisa Jobling

extension: 2710
extension: 3581

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. Gateshead residents like many throughout the United Kingdom, are experiencing significant cost of living rises, to include increases in fuel, interest rates and escalating energy costs.
2. The driver for this work is the Thrive Policy Framework, in particular: -
 - 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
3. These proposals have regard to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Gateshead and the principle of targeting those in greatest need.

Background

4. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund has been extended until 31st March 2023, providing £1,836,629.95 of funding. The spirit of the fund remains the same, namely, to support those at risk of going cold or hungry.
5. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low-income households during the period of the fund and Local Authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy. Support particularly encouraged can include insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders to a door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The HSF can also be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet exceptional circumstances.

What's different this time?

6. The expectation is that the HSF should be used to support households in the most need and in particular those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available. This may include but is not limited to:
 - people who are entitled to, but not claiming, qualifying benefits,
 - people who are claiming Housing Benefit only,
 - people who begin a claim or return to payment of a benefit after the relevant qualifying date
 - people who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July.
7. There may, however, be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income

households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.

8. New guidance for round 3 of the HSF scheme has to be followed and includes the requirement that every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is flexibility on exactly how this can be run, including through third parties rather than directly by the Local Authority.

Consultation

9. The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council have been consulted on this report.

Alternative Options

10. In previous rounds we have relied more heavily, although not exclusively, on VCSE partners to distribute the funds on our behalf, but the demand for service placed an intolerable pressure on VCSE agencies and visibility of potential duplication was much restricted. If we were to take this approach again, we would need to resource the VCSE agencies – on previous occasions they worked within their existing resources. However, in smaller agencies it is likely recruitment to short term employment opportunities may be problematic in the current job market, whereas the Council is more likely to be able to resource the work from its much bigger workforce.
11. There are many ways this money could be distributed, but we have used our learning from previous rounds to formulate these proposals. Further, enquiries with neighbouring authorities and our participation in national networking calls suggest our approach is similar to others.

Implications of Recommended Option

12. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms all grant money must be spent, not just allocated, by the end of March 2023. Any underspend must be returned to national government, there is no provision for roll over to future programme activity.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – We will need to identify and deploy employees to support this work within the administration fee of 5%.
 - c) **Property Implications** - None identified.
13. **Risk Management Implication** - Monitoring of spend is essential to ensure all funds are distributed in a timely fashion to Gateshead residents. Any under-spend needs to be returned to national government.
14. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Using our network of partners and professional advisers within the Council, the intention is to identify people who may be vulnerable or just coping using a direct

referral system. However, there will be people within these groups who may not be visible to us.

15. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – None identified
16. **Health Implications** – There are health implications for a vulnerable person living in a cold home, it increases their chance of serious illness or death. They are at higher risk of a heart attack or stroke, breathing problems, flu, depression and falls¹. Further, research has found that food insecurity is associated with increased risk of some birth defects, anaemia, lower nutrient intakes, cognitive problems, and aggression and anxiety².
17. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - 9 in 10 households rely on gas boilers and lots of gas boilers need lots of gas; UK households consume more of it than almost all their European peers, at around twice the EU average. Gas burned in households now equates to half of all imports – that is why any spike in gas prices immediately translates into higher heating bills for the UK.

Adequately insulating homes is a key component of managing energy prices. The charity National Energy Action has noted that between 2012 and 2019 the number of home insulation installations dropped by 95%, and at current rates it would take nearly a century to properly insulate all the current fuel-poor homes in the country.
18. **Human Rights Implications** - None identified
19. **Ward Implications** - None identified

¹ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, Helping to Prevent Winter Deaths and Illnesses Associated with Cold Homes

² Health Affairs, Food Insecurity and Health Outcomes

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund Submission 2022/23

REPORT OF: Dale Owens, Strategic Director, Integrated Adults and Social Care

Purpose of the Report

1. To set out the Better Care Fund Plan submission requirements for 2022-23, how they have been met and to seek the retrospective endorsement of Cabinet to the Gateshead submission to NHS England.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund (BCF) has been in place since the 2013 spending round, with the goal to secure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF created a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around the needs of people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into community and social care services for the benefit of local people, communities and the health and care economy.
3. The most recent BCF submission for Gateshead to NHS England (NHSE) was for 2021/22 which was submitted last November. As part of the current NHS planning round, there is a requirement for areas to prepare a BCF submission for the current year – 2022/23. The timescale for producing the submission has been very tight and colleagues across the system have been working together to meet the planning requirements, including the submission of a plan for 2022/23 by the deadline of 26th September 2022, set by NHSE.

BCF 2022/23 Planning Requirements

4. NHS England guidance on BCF Planning Requirements for 2022/23 sets out details of national conditions to be met, funding requirements, metrics to be included in plans (against which the progress made by local areas will be monitored), the process for agreeing plans and providing necessary assurance to NHSE.
5. The submission is in three parts:
 - A narrative plan that sets out our approach to integration, our priorities for 2022/23 and how we will meet the key objectives of the BCF, including enabling people to remain independent at home for longer, and to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

- An excel Planning Template which sets out details on metrics, how national conditions will be met and proposed expenditure.
 - A new Capacity & Demand template for intermediate care covering demand and capacity from community sources and for supported discharge from hospital
6. Health and care colleagues have been working together to complete the Gateshead BCF submission for 2022-23 in line with national requirements, through the Integrated Commissioning Group.
 7. The Council's Corporate Management Team was briefed on the BCF submission requirements for 2022-23, how they have been met and agreed the documents prior to submission to NHS England on the 26th September. The BCF submission is also due to go to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 21st October for endorsement.
 8. At the time of the submission to NHS England in September, we were already in month 6 of 2022/23. The emphasis has therefore been on ensuring continuity of existing schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements.

Proposal

9. The retrospective endorsement of Cabinet is sought to the BCF submission for Gateshead for 2022-23.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to endorse the 2022-23 Better Care Fund submission for Gateshead as set out in Appendix 1.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To enable the Council, working with local partners to take forward the 2022-23 Better Care Fund plan for Gateshead to support integrated health and care for the benefit of local people.
- (ii) To help ensure that the health and care economy is sustainable for the future and is in a position to respond to demographic and funding pressures across the system.

CONTACT: John Costello (Ext 2065)

Policy Context

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for Gateshead supports Gateshead's Thrive agenda and our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'Good Jobs, Homes, Health and Friends' and, in particular, its policy objectives to:
 - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
2. The narrative BCF Plan recognises that the health and care needs of local people can only be addressed by partners working together through a whole system response. It is also recognised that interventions and approaches that are multifaceted and complementary are more likely to be successful in helping people in Gateshead to thrive. Prevention is embedded within key programmes of work.

Further Background

3. The BCF in 2022-23 will continue to support integrated approaches to health and care to help people to remain independent at home where possible or to return to independence after an episode in hospital. The continuation of the main national conditions and requirements of the BCF from previous years provides an opportunity for health and care partners to build on their plans to embed joint working and integrated care.
4. The integration of health and care in Gateshead is an evolving journey where the BCF Plan is part of broader programmes of work that seek to respond to people's needs in a way that is sustainable. A key thread which runs through our submission, therefore, is that the BCF forms part of a broader picture and should not be seen in isolation.

Gateshead BCF Submission for 2022/23

5. The Gateshead BCF submission for 2022-23 has been developed working closely with health partners in line with planning guidance through Gateshead's Integrated Commissioning group.
6. The core requirements of the submission largely remain the same as for previous years:
 - A BCF Planning template that sets out details of income and expenditure against schemes, metrics and compliance with national conditions
 - A Narrative Plan that accompanies the Planning template and which provides details of:
 - Our approach to integration;
 - Our priorities for 2022/23;
 - How we will meet BCF policy objectives to:
 - enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - provide the right care in the right place at the right time

How we have developed the Plan
How the needs of particular groups will be met
Our governance arrangements

7. There was a new requirement to complete a Capacity & Demand template for intermediate care as part of the submission to NHSE. Areas were asked to review demand for, and anticipated capacity for intermediate care, split by:
 - demand from community sources
 - demand for supported discharge from hospital
8. These completed documents have been submitted to NHSE and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3933/Gateshead-Better-Care-Fund>
9. At the time of the submission to NHS England in September, we were already in month 6 of 2022/23. The emphasis has therefore been on ensuring continuity of existing schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements.

National Conditions and Requirements

10. There are four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved, similar to those for previous years:
 - (i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - (ii) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution (for Gateshead, this represents an uplift of 5.7%).
 - (iii) Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
 - (iv) Implementing the BCF policy objectives.

BCF Schemes 2022-23

11. As for the previous BCF submission (2021-22), schemes are being grouped under the following broad areas:
 - Managing discharges and admissions
 - Service pressures
 - Planned care
 - Carers
 - Disabled Facilities Grant
 - Market shaping and stabilisation
 - Service transformation

BCF Funding 2022/23

12. Details of the BCF financial breakdown for Gateshead for 2022/23 is set out below:

BCF Contribution	2022/23 (£)
Minimum NHS Contribution	£18,715,926 *
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)	£ 2,111,149
Improved Better Care Fund	£ 11,386,636**
Total	£32,213,711

* i.e. an uplift of 5.7% on the Minimum NHS Contribution from 2021/22

** i.e. an uplift of 3% on the Improved Better Care Fund from 2021/22

13. As we were already at the mid-point of 2022/23 at the time of submission of our BCF Plan, we have sought to ensure the continuity of schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements and to use the 2022/23 uplift to:

- provide additional support for 'discharge to assess' including increased community capacity from the minimum NHS contribution (£938,000) so that the process adopted under the hospital discharge programme can be continued;
- increase LA core spending power for key schemes (£334,800) from the Improved BCF contribution.

Sign-off Arrangements

14. Similar to previous submissions, there is a requirement that the BCF Plan is signed off by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the local authority and Integrated Care Board (ICB) Place.

Approval and Monitoring of BCF Plans

15. Assurance of final plans will be led by NHS England Better Care Managers with input from other NHS England colleagues and local government representatives.
16. Reporting will recommence in 2022-23 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the national conditions of the fund.

Plan Delivery and Governance

17. The delivery of the plan will be governed by a Section 75 agreement which will set out respective responsibilities of the Council and ICB (Place). Delivery will continue to be overseen by the Integrated Commissioning Group, including senior officers from the Council, ICB Place and Gateshead Health NHS FT.

Consultation

18. The submission is due to be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 21st October 2022.

Alternative Options

19. An alternative option would have been not to have submitted a Better Care Plan to NHS England for 2022-23 for Gateshead. However, this would not be consistent with government guidance to secure approval for use of BCF resources.

Implications of Recommended Option

20. Resources:

a) **Financial Implications** – the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that provision has been made within the Council's budget for the Better Care Fund in 2022-23.

b) **Human Resources Implications** – there are no human resources implications arising directly from this report, although the BCF plan as part of longer-term plans will have workforce implications across the local health and care economy.

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

21. **Risk Management Implications** – in order to mitigate the risk of our BCF submission not being approved, we have worked closely with key partners in developing the submission as well as the NHS England BCF manager to ensure that key lines of enquiry have been addressed.

22. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

23. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – there are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

24. **Health Implications** – the Better Care Fund plan for Gateshead is aimed at supporting health and social care services to provide more care in out-of-hospital settings, closer to peoples' homes for the health and wellbeing benefit of local people and in ways that are sustainable for the local health and care economy.

25. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – there are no climate emergency or sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

26. **Human Rights Implications** – there are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

27. **Ward Implications** – all wards will be affected. The models of care set out in the BCF submission provides for health and social care to be wrapped around local populations.

Background Information

28. The following documents were used in the preparation of this report:
- (i) NHS England Planning Guidance for the BCF submission for 2022/23.

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