

# COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, 16 September 2019 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

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From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

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Item	Business
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
2	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> (Pages 3 - 8)  The Committee are asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2019.
3	<b>Holiday Activities and Food - Summer Programme</b> (Pages 9 - 12)  Report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment.
4	<b>OSC Review of the Council's and Partner's Approach to Roads and Highways - Monitory Report</b> (Pages 13 - 16)  Report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment.
5	<b>Work Programme</b> (Pages 17 - 20)  Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance.

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**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING**

**Monday, 24 June 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Weatherley (Chair)  
  
Councillor(s): T Graham, Anderson, S Dickie, Diston,  
K Dodds, A Geddes, F Geddes, S Hawkins, H Kelly,  
P Maughan, J McClurey, Reay, R Waugh and A Wheeler

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor(s): D Burnett, B Clelland, M Hood and J Turnbull

**CPL37 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 29 April 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**CPL38 CONSTITUTION**

The constitution of the Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2019/20 municipal year, as approved by the Council at its meeting on 17 May 2019 was noted.

**CPL39 ROLE AND REMIT**

The Role and Remit of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee was reported and noted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted

**CPL40 MAKING GATESHEAD A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES - YEAR END ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE DELIVERY 2018-19**

The Committee received a report which provided the year end assessment of performance and delivery for the period of 2018/19 in relation to the Council's Thrive agenda.

The report forms part of the Council's performance management framework and gives an overview of progress for the priorities appropriate to the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

The Council's new strategic approach Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, was approved by Cabinet in March 2018 to ensure the Council continues to get the best outcomes for local people and remains a viable and sustainable organisation in the future.

Committee were advised at the meeting in December 2018, that a review of the strategic indicators has been undertaken to ensure their appropriateness in measuring performance relating to the Thrive agenda.

As part of the Council's performance management framework, five year targets were replaced with a single 2020 target with strategic indicators identified as either target or tracker indicators. These targets were approved by Cabinet on 12 July 2016.

The Strategic Indicators aligned to OSC Communities and Place have been reviewed to ensure they are appropriate in measuring performance in respect of the Thrive agenda.

Implementation of new strategic indicators will be developed for Culture and Leisure and introduced as part of the 2019/20 performance reporting cycle.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
  - ii) The Committee endorsed that the activities undertaken during the timeframe were supporting delivery of the Thrive agenda
  - iii) The Committee agreed that the report be referred to Cabinet on 16 July 2019.

#### **CPL41 SAFER GATESHEAD PARTNERSHIP PLAN**

The Committee received a report which provided them with a copy of the statutory Partnership Plan for Gateshead Community Safety Board, which provides details of the strategic priorities and workstreams for the next 12 months.

The Committee were advised that in January 2019, the Community Safety Board received a comprehensive overview of the Strategic Assessment findings and agreed to undertake public consultation on its draft priorities for 2019/20. This process was carried out over a six-week period and ended in March 2019.

The consultation has elicited a significant number of responses, with more than 900 replies over the six-week period. Analysis of the responses highlight:

- 41% of respondents felt that their neighbourhood has got worse in the last 12 months. We know crime has steadily increased over the last three-years – with levels rising by a further 4% (+863 additional crimes) on last year.
- However, despite the feeling that their neighbourhood has got worse, most respondents still report feeling safe, with 76% of people say they feel very of fairly safe in their neighbourhood.
- 60% of respondents stated they do not feel anti-social behaviour or crime are specific problems, which may suggest national headlines impacting
- Over a third of respondents believe partner agencies (including Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police) work well together to tackle the issues that matter to them.

In terms of the proposed strategic priority areas, anti-social behaviour was ranked as most important followed by domestic abuse and substance misuse. Fewer respondents felt hate crime was a priority. The reason for this could be because its

an issue that affects a very small proportion of the community. In addition, environmental issues such as fly-tipping, graffiti, dog-fouling and littering continued to be identified as key concerns – all of which are visible incidents which impact on feelings of safety and perceptions of Council/Police to tackle issues and is linked to the wider anti-social behaviour agenda.

There are no references made within the consultation to issues such as County Lines, Modern Day Slavery and Knife Crime – and yet, we know these issues are closely intertwined in community safety activity. These areas will be picked up as part of the work around anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

Analysis of the qualitative data highlighted information which has been shared with Gateshead Operational Tasking Group and Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group for (e.g. hotspot locations).

The Five Strategic themes were confirmed for 2019/20:

- Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse – Reducing the Harms
- Hate Crime, Tension Monitoring and Community Cohesion
- Preventing Violent Extremism (Terrorism)

Tailored action plans will be produced under each priority area which will set out the partnership work and activities that will be delivered over the next 12 months to make Gateshead a place where everyone can thrive. Lead partners were identified by the Board and they are responsible for ensuring action plans are working effectively and are required to feedback to the Board in relation to key achievements, gaps and barriers. The lead for each strategy priority are:

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Lead Organisation (identified by Board)</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour	Northumbria Police
Domestic Abuse	NewcastleGateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
Harms from Substance Misuse	Northumbria Police
Hate Crime et al.	Gateshead Community Rehabilitation Company
Preventing Violent Extremism	Gateshead Council – Community Safety

The Partnership Plan 2019/20 was appended to the main report and provided the Committee with headline details of some activity that has been undertaken over the last twelve months to keep residents safe. It provides some context issues to the Board, details some of the demand on Community Safety services within the Borough as well as setting out how delivery is monitored over the next 12 months.

The Plan is also aligned with the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Plan 2017-20, to ensure that similar themes are replicated wherever possible.

The Committee were advised that the Partnership Plan will be formally scrutinised through the Communities and Place OSC and update reports will be presented over

the next twelve months (as per the annual workplan 2019/20)

- RESOLVED
- i) That the information be noted
  - ii) That the Committee agreed to receive regular updates on actions undertaken in relation to the strategic priorities (as per the OSC Workplan 2019/20)

#### **CPL42 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The committee received a presentation and report providing an update on Anti-Social Behaviour.

The presentation provided councillors with an update in relation to how anti-social behaviour is being tackled within Gateshead and focused on:

- The operational delivery models (including Neighbourhood Tasking and Problem Solving) that are currently in place;
- Overview of the ASB Tools and Powers that are being used within Gateshead to address ASB concerns/issues
- Specific case study examples of how partnership working has been used to help solve problems for residents of Gateshead, this will include specific examples of local interventions that are being deployed to help address ASB in estates as well as to tackle the behaviour of complex and persistent offenders.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
  - ii) The Committee agreed to receive further updates at a future Committee

#### **CPL43 THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO TACKLING PROBLEMATIC SITES AND DERELICT SPACES**

The Committee received a report setting out the approach to dealing with vacant sites in private ownership in Gateshead. At future meetings examples of a range of different sites and proposed solutions will be presented to demonstrate the complexity of tackling the issues associated with some sites and highlight the range of tools and powers available.

The Committee were advised that there are currently 45 vacant and problematic sites identified. The list has been informed by using the Brownfield register, planning application data, ward based issues and personal knowledge from officers on the working group. Ward Councillors have also provided information regarding sites in their wards which have been added to the list for the group to work towards resolving.

The Committee were advised on case studies, examples of success and examples of ongoing work as a basis for the approach.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
  - ii) The Committee noted the contents of the proposed approach to presenting case studies
  - iii) The Committee agreed to receive regular case studies in

September 2019 and March 2020 as set out in the committee work programme.

**CPL44 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report setting out the provisional work programme for the municipal year 2019/20.

The Committee's provisional work programme was endorsed at the meeting held on 29 April 2019 and Councillors have agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues/identify any changes/additions to this programme.

The appendix sets out the work programme as it currently stands. Any changes proposed to the programme are set out in bold and italics for ease of identification.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
  - ii) That further reports on the work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

**Chair.....**

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**TITLE OF REPORT:** Gateshead Holiday Activities and Food

**REPORT OF:** Colin Huntingdon, Acting Strategic Director,  
Communities and Environment

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## **SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary update on the initial feedback on the Gateshead Holiday Activities and Food programme which ran from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To explain the approach to holiday provision in Gateshead and highlight the impact of the Gateshead Holiday Activities and Food programme based on the evaluation information received to date and to seek the Committee's views on the programme and its impact in the context of helping Gateshead thrive.

### **Background**

Earlier this year, the Neighbourhood Management & Volunteering Team successfully secured £204,403 to provide free summer holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children. The funding is from the Department for Education (DfE) with Gateshead Council one of only eleven organisations across England that were selected to be part of the government pilot.

DfE invited local authorities, charities, third sector organisations, and holiday club providers to apply to the new £9 million fund to coordinate a more joined up approach to the delivery of free holiday clubs. The requirements of DfE included the provision being frequent and for a good duration. The ideal minimum requirements for each provider were stated as 4 hours of provision per day, for 4 days per week and for 4 weeks during the summer holidays.

When drafting the application, it became clear that Gateshead's chances of success were limited given that a borough level figure of 15.9% for children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) is relatively low compared to the other eleven North East local authorities. Only North Tyneside (12.6%) and Northumberland (12.3%) have lower figures whilst the highest figures are Hartlepool (25.8%), Newcastle (25.6%) and Middlesbrough (24.2%).

The narrative within the bid was therefore to highlight the ward and neighbourhood areas which are masked to an extent by the 15.9% figure. This includes the figures below at ward level:

- Felling – 34%
- High Fell – 33%
- Deckham – 32%
- Bridges – 27%

However, it was the analysis at a neighbourhood level which really demonstrated the case for intervention:

- Beacon Lough East (High Fell) – 51%
- Sunderland Road (Felling) – 45%
- Old Fold / Nest Estates (Felling) – 41%
- Bensham Central (Saltwell) – 40%
- Elisabethville (Lamesley) – 40%
- Sheriff Hill (Deckham) – 39%
- Bensham West (Lobley Hill & Bensham) – 39%
- Shipcote (Deckham) – 38%
- Springwell Estate (High Fell) – 37%
- Deckham East (Deckham) – 36%

These figures alongside a summary of the *'Fill the Holiday Gap'* work that the Council has previously done to help support children and families in this area helped make a compelling case.

The DfE feedback was extremely positive about the proposed programme with the value for money and sustainable approach being developed in Gateshead through our community networks specifically mentioned. The original proposal involved delivering at 19 venues across Gateshead but further mapping work when the funding was confirmed led to 39 venues being engaged to deliver activities.

### **Programme Delivery**

As stated above, 39 venues took part in the programme with a range of activities provided. These included stage schools, indoor and outdoor sports camps, sessions with artists and trips to Chopwell Woods to take part in mountain biking.

Venues were a mix of community settings and schools with 8 primary schools and 4 secondary schools used as venues. This included Parkhead Community Primary School, Brandling Primary School, Birtley East Primary School and Heworth Grange School. Dunston Activity Centre and Teams Life Centre also delivered activities as did the Central Library and the Elgin Centre.

Some of the venues prepared a packed lunch or hot meal on site with the project at Heworth Grange School led by a chef and focusing on cooking skills. Those taking part on the 29-day project prepared dishes from around the world for lunch and were also provided with breakfast. Healthy packed lunches were provided for those projects without facilities on site with the Council's Catering Service preparing and delivering over 8,000 packed lunches over six weeks.

Monitoring returns and surveys are still being compiled but the initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive which is reflected in the comments from parents shown below. The first comment is from a parent who took part in the activities delivered at the Central Library.

- The Holiday Club has been an amazing opportunity for me and my family this summer. It has helped us make so many memories this summer and allowed us to make new friendships, learn new skills and for us to be part of a brilliant programme. Staff and volunteers have been amazing, couldn't have asked for anything better. The club has provided 4 weeks of jam-packed activities some of which we may not have been able to access if it was a payment per child etc. The food every day was lovely and fab to have that given each day for free. A massive thank you to all involved, it has been amazing. This programme is so needed and valuable to families. Hopefully this will continue next year. We have loved it.
- It has helped us a family as we are a large family with complex needs. The house was quieter four mornings per week.
- Xxxxx has really enjoyed attending these events. She has been able to socialise with her friends throughout the summer.
- Xxxxx has loved coming and has kept him in a routine which has helped keep him calm. This has helped his brothers have quality time with me.

Monitoring data received to date shows projects providing access to activities for anything from 5 children to almost 300 attending, numbers are very much dependant on the activity and also the capacity of the venue.

Data has though been examined in more detail from 3 of the venues. That shows a total of 165 children attending with 1,092 spaces taken up. This data shows that children attended for approximately half of the days available with the 87 children at the Chopwell scheme on average attending for 8 of the 16 days.

Cost per place is approximately £15 per place for the 3 projects mentioned above, however across the entire programme costs ranged from £5 to £40 per head.

The rest of the data will be examined to provide a fuller picture and will be accompanied by a report by academics at the Healthy Living Lab at Northumbria University who are working with the Council to provide some insights to shape policy.

### **Programme Challenges and Initial Conclusions**

The most significant challenge when developing the programme was ensuring the children and families that needed support most could take part. The first part of addressing this challenge was mapping FSM data in Gateshead and delivering in neighbourhoods that had the highest percentages of FSM children. For Gateshead this meant enhancing provision in the rural west and the densely populated east which has the highest percentages of FSM children with numerous neighbourhoods having percentages in excess of 40% and one in excess of 50%.

The second part of the challenge once the geographical issue was addressed was ensuring the places were filled and that those that would benefit most had the opportunity to do so. This involved asking schools to help identify the families that would benefit most so the approach was targeted whilst at the same time not restrictive on who could attend; this ensured that there was no stigma attached to the provision. Given this approach, schools delivering directly to their own pupils are well placed to identify children and to encourage participation.

Schools that weren't delivering directly were asked to refer children to the provision within community centres and onto free places that had been purchased on sports camps ran by the local authority and private providers. An example was 'golden tickets' being distributed to children in most need to attend a project session. Established community centres were also able to identify children given their work with families. Community centres that were less established or with a cohort that was more adult focused had more of a challenge to identify the children that would benefit.

Delivery in schools was a combination of school business managers arranging for external providers and also delivery arranged at the programme level. Gateshead Council as programme lead provided options including sports coaches, skateboarding lessons and stage schools for schools to choose from. In some cases, the school provided the venue with the provision entirely organised at the programme level. Schools administrators did though complete the monitoring information.

From a cost perspective, most schools requested no charge for the use of their facilities as they were not foregoing income. Some schools requested a modest charge for opening and cleaning. Community venues were more likely to charge a fee given that facilities that otherwise would be hired out were in use.

The key messages for DfE are that provision takes place on the school premises and is led by the school or that schools' partner with community venues to ensure that the children who would benefit most are identified.

**Recommendation:**

- Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the approach taken to the holiday activities and food programme, comment on the programme and advise on how future provision could be shaped and resourced.

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**Contact:** Ian Stevenson

**Extension:** 2812

**TITLE OF REPORT:** OSC Review - roads and highways – highways maintenance progress update

**REPORT OF:** Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

**SUMMARY**

The final report of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of roads and highways was presented in June 2018. One outcome from the review was that the position on highway maintenance continued to be monitored, and this report provides an update on progress in that particular area.

**Background**

1. The final report of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of roads and highways was presented in June 2018. A specific recommendation from the review was:
  - that the position on highway maintenance continues to be monitored, with further sessions for members arranged as appropriate;
2. This report provides an update on highway maintenance, in line with the above recommendation.

**Current position**

*Highway defects*

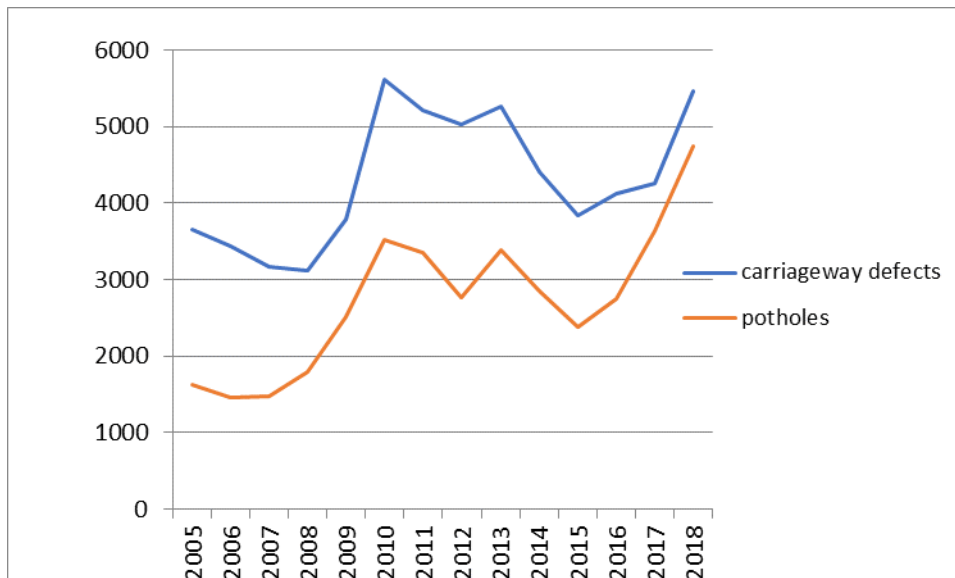
3. The number of defects in the second quarter of 2019 remains well below the position for 2018:

Highway defects*	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
2018	3947	5014
2019	3360	2973

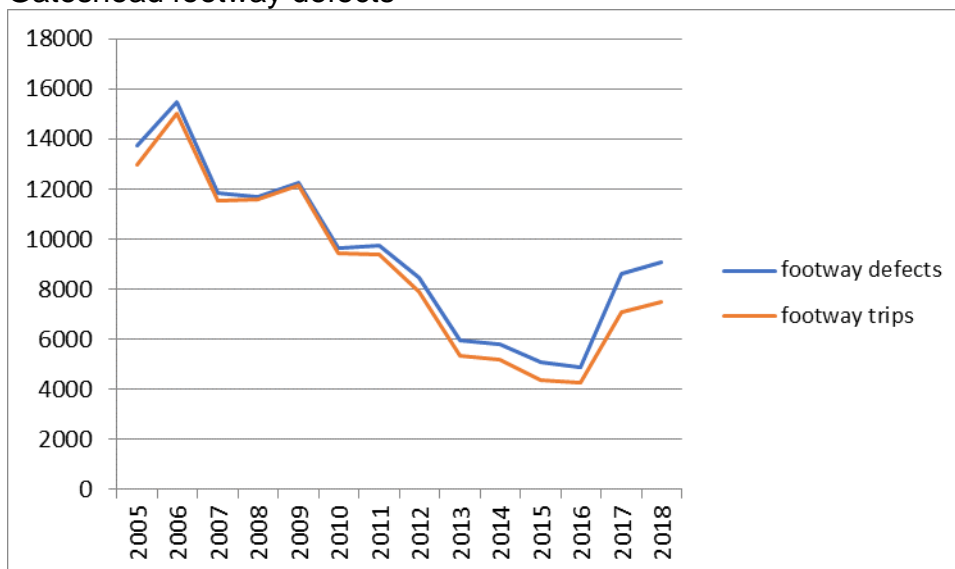
\*excludes observations, obstructions etc.

4. The number of defects identified in any one year depends on a number of factors, including the underlying condition of the highway and the prevailing weather (wetter and colder years see much higher levels of defects). Looking at longer term trends for carriageways (roads) and footways (pavements) suggests that over the longer term:
  - there is an upward trend in the number of carriageway defects;
  - the previous decline in the number of footway defects has been reversed. The reasons for the decline are difficult to understand, this period reflecting no major investment in this area. It is thought most likely to reflect the application of more stringent criteria for recording such defects in the face of reduce budgets.

## Gateshead carriageway defects



## Gateshead footway defects



### *Backlog of defects*

7. The review of maintenance policy last November saw a change in repair times, particularly for low risk defects. Whereas previously there was a target to repair these within 40 working days, this has now been extended to a year. The aim of this is to allow a more efficient approach to planning such repairs. It does mean though that an accurate estimate of the current backlog is unlikely to be available until the new policy has been operational for at least one year.

### *Review of policy*

8. The new risk-based policy for the identification of highway defects has now been implemented fully. It is too early to judge the effectiveness or otherwise of the new policy. This will be assessed in future reports.

### *Innovation*

9. The Council is trialling a new approach to improving the condition of more minor roads. Known as 'micro asphalt' this uses a much thinner surface layer and more simple process than would be applied through conventional resurfacing works, and is estimated to reduce costs by more than half. It is not suitable for heavily trafficked roads but is being tried on residential estate roads with a view to assessing its suitability for a more extensive roll out.
10. An alternative approach to repairing potholes known as 'jet patching' has been demonstrated recently to Council officers. Its use in other parts of the country have seen major savings in cost in repairing potholes, and costings are to be sought to assess its applicability in Gateshead.

### *Other highway assets*

11. Concerns remain around the condition a number of ageing concrete structures, and likely future maintenance costs associated with these. In some cases the costs of long-term maintenance may mean continued repair is no longer cost-effective. Further work is being done area to establish the position.
12. Council borrowing is being used to undertake replacement of older street lighting columns across the Borough and to continue the renewal of traffic signal equipment.

### **Future prospects**

13. The main future risk relating to highway maintenance is the pressure on budgets. Estimates in the Council's Highway Asset Management Plan suggest a significant gap and with further pressures on budgets recently this is now likely to have increased further.
14. This is a national problem, with many local authorities in a similar position to Gateshead. Surveys suggest both increasing problems of repair of the road network, and decreasing public satisfaction with road condition at a national level. A recent House of Commons Transport Committee report highlighted funding as the key current issue for road maintenance.
15. The deteriorating position on funding means that additional emphasis needs to be given to the securing of additional sources of long-term funding. While efforts are being made to reduce costs wherever possible it is not envisaged any such savings will have a significant impact on overall funding needs.

### **Recommendations**

16. That the update report on highway maintenance is noted, and that further updates are provided in due course.

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**Contact:    Anneliese Hutchinson    Ext: 3881**

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**TITLE OF REPORT:** Annual Work Programme

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

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**Summary**

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

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

**Recommendations**

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

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

	<p>Customer Scrutiny Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safer Gateshead Draft Priorities 20-21</li><li>• Beamish - Annual Update</li><li>• Managing Derelict Spaces – (focus on progress being made)</li><li>• Annual Work Programme Review</li></ul>
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Issues to slot in

a) Postal Provision