

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives Six-monthly Assessment of Delivery and Performance 2018/19

10 December 2018

Portfolio:

- Economy – Councillor J Adams
- Environment & Transport – Councillor J McElroy
- Housing – Councillor M Brain
- Communities & Volunteering – Councillor L Green
- Culture, Sport & Leisure – Councillor A Douglas

Lead Officer: Tony Alder, Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment.

Support Officer: Ian Stevenson, Neighbourhood Management Team Leader

The committee undertakes scrutiny and review in relation to:

- Economic Development and Lifelong learning
 - Culture, including leisure, arts, sport and recreation
 - Housing, physical development and regeneration
 - Transport planning and public transport
 - Local environment including climate change
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Summary

This report sets out performance for the six-month period April to September 2018 in line with the Council's Performance Management Framework. The report's focus is those 'Strategic Outcome Indicators' (SOIs) that fall within the remit of the OSC Communities and Place and are available to report at this six-monthly period. The relevant SOIs (where there is an available performance update) are set out in the table attached at Appendix 1. The SOI's that are not available to report at the six-monthly stage will be reported at year-end 2018/19.

Performance is measured using trend analysis from the data reported last year rather than annual targets, as Strategic Outcome Indicators have 5-year targets set.

Where data was not available to report at year end 2017/18, updates are included at the front of this report.

This report also highlights key actions delivered within the last six months against the Council's Thrive agenda.

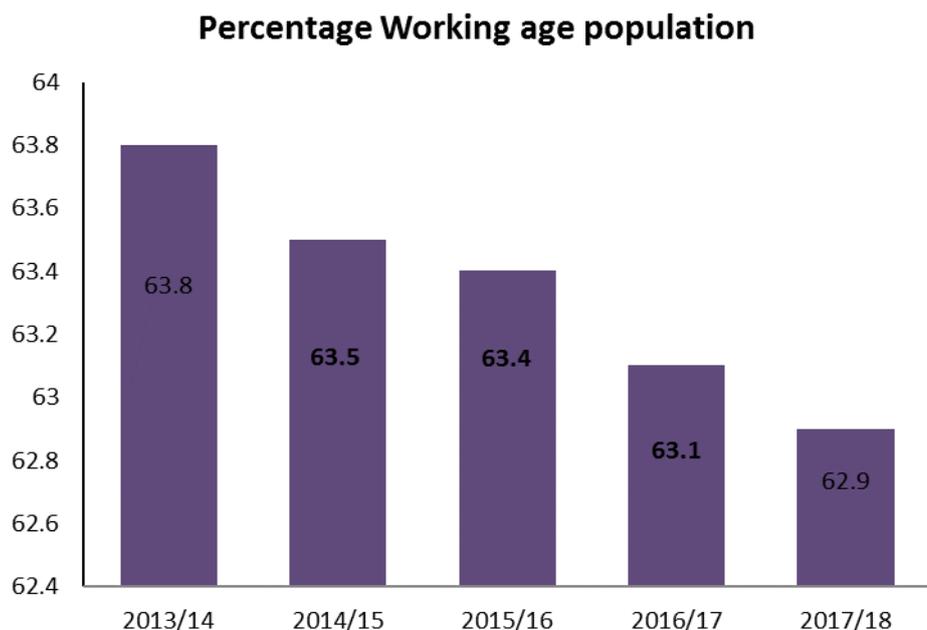
**Delivery of the Thrive Agenda.
Strategic Outcome Indicators: Summary of Performance**

Year-end performance 2017/18

At the 2017/18 year-end stage (June 2018) the following strategic outcome indicators were not reported in the year end 2017/18 performance report due to the availability of data. Following validation of the figures, a performance update for each of these is available below.

- PG01 – Working age population – number of residents aged 16-64
- PG02 – Increase Overall Housing Supply
- PG03 – Proportion of Long Term Empty Properties
- PG11 – Proportion of residents self employed
- LL11a – Reducing Council Carbon Emissions – Actual
- LL11b – Reducing Council Carbon Emissions – weather corrected
- LW01 – Increase the number of affordable homes
- LW35 – Accessibility to Public Transport (Parts A to D)

PG01 – Working age population – number of residents aged 16-64



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 127,799

Performance Trend

↓

Decreasing

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

↑

Increasing

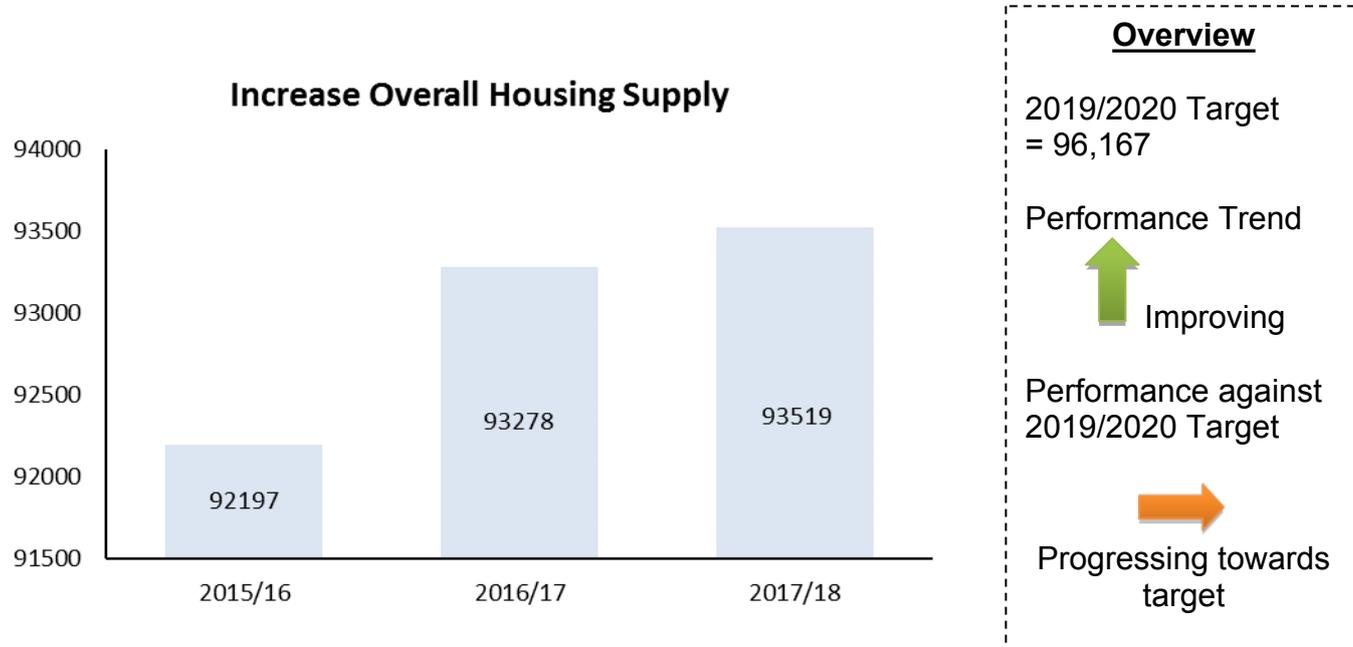
Year	Number of people of working age
2013/14	127,700
2014/15	127,400
2015/16	127,500
2016/17	127,300
2017/18	127,900

The recently completed Strategic Housing market assessment (SHMA) has identified that although there is likely to be an overall growth in households in the Borough, the dominant area for growth is in the population aged over 60 years. The Census data shows that national trends are typically reflected at a local level.

Economic activity rates for people aged under 25 have steadily declined, primarily as a consequence of the increased numbers remaining in full-time education.

Latest 2016-based subnational population projections published by ONS anticipate that the size of Gateshead’s working age population will decline in absolute terms, and as a proportion of the total population. However, it should be noted that ONS projections are based on the continuation of past demographic trends: they do not forecast the impacts of policy intervention. In this respect, activities such as supporting new housing development in Gateshead could stop or reverse decline in the working age population.

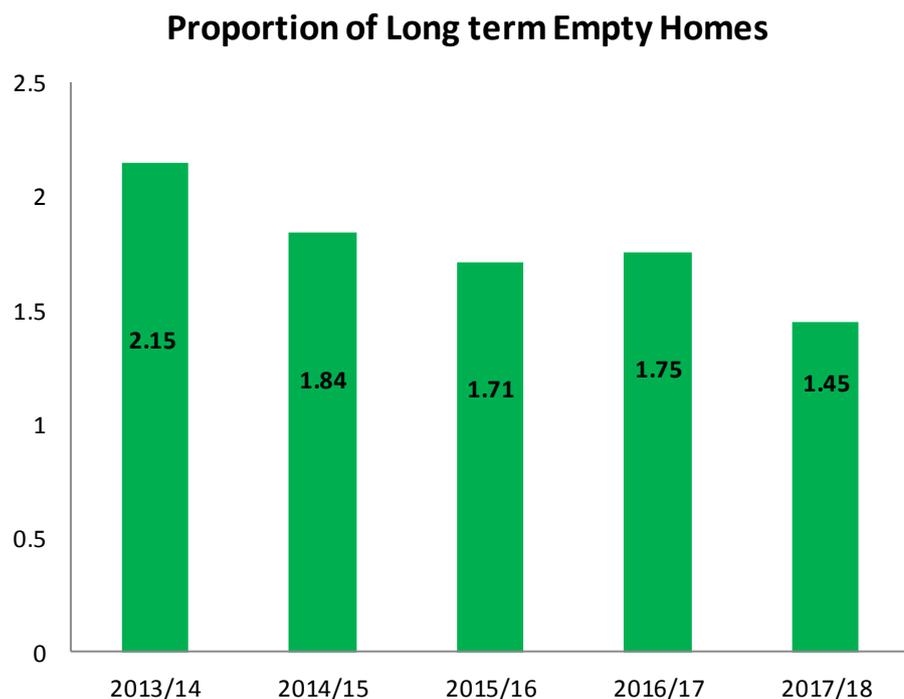
PG02 – Increase Overall Housing Supply



The net number of homes liable for Council tax within the Borough has grown by 0.26% (241 homes) since last year (93,278).

It should be noted that this indicator reports on the change in the number of homes liable for Council Tax in Gateshead over the reporting year. It is not the same measure as net change in Gateshead’s total dwelling stock. Delivering against this target will prove challenging due to the high costs of developing land in Gateshead, and a weaker housing market.

PG03 – Proportion of Long Term Empty Properties



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 1.19%

Performance Trend

↑
Improving

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

→
Progressing towards target

The rate of long-term empty properties has decreased from last year and is now on target. This may be a consequence of continued service activity to tackle empty homes, and the imposition of a Council Tax premium on long-term empty homes.

Last year’s upward trend in the long-term void rate has been reversed, and this year’s target has been reached.

PG11 – Proportion of residents self employed



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 7.0%

Performance Trend

↓
Decreasing

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

↓
Not yet achieved

The Council has supported the growth in self-employment by creating an environment in which businesses can start-up, locate, invest, grow and, through initiatives, to stimulate private sector investment, entrepreneurialism, competitiveness, innovation and productivity. These have included supporting inward investment, self-employment and sector development.

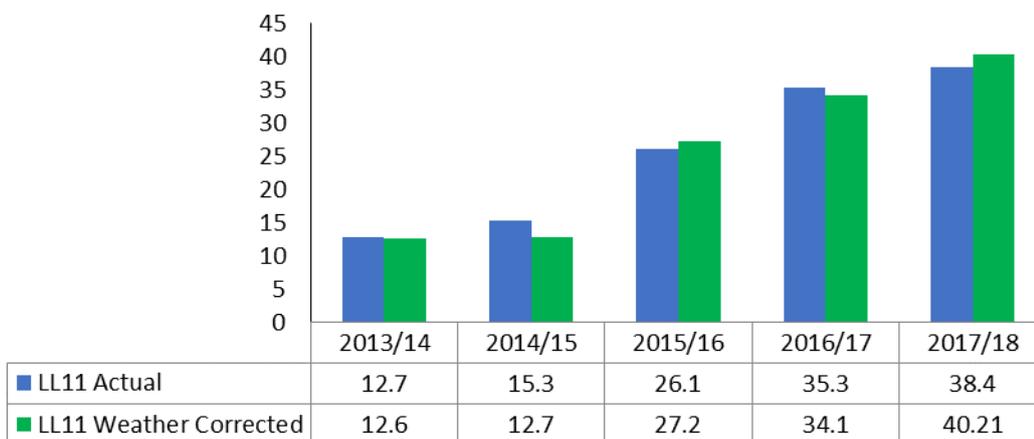
The percentage of residents self-employed has reduced from 7.7% to 6.1%. It is difficult to accurately report the exact number of residents who are self-employed. The indicator relies on data taken from NOMIS official labour market statistics with the ONS Annual Population Survey (APS) the data source. The APS is a continuous national household survey with the aim of providing estimates between censuses of main social and labour market variations at a local area level.

The impact of austerity has been a contributing factor in the reduction in the overall amount of public sector support to assist people to explore self-employment and will have a direct impact on numbers in the borough.

In the first six months of 2018-19, seven people were supported by the Council to set up a business or to become self-employed.

LL11– Reducing Council Carbon Emissions

Reducing Carbon Emissions



Indicator	2017/18 Figure	Trend
L11a Reducing Council Carbon Emissions A) Actual Figure	38.4% (Reduction)	↑
L11b Reducing Council Carbon Emissions B) Weather Corrected Figure	40.2% (Reduction)	↑

Actual greenhouse gas emissions from Gateshead Council operations are 4.8% lower than last year, and 38.4% lower than in 2007/8.

Accounting for variability in annual temperatures, weather-corrected emissions also fell 6.1% on last year and are now 40.2% down on 2007/8.

Breaking this down into the main areas of energy and fuel use, we can see where progress is being made, as follows:

- Gas consumption in buildings decreased by 0.7%
- Electricity consumption in buildings fell by 5.1%
- Streetlights electricity use fell by a further 6.7% as the effect of further energy efficiency lighting replacement took effect.
- Business travel has dropped by 20.4% since 2007/08. Which is quite an increase on last year
- Fleet transport dropped by another 12.6%
- Landfill gas emissions have dropped substantially, since the problems in 2013/14 and are now down by 97% on 2007/08, as the gas produced significantly reduces.

LW01 – Increase the number of affordable homes

Year	Result
2016/17	61
2017/18	64

Overview

2019/2020 Target
= 294

Performance Trend

 Improving

Performance against
2019/2020 Target

 Progressing
towards target

The majority of new build affordable homes have been provided through Keelman Homes at West Park, the Gateshead Regeneration Partnership (GRP) at sites in Birtley & Saltwell and Persimmon Homes have also completed 2 units in Birtley. 93% of new build affordable homes completed during 2017/18 were built on former Council owned land.

A further 35 homes have been renovated (by both the Council and Keelman Homes) and brought back into use as affordable housing using Homes England Grant.

Planning policy requires 15% affordable housing on developments of 15 or more dwellings subject to viability. Gateshead suffers from significant viability issues due to the amount of previous industrial land and land mining usage. This significantly affects the number of affordable houses provided through planning policy and the number of completions is reduced due to viability issues above. Positively, we are able to deliver affordable housing by working with partners including GRP, Keelman Homes, other registered housing providers and Homes England.

The effect of the enforced government 1% reduction in social housing rents in each financial year has had a significant effect on the appetite of developers and housing providers to invest in new social housing development.

LW35 – Accessibility to Public Transport (Parts A to D)

Indicator	2017/18 Year End Figure	2019/20 Year End Target	Performance Trend	Performance against 2019/2020 Target
a) Access to main centres (daytime)	57.2%	57%		Achieving
b) Access to main centres (evening)	52.8%	52%		Achieving
c) Access to key employment (daytime)	59.1%	62%		Not achieved
d) Access to key employment (evening)	44.7%	41%		Achieving

Overall 2017/18 performance has shown a small but positive increase when compared to 2016/17 with three of the four sub indicators meeting 2019/20 targets set.

There is a small decrease in access to employment during the day from 63% in 2016/17 to 59.1% in 2017/18 and it is considered that this slight change is likely to changes in service operator timetables and the level of reduction does not cause concern.

Six-monthly performance 2018/19

The performance for the strategic outcome indicators which are available to be reported are noted below. Please note that trend analysis included in the overview section uses the following keys.

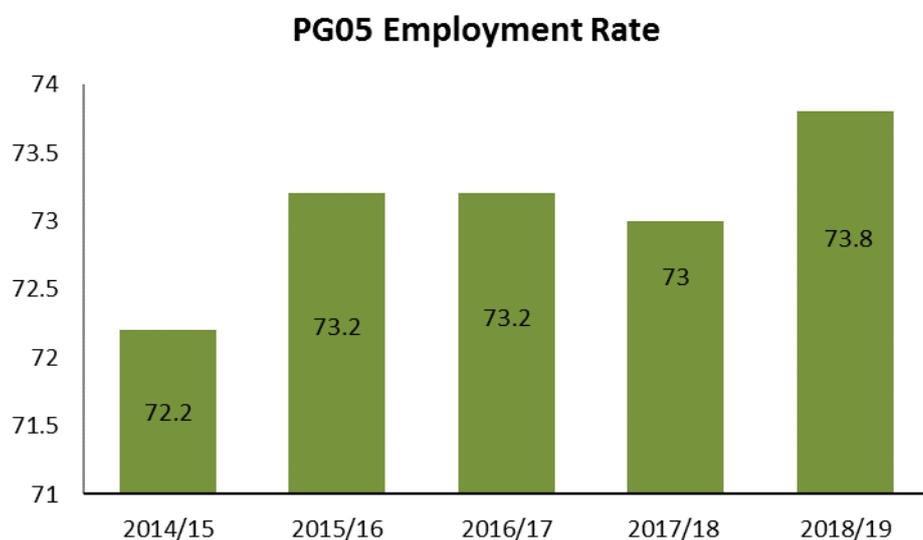
Performance Trend

 Decreasing	Performance has not improved from the Year End Result
 Maintaining	Performance has remained the same as Year End Result
 Improving	Performance has improved from Year End Result

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

 Not yet achieved	2020 Target is not yet achieved
 Progressing towards target	Performance is progressing towards target and there is improvement from the last available result
 Achieving	2020 Target is being achieved

PG05 Employment Rate – People economically active and in employment aged 16-64



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 73.2%

Performance Trend



Increasing

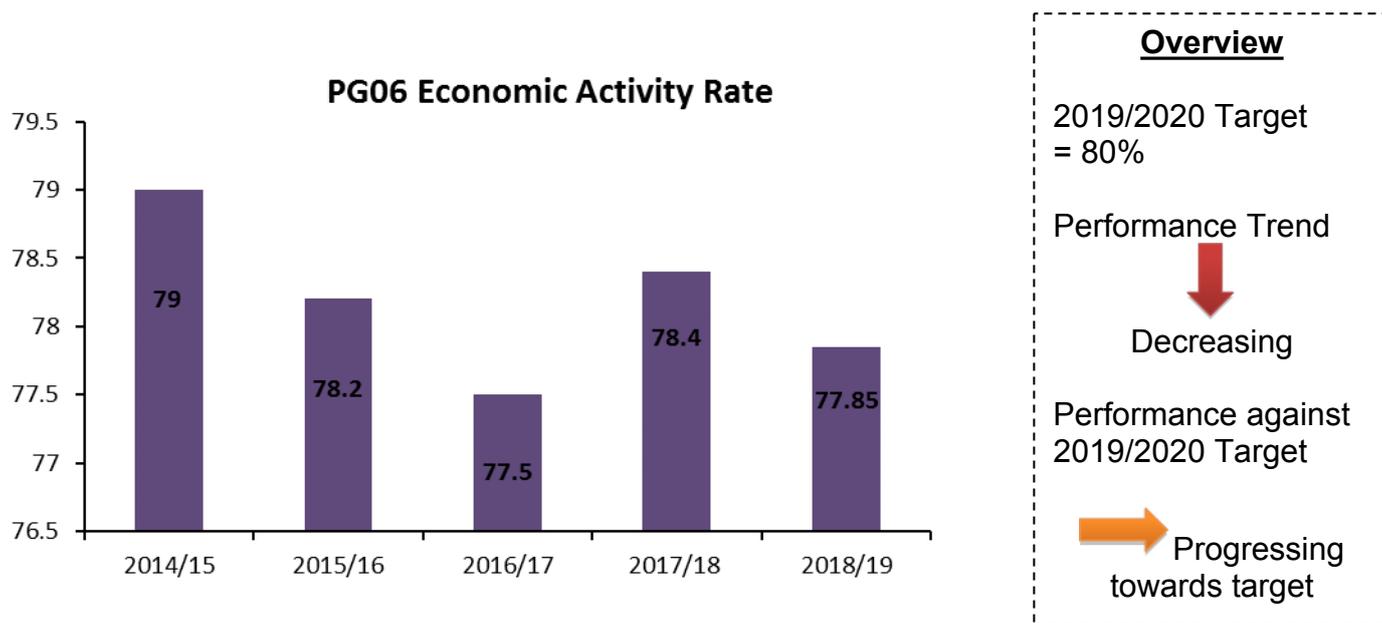
Performance against 2019/2020 Target



Increasing

Employment rates both nationally and locally continue to increase significantly. Gateshead continues to compare well with or out-perform the wider North East (NE) region (71.0%) but is lower than the National rate (75.0%). The National rate is reflective of growth elsewhere in the country and in particular, the South East. A target based on maintaining current levels of performance is seen to be challenging due to the projected decline in the working age population locally and, particularly the political and economic uncertainties around Brexit.

PG06 – Economic Activity Rate – Percentage of all people aged 16-64



Economically active is defined as in work, actively looking for work and/or fit for work.

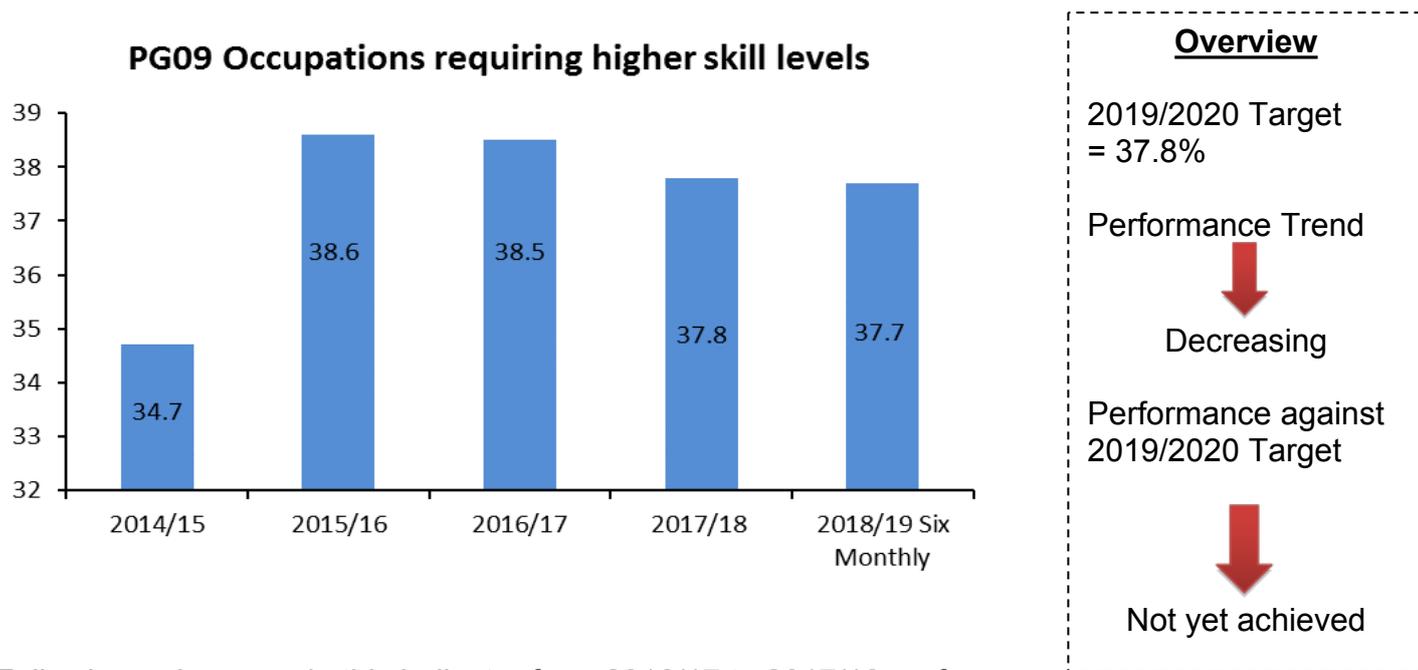
High employment rates and major changes to the welfare system with the introduction of full service Universal Credit (UC) are reducing the number of people classed as economically inactive and thus fuelling a comparatively high Economic Activity Rate.

The full UC replaced six previous benefits (Income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, income support, child tax credit, working tax credit and housing benefit) and affects a larger number of residents within Gateshead and it is still to reach full implemented in many areas.

Gateshead remains consistently ahead of the North East with an average (75.2%) and only half a percentage point behind the National average (78.4%).

This will be further discussed at Corporate Resources OSC when Committee consider the six-monthly impact of Welfare Reform report.

PG09 – Residents employed in occupations requiring higher skill levels

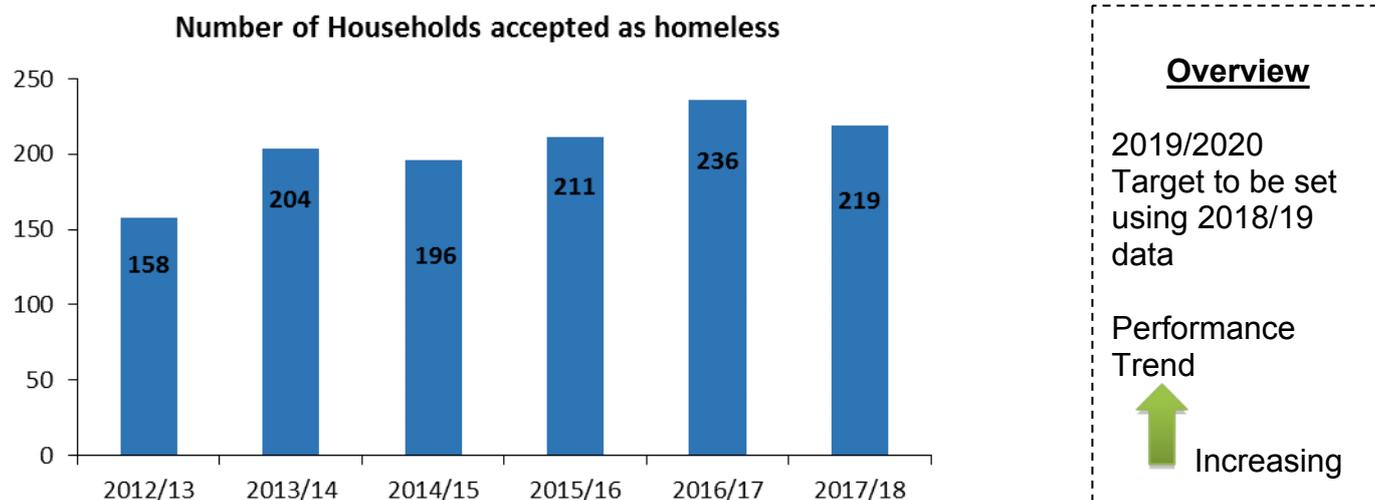


Following a decrease in this indicator from 2016/17 to 2017/18 performance is now slowly recovering. Gateshead is behind both the NE region average (39.2%) and some way off the National average (45.8%). This indicator can fluctuate as it is survey based and significant changes can occur over short timescales. As previously mentioned uncertainty over Brexit and its implications could lead to at least some short-term instability in occupations being available that require a higher skill level.

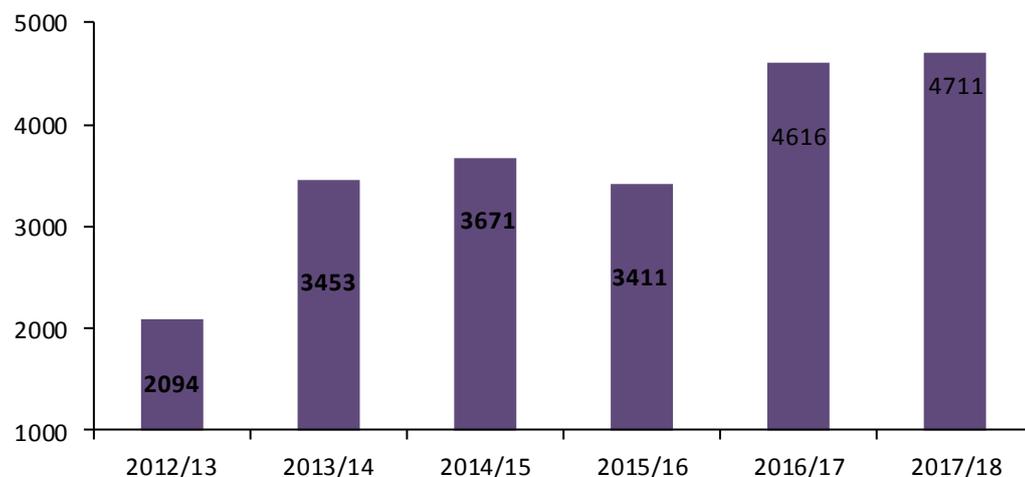
PG29 – Number of households accepted as homeless

PG30 – Number of households prevented from becoming homeless

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local housing authorities must have processes and procedures in place for preventing homelessness in their area which applies to everyone at risk of homelessness. Homelessness prevention is a statutory duty for the Local Authority and in Gateshead. The delivery of homelessness advice is discharged through The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC), although prevention activity includes work across all service areas and going forward will also capture prevention work from partner agencies. As good practice, TGHC take steps to relieve homelessness in cases where someone has been found to be homeless but, is not owed a duty to secure accommodation under homelessness legislation.



Number of households prevented from becoming homeless



Overview

2019/2020 Target to be set using 2018/19 data

Performance Trend



Increasing

As reported at year end, The Homeless Reduction Act came into effect from April 2018, which alongside making prevention a statutory duty, changed the way in which homelessness cases are defined and reported. Going forward we are required to capture performance information in a different way, which is prescribed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Prevention is now categorised as interventions for those clients with a real risk of homelessness within 56 days. Through using this definition, much of the preventative activity that had previously been reported will no longer form part of the reported figures, e.g. cases that are awarded Discretionary Housing Payments.

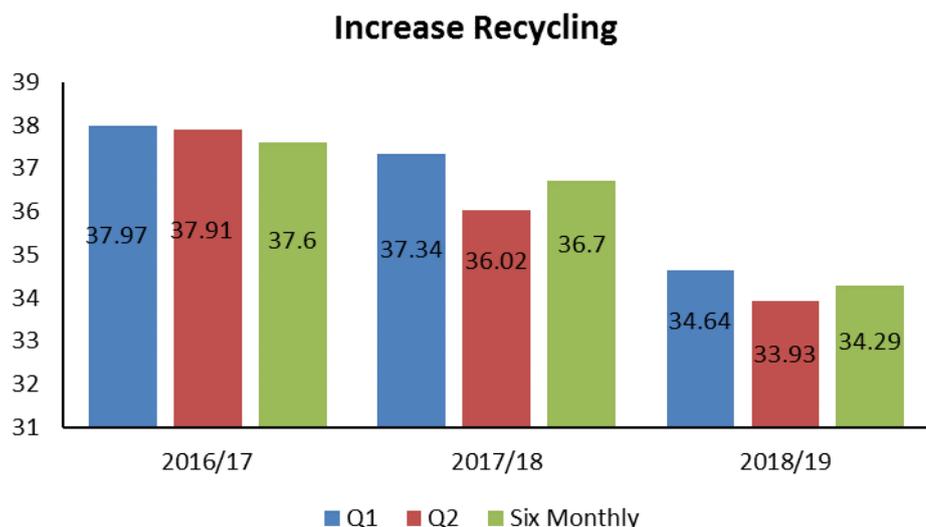
One of the main areas of focus during the first 6 months of this year has been to develop ICT solutions to enable accurate recording of client data, in line with the revised reporting requirements.

A targeted action plan to implement the additional duties imposed by the change in legislation has been established, involving partners from across the council, Gateshead Housing Company and, the voluntary and community sector.

The next phase of the act is to implement a “Duty to Refer” for all statutory bodies and as part of the action plan, we have participated in a cross regional group to ensure a consistent approach to referrals and have worked with partner agencies, DWP, Probation etc to ensure early referrals are made for those clients threatened with homelessness at the earliest opportunity.

Longer term performance measures and targets will be set once the act and associated performance information has been assessed at year end.

LL09 Improve the recycling rate



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 50%

Performance Trend

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Performance against 2019/2020 Target

↓

Not yet achieved

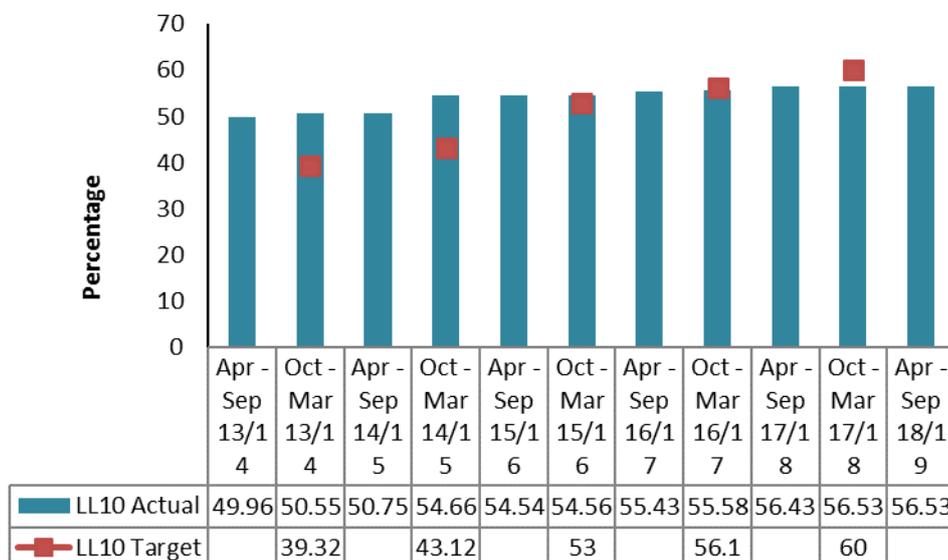
A poor growing season resulting from the excellent summer weather has led to a drop in the green waste tonnage collected when compared to 2017/18 six monthly reporting.

Newspaper usage continues to fall nationally this, plus other moves to online use, have resulted in a further 12% reduction in paper tonnage collected in Gateshead compared with last year. Positively the total recycling collected in blue bins has increased by 3% compared to the same period last year. The increase for overall recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and the blue bins will not offset the reduction in green waste collected.

Increased scrutiny throughout the supply chain on the quality of materials collected and during collections continues. Extraction of contaminants whilst materials are being processed has resulted in lower tonnage although waste collected is of a higher quality. Behavioural Change Officers continue to work with residents, management companies and housing associations at communal collection points to improve recycling collection and reduce contamination. Increased use of social media for regular recycling messages and work with partner authorities is ongoing.

LL10 – Increasing Homes in the Highest Energy Efficiency Bands

Homes in the highest energy efficiency bands



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 60

Performance Trend

→

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

↓

Not yet achieved

There are 47,881 homes in the Highest Energy Efficiency band and they have a Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating greater than 65.

Large scale changes to The Energy Company Obligation (ECO), have resulted in lower levels of Capital funding available. Warm up North delivery has also ended as has Green Deal. Demolitions of older hard to treat and thermally inefficient properties has slowed significantly this year. This coupled with diminishing returns to existing stock that is treatable and identifiable accounts for the variance

The biggest challenge to improving SAP scores is improving the remaining hard to treat homes – high rise, or solid wall properties and this is due to the high cost of measures. The Council is focusing resources on these property types, with schemes like Gateshead HEIGHTs.

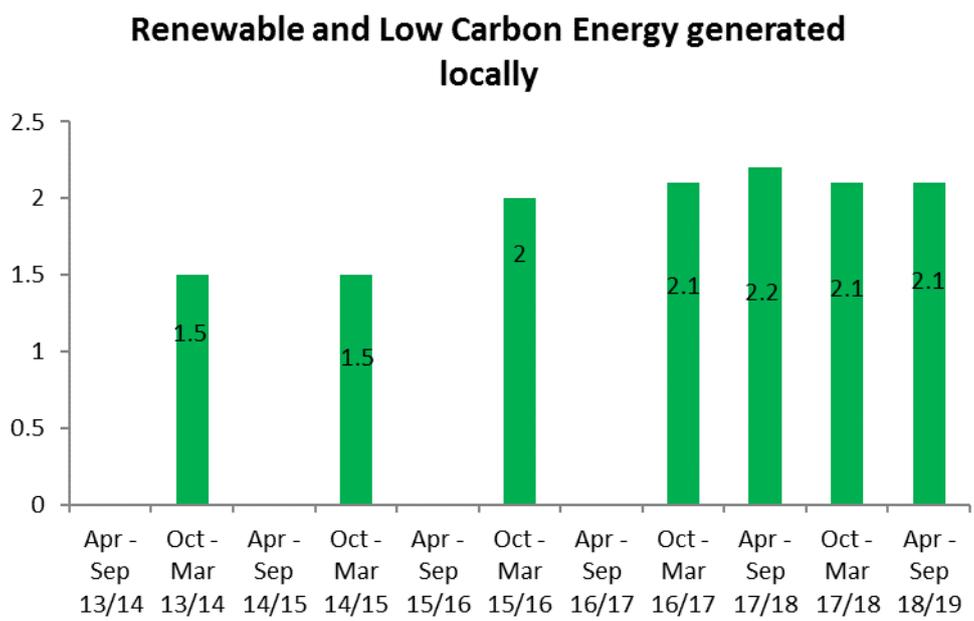
The HEIGHTs project is nearing completion of 7 high-rise blocks of flats and aims to deliver energy efficiency improvements in each block through a variety of measures. By the end of September 2018, there were approximately 400 out of 621 properties connected to the new heating system, with the remainder due to be completed over the next couple of months.

The results of these improvements should be reflected in the figures to be reported at year end. It is also anticipated that further data which will be obtained from Building Control, The Gateshead Housing Company, Planning and Private Sector Housing will also result in an increase in the number of residential properties which have a SAP rating of 65 or greater.

Since April 2018, new laws require private landlords to bring the property up to an energy efficiency SAP rating, before they relet, which should drive more improvement to the private rented sector.

In future years, we can provide numbers of measures installed for a given year, to further illustrate how the SAP score is improving.

LL12 – Percentage of renewable / low carbon / energy generated locally



Overview

2019/2020 Target = 16.8%

Performance Trend

Performance against 2019/2020 Target

Not yet achieved

In Gateshead, about 90% of the installed renewable energy capacity is attributed to landfill gas electricity generators, with the remainder comprised of smaller scale, building specific renewable energy systems.

Splitting the technologies between renewable electricity and heat show that for electricity, Gateshead is producing 10.6% (55711.97 MWh) of its electricity from renewable sources, (largely due to landfill gas generators and solar panel installation), but only 0.07% (1612.8 MWh) of heat from renewable sources. The latter figure will increase when the 10 customers for the District Energy Scheme are accounted for next financial year.

Delivery of the Thrive Agenda

Key Achievements & Areas for Improvement

This section provides key highlights of progress made in support of the Council's Thrive agenda. It also provides actions that will be progressed between October 2018 and March 2019.

Achievements

- The Heworth maintenance work began late January 2018 and was completed eight weeks ahead of schedule. It is proposed to use the surplus funding from the Department of Transport to make further improvements on the A184 (additional resurfacing, parapet protection/renewal, renewal of Vehicle Restraint Systems, strategic signage, and flood relief work on and in the vicinity of the road). Funding will also support major repairs and reducing the risk of vehicle incursion onto the A1 embankment at the A692/A1 junction to the west of Gateshead.
- PROTO: The Emerging Technology Centre was completed and opened by HRH The Duke of Cambridge in September 2018. There has been strong interest from occupiers with 60% of space now occupied. This includes 7 occupiers relocating from outside of Gateshead. The Council, working in partnership with Invest North East England, has secured Department of International Trade's resources to develop an inward investment proposition for the emerging technologies sector on behalf of the region; positively this positions Gateshead and in particular PROTO as a prime destination for technology led inward investment.
- An ERDF application submitted by Gateshead and five other local authorities (excluding Durham) in the NECA for a Business Energy Efficiency Support Programme was approved. The £1.4m scheme will support 250 small to medium enterprise (SMEs) across the region with advice and funding to achieve reductions in energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions enabling small businesses to increase resilience and adaptive capacity. Reducing energy cost will allow for companies to divert their resources to expansion rather than manage overhead costs whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions helps prevent premature deaths, reduce global warming and make Gateshead a healthier place to live and work in. 2017/18 (most recent figures) Council Carbon Emissions performance is 38.4% as detailed earlier in this report.
- Planning approval was granted for new Grade A office accommodation on Baltic Business Quarter by the Council. This was in response to development market failure but also demand from potential occupiers for space. The new office building will provide space for up to 500 employees when it opens in early 2020 which will bring increased footfall into Gateshead town centre and boost the local economy.
- Gateshead has launch an enhanced, ethical recruitment service for employers obliged or willing to recruit new job entrants locally. Working with partners the service would support single to large-scale recruitment campaigns and would be for both temporary and permanent positions. This is also an opportunity for the Council to advocate for more stable, meaningful employment and increase the local working age population which will decrease the number of local claimants receiving Universal Credit. 2017/18 Current working age population is 62.9% as detailed earlier in this report.

- A sector-based work inspiration programme for young people including NEETs and Looked After Children will be launched in early 2019. Working with industry, training providers and schools, the programme will to deliver sector insights and inspiration into future career choices and the many options available to achieving them. This work will improve the younger generation employment aspirations and is expected to reduce intergenerational worklessness whilst meeting the future skills needs of employers and retaining talent in the region.
- The Council has been awarded £2.3 million from the Government's National Productivity Infrastructure Fund to support the removal the subway beneath the Gateshead flyover at Sunderland Road. It will be replaced by a new A grade pedestrian and cycle crossing and dedicated bus link. The removal and replacement of the subway will ensure that residents are safe when crossing this busy area and reducing the risk of fatal pedestrian and traffic accidents and this Strategic Outcome Indicator will be reported to Committee at year end 2018/19 when result become available.
- The Council has attained a 'band 3' status in the Government's highway maintenance incentive funding process. This has secured an additional £138,000 funding for road maintenance in 2018/19. If this status is maintained into next year it will see a further £229,000 secured. The ongoing maintenance of roads ensures that they are safe, serviceable and reliable and are vital to the economy and the social well-being of communities and all road users.
- The Council has continued to raise the profile of Gateshead as an investment location internationally, hosting a delegation from the Shangrao Economic and Technologic Development Zone in China interested in establishing a trade and investment partnership. A follow up visit by the Deputy Mayor of Shangrao, a city with a population of seven million, is expected in November. Achieving this international recognition will attract business investments and hopefully increase business rate collection.
- A local Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance Network for Careers Leaders from Gateshead secondary, SEND schools and Gateshead College has been established. The network which will promote the sharing of best practice when linking education with business and developing the Gatsby benchmarks of good careers guidance within Gateshead schools. The network has supported schools to access North East Collaborative Outreach's Programme's (NECOP) Future Me service to increase awareness of higher education opportunities and progression pathways for young people. This will aid young people to use their education to gain employment that in turn will make them financially self-sufficient and less likely to rely on Universal Credit.
- A community-based enterprise programme in partnership has been launched with Millin Charity that will support at least 100 economically inactive women to develop entrepreneurial skills and explore business start-up and self-employment. The programme will initially be delivered in central Gateshead, Chopwell and through some targeted interventions within the Jewish community. This enterprise will support local residents into self-employment which is currently 6.1% for 2018/19 (as detailed earlier in the report) allowing them to become independent and increasing business enterprise within the Gateshead area.
- The Council has worked with employers in the borough to influence their employment practices, and to ensure that business growth is sustainable and ethical. Priority sectors include retail & hospitality and care as priority sectors. These sectors have a direct impact on welfare and supply essential goods and services to everyone, regardless of income or social status and providing employment to 35% of residents. Work is focusing on ensuring these sectors continue to support local communities equitably, promoting sustainable supply chains

and driving up job quality through improved productivity making Gateshead the first choice for business growth.

- Gateshead hosted a launch event for the North East Fund in June 2018. A £120m investment fund is available to drive local growth and job creation funded by ERDF and the European Investment Bank (EIB). Over 50 business people attended to find out how to access investment to support start up, scale up and job creation which will support and sustain local employment, business development and increase individual and business financial stability in Gateshead.
- The Council successfully delivered the first concert to be held at Gateshead International Stadium since 2000, with over 23,000 people attending the 'Little Mix' concert in July. This global and national recognition has the potential to attract further large-scale entertainment events which will further increase the local economy and keep Gateshead in the public eye.
- The Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure Website (www.gogateshead.com) was launched in March 2018 to make it easier for residents to access the service. The website continues to be successful maintaining a high level of site visits per week, and the service now includes the addition of a new online booking process for swimming lessons, which has enabled 90% of payments to now be taken by direct debit. Easy access to leisure services will enhance mental and physical health and wellbeing which reduce the impact on the NHS and the health and social care service delivered by Gateshead Council.
- Working in partnership, the Council, Keepmoat Homes and the local Glenpark Medical Practice secured funding from the NHS for a new medical practice on Ravensworth Road. Construction started in March 2018 and will complete in December 2018. The Glenpark Practice will relocate to the new Centre in January 2019, providing a new, state of the art facility for their 10,000 patients. Ensuring that the NHS are centrally located to allow for easy access to appropriate local health care. Keepmoat Homes are currently building 45 new family homes on the adjacent site, the first of which are occupied, and will complete by the end of 2019. Providing more family homes in Gateshead develops and increases sustainable communities, opportunities to employment, support local businesses, retail sectors now and in the future.

Areas for Improvement / Actions to take in the next 6 months

- The Gateshead Regeneration Partnership (GRP) will provide local employment and supply chain opportunities for Gateshead businesses. In early 2019 GRP construction begins on three housing sites at Kelvin Grove, Rowlands Gill and Whitehills Drive which make best use of previously vacant land and supports, employment and local community development.
- Delivery of new facilities and improved public spaces at Baltic Quarter for businesses and visitors will help to create a vibrant business destination and facilities will include a new café, new seating on the Boulevard and improved signage. The new facilities will encourage residents and employees into the area, improve local spending and promote the Gateshead area as a place to work and visit.
- The Council will explore opportunities to secure wider social and economic benefits for growth in the tech sector including a fairer share and distribution of wealth, and greater stability for freelance and contract employees by supporting the development of a Tech co-operative, business owned and democratically controlled by its workers, or similar model.

- The Council aim to improve the business environment to develop the capacity and accelerate the growth of key employment sectors. These include digital technology, advanced manufacturing, health and retail to support business expansion and retention, increasing the number and quality of jobs available to residents. Activities will include supporting business expansion and retention through account management, working with employer organisations, cluster and supply chain development.
- An ERDF grant application was made for £8m of funding, to support a £16m scheme to deliver sustainable energy and transport improvements to Chopwell. Unfortunately, the application was not successful however, the project scope is being reviewed and revised, and other funding sources explored.
- In respect of the Gateshead Quays development, the key action over the next 6 months is to secure Agreement to Lease with the key tenant SMG Europe who will operate the new arena and conference centre.
- Improve the promotion of Gateshead and support its ambition to be recognised as a business investment location and the number one destination for companies developing cutting edge technology, software, and content through a digital marketing campaign and building on the success of PROTO. A company has been commissioned to deliver the campaign which will start imminently.
- Civil bus lane enforcement was expected in late 2018 with three cameras at Gateshead High Street, the A184 (West Central Route, behind the bus station) and the A184 Felling Bypass (westbound). It is anticipated that lane enforcement will lead to a reduction in road traffic and pedestrian accidents. The outcome of improved road enforcement will be known at the end of 2018/19 and continue on into 2019/20.
- A new housing development is under way through the Trading Company, with 22 apartments for sale being developed at the former Derwentside Sheltered Scheme in Swalwell, with completion expected late 2018. Construction activity also commenced on the former Lyndhurst Site in Beacon Lough. The development will see 36 new family homes being built with completion expected in summer 2019. Both of these developments are being progressed under the trading name Beacon Living.
- Council Housing is progressing with work to develop a core and cluster scheme of 14 supported living homes in Winlaton. The development will see a mix of bungalows and apartments, supported by an onsite concierge providing support for clients with Learning Disabilities. The development attracted external grant funding of over £0.5m from Homes England and completion is forecast to be early summer 2019.
- The housing growth site at Clasper Village has been cleared and is ready for development of 191 homes plus a supermarket store to improve access to services for local residents. A planning application will be submitted in early 2019. This site recently attracted an offer of external funding offer to support remediation works on the site.
- A planning application for the housing growth site at Bleach Green in Blaydon will be submitted in January 2019 by Keepmoat Homes, for 183 homes. Funding from Homes England will help provide 15% affordable homes for the area with work starting on site in March 2019 and supporting local first-time buyers into home ownership.

- In October 2018, the Council will be supporting a month-long Adult Social Care Recruitment Campaign pilot working with the Department of Health and Social Care to promote careers in social care. The two pilots are based in Tyne and Wear and Gloucestershire and will inform a national campaign in early 2019. There are approximately 250 vacancies in the Gateshead social care sector at any one time. Filling these posts will alleviate the pressure on residents relying on Universal Credits.
- The Council will market land in the Baltic Business Quarter in early 2019. Expressions of interest will be requested from developers for schemes containing a mix of housing and employment developments. Mixed use developments increase population density, encourage more affordable housing (smaller units), allows for the creation of plazas, reduce distance between housing and employment, encourage walking and cycling, reduce road congestion and encourage retail opportunities. All of these elements will support the Gateshead area into future sustainability.