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All Members of the Council

My Ref: LCS-DLDS-DS-C-022
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Contact
Tel:

Date: Wednesday, 13
September 2023

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Gateshead Civic Centre, at **2.30 pm** on **Thursday, 21 September 2023** to transact the following business:-

1 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 (Pages 3 - 8)

2 Official Announcements

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

3 Petitions

(to receive petitions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10)

4 Questions from Members of the Public

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

5 Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2022/23 (Pages 9 - 20)

MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

6 Notice of Motion

(to consider any notices of motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

6a Notice of Motion - Durham County Council Success re Fly Tipping Fines (Pages 21 - 22)

6b Amendment to Notice of Motion - re Fly Tipping (Pages 23 - 24)

6c Notice of Motion - Amendment to Constitution (Pages 25 - 26)

6d Amendment to Notice of Motion - Constitution (Motions) (Pages 27 - 28)

7 Questions

(to deal with any questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.1)

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council may wish to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following items on the grounds indicated.

Item	Paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
9	3

RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET

9 Specialist and Supported Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy (Pages 29 - 168)



Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 20 July 2023

PRESENT: THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR E MCMASTER (CHAIR)

Councillors: K McCartney, J Adams, V Anderson, R Beadle, D Bradford, M Brain, L Brand, C Buckley, D Burnett, P Burns, L Caffrey, B Clelland, P Craig, W Dick, S Dickie, P Diston, K Dodds, C Donovan, A Douglas, D Duggan, P Elliott, S Gallagher, M Gannon, A Geddes, F Geddes, J Gibson, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, T Graham, J Green, L Green, S Green, M Hall, K Henderson, G Kasfikis, H Kelly, L Kirton, P Maughan, J McCoid, J McElroy, M McNestry, J Mohammed, R Mullen, B Oliphant, A Ord, C Ord, M Ord, I Patterson, S Potts, D Robson, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, J Turnbull, J Turner, K Walker, D Weatherley, D Welsh, A Wintcher and K Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors: J Eagle, G Haley, S Hawkins, L Moir, J Wallace and H Weatherley

CL18 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 MAY 2023

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2023 be approved as a correct record subject to it being noted that Cllr K Walker was in attendance.

CL19 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that within the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 the following people were recognised who live and work within the Borough:

- Christine Myhill, Gateshead Libraries and Heritage Manager, was awarded an MBE for services to Public Libraries during Covid-19.
- Karolynne Hart, Community Art Development Manager, was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Public Libraries and to the Arts.
- Bill Fullen, former Chief Executive of the Gateshead Housing Company, was awarded an OBE for services to Housing.
- Lawrence Patrick Doherty, Project Manager DWP, was awarded an MBE for services to the community in Gateshead.
- Dr Ian Pattison, lately Chair of NHS Sunderland CCG, was awarded an OBE for services to the NHS.

- Peter Heath, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, was awarded King's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service.

CL20 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

CL21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

CL22 PROVISIONAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of Overview and Scrutiny Committees provisional work programmes for 2023/24.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the provisional work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2023/24 be approved.

CL23 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

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

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the appointment of Dr Stuart Green as the Independent Person for standards of conduct issues be approved for a period of three years.

CL24 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report confirming the outturn position on the 2022/23 revenue budget.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the appropriations to and from reserves be approved.

CL25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022/23 – YEAR END OUTTURN

Consideration was given to a report on the 2022/23 Capital Programme outturn and the monitoring of performance against the statutory Prudential Indicators.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - (i) That the Capital Programme Outturn for 2022/23 be noted;
(ii) That the financing of the Capital Programme be approved; and

- (iii) That none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2022/23 have been breached.

CL26 ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2024

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2023-24.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-24 be approved.

CL27 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Consideration was given to a report seeking endorsement of the proposed Housing Revenue Account 30-year Business Plan 2023-2053.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business Plan 2023-2053 be approved.

CL28 TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Treasury Annual Report 2022/23.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Annual Report for 2022/23 be approved.

CL29 REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24 - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest monitoring position on the 2023/24 revenue budget at the end of the first quarter.

COUNCIL RESOLVED -

- (i) That an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2023/24 from £289,902,826 to £281,884,964 be approved.
- (ii) That the removal of pandemic budget and the equivalent reserve funding be approved.
- (iii) That a £2.4m increase in the 2023/24 HRA budget be approved to reflect the increase in the depreciation charge funded from the HRA reserve.

CL30 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2023/24 - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest position on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2023.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- (i) That all variations to the 2023/24 Capital Programme be approved.
 - (ii) That the financing of the revised programme be approved.
 - (iii) That Cabinet confirms that the capital expenditure and financing requirements have been revised in line with the amended budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2023/24 have been breached.

CL31 NOTICE OF MOTION - RAILWAY TICKET OFFICES

Councillor M Gannon moved the following motion:

“On the 5th July 2023, the Government unveiled plans via the Rail Delivery Group to axe over one thousand railway ticket offices. For the North East, this would mean total closures of the ticket offices at:

- Alnmouth
- Berwick upon Tweed
- Darlington
- Durham
- Eaglescliffe
- Hexham
- Malton
- Middlesbrough
- Morpeth
- Northallerton
- Redcar Central
- Scarborough
- Sunderland
- Thirsk
- Thornaby

This would only leave ticket offices open only at Newcastle, York and Hartlepool, all on reduced opening hours.

Whilst the consultation was announced to run for twenty-one days from 5th July, some ticket office staff have already been handed redundancy notices. It is also

pertinent to note that despite the consultation itself being aimed at the general public, it has not been released in any kind of paper, easy-read, audio or BSL format, therefore excluding many of the people for whom ticket offices are essential from even having their say.

During the pandemic, the private train operators in the UK made more than £300 million between March 2020 and September 2022. This will rise to £400 million by September 2023. The majority of this funding was a government subsidy direct from the UK taxpayer.

In December 2021, the UK's largest train operator, First Group, handed £500 million to its shareholders for running South Western Railway and TransPennine Express services. As all in the North East will well be aware, this year alone 75% of TransPennine Express services have been late or cancelled. The CEO of First Group was paid £840,000 during that time and received a 6% pay rise.

Reducing the human presence at our stations is not driven by austerity or government cuts: it is driven by profiteering of the private sector. It will make life more difficult for those who are disabled, have limited mobility, struggle with new technology, feel unsafe around unstaffed stations, and anyone who just needs extra help. The railway in this country is proven to be profitable. The people of this country should benefit from that with at least basic service levels.

This council resolves to ask that the Leader and Chief Executive:

- **Respond to the Rail Delivery Group consultation to object in the strongest terms in relation to the proposals for our region;**
- **Write to the Secretary of State for Transport to object to these proposals."**

The motion was duly carried.

CL32 QUESTIONS

There were no questions received.

Mayor.....

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COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2023

**Annual Report of the Audit and
Standards Committee 2022/23**

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2022/23.
2. The report for 2022/23 was agreed by the Audit and Standards Committee on 20 July 2023.
3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that Council approves the Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2022/23.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2022/23

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To ask Cabinet to consider the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2022/23 and agree that this report is submitted to Council.

Background

- 2 In line with best practice the Audit and Standards Committee is required to report to Cabinet and Council on the Committee's activity each year. The report for 2022/23 was agreed by the Audit and Standards Committee on 20 July 2023.

Proposal

- 3 Cabinet is asked to consider the Audit and Standards Committee's Annual Report at Appendix 2 and agree to submit it to Council. The Report provides an overview on the work of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2022/23 and describes how it has had a positive impact on governance, financial reporting and audit issues across the Council, as well as providing challenge and independent assurance on the risk management framework and associated internal control environment.

Recommendation

- 4 It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2022/23 and agree that it is submitted to Council.

For the following reason:

To strengthen the Council's arrangements for oversight by councillors of governance, audit, risk management, the internal control framework, value for money and efficiency.

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the Council's policy, service planning and performance management framework which aims to ensure that all resources are directed towards delivery of the Council's strategic approach, Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. In line with best practice, the Audit and Standards Committee is required to submit an annual report to Cabinet and Council, and also any further reports and recommendations as it sees fit. The areas of activity of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2022/23 are set out in the Annual Report.

Contents of the Report

3. Appendix 2 outlines the activity which the Audit and Standards Committee has covered over the last year.
4. The Audit and Standards Committee has received reports in the following areas:
 - Internal Audit planning, performance and activity;
 - Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity;
 - Counter Fraud Updates;
 - Annual Governance Statement Assurance Framework;
 - The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence;
 - Achievement of Going Concern Status;
 - Audit Completion Report and Council's Statement of Accounts;
 - Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and mid-year update;
 - Local Code of Governance Update;
 - Review of Internal Audit Charter;
5. There were no reports in year which were specific to Standards issues. No complaints have been received under the Member's Code of Conduct, that required investigation, nor was there any guidance or best practice issued during the year that warranted a report. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for maintaining and promoting high standards within the Council and he and his staff have contributed to the Audit work on good governance particularly those matters relating to the Corporate Risk Management activity and the Annual Governance Statement.
6. Based on the evidence presented during the year and at the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee on 20 June 2023 it was concluded that the Council's system of internal control and governance framework is effective. This was demonstrated through the approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, which accompanies the Statement of Accounts.

Consultation

7. The Audit and Standards Committee considered and agreed the contents of this report at their meeting of 20 July 2023.

Alternative Options

8. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** –. There are no property implications arising from this report.
10. **Risk Management Implications** - The Audit and Standards Committee receives quarterly reports on risk management.
11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – there are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
13. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this report.
14. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.
15. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
16. **Ward Implications** – There are no ward implications arising from this report.
17. **Background Information** – Report of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 20 July 2023.

Contents of the Report to Cabinet and Council – 2022/23

1. The areas of activity considered by the Audit and Standards Committee during 2022/23 are set out below.

Internal Audit planning, performance and activity

2. As at 31 March 2023 92% of the Internal Audit Plan was completed, which resulted in 88 audit reports. Of these reports 80 (91%) concluded that systems in place were operating well or satisfactory, with 8 (9%) concluding systems and procedures had significant weaknesses, of which three were in relation to schools.
3. All recommendations are followed-up as part of the Internal Audit process and the Audit and Standards Committee will monitor the outcomes.
4. Based on this evidence arising from Internal Audit activity during 2022/23, the Council's internal control systems and governance and risk management arrangements are considered to be effective.
5. The Internal Audit Service has also co-ordinated the Council's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) work and has supported Council managers with irregularity, e-mail, internet and other disciplinary investigations on an ongoing basis during 2022/23, with quarterly updates to Audit and Standards Committee.
6. The Audit and Standards Committee also approved the Audit Strategy and Plan and agreed to continue to monitor Internal Audit's progress on a quarterly basis against the 2022/23 Audit Plan.

Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity

7. The Committee received quarterly reports on the assurance derived from risk management. These reports make Councillors aware of the arrangements that exist within the Council for managing risk, the impact that these have had and the plans for further development of risk management arrangements.

Counter Fraud Updates

8. The Committee received a report every six months updating on activity undertaken in relation to the work of the Corporate Fraud Team summarising performance against the Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the effectiveness of the Strategy. Conclusions also form part of the Annual Governance Statement.

Annual Governance Statement Assurance Framework

9. The Committee received a report providing an overview of the work to be undertaken to produce the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2022/23 which demonstrates the level of assurance that can be given by the Council's control systems and governance arrangements, the Assurance Framework.

The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence

10. The Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 concluded that the Council's system of internal control, risk management and governance framework is effective.
11. The Audit and Standards Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 at its meeting on 20 June 2023, following a review of the evidence detailed below in paragraphs 12-30, and evidence seen by the Committee during the year.

Cabinet Members

12. Assurance was sought from Members of the Cabinet on the effectiveness they felt could be placed on the Council's corporate governance arrangements. They concluded that effective governance arrangements are in place.

Senior Managers

13. Service Directors completed self-assessment assurance statements detailing the level of assurance obtained from their key control processes. The conclusion of this exercise found that senior managers agreed that effective control systems were in place overall. These statements will be examined as part of the 2023/24 Audit Plan and the outcomes reported to the Audit and Standards Committee in September 2023.

Internal Audit

14. The Internal Audit Service has undertaken audit work throughout the year based on the risk-based audit plan. In addition, the Council has a framework of assurance available to satisfy it that risks have been properly identified and are being managed by controls that are adequately designed and effective in operation. This includes assurance from a variety of sources other than the Internal Audit Service. These other audit systems have been assessed, as part of the Audit Plan.
15. Based on this audit activity the overall opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year 2022/23 was that internal control systems and risk management and governance arrangements are effective.

Risk Management

16. Risk management is embedded in the Council through a Corporate Risk Management Policy which includes the requirement to identify strategic and operational risks, assess those risks for likelihood and impact, identify mitigating controls and allocate responsibility for those controls. The Council maintains and reviews a register of its business risks, linking them to strategic business objectives and assigning ownership for each risk.
17. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital reported that risk management arrangements during the year were effective.

Counter Fraud

18. The Council has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption. A counter fraud communications and awareness plan is in place to enable and evidence communication requirements to promote and raise awareness of the Council's counter fraud arrangements, including the publicising of any proven fraud cases and media handling. The plan details the key stakeholders and the methods and frequency of any communications during the year. The plan also details how the outcomes of any successful prosecutions would be handled.
19. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital reported that counter fraud arrangements during the year were effective.

Performance Management and Data Quality

20. The Council has a corporate suite of strategic performance indicator to enable effective monitoring of the Council's strategic approach through which quality of service is measured via strategic outcome indicators. The monitoring of performance takes place at key performance points as identified in the framework including quarterly performance reported to Group Management Teams and Corporate Senior Officer meetings.
21. In addition, performance is also monitored, measured, challenged and scrutinised on a six-monthly basis at Cabinet and respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
22. The Corporate Data Management Group is overseeing the development of an approach to improving how the performance information is presented so that this is accessible to all stakeholders. Performance reports to Overview and Scrutiny are published on the Council's website
23. Based on evidence arising from the performance management framework process for 2022/23, effective controls are in place.

Views of the External Auditor and other External Inspectors

24. At the time of the most recent report dated October 2022 from Mazars, the Council's external auditor, covering the financial year 2021/22, and subject to satisfactory conclusion of the remaining audit work, the Auditor anticipated issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Issues leading to the delay in sign off are not as a result of ineffectiveness on the part of the Council. The Auditor also anticipated having no significant weaknesses to report in relation to the arrangements the Council has in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
25. Other external inspectorates' reports have been issued from time to time on management and governance arrangements to the Council.

The Legal and Regulatory Framework

26. Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance as the Monitoring Officer who has a legal duty to ensure the lawfulness and fairness of decision-making within the Council. The Council has a Constitution in place and compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations is ensured by the requirement to give the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance the opportunity to comment on every report submitted to a decision-making body.

Financial Controls

27. Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, who is designated as the responsible officer for the administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, that financial controls are effective. Systems in place include Financial Regulations, the opportunity to comment on the financial implications of committee reports, monitoring meetings and evidence from internal and external audit.
28. In addition, the Council undertook a self-assessment of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code during 2022/23. The assessment considered seventeen financial management standards grouped into seven sections underpinning the six principles. Following the self-assessment, the Council is considered to be compliant with the Financial Management Code.

Partnership Arrangements & Governance

29. Service Directors review partnerships within their service plans on an annual basis. As partners are key to the delivery of the Council's objectives assurance of their control and governance systems is required. The consensus amongst Service Directors was that all Partnership Arrangements have been established in compliance with the Council's Guide to Partnership Working. In addition, the most recent

review of this area by the Internal Audit Service found to be operating satisfactorily.

30. Based on evidence arising from partnerships for 2022/23, effective controls are in place.

Other Reports

Achievement of Going Concern Status 2021/22

31. The Committee received a report considering the Council's status as a going concern.
32. Authorities are required by Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget. However, financial pressures within the local government sector mean that there continues to be a risk that the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) may need to consider whether action is required under Section 114 of the 1988 Act, where the Section 151 officer must report, following consultation with the council's monitoring officer, to all authority's members if they believe expenditure is likely to exceed incoming resources in the current or in any future year.
33. The report outlined the assessment of the Council's status as a going concern as this is now considered best practice in the current challenging local government financial climate.
34. Based on the assessment undertaken, the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) view was that the Council is fully aware of the challenges it faces and is prepared to deliver its services in the future taking account of the future known risks and therefore the Council is a going concern and the Council's Statement of Accounts should be prepared on that basis.

Audit Completion Report and Council's Statement of Accounts

35. The outcome and findings of the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts 2021/221 by the Council's external auditor, Mazars, along with the audited Statement of Accounts, were reported to the Audit and Standards Committee 25 October 2022. The key messages were:
 - At the time of issuing the report, and subject to satisfactory conclusion of the remaining audit work, Mazars anticipated issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. However, this was subject to the conclusion of matters in relation to infrastructure.
 - The auditor's work identified a number of misstatements that have been discussed with management. A summary of the identified misstatements was set out in the report, with further work ongoing in relation to the audit of revised actuarial disclosures, and the accounting

treatment following the decision to bring the Gateshead Housing Company back within the Council.

- Value for Money – at the time of issuing the report, the auditor anticipated having no significant weaknesses to report in relation to the arrangements that the Council has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) – the timetable for the Council's submission for 2021/22 had not yet been published. Audit work would commence once such instructions had been received.
- Wider powers – the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires the auditor to give an elector, or any other representative of the elector, the opportunity to question them about the accounting record of the Council and to consider any objection to the accounts. No question or objections had been received.

Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and Six-Monthly Update

36. In line with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Annual Treasury Policy and Strategy are reviewed by the Audit and Standards Committee prior to being reported to Cabinet and Council. A six-monthly position is also reported through the Audit and Standards Committee to highlight progress on investment performance and borrowing.

Local Code of Governance Update

37. The Council has a local code of governance which was originally presented to the Audit Committee in April 2007. In line with good practice the document should be reviewed regularly, and the Audit and Standards Committee were asked to consider and approve an updated version on 7 February 2023, based on the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework. The Code defines how the Council complies with the principles of good governance laid down by the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services and forms an integral part of the Councils' Annual Governance Statement, which is a legal requirement to demonstrate the level of assurance that can be given by the Council's control systems and governance arrangements.

Review of Internal Audit Charter

38. The Internal Audit Charter is reviewed annually, and the outcome is reported to the Audit and Standards Committee to seek comments and approval in line with Best Practice. The Chief Internal Auditor carried out the annual review and confirmed that it continues to reflect best practice and no amendments were required.

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COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor R Beadle will move the following motion:

Gateshead Council congratulates Durham County Council on their tough stance on fly tipping by issuing nearly one thousand fines in 2021/22.

Council notes that in the same period Gateshead Council issued one fine.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of Durham County Council to invite him to send an appropriate officer to conduct a Gateshead members' seminar to explain to members and officers how their success was achieved.

Proposed by: Councillor R Beadle

Seconded by: Councillor D Welsh

Supported by: Councillor J Wallace
Councillor A Wintcher

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COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM 6Ai – FLY TIPPING

Councillor J McElroy will move the following amendment

Delete all after 'Gateshead Council' and replace with:

notes that:

According to figures provided by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the number of fly-tipping incidents in Gateshead roughly halved between 2016/17 and 2021/22 and wishes to express its gratitude to the hard-working staff who help tackle the blight of fly-tipping.

In the last two years the Council have undertaken a review of waste related anti-social behaviour to try and understand the root cause of the behaviour of those who aren't looking after their environment. We have used those findings to come up with a new approach to tackle fly tipping.

In recent years, officers have focused enforcement action on larger fly-tipping offenders, people who persistently target Gateshead and who make a living from doing so. The penalties that may be charged under Fixed Penalty Notices are too small to deter such behaviour, and it is preferable to take legal action where more substantial penalties may be levied. To only look at the number of Fixed Penalty Notices does not present a true picture of action taken by Council officers.

Experience and Council research has shown that the people who would have got Fixed Penalty Notices for small fly tips were often vulnerable people, who needed help and support to permanently change their behaviour. Fining these people was proving ineffective in behaviour change, and we found alternative mechanisms for ensuring our streets remained as clean and tidy as possible.

Gateshead Council takes this issue very seriously and as part of the £2 million investment in the local environment are in the process of setting up a new anti-social behaviour team, that will work with people to educate and change behaviours where appropriate and prosecute and fine those who persistently fail to do the right thing. Gateshead Council resolves to ignore representations on this matter from Lib Dem Councillors who failed to support a £2 million investment in the local environment when presented with the option in the Budget decisions.

Proposed by: Councillor J McElroy

Supported by: Councillor L Green

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COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor J Wallace will move the following motion:

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to draw up a proposed amendment to the Council constitution that would allow the submission of amendments and motions to full Council by email. This change should be ready to be incorporated into the next review of the Constitution.

Proposed by: Councillor J Wallace

Seconded by: Councillor P Elliott
Supported by: Councillor R Beadle
Councillor D Welsh

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COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM 6Bi –

Councillor J Adams will move the following amendment

Add before first paragraph:

Gateshead Council confirm that a notice of a motion must still be required to be supported by the councillor giving the notice and three other councillors, as outlined in Council Procedure Rule 9.1; and that an amendment to a motion on the Council agenda may be moved if it is supported by two councillors, as outlined in Council Procedure 17.6.

Gateshead Council confirm that a notice of motion must still be communicated to the office of the Chief Executive at least six clear days before the Council meeting at which it is to be considered, as outlined in Council Procedure Rule 9.1; and that an amendment may be moved if it is submitted to the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the day before the Council meeting, as outlined in Council Procedure 17.6. However, the Council recognises the benefits in terms of speed and efficiency of being able to submit motions and amendments to the office of the Chief Executive in a digital format, rather than hard copy.

Delete all after 'to full Council' and replace with:

by digital means, and without the need for a handwritten signature. Any proposed amendment must provide mechanisms to guarantee that any submission is genuinely from an elected member of this council, as proof of identity is an important consideration in this matter.

Proposed by: Councillor J Adams

Supported by: Councillor K Dodds

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