

CABINET AGENDA

Tuesday, 19 January 2021 at 10.00 am. The meeting to be held virtually.

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1 Apologies for absence

2 Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)

Cabinet is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 December 2020.

Key Decisions

3 Local Transport Plan: Capital Programme Mid-Year Update (December 2020)
(Pages 13 - 46)

Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

4 Major Events Programme (Pages 47 - 56)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Recommendations to Council

5 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2020/21 – Third Quarter Review (Pages 57 - 70)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

6 Revenue Budget - Third Quarter Review 2020/21 (Pages 71 - 78)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

7 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charges 2021/22 (Pages 79 - 90)

Report of the Strategic Directors, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities and Resources & Digital

8 Gateshead Local Plan - Adoption of Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) (Site Allocations and Development Management Policies) (Pages 91 - 100)

Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

Non Key Decisions

- 9 Budget 2021/22 Revenue Savings Proposals (Pages 101 - 130)**
Report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team
- 10 Council Tax Base and Business Rates Forecast 2021/22 (Pages 131 - 138)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital
- 11 Gateshead Regeneration Partnership - Delegated Decision Take by Officers (Pages 139 - 144)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital
- 12 Response to Consultation - North East Transport Plan 2021-2035 (Pages 145 - 150)**
Report of the Chief Executive
- 13 Gibside School, Burnthouse Lane, Whickham – Surplus Declaration (Pages 151 - 156)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
- 14 Safeguarding Board Update (Pages 157 - 232)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families
- 15 Nomination of a Local Authority School Governor (Pages 233 - 236)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families
- 16 Petitions Schedule (Pages 237 - 242)**
Report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance
- 17 Exclusion of the Press and Public**
Cabinet may wish to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds indicated:

Item	Paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
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18

Key Decision

Budget 2020/21– Council Service Reviews (Pages 243 - 250)

Report of the Strategic Directors, Resources & Digital, Corporate Services & Governance and Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities

Contact: Kevin Ingledew Email: keviningledew@gateshead.gov.uk, Tel: 0191 4332142,
Date: Monday, 11 January 2021

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Agenda Item 2

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 15 December 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon

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

Also in attendance: Councillors R Beadle and JC Wallace

C57 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C58 CHOPWELL GREEN HOMES GRANT

Consideration has been given to the action taken by the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, in submitting an application for £5.89m grant from the Local Authority Delivery Round 1B element of the Green Homes Grant to deliver energy efficiency improvements to homes in Chopwell, in an effort to reduce fuel poverty, cut carbon emissions and support housing market renewal and to providing delegated authority to submit a further bid for £1.2m grant from Round 2 of this grant scheme.

- RESOLVED -**
- (i) That the action taken by the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth under Part 3, Schedule 5, Part 2 4 (e) of the Constitution, in submitting the £5.89m grant application on 4 December 2020 to the Local Authority Delivery Round 1B element of the Green Homes Grant to meet application deadlines and to deliver energy efficiency improvements to homes in Chopwell be noted.
 - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree the submission of a further circa £1.2m grant application to Round 2 of the Local Authority Delivery element of the Green Homes Grant, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.
 - (iii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree and approve the terms of the grant awards, if successful, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance and the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.
 - (iv) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree and approve the scope and terms of design / preconstruction contract at £140k with Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd, following consultation with the Strategic

Director, Corporate Services and Governance and the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the Thrive agenda.
- (B) To support the Council's Climate Emergency and targets of net zero emissions by 2030.

C59

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

Consideration has been given to:

- a) the financial contributions the Council has secured through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Contributions and Section 106 agreements from new developments for off-site infrastructure works and affordable housing;
- b) the proposal for the spending of CIL on strategic infrastructure; and
- c) the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) so that it can be published on the Council's website by the end of 2020.

- RESOLVED -**
- (i) That the financial contributions the Council has secured through CIL Contributions and Section 106 agreements from new developments for off-site infrastructure works and affordable housing be noted.
 - (ii) That the strategic infrastructure priority for spending CIL on junction improvements along the A695 corridor to support new housing in the area, as set out in the report be approved.
 - (iii) That the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved and published on the Council's website by the end of 2020.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To enable the Council to comply with the CIL Regulations.
- (B) To enable the provision of strategic infrastructure – namely junction improvements along the A695 corridor – to support the demands of new housing developments in Crawcrook, Ryton and Prudhoe.

C60

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2021/22

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22.

The alternative options to that being proposed, but which were discounted, included the adoption of a scheme which offers less support by increasing the minimum contribution or more support to residents by increasing at a greater rate the Council's commitment of resources.

- RESOLVED -** That the Council be recommended to:
- (i) Approve the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 as set out in the report.
 - (ii) Delegate powers to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to provide regulations to give effect to the scheme.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To meet the statutory requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 in relation to the establishment of a framework for Localised Council Tax Support.
- (B) To mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform changes on Council Tax support claimants.
- (C) To mitigate the impact of funding reductions on Council finances.
- (D) To support the Council's "Thrive" agenda.

C61 BUDGET – APPROACH TO RECOVERY 2021/22

Consideration has been given to the Council's budget approach in 2021/22 that will support the delivery of the Council's thrive objectives alongside the increasing financial challenges of the world pandemic.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, included reducing service areas to reflect reduced funding availability.

- RESOLVED -** That the approach to 2021/2022 budget as set out in the report and the timeline for future reporting to support the delivery of thrive objectives and achieve financial sustainability be approved.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To contribute to the good financial management practice of the Council.
- (B) To assist the financial sustainability of the Council over the medium to long term.

C62 HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Consideration has been given to the annual update of the Highway Asset Management Plan 2018-30, which provides the latest performance information and details of progress with key targets in the plan.

- RESOLVED -** That the updated Highway Asset Management Plan targets 2018-30 as set in appendix 4 to the report be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To maximise investment in the local transport network.
- (B) To provide the basis for improved management and maintenance of Gateshead's highway network and to ensure the effective use of resources.
- (C) To maximise external funding streams awarded to authorities who carry out effective highway management.

C63

CORPORATE COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS PROCEDURE – ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Consideration has been given to an analysis of the complaints and compliments recorded by the Council during the year 2019/20.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Corporate Complaints and Compliments Procedure Annual Report for 2019/20 be approved.
 - (ii) That the Annual Report be referred to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The above decisions have been made to have an effective and timely complaints and compliments procedure.

C64

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

C65

TRANSFER OF LAND AT WHITLEY COURT, WREKENTON TO THE GATESHEAD REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (PARAGRAPH 3)

Consideration has been given to the freehold transfer of land at Whitley Court in Wrekenton to the Gateshead Regeneration Partnership and subsequently, for the Council (in its housing authority role), to purchase 28 family homes, 12 supported apartments and 4 supported bungalows built on that land, by Gateshead Regeneration Partnership, for the amount set out in the report, using funds from the Housing Revenue Account. The units would predominantly be for affordable rent to be retained by the Council, with 8 houses available for affordable sale.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the content of the Business Plan cost as set out appendix 3 to the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the submission of an Affordable Homes Programme

funding bid to Homes England as set out in the report be approved.

- (iii) That the transfer of the freehold interest of the Whitley Court site to Gateshead Regeneration Partnership for nil consideration be approved.
- (iv) That the acquisition of the 44 properties from Gateshead Regeneration Partnership for the amount set out in the report be approved.
- (v) That the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities following consultation with Strategic Director Economy, Innovation and Growth, Strategic Director, Resources & Digital and Strategic Director Corporate Services & Governance be authorised to agree a market value, and enter into an Agreement for Sale with Gateshead Regeneration Partnership that formalises staged deposit payments, milestones and ensures that the Council is purchasing the properties in accordance with the specification designed by Gateshead Regeneration Partnership.
- (vi) That the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities, following consultation with the Strategic Director Corporate Services & Governance be authorised to accept the Homes England funding offer and enter into the Homes England Grant Funding Agreement.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the delivery of 44 homes, with a start on site in January 2021.
- (B) To help secure affordable homes funding from Homes England for the proposed housing.
- (C) To enable income to accrue to the Council, training, employment and socio-economic benefits for the residents and businesses of Gateshead.
- (D) To utilise the Council's land and property portfolio to support the Council's policy priorities in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020.

C66

GATESHEAD QUAYS LINK ROAD - ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT OFFER (PARAGRAPH 3)

Consideration has been given accepting a Getting Building Fund grant to support the delivery the Gateshead Quays Link Road.

- RESOLVED - (i) That the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's (NELEP) offer of a £5 million Getting Building Fund grant to the Council

to support the delivery of this project be accepted.

- (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation & Growth, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Services & Governance and Resources & Digital be authorised to agree the final terms of the Funding Agreement.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the delivery of the Thrive pledge to invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough.
- (B) To enable the delivery of the Conference and Exhibition Centre, Arena and Hotels at Gateshead Quays, associated Multi Storey Car Park and the future development of Baltic Quarter for offices and homes.

C67 PROPERTY TRANSACTION - LEASE RENEWAL OF UNIT 23, INTERCHANGE CENTRE (PARAGRAPH 3)

Consideration has been given to the grant of a new 10-year lease of Unit 23, Interchange Centre, Gateshead to Wilko Retail Ltd.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the grant of a new 10-year lease of Unit 23, Interchange Centre, Gateshead to Wilko Retail Ltd, as set out in the report be approved.
- (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree the detailed terms of this property transaction.

The above decisions have been taken to manage resources in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

C68 PROPERTY TRANSACTION - SURRENDER AND GRANT OF A NEW LEASE OF SITE 6 SALTMEADOWS ROAD, GATESHEAD (PARAGRAPH 3)

Consideration has been given to the surrender of the current lease of Site 6 Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead from Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service and the grant of a new lease for a term of 125 years to Sukhvinder Singh Dhillon, Sukhvir Singh Dhillon, Balbir Kaur Dhillon and Sirbjit Kaur Dhillon as Trustees of the Dhillon Family Pension Scheme.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the surrender of the current lease of Site 6 Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead from Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service and the grant of a new lease for a term of 125 years to Sukhvinder Singh Dhillon, Sukhvir Singh Dhillon, Balbir Kaur Dhillon and Sirbjit Kaur Dhillon, as Trustees of the Dhillon Family Pension Scheme, as set out in the report be approved.
- (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

be authorised to agree the detailed terms of this property transaction.

The above decisions have been made to manage resources in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

(Councillor G Haley declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in the above matter because he is a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Civil Defence Authority.)

C69

REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PARAGRAPH 1)

Consideration has been given to a proposed change to the current management structure of the Council to enable the recommendations arising from a review of the Office of the Chief Executive to be implemented.

- RESOLVED -**
- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve the establishment of a new Service Director post within the Office of the Chief Executive.
 - (ii) That the content of the report regarding the review of the Office of the Chief Executive, as set out in appendix 2 to the report be noted.
 - (iii) That commencement of formal consultation with employees and the Trade Unions on the proposals contained within this report be approved.

The above decisions have been made to ensure that the Office of the Chief Executive is fully focussed on delivering and supporting the outcomes of the Council's Thrive agenda.

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

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

Publication date: 17 December 2020

Chair.....

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REPORT TO CABINET

19 January 2021

TITLE OF REPORT: Local Transport Plan: Capital Programme Mid-Year Update (December 2020)

REPORT OF: Peter Udall, Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is an update on the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme. It provides a summary of the progress that has been made and any changes to the programme that have occurred as it stands in December 2020, nearing the end of Quarter 3. Indicative programmes for integrated transport and maintenance schemes scheduled for 2021/22 are included as appendices to allow for forward planning of these works.

Background

2. LTP funding is allocated by government and provides a source of funding for integrated transport schemes and maintenance of highways and structures. It is supplemented wherever possible by prudential borrowing, or external sources such as developer contributions and bids for government funding.
3. The integrated transport and maintenance programmes were approved by Cabinet at the beginning of 2020/21. The schemes in the integrated transport programme are aligned to four priorities derived from the Local Transport Plan: economic development and regeneration, climate change, safe and sustainable communities, and scheme development. Investment in the highways infrastructure is identified and prioritised in accordance with the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan.
4. The financial year 2020/21 is the final year of the LTP3 funding allocations. While the recent Government spending review suggests that funding levels for 2021/22 are likely to be similar to those for 2021 for integrated transport, the local detail of this has yet to be confirmed. For maintenance funding the position is more complicated, with funding often coming through a number of

different channels. In the light of this the indicative programmes for 2021/22 are based provisionally on receiving the same allocation as in 2020/21.

5. Implementation of the programme in 2020/21 has been made much more difficult as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Most construction work stopped for two months from March, while since that time some resources have had to be diverted to work on the social distancing schemes in local centres, as well as the walking and cycling schemes in Gateshead town centre. The full implications of this have yet to be assessed.

Proposal

6. The transport capital programme is managed flexibly and includes an element of overprogramming to ensure that the LTP grant and other funding sources are fully utilised. Some changes to the programme have occurred during the first part of the year, particularly in terms of slippage of schemes. These changes have been set out in the report and in the appended programmes.
7. A forward plan of integrated transport and maintenance schemes has been developed to allow for longer term planning. The indicative programme for 2021/22 includes some schemes which have slipped from the current financial year due to delays in their development.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) Approves the revised programme for 2020/21 as set out in Appendices A and B, noting that there may be a need to review these as the year progresses in line with available resources.
 - (ii) Authorises the Service Director, Highways and Waste, to award the relevant works under the terms of the Highways, Drainage and Street Lighting Maintenance Contract.
 - (iii) Authorises the Service Director, Planning Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport to make changes to the approved programme following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, as and when the need arises.
 - (iv) Approve the indicative integrated transport and maintenance programmes for 2021/22 as set out in Appendices D and E as a basis for future planning.
 - (v) Note the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities awarded the contract for the Chainbridge Road Overbridge; Concrete Repairs through the Scape Framework

Agreement for Civil Engineering and a tender exemption decision was taken by the Strategic Director, Highways & Waste, to extend this contract to procure the works for Team Street Viaduct; Concrete Repairs.

For the following reason:

To enable the design and implementation of transport schemes in support of the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan and the Council's policy objectives.

CONTACT: Anneliese Hutchinson ext 3881

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The programmes support the pledges within Gateshead Council's 'Thrive Agenda'. They also support the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan, the aims and objectives of the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan 3, and the Gateshead Highway Asset Management Plan. Furthermore, the indicative programme utilises funding received through specific government grants as well as the proposed use of Council resources.

Background

2. LTP funding is allocated by government and provides a source of funding for integrated transport schemes and maintenance of highways and structures. The integrated transport funding comes via the North East Combined Authority and covers a range of works including bus priority, new and improved cycleways, better pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements. Investment in highways infrastructure is guided by the principles set out in the Highways Asset Management Plan.
3. LTP funding is supplemented wherever possible by prudential borrowing or external funding sources including developer contributions and other capital grants. A breakdown of the funding for 2020/21 by funding source can be found at Appendix C.
4. The financial year 2020/21 is the final year of the LTP3 funding allocations. While the recent Government spending review suggests that funding levels for 2021/22 are likely to be similar for those for 2021 for integrated transport, the local detail of this has yet to be confirmed. For maintenance funding the position is more complicated, with funding often coming through a number of different channels. In the light of this the indicative programmes for 2021/22 are based provisionally on receiving the same allocation as in 2020/21.
5. Implementation of the programme in 2020/21 has been made much more difficult as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Most construction work stopped for two months from March, while since that time some resources have had to be diverted to work on the social distancing schemes in local centres, as well as the walking and cycling schemes in Gateshead town centre. The full implications of this have yet to be assessed.
6. The award of the contract for Chainbridge Road Overbridge; Concrete Repairs was taken as a delegated decision during the time when Cabinet meetings were

suspended.

7. There was a fire below Team Street Viaduct in July 2020. A tender exemption decision was taken by the Service Director Highways and Waste, in accordance with corporate procurement rules, to extend the contract in (6) to enable the early completion of the works to enable the current lane restrictions to be removed.

LTP Integrated Transport (IT) programme

8. For the integrated transport capital programme 2020/21, £1.233 million of LTP funding was received. This has been supplemented by £2.941 million from other funding sources and £0.351 million of LTP funding carried forward from the previous financial year.
9. External funding sources include developer contributions (S106), Homes England funding (for the Askew Road junction scheme), and Transforming Cities Tranche 2 funding (to be received on submission of a full business case for each scheme).
10. Separate funding has also been received towards the various Covid-19 / social distancing schemes implemented over the summer, from Tranche 1 of the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund.
11. Match contributions for the Transforming Cities Fund schemes of £0.311 million are provisionally included as LTP, however this funding source is expected to change once a separate bid into the capital programme is made for these schemes.
12. Appendix B sets out the integrated transport programme for 2020/21, noting any changes from the programme submitted at the beginning of the year. As before, this has been defined by the following priorities:
 - Economic development and regeneration
 - Climate change
 - Safe and sustainable communities
 - Scheme development (allowing programme delivery to be maximised in future years).
13. There have been some changes to the programme since the beginning of 2020/21, as it has become clear that some schemes are unlikely to complete this financial year. Therefore the following schemes and their associated funding have been slipped into 2021/22:
 - South of Team Valley bridge (scheme development)
 - Blaydon – Newburn bridge (scheme development)
 - Stargate Lane roundabout (design)

- Coatsworth Road
- VMS town centre
- Baltic Business Quarter Link Road
- Durham Road cycling
- Bensham Road Pinchpoint (slipped to 2022/23)
- 20mph zones at Dunston, Winlaton, Heworth/Leam Lane, and Rowlands Gill
- Village entry treatments
- A195 Lingey Lane cycleway
- Sunderland Road link
- Bus shelter improvements
- Felling/Deckham LCWIP cycling improvements
- Town centre air quality works.

14. Slipped funding can be brought back into 20/21 as and when required, should any of these schemes progress this year.
15. The year-end outturn for the integrated transport programme for 2020/21 is currently estimated at £0.331 million over budget, after slippage of funding set out in paragraph 13 is taken into account. The outturn estimate is expected to change as the full impact of Covid-19 (see paragraph 5 above) becomes better understood.
16. An indicative programme for 2021/22 integrated transport schemes is included as Appendix D.

LTP Maintenance programme

17. The LTP Maintenance funding allocation for Gateshead in 2020/21 is £2.663 million. Additional funding from government of £1.996 million was subsequently added to this in May 2020.
18. Other external funding sources include £1.825 million of prudential borrowing, (allocated to traffic signal improvements, street lighting column replacement, and strategic maintenance schemes), and flood alleviation funding from DEFRA. There is a separate £0.5m of prudential borrowing for the microasphalt programme.
19. Appendix A sets out the maintenance programme for 2020/21, noting any changes from the programme submitted at the beginning of the year.
20. There have been some minor changes to the programme since the beginning of 2020/21:

- A subprogramme of microasphalt schemes has been added after a pot of £0.5m prudential borrowing was made available.
 - Individual scheme budgets have been adjusted periodically to reflect changing costs, to ensure funding is spent, and to address particular areas of concern.
 - Some resurfacing schemes have been delayed until the 2021/22 financial year in order to avoid clashes with integrated transport schemes happening in the same area.
 - £0.5 million of LTP funding for bridge maintenance has been slipped into the next financial year due to a predicted underspend this year.
21. As it stands in December 2020, the overall maintenance programme for 2020/21 is estimated at £0.218 million under budget, after taking into account the slippage of bridge maintenance funding.
22. An indicative programme for 2021/22 maintenance schemes is included as Appendix E.
- Covid 19 related schemes**
23. In response to the Covid-19 outbreak a number of additional schemes have been implemented. These include:
- Works to enable social distancing in seven local centres across Gateshead as well as Jackson Street in Gateshead town centre;
 - Schemes to improve walking and cycling provision in Gateshead town centre, including the closure of Askew Road.
22. These schemes are not currently included in the programme set out below. Given the urgent nature of their implementation costs associated with them have yet to be finalised.
23. Some funding for these schemes has been made available through Tranche 1 of the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund. Until final costs are identified it will not be known to what extent any Local Transport Plan Funding will be needed to support these.

Future funding bids

24. Gateshead is expected to receive grant funding towards the Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 schemes over the next three year period. This will be allocated by the Transport Strategy Unit, and cannot be confirmed until business cases have been submitted for each of the schemes, and approved through the regional Transport Assurance Framework. Preparation of business cases is underway, however the process and approval of these has been delayed over the summer

due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Given this, further slippage in delivery of these schemes is possible.

25. Funding for the North East has been secured from the government's Getting Building Fund, including two projects for Gateshead relating to development at the Baltic Quarter site. A business case has been approved by the North East LEP to access £5 million of this funding, to contribute to the new Quays North/South Link Road. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2021.
26. The North East Joint Transport Committee has been awarded £9.049 million of funding from Tranche 2 of the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund. It is expected that Gateshead will receive £451,000 of this for works to be implemented in 2021/22. The nature of these works will be determined following consideration of the outcomes from consultation and monitoring of the experimental changes introduced in the Askew Road/Hills Street area in July 2020.

Consultation

27. Extensive consultation across Tyne and Wear was carried out during the preparation of the Local Transport Plan. This included household questionnaires and discussions with key interest groups as well as focus groups with Gateshead residents to discuss transport problems and solutions. The outcome from the consultation helped shape the LTP strategy and subsequent spending programmes.
28. Individual schemes within the programme have and will continue to be subject to local and stakeholder consultation as appropriate.

Alternative Options

29. No alternative has been considered due to the transport capital programme and the allocations outlined within it being the only deliverable option to meet the objectives of the Local Transport Plan while supporting more local priorities.

Implications of Recommended Option

30. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there is sufficient allocation within the capital programme to fund the programme within Appendix A and B to the report.

b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications.

c) **Property Implications** - No property implications have been identified.

31. Risk Management Implication - The main risk associated with the programme is that any significant underspend or failure to deliver schemes that have external funding linked to them may lead to a loss of that funding, and jeopardise the potential to secure additional funding in future years. The development of the programmes takes into account risks relating to safety, delay and longer-term issues such as growth, pollution and health in determining priorities.

32. Equality and Diversity Implications - Implementation of the transport capital programme will assist in reducing social exclusion by improving access for the young, elderly, unemployed/low waged and people with disabilities.

33. Crime and Disorder Implications – Proposals within the integrated transport programme will assist in improving safety and security for the travelling public.

34. Health Implications – The transport capital programme is vital in reducing levels of casualties in road accidents and also in achieving an Active and Healthy Gateshead (which aims to make sustainable travel including walking and cycling more attractive to the residents of Gateshead by improving streets, reducing traffic, providing training to schools and travel planning). This will also benefit health by improving air quality.

35. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications - The transport capital programme is an important element in providing the basis for a sustainable transport system capable of supporting Gateshead's environmental, social and economic objectives. It seeks to reduce car dependence and increase active travel, thereby contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.

36. Human Rights Implications - The construction of transport and traffic facilities can have an effect on the amenities of some residents. Consultation on specific proposals will be held with residents, ward members and relevant stakeholders.

37. Ward Implications - All wards will be affected.

Background Information

38. Further background information is contained in:

- Report to Environment and Transport Portfolio dated 14th July 2020 – Capital Programme 20/21

- Report to Cabinet dated December 2019 – LTP Capital Programme
Mid-Year Update (19/20)

Appendix A – 2020/21 Capital maintenance programme (December 2020 update)

Scheme	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised Budget	LTP	Match Funding	Prudential Borrowing	Comment / source of match funding
Principal roads total	361.0	633.0	633.0			
Other roads total	734.0	572.0	572.0			
Residential roads total	458.0	539.0	539.0			
Back Lanes/surface dressing/microasphalt total	430.0	971.0	521.0		450.0	Microasphalt funding pot from prudential borrowing
Technical fees/development and monitoring	90.0	90.0	90.0			Additional funding from DfT (£40k)
Road Maintenance Total	2073.0	2805.0	2355		450.0	
Bridge Maint Principal Roads Total	551.7	85.0	85.0			Partially slipped into 21/22.
Bridge Maint Other Roads Total	240.0	40.0	40.0			Partially slipped into 21/22.
Bridge Maintenance Total	791.7	125.0	125.0			£500k of bridge maintenance funding will be slipped to 21/22
Traffic Signal improvements	500.0	500.0	50.0		450.0	
Street lighting column replacement	750.0	750.0	125.0		625.0	
High speed roads	150.0	220.0	220.0			
Other maintenance schemes Total	1400.0	1470.0	395.0		1075.0	
Road marking renewal/ped	225.0	275.0	100.0		175.0	Additional funding from DfT

guardrail						(£100k)
Vehicle Restraint System renewal	175.0	230.0	50.0		180.0	Strategic maintenance funding reallocated. Additional maintenance funding (£50k)
Highway drainage works	125.0	50.0	50.0			
Structural patching	250	175	175.0			
Strategic Patching	400.0	400.0	200.0		200.0	Additional funding from DfT (£200k)
Street lighting	100.0	100.0			100.0	
Footways	400.0	295.0	200.0		95.0	Strategic maintenance funding reallocated (£200k)
Jet-patch pot-hole rural repairs	50.0	50.0	50.0			Additional funding from DfT (£50k)
Strategic Maintenance Total	1725.0	1575.0	825.0		750.0	
Flood alleviation total	338.0	338.0	242.6	95.4		Flood alleviation funding from DEFRA
Maintenance total (not including flood alleviation)	5989.7	5975.0	3700.0		2275.0	To note, part of the additional DfT funding has been included in the LTP column and part in the 'other' column.

Appendix B – 2020/21 Integrated transport capital programme (December 2020 update)

2020/21

Ongoing commitments	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
Traffic Management	250	250	0	0	0	250	
PRoW	80	80	0	0	0	80	
Car park improvements	10	10	0	0	0	10	
Modelling and investigation	40	40	0	0	0	40	
Total	380	380	0	0	0	380	

Scheme development	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
S of Team Valley bridge	15	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Stargate Lane roundabout	10	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Blaydon-Newburn Bridge	15	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Keelmans Way improvements	2	2				2	
Total	2	2	0		0	2	

Economic development and regeneration	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
Coatsworth Road	5	0					Removed from programme and pushed back to 21/22.
VMS town centre	26.72	0					Unspent monies relating to the development of Trinity Square. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Beweshill Lane	734	734	0	734		0	Part of roundabout works on A695.
Baltic Business Quarter link road / junction	50	0					Accelerated due to funding becoming available from the Getting Building Fund. Construction expected to begin spring 2021. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Durham Road Ph 5,6,7	15	0					
Pinchpoint - Bensham Road	15	0					Removed from programme and pushed back to 22/23.
Askew Road junction/bridge (Homes England)	2500	1016	1016			0	Homes England funding prioritised for 20/21 to ensure spend before deadline. PB pushed back to 21/22.
Total	3345.72	1750	1016	734			

Safe and sustainable communities	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
20mph Zones							
Dunston 20mph Zone	150	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Winlaton 20mph	200	0					Scheme carried over from 2019/20. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Watermill area 20mph	55	55				55	Scheme carried over from 2019/20.

Heworth/Leam Lane	6	0					Completion of scheme commenced in 2019/20. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Rowlands Gill	15	0					Amendments to previous completed scheme. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Lyndhurst	15	15	15				Development related.
Pinewoods 40mph zone	15	15		7		8	Part developer funded.
Village entry treatments	25	0				0	Scheme slipped into 21/22
Covid 19 - walking/cycling/social distancing	50	438.4	87			351.4	LTP contribution may reduce as government funding could be received towards Covid-19 schemes.
<i>Total</i>	531	523.4	102	7	0	414.4	

Climate Change							
Scheme	Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
NCN725 Phase 3 Cambourne Place	31.7	31.7	31.7				Carry over of Early Measures Funded scheme from 2019/20.
Wardley cycle improvements	5	5				5	Now complete.
A195 Lingey Lane cycleway	123.6	0					Carry over of scheme from 2019/20. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Sunderland Road link	1719.1	0					Carry over of scheme from 2019/20. Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Saltmeadows Road (bus stop)	9.7	9.7		9.7			Developer funded scheme.
Bus shelter improvements	10	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Blaydon bus shelter	4.7	4.7				4.7	Accrued from 2019/20. Payment has now been settled.
Felling and Deckham pedestrian/cycle improvements-LCWIP	200	0					Detailed development of schemes delayed due to Covid-19 and priority being given to work on local centre schemes

OLEV Taxi Programme - change TRO	2	2				2	Complements external funding for new charging infrastructure for EV taxis.
A195 bus lane	20	20				20	
Pennyfine Road - lighting	20	20		20			Developer funded scheme.
Pennyfine Road - upgrades	3.6	3.6		3.6			Developer funded scheme.
Wrekenton Town Centre junction	60	60		60			
Town centre AQ works	50	0					Funding slipped into 21/22 due to predicted underspend
Total	2319.4	156.7	31.7	93.3	0	31.7	

TCF schemes		Original Budget (Apr 20)	Revised budget	Other match fund	S106	PB	LTP	Comment
Scheme								
West Tyneside Cycle route		660	175.5	132			43.5	.
Metro Green		100	400	306			94	
NCN725 Phase 5		500	400	306			94	
Gateshead Quays Sustainable access		3454	242.645	174.7			67.958	
Gateshead Interchange bus lane		432.5	50	38.3			11.8	
Total		5146.5	1268.15	957			311.258	TCF funding will be confirmed and received on submission of a full business case. TCF match funding has been provisionally recorded as LTP pending a separate bid into the capital programme.

Total	11764.6	4080.25	2106.7	834.3	0	1139.36	
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Appendix C - 2020/21 budget allocations (December 2020 update)

Resources	000's	Outturn	Comments
20/21 Integrated Transport LTP	1584	444.6 under	IT budget includes £34k to be claimed for public transport separately, plus £351k carry over from 19/20 £775.7k LTP to slip into next year. Outturn after slippage applied: £331.1k over
20/21 Maintenance LTP	4675	717.7 under	£2663k LTP plus £1996k of additional maintenance funding from DfT (Potholes/Challenge) plus £16k carry over from 19/20. £500k of maintenance LTP to slip into next year. Outturn after slippage applied: £217.7k under
S106 Developer contributions	834.3		£136.7k to slip into next year.
Early measures funding	31.7		
Lyndhurst	15		
NPIF	1519.6		Full amount of £1519.6k to slip into 21/22.
Prudential Borrowing	1825.0		£811.2k to slip into next year.
Flood Levy/Grant in aid	310.4		
Transforming Cities (Tranche 1)	123.6		Full amount of £123.6k to slip into next year.
Transforming Cities (Tranche 2)	956.9		Not yet confirmed or received.
Homes England	1016		Askew Road
Microasphalt funding (PB)	500		
Getting Building Fund (LEP)	555		Not yet confirmed or received. Full amount of £555k to slip into next year
Total Funding	13578.484		

Appendix D – 2021/22 indicative integrated transport programme

Ongoing commitments		Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes
Scheme							
Traffic Management		250	0	0	0	250	Small scale traffic management schemes
PRoW		80	0	0	0	80	Improvements to PRoW network
Car park improvements		10	0	0	0	10	Improvements to Council operated car parks
Modelling and investigation		40	0	0	0	40	Transport modelling and investigations
Total		380	0	0	0	380	

Scheme development	Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes
S of Team Valley bridge	15				15	Funding slipped from 20/21
Stargate Lane roundabout	10		10			Funding slipped from 20/21
Blaydon-Newburn Bridge	15				15	Funding slipped from 20/21
Springwell Road junction improvements	15	0	0	0	15	junction with Leam Lane. Modelling and design
A695- Greenside Road roundabout	10	0	0	0	10	Design checking and scheme preparation
Total	65	0	10	0	55	

Economic development and regeneration	Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes
Scheme						
VMS town centre	26.72		26.72			Funding slipped from 20/21
Durham Road Ph 5,6,7	15				15	Funding slipped from 20/21

Askew Road junction/bridge (Homes England)	4008	308		3,700	0	PB slipped from 20/21
Coatsworth Road	205				205	Carried over £5k from 20/21. Need to complete legal process and implement scheme 21/22.
A695- Stargate Lane	564	0	0	564	0	CIL/PB
Gateshead Quays Access Road/Albany Road junction/ Baltic Quarter link road	7520	5000	0	2520	0	Part LEP funding (Getting Building Fund), part PB
Quays Sustainable transport improvements	2706	0	0	2706	0	£2.956m slipped from 20/21. £554k carried over into 22/23. £250k transferred to match fund TCF works. Sustainable transport improvements linked to future development of Gateshead Quays
Total	15044.72	5308	26.72	9490	220	

Safe and sustainable communities						
Scheme	Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes
20mph Zones						
Dunston 20mph Zone	150				150	Funding slipped from 20/21
Winlaton 20mph	200				200	Funding slipped from 20/21
Heworth/Leam Lane	6				6	Funding slipped from 20/21
Rowlands Gill	15				15	Funding slipped from 20/21
<i>Future 20mph programme</i>	50				50	TBC
<i>Future 20mph programme</i>	50				50	TBC
Village entry treatments	25				25	Upgrade of village entry treatments to promote lower speeds. Slipped from 20/21 programme.
<i>Total</i>	496	0	0	0	496	

Climate Change						
Scheme	Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes

A195 Lingey Lane cycleway	123.6	123.6				TCF T1 funding. Funding slipped from 20/21
Sunderland Road link	1719.1	1519.6	100		99.5	NPIF funding. Funding slipped from 20/21
Felling and Deckham pedestrian/cycle improvements- LCWIP	200				200	Funding slipped from 20/21
Bus shelter improvements	20	0	0	0	20	£10k funding carried forward from 20/21. Requests made to Traffic Solutions and Nexus
LCWIP- Birtley Walking and cycling improvements	200	0	0	0	200	Walking and cycling improvement works identified through LCWIP
Air quality works	300				300	£50k funding carried forward from 20/21.
Total	2562.7	1643.2	100	0	819.5	

TCF schemes						
Scheme	Budget	Other match funding	S106	PB	LTP	Notes
West Tyneside Cycle route	900.9	677.408			223.493	
Metro Green	1724.175	1319			405.175	
NCN725 Birtley to Eighton Lodge	2028.566	1551.857			476.709	
Gateshead Quays Sustainable access	2166.178	1559.532			606.646	
Gateshead Interchange bus lane	450	344.25			105.75	
Total	7269.819	5452.047			1817.773	TCF match funding has been provisionally recorded as LTP pending a separate bid into the capital programme

Total	25818.239	12403.247	136.72	9490	3788.273	£3.07 million of funding, including £775.5k of LTP, will be slipped forward and added to the expected LTP allocation received from government.
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Appendix E – 2021/22 indicative maintenance programme

Table 1 - Classified & Bus Routes (non-residential roads)

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
Principal Roads					
2021/SMP/01	A694 Spa Well Road , Winlaton Mill	Winlaton & High Spen	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	66
2021/SMP/02	A1114 Handy Drive , Metrocentre	Dunston & Teams	Inner West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	20
2021/SMP/03	High Speed Skid Improvement	-	-	Carriageway surface treatment	100
Principal Reserve Schemes (to be included if the main programme cannot be completed)					
2021/SMP/R01	A1114 Derwentwater Road , Teams	Dunston & Teams	Inner West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
2021/SMP/R02	A184 Askew Road , Redheugh	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
2021/SMP/R03	A184 Park Lane / Felling Bypass , Gateshead	Bridges	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
Subtotal 1					186

Table 1 - Classified & Bus Routes (non-residential roads) continued

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
Other Roads					
2021/SM/01	B6317 Main Street , Crawcrook	Crawcrook & Greenside	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway & drainage	51
2021/SM/02	C303 Newburn Bridge Road , Stella	Ryton, Crookhill & Stella	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway & drainage	52
2021/SM/03	North Street , Blaydon / Winlaton	Blaydon / High Spen & Winlaton	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	53
2021/SM/04	C326 Team Street , Teams	Dunston & Teams	Inner West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	36
2021/SM/05	Coatsworth Road , Bensham	Saltwell / Lobley Hill & Bensham / Bridges	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	40
2021/SM/06	High Street , Gateshead	Bridges	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	43
2021/SM/07	Pensher Street , Old Fold / Nest Estate	Felling	East	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	28
2021/SM/08	C330 Portobello Road , Vigo	Birtley	South	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	46
2021/SM/09	Structural Patching	-	-	Carriageway repairs near resurfacing schemes	100
2021/SM/10	Highway Drainage Works	-	-	Drainage repairs near resurfacing schemes	50
Subtotal 2					499

Table 1 - Classified & Bus Routes (non-residential roads) continued

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
Other Roads Reserve Schemes (to be included if the main programme cannot be completed)					
2021/SM/R01	C326 Glossop Street , High Spen	Winlaton & High Spen	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
2021/SM/R02	Park Lane , Winlaton	Winlaton & High Spen / Blaydon	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
2021/SM/R03	B6317 Swalwell / Whickham Bank , Swalwell / Whickham	Whickham North	Inner West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	
2021/SM/R04	B6317 Whickham Highway , Lobley Hill	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	
2021/SM/R05	B1296 Long Bank , Eighton Banks	Lamesley	South	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	
2021/SM/R06	Neilson Road , Gateshead	Felling / Bridges	East / Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	-
				Subtotal 2	499
				Subtotal 1	186
				Total	685

Table 2 - Unclassified (residential roads & non-bus routes)

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
2021/MP/01	Westwood View , Crawcrook	Crawcrook & Greenside	West	Resurface carriageway	16
2021/MP/02	Bank Top / Gingler Lane , Woodside	Ryton, Crookhill & Stella	West	Resurface carriageway	25
2021/MP/03	Derwenthough Industrial Estate Road , Derwenthough	Blaydon	West	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	18
2021/MP/04	Cromwell Road / Crowley Avenue Whickham	Whickham North / Dunston Hill & Whickham East	Inner West	Resurface carriageway	25
2021/MP/05	Ancaster Road , Whickham	Whickham South & Sunniside	Inner West	Overlay carriageway	26
2021/MP/06	Wellington Road , Dunston	Dunston & Teams	Inner West	Resurface carriageway & kerbing	28
2021/MP/07	Tenth Avenue West , Team Valley	Lamesley	South	Resurface carriageway	17
2021/MP/08	Third Avenue , Team Valley	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Central	Reconstruct / resurface carriageway	77
2021/MP/09	Airey Terrace , Bensham	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Central	Overlay carriageway	18
2021/MP/10	Fern Dene Road , Saltwell	Saltwell	Central	Overlay carriageway	25
2021/MP/11	Salcombe Gardens , Chowdene	Chowdene	South	Refurbish footways & kerbing	35
2021/MP/12	Denmark Street , Gateshead	Bridges	Central	Overlay carriageway & refurbish footways	29

Subtotal 1 339

Table 2 - Unclassified (residential roads & non-bus routes) continued

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
2021/MP/13	Elder Grove , Low Fell	Low Fell	South	Overlay carriageway	5
2021/MP/14	Harcourt Street , Low Fell	Low Fell	South	Overlay carriageway	7
2021/MP/15	Stocksfield Gardens , Harlow Green	Chowdene	South	Overlay carriageway	7
2021/MP/16	Humber Gardens , Deckham	Deckham	Central	Overlay carriageway	15
2021/MP/17	East Hill Road , Gateshead	Felling / Bridges	East / Central	Overlay carriageway	17
2021/MP/18	Borrowdale Gardens / Ulverston Gardens , Lyndhurst	Chowdene / High Fell	South / East	Refurbish footways & kerbing	37
2021/MP/19	Coldwell Park Drive , Felling	Felling	East	Overlay carriageway	26
2021/MP/20	Highridge , Birtley	Lamesley	South	Overlay carriageway	10
2021/MP/21	Pembroke Avenue , Vigo	Birtley	South	Resurface carriageway	19
2021/MP/22	Kellsway , Leam Lane	Windy Nook & Whitehills	East	Resurface carriageway	25
2021/MP/23	Montrose Drive Area , Wardley	Wardley & Leam Lane	East	Overlay carriageway	38
2021/MP/24	Minor Works (various – poor weather failures)	-	-	Resurface carriageway	50
Subtotal 2					256

Table 2 - Unclassified (residential roads & non-bus routes) continued

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
Unclassified Reserve Schemes (to be included if the main programme cannot be completed)					
2021/MP/R01	Dale Street / Wardle Street, Crawcrook	Crawcrook & Greenside	West	Overlay carriageway	-
2021/MP/R02	Hedgefield Avenue, Hedgefield, Ryton	Ryton, Crookfill & Stella	West	Resurface carriageway	
2021/MP/R03	Bowes Crescent , Byermoor	Whickham South & Sunniside	West	Overlay carriageway & refurbish footways	-
2021/MP/R04	Gower Walk , Deckham	Felling	East	Resurface carriageway	-
2021/MP/R05	Ambleside Gardens , Low Fell	Low Fell	South	Reconstruct carriageway	-
2021/MP/R06	Low Heworth Lane , Heworth	Pelaw & Heworth	East	Overlay carriageway	
2021/MP/R07	Oakwood / Hawksfeld , Leam Lane / Whitehills	Windy Nook & Whitehills	East	Overlay carriageway	
2021/MP/R08	Montrose Drive Area , Wardley	Wardley & Leam Lane	East	Overlay carriageway	-
				Subtotal 1	339
				Subtotal 2	256
				Total	595

Table 3 - Back Lanes

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
2021/BL/01	Severn Street / Thames Street / Wansbeck Street , Chopwell	Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	West	Overlay carriageway	21
2021/BL/02	Burnop Terrace / Wood Terrace , High Spen	High Spen & Winlaton	West	Overlay carriageway	10
2021/BL/03	Helen Street , Blaydon / Winlaton	Blaydon	West	Resurface carriageway	11
2021/BL/04	Axwell Terrace / Ridley Gardens , Swalwell	Whickhan North	Inner West	Resurface carriageway	17
2021/BL/05	Ravensworth Road / Wallace Street / Lumley Walk , Dunston	Dunston & Teams	Inner West	Overlay carriageway	10
2021/BL/06	Malvern Gardens , Lobley Hill	Lobley Hill & Bensham	Central	Resurface carriageway	15
2021/BL/07	Exeter Street / St Alban's Terrace , Gateshead	Saltwell	Central	Overlay carriageway	9
2021/BL/08	King Edward Place , Gateshead	Bridges	Central	Resurface carriageway	10
2021/BL/09	Cooperative Terrace / Carr Hill Road / Oxberry Gardens , Windy Nook	Windy Nook & Whitehills	East	Overlay carriageway	5
2021/BL/10	Aycliffe Avenue , Springwell Estate, Wrekenton	High Fell	South	Overlay carriageway	7
2021/BL/11	Shields Road / Croxdale Terrace / Taylor Gardens , Pelaw	Pelaw & Heworth	East	Overlay carriageway	9

	Total	124
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Table 3 - Back Lanes (continued)

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
Back Lanes Reserve Schemes (to be included if the main programme cannot be completed)					
2021/BL/R01	Strothers Terrace / Towneley Terrace , High Spen	High Spen & Winlaton	West	Overlay carriageway	-
2021/BL/R02	Helen Street / Mary Street , Blaydon / Winlaton	Blaydon	West	Overlay carriageway	-
					Total 124

Table 4 - Surface Dressing (rural roads)

Scheme No.	Location	Ward	Area	Description of Works	Cost £k
2021/SD/01	Hedley Lane , Tanfield	Lamesley	South	Prepatch & surface dress	61
2021/SD/02	Riding Lane , Kibblesworth	Lamesley	South	Prepatch & surface dress	38
2021/SD/03	North Side / Bowes Incline Access Road , Eighton Banks	Lamesley	South	Prepatch & surface dress	47
Surface Dressing Reserve Scheme (to be included if the main programme cannot be completed)					
2021/SD/R01	Greenford Lane , Lamesley	Lamesley	South	Prepatch & surface dress	-

	Total	146
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Table 5 - Costs Summary

Works	Cost £k
Classified & Bus Routes	685
Unclassified	595
Back Lanes	124
Surface Dressing	146
Technical Costs	50
Total	1,600

Table 6 - Bridge Maintenance

Project No.	Structure Name	Description of Works	Road	Cost £k
	Park Lane Bridge	Expansion Joint Replacement	A184	60
	King Edward Junction Bridge	Major Masonry Repairs	A189	75
	Gateshead Viaduct	Principal Inspection	A167	400
	Road bridges	Principal Inspections	-	75
	Rail overbridges	Principal Inspections	-	40
Total				650



REPORT TO CABINET 19th January 2021

TITLE OF REPORT: Major Events Programme

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Cabinet on the major events programme in 2021 and specifically seek approval to begin the process to bid for the European Championships in 2026.

Background

2. In order to deliver the outcomes of Gateshead's Thrive policy, the Council is working closely with partners such as the Great Run Company to attract and secure major sporting and cultural events.
3. Gateshead has a proven track record of securing and successfully hosting major sporting events. Gateshead International Stadium has played host to a number of key international Athletics events such as the British Grand Prix (2003-2010) and is the only venue to have held the European Athletics Team Championships three times (1989, 2000, and most recently in 2015).
4. The Council continues to develop its future plans for major events and is working with partners such as the Great Run Company to bring International Athletics back to Gateshead.
5. High profile sporting events play a major part in delivering the outcomes associated with Council priorities, such as 'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives'. Appendix 1 of this report identifies impact and outcomes of major events including the impact of the Tour of Britain held in September 2019.
6. High profile sporting events play a major part in delivering the outcomes associated with Council priorities such, as Economic Growth and Health and wellbeing, supporting policy objectives such as 'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives' through the following:
 - Community Engagement – Schools and local sports clubs in local communities gain the opportunity to meet international athletes in their local community, and take part in wider activities aimed to increase participation and health and wellbeing,
 - The delivery of these events inspires local people to return to venues to take part in sport and physical activity (improving the health and wellbeing of individuals) but also supports the sustainability of local sports clubs and facilities through increased participation and revenue.
 - Local people are offered the opportunity to be a part of the events through local official and volunteer roles, which develops community pride and enhances self-

worth. This enables the opportunity for localised training and experience to be gained which can support individuals gain future employment.

- The local economy benefits from the expenditure related to the events including; small businesses, equipment suppliers, shops, pubs, and most notably hotels.

Proposal – Economic recovery: A Major Events Programme

7. All major events were either postponed or cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Planning for future events play a major part in supporting the local economy through expenditure in local services, suppliers and employment and will also be a major drive in the resurgence of the economic recovery of the North East following the pandemic.

European Sports Championships 2026

8. Preliminary strategic discussions have commenced with key stakeholders across the northern region regarding a major events programme as part of the region's economic recovery in the coming years.
9. There is an opportunity to bring a 'mega' event to Gateshead and the North East which could be seen as a major catalyst in the economic recovery of the area. The first edition of the European Sports Championships (as then branded) was staged in Glasgow and Berlin in 2018. A multisport event consisting of European Championships in Athletics, Aquatics, Cycling, Rowing, Golf, Gymnastics and Triathlon. The event was staged over ten days in the month of August, with Berlin hosting the athletics and all other sport taking place in Glasgow. The event was positively received by audiences and stakeholders in the UK, Europe and around the world.
10. The dates for the 2026 event have been confirmed as 30 July to 9 August 2026 and host city interest is to be registered with the European Championship Management to enter to the formal bidding process anticipated to start later this year.
11. In order to progress a bid, engagement with Central Government, and UK Sport will be crucial to receive home nation support in the process. A formal feasibility study will be required to understand the host city needs required to deliver such an event, including the financial implications.
12. The proposal is to explore the potential of bringing the European Sports Championships 2026 to Gateshead and the North East. It is proposed to engage Central Government, UK Sport and other North East local authorities to gain support to enter the bidding process for the European Championships in 2026.
13. If Gateshead was to host part of the European Sports Championships 2026, this would have a significant positive economic and social benefit for the region and to major assets such as the Gateshead International Stadium, and the new Gateshead arena, conference and exhibition centre including the wider Gateshead Quays development.

Major Events Programme 2021

14. The major events programme for 2021 currently consists of the following;
- a) **Tour of Britain (Provisional date of Friday 10th September 2021);** The event, agreed by Cabinet on the 24th March 2020 (minute number C139), was postponed in September 2020. The event will be jointly staged with the start in Cumbria and the event accessing Gateshead through Chopwell and finishing on the A167 adjacent to the Angel of the North.
 - b) **Try on the Tyne (Provisional date of Saturday 22nd August 2021);** Both Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council, were originally approached by Steve Cram and his event management company to develop a new national triathlon (Swim, Cycle, Run) event to be held on the Quayside from 2019 onwards. The first event held in 2019 attracted approximately 700 athletes and is now an integral part of the British Triathlon annual race circuit.
 - c) **Great North Run weekend (Provisional date of Friday 10th – Sunday 12th September);** The Great Run Company intend to start planning for a 2021 Great North Run weekend event which will also include the following additional wider activities across the weekend;
 - i. Friday Night 5k run on the Quayside
 - ii. Great North Saturday to comprise Mini and Junior Great North Runs
 - iii. Great North Saturday (Elite element) – will aim to include 1 mile and 500 metres race and also field events such as pole vault.
 - iv. Great north Saturday - participant Village - as in 2019 a revised participant village which will includes street food and drinks, activities for children such as come and try it and sponsor exhibitors.
 - v. It is proposed to confirm arrangements with the Great North Run Company to secure the long-term future of the Great North Run and use of the Gateshead Quays area for the Great North Weekend ancillary events.

World Class Athletics - Diamond League

15. On the 21st May 2019 Cabinet agreed (minute No. C4) a 10-year strategy for International Athletics and for the future hosting of World Class Athletics events at Gateshead International Stadium. The Council entered negotiations with British Athletics regarding the hosting of the IAAF Diamond League events in 2020, 2021, and 2024.
16. The Diamond League in Gateshead was subsequently cancelled in 2020 due to the Pandemic, however on the 18th November 2020, British Athletics contacted Gateshead Council confirming that they could not support a Gateshead based Diamond League for 2021 and contract discussions for future events have been paused for the time being. Both Gateshead Council and British Athletics are committed to working together and continue the strong relationship built up over many years.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Note the updates in the major events programme for 2021, most notably the provisional dates of the Tour of Britain, the Great North Run weekend, and Try on the Tyne, and to note that the Diamond League athletics will not return to Gateshead in 2021 as previously planned.
- (ii) Approve the progression of formal discussions with Central Government, UK Sport, other stakeholders and local authorities to consider a bid to host the European Sports Championships in 2026.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To cement Gateshead's reputation as a host of major international sporting events and support the delivery of Thrive and Council priorities.
- (ii) To support the sustainability and raise the profile of key Gateshead assets most notably Gateshead International Stadium and the Gateshead Quayside.
- (iii) To support delivery against the Council's Thrive Agenda and priorities.

CONTACT: Lindsay Murray ext. 2794

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the overall vision for Gateshead as set out in Council policy objectives such as 'Thrive' and will support the Council to;
 - b) Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
 - c) Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough
 - d) Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead

Background and Proposal

Tour of Britain (Cycling)

2. As part of its major events investment programme, the Council agreed on the 24th March 2020 (minute number C139) to the delivery of the cycling Tour of Britain event in 2020 and associated budget requirement of £0.3m. This event was subsequently postponed in 2020 with the aim to be rescheduled to Friday 10th September in 2021.
3. The route of the Tour of Britain included a reversal of the 2019 event with race starting in Cumbria and entering Gateshead in Chopwell with the finish anticipated to be held on South Shore Road. With the proposed delivery of the new conference and arena on the Gateshead Quays and commencement of work scheduled in early 2021, an alternative finish route has been identified. Subject to traffic management arrangements confirmed, the finish location is proposed to be on the A167 adjacent to the iconic Angel of North.

Great North Run Weekend

4. The Great North Run (GNR), which is the largest half marathon in the world, annually takes place in Gateshead within a route from Newcastle to South Tyneside. The event attracts over 40,000 people ranging from elite athletes, to local club runners and individuals aiming to use running to improve their health and wellbeing. The event also raises significant resource for local and national charities.
5. An agreement has been in place for a number of years with The Great Run Company to deliver additional engagement activities over the Great North Run weekend which have historically included; The Great North City Games (an elite competition), and the Junior and Mini Great North Runs which included the Great North Run Pasta Party/Event Village.
6. The Great North Run weekend was subsequently cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The following outcomes were however delivered which provided visibility and continuity to maintain a stronghold for the event;
 - a) Great Run Solo/Virtual GNR which engaged 21,000 people
 - b) A televised Great North Run special programme aired on the BBC to an audience of over 1m.

European Sports Championships 2026

7. The first edition of the European Sports Championships (as then branded) was staged in Glasgow and Berlin in 2018. A multisport event consisting of European Championships in Athletics, Aquatics, Cycling, Rowing, Golf, Gymnastics and Triathlon. The event was staged over ten days in the month of August, with Berlin hosting the athletics and all other sport taking place in Glasgow. The event was positively received by audiences and stakeholders in the UK, Europe and around the world.
8. The dates for the 2026 event have been confirmed as 30 July to 9 August 2026 and host city interest is to be registered with the European Championship Management to enter to the formal bidding process anticipated to start later this year.
9. In order to progress a bid, engagement with Central Government, and UK Sport will be crucial to receive home nation support in the process. A formal feasibility study will be required to understand the host city needs required to deliver such an event, including the financial implications.

Social/Community/Sport & Health Development

10. Cementing Gateshead's reputation as a host of major international sporting events and supporting deliver Gateshead's Culture Strategy. Major events also support in creating community pride and providing access to attend sporting spectacles that will bring some of the best athletes in the world into Gateshead.
11. Volunteering is a key component in the delivery of events and provides the opportunity for local people to engage in major events with over 400 volunteers recruited during the European Athletics Team Athletics championships in 2013 and over 800 volunteers were recruited for the World Transplant Games in 2019.
12. Community engagement programmes are a key part of major events and provide a mechanism to reduce inequality of access to sport and physical activity, this is achieved through;
 - a) Athlete appearances at local community and school venues aimed to inspire individuals to be more active and healthy.
 - b) Activity at competition venues pre and post the event for residents, schools and local clubs.
 - c) Wider physical activity programmes resourced through the event to provide an engaging cultural offer.
13. Inspiring the next generation - Events such as the Olympics generate positive messages about participating in sport, especially amongst those who attend directly. 70% of attendees of a major sporting event aged 25 or under felt inspired to either participate or participate more often after attending. (Sport England, 2017).

14. The 2012 'Habit for Life' survey of 25-34 year olds found that 32% of sporty people were inspired to take part in sport by a famous athlete or major sporting event

Economic Impact of Major Sporting Events

15. Major events play a major part in supporting the local economy through expenditure in local services and suppliers, and employment. In 2018 the European Athletics Championships held in Berlin were reported to have generated 53 million Euros in Germany and a tax income of around 11 million Euro for the tax authorities in Germany.
16. In 2010 the Sainsbury's UK School Games generated £3.36m into the North East Economy (£1.6m in Gateshead) and 90% of the 10,500 visitors to the event said they would make a return visit to Gateshead.
17. The economic impact of European Athletics Team Championships held in Gateshead in 2013, was valued at £840,000 and over 400 volunteers supported the delivery of the event.
18. The Great North Run, which is the largest half marathon in the world annually takes place in Gateshead within a route from Newcastle to South Tyneside. The event attracts over 40,000 people ranging from elite athletes, to local club runners and individuals aiming to use running to improve their health and wellbeing. An economic impact study revealed the race benefits of the Great North Run in the North East amount to £24m every year, with competitors raising a staggering £20 million for good causes in 2018. Last year's event also included;
- i. The highest attendance to date with 57,000 participants.
 - ii. 53% of participants travelled from outside the region, with 37% of individuals staying for at least 1 night.
 - iii. Significant national and international brand exposure for the Council and Sport and Leisure brand 'Go Gateshead'.
 - iv. Live broadcast watched by 1.17m people, (2.22m including highlights programme, and 5.5m cumulative total for a 5 minute reach).
 - v. Significant activation of the Quayside with the Junior Great North Run, City Games, and Pasta Party with over 23,000 people attending including Kings Meadow School (Gateshead) competing in a School Sprint event.
19. In 2019, the Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain in Gateshead event specifically;
- a. Received a three-hour live programme and 60-minute highlights programme which was broadcast on ITV4.
 - b. A 52-minute highlight programme produced and distributed on a worldwide basis using the best endeavours to reach the widest possible audience.
 - c. Received official recognition on the Race website with 'hotlinks' to the Gateshead Council website.
 - d. Reported, via an economic research study that;
 - i. 162,500 people attended the event with gross expenditure at the event of £3,337,662,
 - ii. Net visitor expenditure was £2,996,386 across Stage 4 of the event.

- iii. 75% of visitors surveyed associated Gateshead Council as a key sponsor of the race. (OVO Energy 82%, British Cycling 70%, Skoda 64%, Cumbria County Council 31%).
- iv. 48% of individuals surveyed reported that they were inspired to cycle more often as a result of the event.
- e. Delivered a comprehensive school and community engagement programme which included;
 - i. 3,500 children from 28 Gateshead schools watching the event at key locations across the borough and experienced live world class cycling.
 - ii. Four schools given priority access to a dedicated spectator zone at the start of the event, with 20 School Children acting as team mascots and accompanying the teams as they formally sign in at the start.
 - iii. A group of young people chosen to cycle along the first 200 metres of the start on South Shore Road to lead the precession of cyclists out onto the route.
 - iv. A ‘design a cycling jersey’ competition held in the months leading up to the event with a pupil from St Joseph’s Primary School, Highfield, winning the competition.
 - v. **Cycling activity delivered in a number of schools in the lead up to the event** to improve cycling skills and road safety awareness for children, with an increase in school take up following the event.

Consultation

20. In preparing this report, consultations have taken place with all Cabinet Members.

Alternative Options

21. The option of not progressing with the proposal will result in the loss of cultural activity aimed to deliver policy objectives and support local residents to ‘Thrive’ as well as not supporting the resurgence of the local economy following the pandemic.

Implications of Recommended Option

22. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms the financial implications relating to the potential bid for the European Championships 2026 will be the subject of a future report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation
- c) **Property Implications** – There are no implications arising from

- 23. Risk Management Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.

- 24. Equality and Diversity Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation

25. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
26. **Health Implications** – The proposals will result in improved and high-quality sports provision providing increased opportunity and access whilst using professional sport to inspire individuals to take up more physical activity as part of an active and healthy lifestyle
27. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – The proposals will result in an increase in participation in cultural and sport and physical activity opportunities and therefore help sustain local key assets. The proposal will also support the local economy and therefore sustain local business, suppliers and hotels.
28. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
29. **Ward Implications** – The recommendations will impact upon all wards across Gateshead.
30. **Background Information** – None.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2020/21
– Third Quarter Review

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the latest position on the 2020/21 capital programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the third quarter to 31 December 2020. The report assesses reasons for the variances from the approved programme and details the proposed financing of the capital programme. In addition, the report considers the impact of CIPFA's Prudential Code on the capital programme and the monitoring of performance against the statutory Prudential Indicators.

Background

2. The original budget for the capital programme for 2020/21, as agreed by Council on 25 February 2020, totalled £110.475m, which was reduced to £96.792m at the first quarter review and £94.452m at the second quarter to accommodate re-profiling into future years and reductions linked to Covid. The third quarter review of progress has resulted in a revised estimate for total capital expenditure of £77.411m.
3. The proposed reduction of the capital programme at the third quarter comprises of the following movements:

	£m
Re-profiling of capital expenditure to future years	(20.303)
Increased borrowing/external funding/contributions	3.885
Reduction of planned expenditure	(0.217)
Level of Investment Reviewed	<u>(0.406)</u>
Total Variance	(17.041)

4. Primarily due to the impact of COVID-19 and the need to reassess costs and risks and deal with delays to programme planned investment has been re-profiled from 2020/21 to future years on a number of schemes, amounting to £20.303m reductions in 2020/21, this includes:
 - £5.275m Clasper House Building Development – Progress has now halted on this as more discussions are needed to determine the financial viability of the development.
 - £3.594m – Urban Core – Exemplar Neighbourhood – Poor ground conditions have significantly impacted viability; work is ongoing with GRP to address these issues with a view to start on site in 2021/22.
 - £2.557m – Local Transport Plan – Planned Maintenance – The planned programme has slipped due to Covid restrictions on a number of schemes and resources focussed on introducing Covid safe measures.
 - £1.681m Decent Homes Investment Programme – A number of schemes have been pushed back into 2021/22 due to Covid restrictions.
 - £0.808m – River View Intermediate Care Facility – The impact of Covid has put back the procurement of this facility until early 2021/22.

- £0.690m - Gateshead Solar PV – This will slip into 2021/22 due to the timeline on Freight Depot slipping.
 - £0.639m – Local Transport Plan – Integrated Transport – The progress on planned schemes has been affected by the impact of Covid restrictions on working conditions and staffing resources.
 - £0.550m – Salix Energy Efficiency Works – Progress on this has been impacted by the Asset Review.
 - £0.509m – Speculative Office Build 2 – Baltic Quarter – Investment has been paused on this scheme while due diligence is carried out to assess the demand for office space post COVID-19.
 - £0.500m West Askew Road Junction Improvements – No progress has been made on this due to utility works, it is anticipated works will begin in 2021/22.
 - £0.500m – Baltic Quarter Enabling Infrastructure – Ground clearance will take place after the New Year, but the main scheme has been delayed to allow for works to begin on the Multi Storey Car Park.
5. A total of £3.885m increased capital investment primarily relates to the following schemes:
- £1.486m Various New Build HRA Schemes – Seven houses have been completed on Seymour Street and Whitley Court is underway.
 - £1.000m – Gateshead Multi Storey Car Park – reprofiling of the NELEP grant from 2021/22 so as to meet grant conditions.
 - £0.526m Fire Safety Work/ Compliance – Works have been remobilised and a revised programme put in place following Covid safety guidance.
 - £0.250m – Lavender Cottage – this is an NHS funded scheme to support a hospital discharge for an individual to move into the community.
 - £0.250m Loan to Keelman Homes – Lyndhurst – reprofiling of the loan drawdown.
6. The other changes primarily relate to minor amendments to realign the schemes within the programme.

Proposal

7. The report identifies planned capital expenditure of £77.411m for the 2020/21 financial year. The expected resources required to fund the 2020/21 capital programme are as follows:

	£m
Prudential Borrowing	27.770
Projected Capital Receipts	0.500
Capital Grants and Contributions	29.401
Major Repairs Reserve (HRA)	17.240
Right to Buy Receipts (HRA)	2.500
Total Capital Programme	77.411

8. CIPFA's Prudential Code advises the regular monitoring of performance against the prudential indicators which regulate borrowing and investment. Targets and limits for

the prudential indicators for 2020/21 were agreed at Council on 25 February 2020 and borrowing and investment levels have remained within these limits.

Recommendations

9. It is requested that Cabinet recommends to Council that;

- (i) all variations to the 2020/21 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 are agreed as the revised programme,
- (ii) the financing of the revised programme is agreed,
- (iii) and that Council notes that Cabinet confirms that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2020/21 have been breached.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2020/21,
- (ii) To accommodate changes to the Council's in-year capital expenditure plans,
- (iii) To ensure performance has been assessed against the approved Prudential Limits.

Policy Context

1. The proposals within this report are consistent with the objectives contained within the Council's corporate Capital Strategy and will contribute to achieving the objectives and priority outcomes set out in the Council's Thrive Agenda.

Background

2. The original budget for the capital programme for 2020/21, as agreed by Council on 25 February 2020, totalled £110.475m, which decreased to £96.792m at the first quarter review, then £94.452m at the second quarter review.
3. The third quarter review has reprofiled the capital programme to reflect in year reductions within capital schemes, resulting in a revised estimate of £77.411m.
4. The £17.041m reduction is due to updated programme timelines linked to Covid restrictions for a number of schemes. All variations in the programme during the second quarter are detailed in Appendix 2.
5. Appendix 3 summarises the original budget and actual year end payments by Corporate Priority. The budget, projected year end payments and comments on the progress of each scheme are detailed in Appendix 4.
6. The Prudential Code sets out a range of Prudential Indicators that were agreed by the Council on 25 February 2020. Performance against the indicators for 2020/21 is set out in Appendix 5.

Consultation

7. The Leader of the Council has been consulted on this report.

Alternative Options

8. The proposed financing arrangements are the best available in order to ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2020/21.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the financial implications are as set out in the report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications arising from this report. Capital investment optimises the use of property assets to support the delivery of corporate priorities. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.
10. **Risk Management Implication** - Risks are assessed as part of the process of monitoring the programme and in respect of treasury management. The Cabinet will

continue to receive quarterly reports for recommendation of any issues to Council, together with any necessary action to ensure expenditure is managed within available resources.

11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - There are no direct 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** - The works will help to make the environment more attractive and reduce health and safety hazards.
15. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.
16. **Ward Implications** - Capital schemes will provide improvements in wards across the borough.
17. **Background Information**

- i. Report for Cabinet, 25 February 2020 (Council 20 February 2020) - Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25; and
- ii. Report for Cabinet, 15 September 2020 (Council 15 September 2020) – Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2020/21 – First Quarter Review.
- iii. Report for Cabinet, 17 November 2020 (Council 19 November 2020) – Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2020/21 – Second Quarter Review.

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Appendix 2

Reason for Movement	Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Variance (£'000)
INCREASES				
New Projects 20/21	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Lavender Cottage	250
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Next Steps Accommodation	103
Other Increases	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Fire Safety Work / Compliance	526
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	New Build - Various	1,486
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Programme Management	55
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Stock Condition Surveys and Scheme Design	45
	Place and Economy - Housing	HEHC	Loan to Keelman Homes - Lyndhurst	250
	Resources, Management and Reputation	RD	Technology Plan: Infrastructure	114
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Estate Regeneration	1
	Resources, Management and Reputation	RD	Technology Plan: Transformation Through Technology & New Ways of Working	55
Reprofiling of Grant	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park	1,000
TOTAL INCREASES				3,885
REDUCTIONS				
Level of Investment reviewed	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	ADZ Investment - Gateshead Quays	-406
Other Reductions	Place and Economy - Economy	RD	Digital Gateshead	-217
Slippage to Future Years	Communities - Culture, Sport and Leisure	PH&W	Blaydon Leisure Centre Outdoor Sports Provision	-67
	Communities - Culture, Sport and Leisure	PH&W	GIS Centre Outdoor Sports Provision	-21
	Communities - Culture, Sport and Leisure	PH&W	Virtual Reality Fitness Systems	-120
	communities - Volunteering	HEHC	Community Hubs	-150
	People - Children and Young People	CAF	Social Care System	-328
	People - Health and Wellbeing	CAF	River View Intermediate Care Facility	-808
	Place and Economy - Economy	EIG	Speculative Office Build 2 - Baltic Quarter	-509
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Gateshead DES - Solar PV	-690
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Flood Alleviation Investment	-100
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	-639
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	-2,557
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Salix Energy Efficiency Works	-550
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	West Askew Road junction improvements	-500
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	HEHC	Team Valley Flood Alleviation	-100
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	HEHC	Trade Waste Service Expansion	-15
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	HEHC	Traffic Sign Replacement	-50
	Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	HEHC	Unclassified Road Resurfacing - Micro Asphalt	-50
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Decent Homes - Investment Programme	-1,681
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	External Wall Insulation Works to Non-Traditional Properties	-54
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Lift Replacement/Refurbishment	-239
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Multi Storey Modernisation Works	-29
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Neighbourhood Improvements	-63
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Property conversions feasibility	-68
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Replacement of Communal Electrics	-63
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Sheltered Unit Modernisation Works	-4
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	T-Fall Insulation & ventilation	-35
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Warden Call Renewal	-20
	Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Window Replacement and Door Entry System Upgrade	-261
	Place and Economy - Housing	EIG	Casper House Building Development	-5,275
	Place and Economy - Housing	EIG	Urban Core - Exemplar Neighbourhood	-3,594
	Place and Economy - Housing	HEHC	Loan to Keelman Homes to support Empty Homes 2016-21	-400
	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	ADZ Investment – Baltic Quarter Spec Build (Riga)	-117
	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	Baltic Quarter Enabling Infrastructure	-500
	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	High Street North - Future Place	-100
	Resources, Management and Reputation	EIG	Metrogreen	-135
	Resources, Management and Reputation	HEHC	Health & Safety	-70
	Resources, Management and Reputation	HEHC	Strategic Maintenance	-341
Total Reduced Project Costs				-20,926
TOTAL VARIANCE				-17,041

Appendix 3

Portfolio	Approved Budget 2020/21	Revised Forecast 2020/21 Q1	Revised Forecast 2020/21 Q2	Revised Forecast 2020/21 Q3	Variance	Actual Spend at December 2020
COMMUNITIES						
Communities - Culture, Sport and Leisure	1,162	492	649	441	(208)	295
Communities -Volunteering	0	150	150	0	(150)	0
Total Communities	1,162	642	799	441	(358)	295
PEOPLE						
People - Children and Young People	12,722	14,024	13,625	13,297	(328)	9,524
People - Health and Wellbeing	6,450	3,112	2,760	1,952	(808)	398
Total People	19,172	17,136	16,385	15,249	(1,136)	9,922
PLACE AND ECONOMY						
Place and Economy - Economy	3,825	1,829	2,324	1,598	(726)	737
Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	21,718	19,091	20,915	15,664	(5,251)	7,162
Place and Economy - Housing	38,217	33,987	33,255	24,185	(9,070)	4,287
Total Place and Economy	63,760	54,907	56,494	41,447	(15,047)	12,186
RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT AND REPUTATION						
Resources, Management and Reputation	26,381	24,107	20,774	20,274	(500)	7,598
Total Resources, Management and Reputation	26,381	24,107	20,774	20,274	(500)	7,598
Total Capital Investment	110,475	96,792	94,452	77,411	(17,041)	30,001

Appendix 4

Portfolio	Group	Project Title	Approved 2020/21 Allocation £'000	Revised Q2 Allocation £'000	Revised Q3 Allocation £'000	Comments
COMMUNITIES						
Communities - Culture, Sport and Leisure	HEHC	Fixed Play Facility Renewals	350	350	350	
	PH&W	Blaydon Leisure Centre Outdoor Sports Provision	0	67	0	On Pause
	PH&W	Cleveland Hall	0	10	10	
	PH&W	Dunston Leisure Centre Improvements	104	0	0	
	PH&W	Gateshead International Stadium Investment	50	30	30	
	PH&W	Gateshead Leisure Centre Investment	645	0	0	
	PH&W	GIS Centre Outdoor Sports Provision	0	49	28	Re profiled to future years
	PH&W	Library Service Review	0	10	10	
	PH&W	Virtual Reality Fitness Systems	0	120	0	Re profiled to future years
	RD	Hillgate Quay Redevelopment	0	0	0	
	RD	Sage Gateshead - Capital Development	13	13	13	
Total Communities - Culture, Sport & Leisure			1,162	649	441	
Communities &	HEHC	Community Hubs	0	150	0	Re profiled to future years
	Total Communities - Volunteering		0	150	0	
PEOPLE						
People - Children and Young People	CAF	Service in Gateshead	475	10	10	
	CAF	Extensions and adaptations to the homes of foster carers	160	287	287	
	CAF	Longside House	0	0	0	
	CAF	Social Care System	1,056	1,467	1,139	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC	Gibside New School Provision	9,364	9,450	9,450	
	HEHC	Kells Lane Primary School - Window Replacement	0	440	440	
	HEHC	School Condition Investment	1,417	1,721	1,721	
	HEHC	Schools Devolved Formula Funding	250	250	250	
Total Children and Young People			12,722	13,625	13,297	
People - Health and Wellbeing	CAF	Children's three bed Residential Home	475	10	10	
	CAF	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	1,750	1,798	1,798	
	CAF	River View Intermediate Care Facility	3,825	810	2	Re profiled to future years
	CAF	Specialist Therapeutic Children's Home in Gateshead	325	30	30	
	CAF	Telecare Equipment	75	112	112	
	Total Health and Wellbeing		6,450	2,760	1,952	
Place and Economy - Economy	EIG	Business Centre Portfolio	232	0	0	
	EIG	Immersive Incubation Hub	0	495	495	
	EIG	Speculative Office Build 2 - Baltic Quarter	3,000	919	410	
	PH&W	Land of Oak & Iron Access for All	0	40	40	
	RD	Broadband Delivery UK	0	80	80	
	RD	Digital Gateshead	593	790	573	Re profiled to future years
Total Economy			3,825	2,324	1,598	
Place and Economy - Environment and Transport	EIG	Active Travel Cycleway	0	87	87	
	EIG	Flood Alleviation Investment	372	363	262	Re profiled to future years
	EIG	Gateshead DES - New Development Connections	0	0	0	
	EIG	Gateshead DES - Solar PV	1,600	800	110	Re profiled to future years
	EIG	Gateshead Quays - DES Connection	150	0	0	
	EIG	Hill Street Acquisition	0	185	185	
	EIG	Loan to GECO. District Energy extension HNIP	0	2,020	2,020	
	EIG	Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	2,037	2,589	1,950	Re profiled to future years
	EIG	Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	3,238	7,118	4,561	Re profiled to future years
	EIG	Quays Pedestrian Improvements	0	50	50	
	EIG	Salix Energy Efficiency Works	1,201	605	55	Re profiled to future years
	EIG	West Askew Road junction improvements	4,716	1,516	1,016	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC	Birtley Crematorium Cremator Replacement	2,000	2,059	2,059	
	HEHC	Cemetery Extensions	400	0	0	
	HEHC	Flagged Footways	333	333	333	
	HEHC	Follingsby Salt Store	820	40	40	
	HEHC	Public Realm Improvement	50	50	50	
	HEHC	Replacement Bins	125	125	125	
	HEHC	Street Lighting Column Replacement and CMS Removal	1,544	750	750	
	HEHC	Street Lighting LED Replacement - Phase 4	1,436	800	800	
	HEHC	Street Scene Environmental Works	150	0	0	
	HEHC	Team Valley Flood Alleviation	100	100	0	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC	Trade Waste Service Expansion	196	75	60	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC	Traffic Sign Replacement	250	250	200	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC	Traffic Signal Renewal - Borough Wide	500	500	500	
	HEHC	Unclassified Road Resurfacing - Micro Asphalt	500	500	450	Re profiled to future years
Total Environment and Transport			21,718	20,915	15,663	
Place and Economy - Housing	CAE	Aids and Adaptations	1,500	1,350	1,350	
	CAE	Back Boiler Renewal and Replacements	800	1,431	1,431	
	CAE	Decent Homes - Investment Programme	7,000	6,469	4,788	Re profiled to future years
	CAE	Estate Regeneration	500	445	446	

CAE	External Wall Insulation Works to Non-Traditional Properties	60	333	279	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Felling Regeneration	0	0	0	
CAE	Fire Safety Work / Compliance	5,581	4,820	5,346	Works remobilised
CAE	HRA Strategic Maintenance	2,000	1,800	1,800	
CAE	Lavender Cottage	0		250	New project
CAE	Lift Replacement/Refurbishment	500	400	161	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Multi Storey Modernisation Works	200	263	234	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Neighbourhood Improvements	170	63	0	Re profiled to future years
CAE	New Build - Bute Road	0	0	0	
CAE	New Build - Seymour Street	0	0	0	
CAE	New Build - Various	1,950	772	2,258	Works remobilised
CAE	New Build - Winlaton Assisted Living	0	0	0	
CAE	Next Steps Accommodation	0		103	New project
CAE	Programme Management	550	495	550	Works remobilised
CAE	Property conversions feasibility	500	108	40	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Replacement of Communal Electrics	450	274	211	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Sheltered Unit Modernisation Works	160	36	32	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Stock Condition Surveys and Scheme Design	450	405	450	Works remobilised
CAE	T-Fall Insulation & ventilation	50	35	0	Re profiled to future years
CAE	Timber Replacements	100	0	0	
CAE	Warden Call Renewal	200	180	160	Re profiled to future years
	Window Replacement and Door Entry System Upgrade	500	465	204	Re profiled to future years
EIG	GRP Capital Injection	48	1,259	1,259	
EIG	Urban Core - Exemplar Neighbourhood	4,000	3,605	11	Re profiled to future years
HEHC	Casper House Building Development	8,548	5,497	222	Re profiled to future years
HEHC	Loan to Gateshead Trading Company - Lyndhurst House Building	0	250	250	
HEHC	Loan to Keelman Homes - Bleach Green Affordable Housing	1,000	1,400	1,400	
HEHC	Loan to Keelman Homes - Lyndhurst	0	0	250	Re profiling of the loan drawdown
HEHC	Loan to Keelman Homes to support Empty Homes 2016-21	1,400	1,100	700	Re profiled to future years
Total Place and Economy - Housing		38,217	33,255	24,185	
Resources, Management and Reputation	Specialist equipment to improve inclusion for CYP - HINT	30	30	30	
	Specialist IT equipment for CYP with low incidence needs (hearing and vision impairment)	37	37	37	
	EIG ADZ Investment – Baltic Quarter Spec Build (Riga)	320	320	203	Completed
	EIG ADZ Investment - Gateshead Quays	8,000	8,000	7,594	Re profiled to future years
	EIG Baltic Quarter Enabling Infrastructure	4,250	1,000	500	Re profiled to future years
	EIG Development Site Preparation Works	1,000	500	500	
	EIG Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park	1,663	1,000	2,000	Funding to be used before April 2021
	EIG GRP Public Art - Birtley	5	0	0	
	EIG High Street North - Future Place	0	100	0	Re profiled to future years
	EIG High Street South Regeneration	2,180	700	700	
	EIG Housing JV - Brandling	1,680	350	350	
	EIG Major Projects - Project Management Costs	240	270	270	
	EIG Metrogreen	120	221	86	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC Health & Safety	540	500	430	Re profiled to future years
	HEHC Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment	1,750	2,263	2,263	
	HEHC Strategic Maintenance	1,436	750	409	Re profiled to future years
RD	AGRESSO Upgrade	150	150	150	
RD	Covid 19	0	225	225	
RD	Customer Experience Project - Improved Signage within Civic Centre	40	0	0	Spend accelerated from 2022/23 to 2020/21 and 2021/22
RD	Technology Plan: Infrastructure	2,736	2,343	2,457	
RD	Technology Plan: Transformation Through				
RD	Technology & New Ways of Working	204	2,015	2,070	Re profiled from future years
Total Resources, Management and Reputation		26,381	20,774	20,274	
Total Capital Investment		110,475	94,453	77,411	

APPENDIX 5

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21

The 2020/21 Prudential Indicators were agreed by Council on 25 February 2020 (column 1). This is now compared with the 2020/21 actual Q3 position as at the 31 December 2020 (column 2).

Certain Treasury Management indicators must be monitored throughout the year on a regular basis in order to avoid breaching agreed limits. The capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and none of the other approved Prudential Indicators set for 2020/21 have been breached.

<i>Capital Expenditure</i>		
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator	2020/21 £000 Quarter 3
Non-HRA	87,254	57,319
HRA	23,221	20,093
Total	110,475	77,411
To reflect the reported capital monitoring agreed by Council during the year		

<i>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</i>		
	2020/21 Reported Indicator	2020/21 Quarter 3
Non-HRA	16.50%	NA
HRA	47.30%	NA

<i>Capital Financing Requirement</i>		
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator	2020/21 £000 Quarter 3
Non-HRA	414,628	363,241
HRA	345,505	345,505

<i>Authorised Limit for External Debt</i>		
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator	
Borrowing		880,000
Other Long Term Liabilities		0
Total		880,000
Maximum YTD 31/12/2020 £694.738m		

<i>Operational Boundary for External Debt</i>		
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator	
Borrowing		865,000
Other Long Term Liabilities		0
Total		865,000
Maximum YTD 31/12/2020 £694.738m		

The Council's actual external debt at 31 December 2020 was £664.206m. It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time.

Estimated Incremental Impact on Council Tax and Housing Rents

This indicator is set at the time the Council's budget is set. Therefore, there is no requirement for this Indicator to be monitored on a quarterly or annual basis.

Adherence to CIPFA code on Treasury Management

The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

<i>Upper / Lower Limits for Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing</i>				
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator		2020/21 £000 Actual Position	
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual Percentage	Maximum YTD
Under 12 months	25%	0%	4.24%	5.84%
12 months to 24 months	20%	0%	0.17%	3.60%
24 months to 5 years	25%	0%	7.50%	7.50%
5 years to 10 years	30%	0%	9.47%	10.22%
10 years to 20 years	25%	0%	8.81%	9.75%
20 years to 30 years	50%	0%	1.17%	1.17%
30 years to 40 years	50%	0%	31.31%	31.31%
40 years to 50 years	50%	0%	34.93%	36.36%
50 years and above	25%	0%	0.00%	0.00%
All within agreed limits.				

<i>Upper / Lower Limits for Maturity Structure of Variable Rate Borrowing</i>				
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator		2020/21 £000 Actual Position	
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual Percentage	Maximum YTD
Under 12 months	30%	0%	2.41%	2.95%
12 months to 24 months	20%	0%	0.00%	0.00%
24 months to 5 years	20%	0%	0.00%	0.00%
5 years to 50 years and above	20%	0%	0.00%	0.00%
All within agreed limits.				

On 8 March 2007, Council agreed to the placing of investments for periods of longer than 364 days in order to maximise investment income before forecasted cuts in interest rates. An upper limit was set and agreed as a new Prudential Indicator.

<i>Upper Limit on amounts invested beyond 364 days</i>				
	2020/21 £000 Reported Indicator		2020/21 £000 Actual Position	2020/21 £000 Maximum YTD
Investments	15,000		0	5,000

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TITLE OF REPORT: Revenue Budget – Third Quarter Review 2020/21

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the latest monitoring position on the 2020/21 revenue budget at the end of the third quarter, including impacts of the global pandemic. Cabinet is asked to note the contents of the report and recommend the budget adjustments outlined within the report to Council.

Background

2. As part of the Council's budget and policy framework Cabinet receives quarterly reports on the agreed revenue budget so that any variances can be identified and addressed at appropriate pace with Councillor oversight.
3. Council agreed the original revenue budget for 2020/21 on 27 February 2020. This was set at £220.761m Additional funding received as a result of the pandemic and other ring fenced grants has increased the base budget by £20.200m to £240.961m, these amendments were agreed by Cabinet on 15 September 2020 and 17 November 2020.
4. The Council's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for 2020/21 is £105.673m, with £1.212m held in reserve.
5. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget 2020/21 was agreed by Council 27 February 2020. This was set as a use of £4.452m of the reserve.
6. The Council have received additional government funding; Outbreak Management funding of £2.425m and a Winter Plan grant of £0.121m.

Proposal

7. It is proposed that Cabinet recommend to Council an amendment to increase the net revenue budget by £2.546m as presented in appendix 2 to reflect the further additional funding received in 2020/21 to allow for effective budget monitoring. The Winter Plan grant allocation will be utilised to fund the enforcement of and compliance with restrictions. The Outbreak Management funding will be allocated to Public Health and the Winter Plan grant will be allocated to Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport. This would result in an adjusted budget for the basis of monitoring of £243.507m.
8. The projected revenue outturn for 2020/21 as at 30 November 2020 is £243.792m compared to the adjusted budget of £243.507m, resulting in a projected overspend of £0.285m. A reduction in business rates income of £0.246m results in an overall projected overspend of £0.531m an increase of £0.494m since October. The

projection for the year includes use of reserves of £0.472m and an appropriation of £1.485m to reserves in relation to the paused invest to save priorities. Ongoing actions to mitigate the budget shortfall are presented in appendix 1 of the report.

9. Within the projected outturn there is a financial impact of reduced income and increased costs attributed to COVID-19 of £28.523m.
10. Budget savings of £0.400m for 2020/21 in relation to a contract review and corporate landlord are not now expected to be achieved in the financial year. The undelivered savings will contribute to the funding gap in 2021/22.
11. Due to the current operational and uncertain economic circumstances the Council finds itself in, several assumptions have had to be made to arrive at the current projected service outturn. There is the possibility that the current position is understated as assumptions that have been used to calculate the figures may change as government guidance changes.

Virements

12. Virements have been actioned during the third quarter to reflect the operations of the Council and previously approved use of contingency.

Schools

13. The projected DSG outturn at quarter two is £104.958m compared to the budget of £105.673m, is an under spend of £0.715m, a movement of £0.107m since quarter 2. The projections are based on known activity in this academic year, but this may change once there is more clarity of funding Early years' providers in Spring 2021 term.
14. The DSG reserve is currently £1.212m, it is projected that the balance at the 31 March 2021 will increase to £1.729m. The movement of £0.517m accounts for the current projected under spend offset by the payment relating to clawback of the 2019/20 early years adjustment (£0.198m).

Housing Revenue Account

15. The projected HRA outturn requires £1.251m use of reserve compared to the budget of £4.452m, this is a reduction of £3.201m. This is a £1.506m reduction on the quarter 2 position.
16. The HRA reserve at quarter two is £31.035m, it is projected that the balance at the 31 March 2021 will decrease to £29.784m.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - a) notes the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the third quarter, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2;
 - b) recommends that Council approves the virements to contingency actioned for operational purposes as outlined in appendix 1 of the report;
 - c) recommends that Council approves an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2020/21 from £240.961m to £243.507m as presented in Appendix 1 to account for the additional grant funding.

For the following reason:

To contribute to sound financial management and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

CONTACT: Darren Collins

extension: 3582

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. This report meets the standards required to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. It is also consistent with the Council's objectives of making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives by assisting in ensuring a sustainable financial position for the long term.

Background

2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which represent financial management good practice, recommend that councillors should receive regular reports on performance against revenue and capital budgets. The frequency of the reports is determined following a risk assessment of the budget, and Cabinet currently receives a report on a quarterly basis.
3. This report sets out the latest position on the 2020/21 revenue budget at the end of the third quarter and projects spending and income to the end of the financial year.
4. Council agreed the original revenue budget for 2020/21 on 27 February 2020. This was set at £220.761m. Additional funding received as a result of the pandemic and other ring-fenced grants has increased the base budget by £20.200m to £240.961m, these amendments were agreed by Cabinet on 15 September 2020 and 17 November 2020.
5. Appendix 2 details the budget for 2020/21 compared to an assessment of the projected outturn for the year. Without any further action the projected outturn on net budgets for 2020/21 results in a projected overspend of £0.531m.
6. This report recommends an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2020/21 from £240.961m to £243.507m to reflect the receipt of additional grant relating to Outbreak Management and Winter Plan grant. The total adjusted budget for the basis of monitoring is therefore £243.507m. The Outbreak Management allocation will be utilised to fund the additional cost associated with supporting proactive containment and intervention of the virus. The Winter Plan grant allocation will be utilised to fund the enforcement of and compliance with restrictions. The Outbreak Management funding will be allocated to Public Health and the Winter Plan grant will be allocated to Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport.
7. At the end of the third quarter of the year, the projected use of reserves is £9.610m.
8. Budget savings of £0.400m for 2020/21 are not expected to be achieved in year due to delays in the reviews as a consequence of the pandemic.

Variations

9. The main variances on a group basis are set out below.

Children, Adults & Families - £0.663m overspend

10. Impacts have been seen in Children's Social Care relating to increased LAC. The Adult Social Care over spends relate to packages of care. Additional costs of covid packages are being mitigated by reductions to Council costs, this may change as packages of care requirements are assessed as part of the hospital discharge schemes.

Public Health & Wellbeing - £1.484m overspend

11. Significant impacts relating to unachieved income in relation to closure of leisure facilities and loss of room hire as well as additional costs in relation to PPE, and mortuary costs.

Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities - £0.974m underspend.

12. Impacts from loss of catering and room hire income. Reductions in car park and waste services income offset by reductions in employee costs, reductions in building maintenance expenditure, increased crematoria income and government funding allocations.

Resources and Digital - £0.563m underspend

13. Reductions in court cost income relating to NNDR and Council Tax offset by overachievement of employee slippage and government funding allocations.

Other Services, Contingency, Capital Financing and Trading and Investment income - £0.369m underspend

14. Capital financing costs are projected to be lower than budget. This is offset by an estimate for the reinstatement of the redundancy and bad debt provisions at the end of the financial year.

Virements

15. Budget virements Cabinet are asked to recommend to Council are;

- £0.315m to be removed from Neighbourhood Services and held in contingency. Budget relates to underspend on CLLD match funding.

Actions to Mitigate the Shortfall

16. The council will;
 - Continue to work closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure that the appropriate contribution is received for all relevant packages of care;
 - Submit further compensation claims to government under the fees and charges guarantee;
 - Continue proactive budget management by budget holders to ensure efficiencies and savings can be delivered in year;

- Continue work on the recommissioning and decommissioning of service areas as agreed by Council in the 2020/21 budget report.
- Further refine and develop relationships with the voluntary sector which may require positive growth and/or a resources shift;

Schools

17. The projected DSG outturn at quarter three is £104.958m compared to the budget of £105.673m, an underspend of £0.715m. The projections are based on known activity in this academic year but may change once there is more clarity of funding Early Years' providers in Spring 2021 term.

Housing Revenue Account

18. The projected HRA outturn requires £1.251m use of reserve compared to the budget of £4.452m, this is a reduction of £3.201m.
19. Income is forecast to be £1.030m less than the budget which is due to a combination of an increase in the percentage of void properties, an estimated increase in the bad debt position and reduction in services charges income.
20. The quarter three HRA capital programme has reduced by £3.128m however due to the addition of grant funded schemes the reduction on the amount required to fund the programme from the HRA is £3.481m. The reduction represents slippage into 2021/22.
21. The projection assumed the contingency budget will be utilised in full. This provides some headroom in year for additional costs/lost income, arising from the implications of COVID-19 that cannot otherwise be absorbed.
22. Given the self-financing nature of the account and the reliance upon the tenant income to service the expenditure the level of reduced income is concerning as the need for investment within the capital programme will continue over the medium term.

Summary

23. The projected overspend at the end of the third quarter of £0.531m is after the application of £0.472m of reserves in line with the usage agreed as part of 2020/21 budget and after an appropriation of £1.485m to reserves in relation to the paused invest to save priorities.
24. For all projected overspends senior management will ensure proactive budget management through regular monitoring will continue to take place with action plans being monitored with the aim of containing spending within the revised budget.

Consultation

25. The Leader of the Council has been consulted on this report.

Alternative Options

26. Cabinet could decide not to amend the budget to take into account additional funding expected in 2020/21 however this would be to the detriment of effective financial management and accountability.

Implications of Recommended Option

27. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms these are as set out in the report and appendices.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no direct Human Resource implications as a consequence of this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications as a consequence of this report.

28. Risk Management Implication -

Regular budget monitoring and the associated action planning that arise from this activity assists in reducing the risk of the Council overspending its agreed budget. This enables effective financial planning which allows the Council to deploy resources in line with priorities.

29. Equality and Diversity Implications - Nil

30. Crime and Disorder Implications – Nil

31. Health Implications - Nil

32. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications - Nil

33. Human Rights Implications - Nil

34. Ward Implications - Revenue spending supports the delivery of services across the whole of Gateshead.

APPENDIX 2

Revenue Monitoring Summary 2020/21

Service	Revised Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
<u>Children, Adults & Families</u>			
Children's Social Care	35,163	35,724	561
Education, Schools and Inclusion	3,784	3,818	34
Quality Assurance & Commissioning	6,755	7,086	331
Adult Social Care	69,639	69,376	(263)
<u>Public Health & Wellbeing</u>			
Public Health	20,481	20,481	0
Wellbeing	7,516	9,000	1,484
<u>Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities</u>			
Housing, Compliance and Traded Services	5,069	5,145	76
Highways and Waste	16,777	16,212	(565)
Environment & Fleet Management	3,308	2,823	(485)
<u>Economy, Innovation and Growth</u>			
Business, Employment and Skills	1,049	951	(98)
Planning Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	2,674	2,762	88
Major Projects and Corporate Property	(1,379)	(1,092)	287
<u>Office of the Chief Executive</u>			
	1,012	983	(29)
<u>Corporate Services & Governance</u>			
Legal & Democratic Services	3,633	3,385	(248)
Human Resources & Workforce Development	1,467	1,407	(60)
Corporate Commissioning & Procurement	454	534	80
Public Service Reform	334	358	24
<u>Corporate Resources</u>			
Financial Management	1,715	1,665	(50)
Customer Experience & Digital	3,880	3,378	(502)
Housing Benefits	421	421	0
IT	3,203	3,253	50
Commercialisation and Improvement	1,730	1,669	(61)
<u>Other Services & Contingencies</u>			
Capital Financing Costs	14,571	13,886	(685)
Traded & Investment Income	33,700	32,518	(1,182)
Expenditure Passed outside the General Fund	(2,680)	(1,182)	1,498
Levies	(1,855)	(1,855)	0
NET BUDGET	243,507	243,792	285
<u>Financed By</u>			
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)	(73,792)	(73,546)	246
Additional Grant Funding	0	0	0
New Burden Funding	(170)	(170)	0
Other Grants	(42,665)	(42,665)	0
Public Health	(18,966)	(18,966)	0
Council Tax	(95,671)	(95,671)	0
Collection Fund (Council Tax)	(1,620)	(1,620)	0
Earmarked Reserves	(10,623)	(10,623)	0
TOTAL FUNDING	(243,507)	(243,261)	246
PROJECTED (UNDER) / OVER SPEND	0	531	531



TITLE OF REPORT: **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charges 2021/22**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council;
 - the proposed rent changes from 5 April 2021, in line with the Government's rent setting policy.
 - the detailed proposals for the 2021/22 HRA service charges.

Background

2. On the 17 November 2020 Cabinet approved the re-integration of the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock into the Council from April 2021.
3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the HRA.
4. In order to facilitate decision making and strategically plan for Housing in the future the Council continually updates its 30-year HRA Business plan considering the long-term future of the housing stock alongside the short to medium-term investment plans. The plan is reviewed, at least, annually to ensure appropriate action is taken to address risks. The level of rent and service charges are fundamental items within the business plan and are in part key to determining it's viability.
5. Historically the Council has followed Government formula and guidelines to set the rent level for social and affordable properties. In addition, Gateshead has followed best practice in relation to setting clear and transparent service charges.
6. From April 2020 government policy on rents for social housing changed. For the first time, the government directed the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) to apply its rent standard to all registered providers i.e. to both local authority registered providers and private registered providers (the vast majority of which are housing associations). Rents can be increased up to CPI as at September 2020 (0.5%) plus an additional 1%, giving a maximum possible rent increase of 1.5%.

7. The previous arrangements for limiting the welfare costs associated with local authority rents (the Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation scheme) did not operate alongside Universal Credit.
8. The Rent Standard also requests registered providers to endeavour to limit service charge increases to within the same formula but allows flexibility to cover the recovery of the service cost. A detailed review of Gateshead's fees and charges is carried out each year to ensure the HRA recovers only the full costs associated with providing services to tenants, this includes passing on any savings made to tenants through cost cutting efficiencies implemented by the council.
9. Where an inflationary increase is appropriate the September 2020 CPI rate of 0.5% has been applied in line with the inflationary measure used for setting rents. Those charges which relate to General Fund Services, such as Care Call, will be subject to a Fees and Charges report to Cabinet in February 2021.

Proposal

10. An increase in rents of 1.5% (2021/22) in line with the rent standard.
11. A summary of the recommended changes to the service charges for the HRA 2021/22 is presented in Appendix 3.

Recommendations

12. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - (i) The 1.5% rent increase from 5 April 2021 as detailed at Appendix 2.
 - (ii) The HRA service charges as detailed in Appendix 3.

For the following reasons:

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

CONTACT: Kristina Robson

Extension 3943

Policy Context

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

Background

4. Historically the Council has followed Government formula and guidelines to set the rent level for social and affordable properties. In addition, Gateshead has followed best practice in relation to setting clear and transparent service charges.
5. From April 2020 government policy on rents for social housing changed. For the first time, the government directed the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) to apply its rent standard to all registered providers i.e. to both local authority registered providers and private registered providers (the vast majority of which are housing associations).
6. The previous arrangements for limiting the welfare costs associated with local authority rents (the Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation scheme) did not operate alongside Universal Credit.
7. The Rent Standard also requests registered providers to endeavour to limit service charge increases to within the same formula but allows flexibility to cover the recovery of the service cost.
8. The current HRA Business Plan assumes rent increases of CPI plus 1% for the first 5 years of the plan reverting to CPI only thereafter. The September CPI of 0.5% represents a significant reduction on the previous 2% included in the plan and has implications for the future assumptions around CPI.
9. The Rent Standard for social rent housing states:

- 9.1 Registered providers may set the initial rent on properties to be let at social rent at a level that is no higher than formula rent, subject to the rent flexibility level.
 - 9.2 “Rent flexibility level” means either 105% of formula rent or if the accommodation is supported housing 110% of formula rent.
 - 9.3 The weekly rent of an existing tenant may not be increased by more than either (a) CPI (as at September in the previous year) + 1% in any year or (b) if the tenant’s rent exceeds the rent flexibility level, CPI in any year.
 - 9.4 Registered providers must not allow rents to rise above the rent cap level for the size of property concerned. Rent caps will be increased annually by CPI + 1.5%.
10. Affordable rent housing follows the same principles as above with additional guidance covering:
- 10.1 The maximum gross rent for a tenant under a new tenancy is 80% of the market rent for the tenant’s accommodation.
 - 10.2 If the formula rent is higher than 80% of the weekly market rent for the tenant’s accommodation, the maximum weekly rent (exclusive of service charges) is formula rent.
 - 10.3 Affordable rent includes all relevant service charges.

Proposed Rent Changes

11. The maximum rent increase allowable is CPI at September 2020 of 0.5% plus an additional 1%, giving 1.5% in total. Applying that to Gateshead’s HRA stock gives average rent values of:

50 Weeks Rent	Affordable Rent	Social Rent
Average Rent 2021/22	£98.16	£80.65
Average Rent 2020/21	£96.71	£79.46
Movement	£1.45	£1.19
% Increase	1.50%	1.50%

- 12. Not applying the maximum rent increase of 1.5% is an option but this would have a significant impact on viability of the HRA as any increase below this level would reduce the base rent figure upon which all future rent increases would be calculated. For example, a CPI-only increase of 0.5% would reduce an indicative rent revenue in 2021/22 alone by an estimated £0.750m.
- 13. 71.5% of council tenants are in receipt of either housing benefit or universal credit welfare support.
- 14. A summary of the average social rent charges is shown in appendix 2. A similar breakdown is not provided for affordable rent properties as this applies to 34 properties only varying from flats acquired above shops to new build assisted living schemes.

Service Charges

15. There are both mandatory and discretionary service charges in the HRA. Mandatory charges include energy costs and services, sheltered scheme officers, caretaking, cleaning and concierge. Discretionary include leased furniture packages, gardening and garages. Out of the 18,874 live dwellings 5,619 tenants are liable for mandatory service charges (29.8%) and 2,038 tenants take up discretionary services (10.8%). The Council raises £5.2m from charges to tenants of which £1m relates to general fund services and are included in the wider Council Revenue Budget.
16. As per paragraph 13 a total of 71.5% of tenants are in receipt of welfare support. A number of the Council charges for services are eligible for benefit; these are primarily services associated with buildings and cover charges such as cleaning, concierge, caretaking and part of the Sheltered Scheme Wardens. The majority of the proposed increases are either benefit eligible or are a discretionary service charge.
17. Guidance from Central Government is that fees and charges should cost recover in full where applicable. This is to protect other tenants from essentially contributing to costs that they are not responsible for. Where possible the proposed increases recover the full cost of services.
18. The council must produce a transparent process to ensure that actual revenue-only costs are identifiable and reasonable. In determining fees, it must be assumed that all properties are charged equally, no allowance can be made for any void properties held unless they are already declared surplus and earmarked for demolition. Where applicable any savings from efficiencies or changes to working practices are passed onto the service users.
19. It is proposed to continue to step the increase in charges associated with the cleaning of communal areas in low-rise and mid-rise blocks to mitigate any disproportionately high percentage increase.
20. As part of the process of setting the proposed service charges a full impact assessment is undertaken on the levels of rent and service charge increases. A full listing of all fees and charges for 2021/22 is presented at Appendix 3.
21. The charges for maintenance of communal areas and furnishings and laundry within Angel Court, gas heating in sheltered accommodation and concierge and cleaning in multi storey flats are proposed to be reduced to reflect to actual charges/costs of providing the services.
22. There is no proposed change to electricity in communal areas within sheltered accommodation, the admin charge for the furniture scheme and the gardening scheme.
23. Inflationary increases of CPI of 0.5% are proposed to be applied to outside use of communal lounges, use of guest rooms at sheltered accommodation, mortgage and rent references and garages.
24. Charges for the Winlaton Assisted Living Scheme are included as part of the affordable rent for the scheme and are therefore subject to a 1.5% increase in line with the affordable rent formula.

25. Charges for care call and the home support service charges at Angel Court are Council General Fund services and as such the level of charges will be determined via the Fees and Charges report to Cabinet in February 2021.
26. All other charges are proposed to be charged at full cost recovery which for some charges will result in an increase above inflation especially in areas where there may have been stepped increases in charges previously applied.

Consultation

27. Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members for Housing and also with The Gateshead Housing Company.

Alternative Options

28. Alternative approaches are mentioned in the report but are not proposed due to the detrimental impact on the viability of the HRA.

Implications of Recommended Option

29. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the financial implications associated with the proposed increases in the rent and service charges will be incorporated into the HRA budget 2021/22, 5 year and 30-year plan to be considered by Cabinet in February 2021.
- b. The estimated additional income to the HRA will in part be determined by the average number of void properties, the number of right to buy sales and any additions to the housing stock portfolio. These assumptions are currently under review.
- c. **Human Resources Implications** – Nil.
- d. **Property Implications** – the review of the HRA Asset Strategy will be underpinned by a robust business plan to which the level of rent is a significant enabler.

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

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

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

33. **Health Implications** – Nil

34. **Sustainability and Climate Emergency Implications** – The recommendations in the report will help deliver a more Sustainable Gateshead and support the review of the HRA Asset Strategy which includes carbon neutrality targets for the Council's housing stock.

35. **Human Rights Implications** – Nil

36. **Ward Implications** – All wards will be affected by the proposals in this report.

Background Information

Limit on Annual Rent Increases 2021/22

Rent Standard April 2020

Policy Statement on rents for social housing 2019

The Housing Revenue Account Self Financing Determinations February 2012

Welfare Reform Act 2016

Appendix 2

Proposed Social Rent 2021/22

Property Type	Number	£'s	Average of 2020-21	Average of 2021-22
		Average Increase	Basic Rent 50 weeks	Basic Rent 50 weeks
BUN	3,088	£1.19	79.49	80.69
0BED	16	£1.06	70.77	71.83
1BED	1,749	£1.14	76.09	77.23
2BED	1,255	£1.26	83.70	84.95
3BED	67	£1.37	91.36	92.73
4BED	1	£1.44	95.44	96.88
FLA	4,658	£1.08	71.74	72.81
0BED	161	£0.90	59.75	60.65
1BED	1,980	£1.02	67.76	68.77
2BED	2,338	£1.13	75.21	76.34
3BED	174	£1.21	80.98	82.19
4BED	5	£1.34	89.63	90.98
HOU	10,694	£1.24	82.97	84.21
1BED	111	£1.02	67.61	68.63
2BED	4,791	£1.19	79.59	80.79
3BED	5,450	£1.29	85.76	87.05
4BED	335	£1.36	90.43	91.79
5BED	4	£1.44	95.67	97.11
8BED	1	£1.67	111.63	113.31
6BED	1	£1.70	112.92	114.62
7BED	1	£1.79	119.17	120.96
MAI	181	£1.18	78.79	79.97
2BED	70	£1.13	75.24	76.37
3BED	110	£1.21	80.96	82.17
4BED	1	£1.32	87.97	89.29
SHB	8	£1.12	74.80	75.92
1BED	4	£1.07	71.01	72.08
2BED	4	£1.18	78.58	79.76
SHF	211	£1.09	72.62	73.71
1BED	141	£1.06	70.42	71.48
2BED	70	£1.16	77.06	78.22
Grand Total	18,840	£1.19	79.46	80.65

Appendix 3

Proposed Service Charges 2021/22

Ref	SERVICES	VAT	CURRENT CHARGE 2020/21	PROPOSED CHARGE 2021/22	0.5% CPI at Sept 2020 Movement
			£ per Week	£ per Week	£ per Week
	WARWICK COURT MULTI STOREY				
	<u>Gas Heating</u>				
1	Bed-sit	O/S	3.36	3.44	0.08
2	One Bed Flat	O/S	4.96	5.09	0.13
	<u>Repairs & Maintenance of Communal Areas</u>				
3&4	Bed-sit & One Bed Flat	O/S	3.85	3.87	0.02
	EAST ST FLATS				
	<u>Gas Heating & Hot Water</u>				
5	Bed-sit	O/S	4.67	4.86	0.19
6	One Bed Flat	O/S	7.15	7.45	0.30
7	Two Bed Flat	O/S	9.02	9.39	0.37
8	Three Bed Flat	O/S	11.20	11.66	0.46
	ANGEL COURT EXTRA CARE SCHEME				
9	Gas & Electric	O/S	15.62	18.34	2.72
	<u>Communal Facilities</u>				
10	Maintenance of Communal Areas - Flats	O/S	9.87	9.00	-0.87
11	Maintenance of Communal Areas - Bungalows	O/S	1.56	1.42	-0.14
12	Furnishings and laundry - Flats	O/S	3.19	1.60	-1.59
13	Furnishings and laundry - Bungalows	O/S	0.67	0.34	-0.33
14	Scheme manager	O/S	12.41	12.76	0.35
15	Cleaning of corridors and windows	O/S	7.98	8.78	0.80
16	Provision of domestic home support	O/S	8.89	8.89	0.00
	SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION				
	<u>Gas Heating</u>				
18	Flat one bed	O/S	8.70	8.05	-0.65
18A	Flat two bed	O/S	n/a	8.94	n/a
19	Sheltered Scheme Officer Properties	O/S	10.44	9.84	-0.60
20	Communal Areas	O/S	1.44	1.39	-0.05
	<u>Electricity</u>				
21	Flat	O/S	3.81	4.18	0.37
22	Sheltered Scheme Officer Properties	O/S	5.06	5.48	0.42
23	Communal Areas	O/S	3.88	3.88	0.00
	<u>Repairs & Maintenance of Communal Areas (contained units only)</u>				
24		O/S	2.23	2.24	0.01
	<u>Cleaning</u>				
25	Cleaning (communal areas for contained units only)	O/S	6.70	6.73	0.03
26	Cleaning (communal lounge for separate units only)	O/S	0.61	0.56	-0.05
	<u>Sheltered Scheme Officers</u>				
27/28	Sheltered Scheme Officer	O/S	13.09	13.77	0.68
29	Mobile Sheltered Scheme Officer	O/S	6.01	7.77	1.76
30	Concessionary TV Licence (£7.50 p.a per room)	E	0.15	0.15	0.00
	LOW RISE BLOCKS				
31	Communal Areas - Cleaning	O/S	2.04	2.26	0.22
	MID RISE BLOCKS				
32	Communal Areas - Cleaning	O/S	4.70	5.04	0.34

	MULTI STOREY FLATS				
33	Concierge & cleaning	O/S	10.19	9.94	-0.25
34	Caretaking & cleaning	O/S	8.68	9.15	0.47
	REGENT COURT				
35	Maintenance of fire safety system	O/S	1.05	1.66	0.61
	DISPERSED HOMELESS UNITS				
	<u>Heat & light</u>				
36	Sharing Bed-sit (each)	O/S			
37	Two Bed Flat	O/S			
38	Three Bed Flat	O/S			
	<u>Furnishings</u>				
39	Sharing Bed-sit (each)	O/S			
40	Two Bed Flat	O/S			
41	Three Bed Flat	O/S			
42	Warden	O/S			
43	Laundry	O/S			
44	Cleaning	O/S			
	OUTSIDE USE OF COMMUNAL LOUNGES				
45	Up to 1 hour	E	7.66	7.70	0.04
46	Up to 2 hours	E	14.08	14.15	0.07
47	1 Session (2 - 4 hours)	E	21.70	21.81	0.11
48	2 Sessions	E	39.89	40.09	0.20
49	3 Sessions	E	55.31	55.59	0.28
	USE OF GUEST ROOMS AT SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION				
	<u>No en-suite amenities</u>				
50	Single (charge per night)	S	7.83	7.87	0.04
51	Couple (charge per night)	S	8.92	8.96	0.04
	<u>Partial en-suite</u>				
52	Single (charge per night)	S	9.71	9.76	0.05
53	Couple (charge per night)	S	10.27	10.32	0.05
	<u>Full en-suite</u>				
54	Single (charge per night)	S	11.06	11.12	0.06
55	Couple (charge per night)	S	12.19	12.25	0.06
	KITCHEN APPLIANCES				
56	Portobello	S	0.41	0.41	0.00
57	Cranesville	S	2.71	2.71	0.00
58	Millbrook	S	1.70	1.70	0.00
59	Norfolk Place	S	2.71	2.71	0.00
60	Hallgarth	S	1.70	1.70	0.00
	Furniture Packages				
65	Mini Package	E	10.66	10.98	0.32
66	Package Option 1	E	19.57	20.05	0.48
67	Package Option 2	E	27.74	28.58	0.84
68	Package Option 3	E	35.90	36.97	1.07
69	Package Option 4	E	44.03	45.35	1.32
70	Admin Charge	E	2.14	2.14	0.00
	GARAGES				
71	Brick Garages (Council)	O/S	5.51	5.54	0.03
72	Brick Garages (Private)	S	9.29	9.34	0.05
73	Commercial Use	S	12.15	12.21	0.06
74	Commercial Storage	S	20.31	20.42	0.10
75	Parking Bays	S	21.70	21.81	0.11

76	DIGITAL AERIAL PROVISION	S	0.22	0.22	0.00
	CARE ALARMS, LIFELINES / DISPERSED ALARMS				
77A	Sheltered Scheme	S*	4.03	4.03	0.00
77B	Bronze	S*	5.30	5.30	0.00
77C	Silver	S*	5.94	5.94	0.00
77D	Gold	S*	9.12	9.12	0.00
77E	Smoke Alarm Monitoring	S*	0.71	0.71	0.00
78	Mortgage questionnaire	S	84.67	85.09	0.42
79	Rent reference	S	42.36	42.57	0.21
80	GARDENING SCHEME	S	6.05	6.05	0.00
81	Communal TV Licence	S	0.09	0.09	0.00
	Winlaton Assisted Living Scheme				
82	White Goods Provision Charge	O/S	1.45	1.47	0.02
83	Furnishings, Curtains and Carpets				
	Derwent View Close	O/S	2.46	2.50	0.04
	Ramsey Street	O/S	2.91	2.95	0.04
	Half Fields Road	O/S	9.82	9.97	0.15
84	Concierge/Night Security staff	O/S	114.53	116.25	1.72
85	Phone line to office/internet	O/S	1.85	1.88	0.03
86	Cleaning Costs - Communal	O/S	0.51	0.52	0.01
87	External & Communal Window Cleaning				
	Derwent View Close	O/S	0.65	0.66	0.01
	Ramsey Street	O/S	0.65	0.66	0.01
	Half Fields Road	O/S	0.47	0.48	0.01
88	Electrical Testing (PAT)	O/S	0.25	0.25	0.00
89	Tunstall Equipment				
	Derwent View Close	O/S	4.51	4.58	0.07
	Ramsey Street	O/S	2.25	2.28	0.03
	Half Fields Road	O/S	9.23	9.37	0.14
90	Communal Electricity	O/S	1.53	1.55	0.02
91	Communal Gas	O/S	0.71	0.72	0.01
92	Communal Water	O/S	0.64	0.65	0.01
93	Cyclical- Internal Communal/Staff Areas				
	Derwent View Close	O/S	0.51	0.52	0.01
	Ramsey Street	O/S	0.51	0.52	0.01
	Half Fields Road	O/S	1.02	1.04	0.02
94	Administration Cost	O/S	20.40	20.71	0.31

Charges are 50-week charge unless otherwise stated

*Where installation of alarm is requested by tenant VAT is standard rated. If alarm is already built into property and part of rent or is part of care package VAT is outside the scope

Tenants with disabilities VAT is zero-rated



REPORT TO CABINET 19 January 2021

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Local Plan – Adoption of Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) (Site Allocations and Development Management Policies)

REPORT OF: Peter Udall – Strategic Director Economy, Innovation and Growth

Purpose of the Report

1. To note the Inspector's final report on Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP) Local Plan document, to accept the Inspector's main modifications and to recommend to Council that it adopts the Plan.

Background

2. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan. MSGP forms Part 3 of Gateshead's Local Plan and will help to ensure that Gateshead has the land use policies to meet our communities' needs, and deliver the Council's strategic ambitions. MSGP includes non-strategic detailed site allocations and designations together with Development Management policies. Development, including provision for new homes, jobs growth and a portfolio of employment land, will be focused in sustainable locations predominantly in the built-up area. MSGP complements strategic policies and proposals in the adopted Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) by bringing forward and updating designations and allocations of land currently set out in saved Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies.
3. A revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in February 2019 and officers have taken into account the changes to national policy in preparing the Plan.
4. In preparing MSGP the Council has continued to work closely with colleagues at Newcastle City Council in order to ensure alignment and conformity with policies in the CSUCP, and in updating joint evidence and in addressing common issues. Collaborative working has also provided opportunities to share resources. A number of meetings were held with other neighbouring authorities and statutory agencies, as part of the Duty to Cooperate, to ensure cross-boundary and other issues arising from the Plan were adequately addressed.
5. As set out in Appendix 8, the Plan went through a number of key stages in its preparation, whilst the approach to consultation and engagement involved a number of different methods ranging from drop in events in different locations across the Borough, to virtual drop in events using social media.
6. The Plan was submitted for independent examination on 12th April 2019. Inspector Ms Joanna Gilbert presided over the examination of MSGP, which included public hearings that were held between 1st and 10th October 2019. The Inspector's final

report (see Appendix 2) was issued on 3rd November 2020 which concludes that the Plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the borough, provided that a number of main modifications are made to it. The main modifications (see Appendix 3) were subject to public consultation from 27th July 2020 to 18th September 2020 (delayed as a result of Covid-19), and further to considering all representations received and the sustainability appraisal, the Inspector has recommended their inclusion in the Plan.

7. The policies map which accompanies MSGP sets out the plan's site allocations and designations. An interactive version of the map is available via the Council's website, with a link included within this report at Appendix 5.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that Cabinet notes the content of the MSGP Local Plan document and Policies Map and recommends that Full Council agrees for it to be adopted.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that Cabinet recommends that Full Council:
 - i. Notes the Inspector's Report on Making Spaces for Growing Places and accepts the main modifications (Appendix 2 and 3);
 - ii. Adopts Making Spaces for Growing Places Local Plan document (Appendix 4) and Policies Map (Appendix 5) from 1st February 2021;
 - iii. Notes the remaining saved Unitary Development Plan Policies which will cease to have effect when the Plan is adopted; and
 - iv. Approves the publication of the Adoption Statement (Appendix 6) and the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 7) in accordance with Regulation 26 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and to notify all persons on the Local Plan database and send a copy of the Adoption Statement to the Secretary of State.

For the following reasons:

To progress the development of Gateshead's Local Plan in line with our adopted Local Development Scheme (October 2017) and as required by government policy and our statutory obligations under the Town and Country Planning Act 2004, Localism Act 2011 and Town and Country Planning (Local Plans) Regulations 2012.

Policy Context

1. Forming Part 3 of Gateshead's Local Plan, MSGP will contribute to and help deliver the Council's pledge of making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives. MSGP will allow us to plan for economic and population growth, and to support health and wellbeing, through provision for employment, housing (particularly family homes), and all related facilities in ways that will ensure a sustainable and positive future for Gateshead. This means directing development to accessible, sustainable locations (on previously developed land or along transport routes) benefiting and sustaining our villages and neighbourhoods, the wider economy and the environment. Gateshead Council's ambition is for a range of housing types in different locations to meet housing need and ensure that there is a competitive housing market in Gateshead.

Background

2. In March 2015 Gateshead Council adopted Planning for the Future Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne 2010-2030 (CSUCP), a Local Plan document which was prepared jointly with Newcastle City Council. The CSUCP forms Parts 1 and 2 of Gateshead's Local Plan, setting out borough-wide strategic policies (including the allocation of housing and employment growth sites), while providing a detailed policy framework supporting the development of Gateshead's Urban Core
3. As an overarching spatial plan, the CSUCP adopts a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The plan sets out a spatial strategy for sustainable growth which expects all new development to be:
 - fully inclusive, irrespective of cultural background, ethnicity and age, to meet the diverse needs of all residents and communities;
 - well-connected and accessible by sustainable modes of transport;
 - well designed to promote community cohesion, and wellbeing, and to reflect and enhance the area's character and natural environment; and
 - designed to reduce carbon emissions and adapted to the effects of climate change
4. MSGP complements the CSUCP by bringing forward and updating designations and allocations of land currently set out in saved Unitary Development Plan policies. MSGP provides the detail against which planning applications for development can be considered and determined, ensuring that the impact of proposals on flood risk, health and the natural and historic environment, for example, are fully taken into account. The Plan is supported by a robust evidence base including an assessment of viability and of the infrastructure needed to support the Plan's proposals.
5. Specifically MSGP:
 - Allocates a range of sites for housing development, further to provision within the CSUCP, to meet Gateshead's identified housing needs, including accommodation needs for Gateshead's elderly and disabled residents

- Encourages jobs and investment through the designation of employment areas and the allocation of a range of employment sites
 - Designates the boundaries of district and local centres in Gateshead's retail hierarchy, and sets a local threshold for retail impact assessments
 - Sets out policies on space standards and the design and accessibility of development
 - Designates Gateshead's natural and built environment assets, including, for example: Conservation Areas; Areas of Special Character; Local Wildlife Sites; and Wildlife Corridors
 - Designates settlement envelopes within the Green Belt.
 - Promotes access to a healthier environment through, for example: the designation of green infrastructure and the setting of standards for open space and play facility provision; and through policies on climate change, flood risk and air quality
 - Makes provision for the management of natural resources, including: minerals; the restoration of former quarry sites; and sustainable waste management.
6. MSGP includes minor revisions to the Green Belt. This follows on from the Examination into the CSUCP where the Inspector recommended that the development potential of small non-strategic brownfield sites on the edge of settlements should be considered within MSGP.
7. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that each Local Planning Authority must ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area (para 31). It includes a strong emphasis on housing delivery, a new definition for affordable housing, and requirements for viability testing at plan making stage and to undertake a review of Local Plan policies at least once every 5 years. The CSUCP was adopted in March 2015 and therefore a review was published in March 2020 which concluded that the plan's policies continue to broadly reflect national and local policy objectives, and provide an appropriate basis for decision making.

Inspector's Report and Main Modifications

8. At the meeting of Cabinet and Council on 19th and 21st March 2019 respectively, authority was delegated to the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to:
- a. make any changes to MSGP and supporting documentation for consideration at public examination;
 - b. prepare and give evidence in support of the examination of MSGP; and
 - c. go out to consultation on any modifications to MSGP recommended by the Planning Inspector at the examination.

9. The Plan was submitted for independent examination on 12th April 2019 which was presided over by Inspector Ms Joanna Gilbert. The Inspector's Report concluded that the Plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the borough, provided that a number of main modifications are made to it. A summary of the main modifications are as follows:
- Provision of an appendix to set out the marketing requirements for employment sites in the interests of effectiveness;
 - Amendment of site capacity figures and delivery rates for housing allocations for effectiveness;
 - Deletion of policies on targeted recruitment and training; housing density; Saltwell School site; dormant mineral sites; and unacceptable areas for mineral working, to be justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
 - Provision of a revised framework for monitoring for effectiveness; and
 - A number of other modifications to ensure that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

10. In addition to the above the Inspector also wrote to the Council in regard to the changes to the Use Classes Order which came into effect on 1 September 2020, and the implications this would have on the Plan. The Inspector acknowledged that although the implementation of some of the policies in the Plan will be affected by the changes, their full effect was unclear at the time of the report. The Inspector agreed with the Council's suggestion that such effects could be considered through an early review of the Plan, which in accordance with the NPPF will be completed no later than 5 years from the date of the Plan's adoption. This would also allow the implications of wider planning reforms as proposed in the Planning White Paper to be taken into account.

Next Steps

11. Subject to Full Council approval, adopting MSGP will enable it to have full weight in the development management process. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Gateshead's Local Plan will ultimately consist of four Parts:
- Part 1 Strategic Policies (CSUCP Plan)
 - Part 2 Urban Core Policies (CSUCP Plan)
 - Part 3 Development Management policies, designations and allocations (MSGP)
 - Part 4 Metrogreen Policies (Metrogreen AAP currently being progressed)
12. Adopted MSGP policies will supersede the remaining saved policies originally published as part of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in 2007. A schedule of superseded UDP policies is appended to MSGP (at appendix 19).
13. Under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) any person aggrieved by the Plan may make an application to the High Court within six weeks of the Plan being adopted on the grounds that the Plan is not within the powers conferred by Part 2 of the Act; and or that a procedural requirement of the Act or its associated Regulations has not been complied with.

Alternative Options

14. There are no realistic alternatives other than to adopt MSGP taking into account the formal processes it has been through and the recommendation of the Inspector who has presided over the Plan's Examination. Adoption will ensure the Council has an up to date Plan guiding development to sustainable locations. The consequence of relying on out of date policies is that they may only be accorded limited weight. Given the age of the saved UDP policies this would increase the likelihood of new developments being assessed and decided in an unplanned way and reduce the ability of Gateshead to resist inappropriate development.

Consultation

15. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Members for Housing, Environment & Transport Portfolio.

Implications of Recommended Option

16. **Resources:**
- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no additional costs associated with adoption of MSGP.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications arising from this report.
17. **Risk Management Implication** – Adoption of MSGP will ensure Gateshead's Local Plan has full weight when it comes to planning decisions and will help to ensure the delivery of sustainable development in Gateshead, supporting economic and housing growth and providing greater certainty to local communities and the development industry on where and how development should take place. A decision to not adopt MSGP would mean the Council is reliant on out-of-date policies that may only be accorded limited weight. This would increase the likelihood of new developments being assessed and decided in an unplanned way and reduce the ability of Gateshead to resist inappropriate development.
18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP incorporates an Equality Impact Assessment which has determined that the Plan meets the Council's Equality Duty.
19. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
20. **Health Implications** - The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP incorporates a Health Impact Assessment and the Plan contains proposals designed to improve health and wellbeing.
21. **Climate Emergency Implications** - The Local Plan is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and sets out objectives and policies to provide sustainable access, reduce CO2 emissions and address flood risk, for example.

22. **Sustainability Implications** - The Sustainability Appraisal for MSGP assesses the sustainability implications of the Plan.
23. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report. As part of the Local Plan process the Council has complied with its Statement of Community Involvement in consulting and engaging with the local community.
24. **Area and Ward Implications - All**

- Appendix 2** [MSGP Inspectors Report](#)
- Appendix 3** [Schedule of Main Modifications](#)
- Appendix 4** [MSGP Local Plan document](#)
- Appendix 5** [MSGP Policies Map \(Interactive\)](#)
- Appendix 6** [Adoption Statement](#)
- Appendix 7** [Sustainability Appraisal](#)

Appendix 8

MSGP Preparation/Consultation (overview)

- Preparation of the Plan began in 2012 when Cabinet approved for consultation the Scoping Report on MSGP. The initial intention was to progress MSGP alongside preparation of the CSUCP. However, resources were ultimately focused on getting the CSUCP progressed and adopted, at a time of significant change in national policy and legislation.
- Under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, a Draft Plan was prepared and published for six weeks consultation from October to December 2017
- Under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, a Submission Draft version of the plan was published for six weeks from October to December 2018
- The Council submitted MSGP to the Secretary of State on the 12 April 2019. An independent Planning Inspector Joanna Gilbert MA (Hons) MTP MRTPI was appointed.
- Public hearing sessions took place between the 30 September and the 11 October 2019.
- The Council carried out consultation from 27 July 2020 to 18 September 2020 on proposed Main Modifications to the Submission Plan, alongside other minor modifications, consequential changes to the policies map and the associated Sustainability Appraisal Addendum.
- The Inspectors report was received on the 3rd November 2020 which concluded that the plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the borough, provided that a number of main modifications are made to it. These modifications have been made to the plan which is now ready for adoption.
- The Council implemented a number of measures in consulting on the Plan including:
 - Direct mail to consultees
 - Consultation with Councillors
 - Use of the consultation Portal
 - Use of the Council website
 - An article in Council News
 - Council Info
 - Leaflets
 - Drop in events at Birtley, Blaydon, Felling, Gateshead Civic Centre and Gateshead Leisure Centre
- In addition to the more traditional methods of consultation the need to take advantage and maximise the engagement opportunities through the use of social media was also recognised. Virtual drop in events were undertaken on Twitter, with assistance from with

Newcastle University, whilst the Council's social media accounts were also used to raise awareness of consultation on the plan and to publicise drop-in events.

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TITLE OF REPORT: **Budget 2021/22 - Revenue Savings Proposals**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Corporate Management Team**

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval for consultation on the draft budget revenue savings proposals for 2021/22 and direction of travel for future savings.

Background

2. The Council is operating in an ever-changing policy landscape, both nationally and locally. The levels of uncertainty and the impact of government decisions are significant e.g. Universal Credit, homelessness, mental health; together with the potential economic impact of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. The challenging local context of austerity and increasing demand on council services, has compelled the Council to refocus on what matters most.
3. The Council has always been incredibly ambitious for the residents of Gateshead, working hard to ensure it is a great place to live, work and visit. Guided by our strategic approach *Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*, we are placing people and families at the heart of everything we do and strive to deliver person-centred, quality services in the borough. Our ultimate ambition is to address the inequalities that exist in Gateshead
4. Our strategic approach provides a framework which outlines how the Council will work and make decisions, and one that is policy and priority led. Underpinned by the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy - our approach is aligned to the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
5. The Council recognises that there are huge financial pressures on not just council resources, but those of partners, local businesses and our residents. To deliver on the strategic approach over the next five years, the Council will need to be resolute in its determination to create the conditions to allow everyone to *Thrive*.
6. On 20 October 2020 the updated MTFS was reported to Cabinet outlining an estimated financial gap of £58.4m over the five-year period (2021/22 to 2025/26) with £18.6m in the first year of 2021/22.
7. The scale of the financial challenge we're facing cannot be underestimated, and we recognise the impact of taking a further £58.4m out of the Council will have on both the health and resilience of Gateshead. At the same time, the global pandemic is having a negative impact on the economic outlook and will present a

series of further challenges for the nation. The outlook for local government finance remains unclear and will be guided by any emerging national policy changes.

8. Given the heightened risk that public service funding will be restricted into the future, this may necessitate the Council to identify and deliver significant additional savings on top of the gap identified in the medium to long term. As we move forward, we will need to consider how best the Council remains financially resilient.
9. In addition to this the longer-term consequences of the pandemic, any recession, exit from the EU and impacts on the local economy from unemployment are yet to be ascertained. A delicate balance is needed between meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and strong financial management to make sure the Council can balance its books.
10. Prior to the pandemic, the Council was already addressing the challenge of cumulative annual cuts to its budget, alongside spending pressures and an increasing demand for its services. Between 2010 and 2020 the Council has made over £170m of cuts to its budget resulting in over 2000 fewer employees working for the organisation.
11. We continue to review all that we do, work hard to generate income and ensure the organisation continues to support the most vulnerable in our communities.
12. We remain confident that we can continue to work through the challenging times that are ahead. We will build on our strong collaborative approach, working with our partners, to steer a way forward, and deliver on our promises to create the right conditions to allow local people to *Thrive*. Our commitment to work collaboratively and fight for a better future for Gateshead remains resolute.
13. As a Council, taking all of these factors into account, we can no longer afford to do everything for all residents, and there is a need to focus and target the limited resources at our disposal on priority areas which will help us realise the biggest impact in the borough, and achieve the best possible outcomes for residents in Gateshead.
14. A series of budget proposals have been identified to allow for redirection of remaining budget to help achieve the right outcome for those people and families who require more support than others. The draft budget proposals are attached at Appendix 2.

Proposal

15. Unlike in previous years, consultation on proposed expenditure and potential savings will be ongoing throughout the 2021/22 financial year. At this stage the full impact of any changes identified in the budget have not been assessed in detail. Further consultation and engagement will be undertaken in specific areas and reported to Cabinet for a decision as necessary throughout 2021, to reflect the continuous and longer-term approach to reach a financially sustainable position based on the Council's priorities.
16. It is proposed that the Council consults on the first phase of budget proposals

from 19 January 2021. The first phase consultation will close on 9 February 2021 to enable evaluation of the responses to inform the Council's Budget 2021/22, which will be presented to Cabinet on 23 February 2021.

17. Comments on the budget proposals can be made via email to Budgetconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk
18. Whilst trade unions and employees will be invited to comment on the proposals at this stage, any formal statutory redundancy consultations and associated workforce integrated impact assessments, will be carried out separately once Cabinet makes a final decision on its budget recommendations to Council and any actions it proposes at its meeting on 23 February 2021.

Recommendations

19. Cabinet is asked to agree:
 - i) That consultation commences on the budget proposals for the period 2021/22 contained within this report;
 - ii) That the findings of the consultation, together with a proposed budget for 2021/22 be considered at its meeting on 23 February 2021, ahead of recommending this to Council; and
 - iii) To receive further budget related reports throughout the financial year, including the outcome of specific consultation and engagement on individual proposals.

for the following reason(s)

- to contribute to the good financial management practice of the Council;
- to assist the financial sustainability of the Council over the medium to long term.

Policy Context

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

Background

3. Financial sustainability requires all stakeholders in the Borough to understand that resources available to the Council are scarce. As a Council we can no longer afford to do everything for all residents, and there is a need to focus the limited resources at our disposal on priority areas which will help us realise the biggest impact and achieve the best possible outcomes for residents in Gateshead. Important decisions need to be made about both the relative priority of different services and the balance between what we can afford to deliver against the income raised through local taxation. Investment in these priorities will need to be funded by redirecting resources currently directed at areas of lower priority. The Council needs to challenge not only how services are delivered but also what is being delivered. Critically, these decisions need to be taken in the context of ensuring that they meet our strategic approach, making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives, but also with a clear understanding of the statutory requirements of local government.
4. Local authorities are legally obliged to set a balanced budget each year and to ensure they have enough reserves to cover any unexpected events. Therefore, to legally balance the budget the Council must make spending plans affordable by matching it to the estimated funding available over that time.
5. The Council will ensure that reducing resources are used to maximum effect and allow the Council to continue to deliver new and better ways of working and invest to improve the efficiency of services provided. It is evident however the continuing reductions in funding and increases in demand alongside the financial challenges arising from a world pandemic will have an inevitable impact on both the nature and scope of services that the Council is able to deliver. The council will aim to manage the process of change to its services effectively.
6. The Council has identified five key areas for driving forward progress in achieving thrive outcomes to narrow the inequalities which exist in Gateshead. These priority areas will be supported by targeted interventions to accelerate the pace of delivery:

- i. Economy - This means achieving strong business growth with good quality jobs at all levels that are accessible to local people and delivery of key developments, such as Gateshead Quays, attracting visitors and business to Gateshead.
 - ii. Health and Housing - Good quality housing with a mix of tenures and affordable options that meet the needs of local people including families and older people enabling them to live healthy lives as well as enabling people to make healthy choices and prevent ill health.
 - iii. Poverty and Inequality – Helping to ensure that everyone gets the opportunities and support they need to thrive.
 - iv. Climate Change – environmentally sustainable policies and approach across council activities to reduce carbon and harmful emissions across Gateshead, reducing waste and securing a better future.
 - v. Transport – A transport system that supports the economy, reduces emissions and encourages more sustainable forms of travel including cycling and public transport.
7. The approach will identify the interventions required in each key area over the next 3 -5 years and invest resources in these to help enable all residents of the borough to prosper, be successful and to thrive, focusing service delivery to secure the best outcomes for local people. It is recognised that investment in these key areas may need to flex, evolve and change over time.
 8. There will be a corporate, targeted approach to the agreement of budget option proposals and consideration of existing areas council operations that need to transform or change. The pandemic has brought sharply into focus that as an organisation what we do is about people and their lives, and not about how the Council organises itself into services and silos. It is important to make best use of the resources available to us and adapt and change the delivery of our services accordingly.

Consultation

9. Unlike in previous years, consultation on proposed expenditure and potential savings will be ongoing throughout the 2021/22 financial year. At this stage the full impact of any changes identified in the budget have not been assessed in detail. The Council's budget decision will identify the areas of spending upon which it proposes to concentrate including the potential areas in which savings may be made. Cabinet retain discretion over the detail of how such savings are made (subject to the outcome of the consultations envisaged). Since this different approach is being taken to consultation in 2021/22, Cabinet should
 - note, in respect of statutory or common law duties to consult arising from a changes in services including under the Public Sector Equality Duty and other service specific consultation obligations, that the duty to consult will arise when identifiable changes to services and spending on them are proposed; and

- note (as referred to in Appendix 2) that in relation to redundancy consultation, it is proposed that 45-day consultation periods are applied following approval of the Council's budget. This period may be extended should a Service Director, in consultation with HR, agree it is necessary to enable meaningful consultation

Alternative Options

10. Local authorities are legally obliged to set a balanced budget each year and to ensure they have enough reserves to cover any unexpected events. Therefore, to legally balance the budget the Council must make spending plans affordable by matching it to the estimated funding available over that time.
11. Other options to close the budget gap will also be considered when the budget is set alongside potential increases in Council Tax.

Implications of Recommended Option

12. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms the Council will deliver a balanced budget consistent with legislation that is driven by council policy and which achieves priority outcomes. To achieve this, the Council must close an estimated financial gap of £18.6m for 2021/22 that was identified within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

In an effort to suppress the gap, certain cost and demand pressures assumed in the MTFS have not been factored into the base budget position. This requires services to manage a stand still budget in those areas.

Following the provisional financial settlement in December and a review of cost pressures within MTFS assumptions the revised estimates show a requirement to find budget savings of approximately £6.5m.

Alongside the savings position the Council will continue to seek to close the financial gap through consideration of other funding options including growth in council tax and business rates funding and consideration of a council tax increase as well as the optimum deployment of available reserves.

The Council's final financial settlement will not be known until the final settlement is announced in January 2021 at which point assumptions around Council funding levels for 2021/22 will be clarified.

The funding estimated to be received from Government and from council tax and business rate payers over the next five years is not enough to cover current level of spend plus new budget pressures. Although there exists a great deal of uncertainty overall it is estimated that the Council will need to close a funding gap of £58.4m over the five financial years. This represents an extremely challenging position for the Council and in order to strengthen our financial stability the Council will have to

continue to prioritise additional ways to generate income and be self-sufficient including changes in local taxation, fees and charges and trading activities as well as prioritising and supporting economic growth within the borough.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – The anticipated human resource implications are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** – The Council will continue to implement its Asset Management Strategy and seek to reduce the costs associated with buildings and property. These will be brought forward in future Cabinet reports for consideration.
13. **Risk Management Implication** – The risk management implications of each draft proposal will be assessed as part of future reports.
14. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – During the period of consultation, draft integrated impact assessments will be prepared to identify potential significant impact against the protected characteristics, as identified in the Equality Act 2010. This impact will be assessed to inform the Budget and Council Tax Level 2021/22 report that is prepared for Cabinet in February 2021.
15. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent crime and disorder in its area”. Individual proposals will be assessed as to their impact on crime and disorder and should any specific impact be identified these will be highlighted in the report to Cabinet in February 2021.
16. **Health Implications** – There are several draft proposals that could impact on the Council’s ability to improve the health and wellbeing of Gateshead’s residents. This impact will be assessed to inform the Budget and Council Tax Level 2021/2022 report that is prepared for Cabinet in February 2021.
17. **Climate Change and Sustainability Implications** - The draft proposals put forward could impact on activities that support operational and financial sustainability. There is a need to balance short term budgetary requirements with the achievement of medium-term financial sustainability. Addressing Climate Change remains a priority of the Council and this is considered as part of the approach to budget setting.
18. **Human Rights Implications** – The implications of the Human Rights Act must be considered in any decision that involves a change of policy or function, or a service change that arises from the choices. These will be identified, where necessary, within integrated impact assessments.
19. **Area and Ward Implications** - The budget proposals apply to all areas and wards.

Background Information:

- Budget Approach 2020/21 - 19 November 2019
- Budget and Council Tax Level 2020/21 – 25 February 2020

- Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 25 February 2020
- Gateshead Council's response to COVID-19 – Financial update, wider implications and steps towards recovery – 23 June 2020
- Gateshead Council's response to COVID-19 – steps towards recovery – 14 July 2020
- Medium Term Financial Context 2021/22 – 2025/26 – 20 October 2020
- Budget – Approach to Recovery 2021/22 – 15 December 2020

Budget Proposals 2021/2022

Introduction

1. This report and its appendices explain the context the Council is working in, our strategic approach, and our budget consultation proposals for 2021/22.

Budget setting process

2. Gateshead Council sets a budget each year and must decide how to assign money to the wide range of vital services it provides to the people of Gateshead. Increasingly the budget setting process involves some very difficult decisions as we look to balance demand and needs, together with the wants and aspirations of our communities.
3. The Council, along with all local authorities, has faced unprecedented reductions in Government funding since the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010. In addition, service pressures and increasing demand for services, particularly from the most vulnerable, has meant that the Council has had to make significant budget savings in response to the Government's austerity measures.

Local context

4. Between 2010 and 2020 the Council has made over £170m of cuts to its budget, and now has over 2000 less employees working for the organisation. We continuously review all that we do, work hard to generate income and ensure that the organisation continues to support the most vulnerable in our communities.
5. We remain confident that we can continue to work through the challenging times that are ahead. We will build on our strong collaborative approach, working with our partners, to steer a way forward, and deliver on our promises to create the right conditions to allow local people to *Thrive*. Our commitment to work collaboratively and fight for a better future for Gateshead remains resolute.
6. As a Council, taking all of these factors into account, we can no longer afford to do everything for all residents, and there is a need to focus and target the limited resources at our disposal on priority areas which will help us realise the biggest impact in the borough and achieve the best possible outcomes for residents in Gateshead.
7. A series of budget proposals have therefore been identified to allow for redirection of remaining budget to help achieve the right outcome for those people and families who require more support than others. The draft budget proposals follow.

Our strategic approach – *Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*

8. Gateshead Council wants the best possible outcomes for the people of Gateshead. We want to make sure we listen and understand what matters most to local people, whilst always supporting the most vulnerable and those in need.
9. We want Gateshead to be a place where everyone thrives. If we are to achieve this, we need to redirect and reprioritise our available resources, and review the way we work with partner organisations, businesses and how we work with our communities.
10. Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives sets the major policy directions for

the Council, redressing the imbalance of inequality, championing fairness and social justice. To help us achieve this we have five pledges to help and guide us when we make decisions. We pledge to:

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

11. We recognise there are huge financial pressures on not just council resources, but partners, local businesses and residents. To deliver on the strategic approach over the next five years, the Council will need to be resolute in its determination to make Gateshead a place where everyone thrives. This means the Council's decision-making will be policy and priority led and driven.
12. Partner organisations appreciate that the issues the Council faces are shared issues and are keen to work with us to improve outcomes for local people and reduce inequality. The co-developed and co-owned **Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy** is further evidence of the recognised need to work as a 'system' to best address the public health and wellbeing in Gateshead.
13. Staying the same is not an option. The Council is required to change to deliver its priority outcomes within the limited funding available. The Council response to the challenging financial context is to focus on delivery of the five-year financial strategy with a focus on achieving long term financial stability.
14. The Council has always been incredibly ambitious for the residents of Gateshead, working hard to ensure it is a great place to live, work and visit. Our ultimate ambition is to address the inequalities that exist in Gateshead.

Demand

15. The cumulative impact of continuing significant reductions in funding and increases in demand will have an inevitable impact on both the nature and scope of services that the Council is able to deliver into the future. The Council and its partners remain committed to "*Working together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*".
16. Nationally and locally, the demand for services that support the most vulnerable in our communities, continues to increase exponentially.
17. Service delivery across social care, despite the challenging operating environment, has continued throughout the course of the pandemic. However, the impact of Covid-19 has further stretched this sector of local government, and has contributed to the high numbers of children in need, children requiring protection and being subject of child protection plans and the increased number of children being looked after. It is without doubt that this has created financial pressures which will increase without continued and further financial investment by central government.
18. It is also recognised that the funding arrangements for adult social care require significant change. Moving forward, we anticipate this position will worsen, especially

in respect of the impact of Covid-19, which has brought significant challenges for the people who require adult social care support; increased isolation, frailty, mental ill health, loneliness and a widening inequalities gap. Social care services have responded admirably to the challenge of supporting more and more people to be discharged home from hospital, but without radical transformation of adult social care funding by central government, these challenges will continue to increase.

Supporting residents

19. Sustained year on year pressures upon resources have had a cumulative impact on society and their relationships with all public services. Many of those pulling heavily on services from the Council and other agencies will have exhibited earlier signals such as debt, loss of job, bereavement, mental health problems etc. Faced with stark choices, maintaining the capacity for statutory functions and interventions has seen the erosion of opportunities to respond to earlier signals of likely future need. This carries significant risks to citizens, communities and to services and is a situation in which many public services across the country have found themselves.
20. This creates a tension between short term budget savings and medium/long term approaches to reducing demand through achieving better outcomes by working with people and communities. This tension cannot be resolved solely through a particular application of the Council's budget as it requires collaboration with communities and other organisations. Unlike services, which become weaker and more strained as they are pulled upon more and more, communities and partnerships strengthen with use and involvement. Using our resources to enable others is critical to exploring the abundant potential of our relationships with people and partners and forms a key element of Gateshead's reformative approach.
21. Work is already underway with partners to understand more about those people with significant Council Tax debts and to work with them to address the underlying causes of the debts. Whilst addressing predictable issues around debt management, income maximisation and benefits claims, it also seeks to tackle mental health, loneliness and skills. By working with such partners as DWP, North-East Counselling and Citizen's Advice as if it were a single system of wellbeing, we have already demonstrated improved outcomes for people which have the potential to reduce future demand significantly. It is intended to expand this people-centred approach into working with the homeless and ultimately working with an entire community on this proactive basis.

Reviewing current service delivery

22. The Council is also working across a range of service areas to drive further efficiencies and savings. These include:
 - Health and Wellbeing

We will be looking to review and redesign a new place-based health and wellbeing offer for the people of Gateshead in support of the **Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy** and *Thrive*.

Work will include community engagement to assess need and developments will be proportionately targeted to 'vulnerable' and 'just coping' communities. We propose a

move away from dedicated building-based provision to the use of community and/or shared council facilities offering an ‘integrated wellbeing offer’ as part of the place-based working approach.

For leisure, we would expect the emphasis would then be on encouraging physical activity (including dance, walking and strength & balance training) in community facilities and our local environment rather than a primary focus on the use of our leisure centres. For libraries, we would expect a greater emphasis on learning, creativity and connecting.

The overall aim would be an integrated service which delivers wellbeing, is place-based and reaches communities most in need (proportionate universalism).

23. We also continue to:

- Implement our Digital strategy which cuts across all four themes of the MTFS to provide cheaper to deliver, but high-quality digital services to those that can access them, whilst improving the customer experience and helping us to reduce costs.
- Work to improve customer experience across the whole of the Council including customer contact, customer care and customer service
- Streamline processes and reducing bureaucracy across the whole of the council and making the best use of new technology.

The Council’s draft budget proposals 2021/22

24. Considering the Council’s strategic approach, and the financial challenge facing the Council in 2021/22, draft budget proposals are being put forward as a contribution towards closing the gap.
25. The budget proposals are a combination of efficiencies and cost reductions, income generation and proposals where the Council would like to work differently, with partners and others, to achieve the right outcomes for those people and families who require more support than others, to help them to thrive.
26. In accordance with our duties under the Equality Act, due regard will be taken to understand the potential impact of the proposals on groups of people who share a protected characteristic. Integrated impact assessments will be made available on the Council’s website throughout the consultation period for both the draft budget and any specific consultations required relating to individual proposals. To access the impact assessments for the proposals please see our website www.gateshead.gov.uk/budget.
27. The Council recognises the potential negative health impact of policy changes, alongside reductions in spending and is committed to undertake a health impact assessment on all the budget proposals. This will help the Council to identify any risk and mitigation.
28. Consultation enables us to better understand and consider the needs and expectations of all residents in Gateshead. Consultation will be undertaken in relation to all proposals and will involve identification and ongoing assessment as to the impact, if any, of each proposal to inform decision making.

29. Depending on the type of proposal under consideration consultation may involve some or all the following stakeholders:-
- individual service users and their families,
 - representative groups/community interest groups and other stakeholders
 - Gateshead Council partners
 - other statutory agencies
 - voluntary and community organisations
30. The nature of the consultation will be determined by, and proportionate to, the proposal under consideration and the form and scope may differ between proposals.
31. The initial proposals presented in this document are in many cases capable of being increased or decreased and decisions on this will be informed by the results of the consultation, and the overall requirement for savings that will be confirmed when the Council receives further funding information from government.
32. Comments on the draft budget proposals can be sent to the Council by email to BudgetConsultation@gateshead.gov.uk

DIFFERENT FORMATS

If you require this information in a different format – large print, Braille, on audio/CD/MP3 please contact Rachel Mason by telephone on 0191 433 2069 or email BudgetConsultation@gateshead.gov.uk

Implications of the draft budget proposals on employees

33. There are several proposals put forward for consultation that will, if agreed, have an impact on the Council's workforce. Where applicable these are expressed as FTEs (full-time equivalents). This means posts totalling this FTE figure would have to be deleted permanently from the Council's employee establishment to make the identified saving from staffing budgets.
34. In accordance with the statutory redundancy process as set out under section 188, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, consultation must be undertaken with the appropriate trade union representatives of employees who may be affected by any of the proposals.
35. The statutory redundancy consultation period is either 30 days or 45 days if more than 100 redundancies are proposed. The Council's Redundancy Policy states that *where there is the potential for large-scale redundancies, the Council will endeavour to apply a 90-day consultation period*. Since in 2021/22, it is proposed that formal redundancy consultation commences **after** the Cabinet meeting on 23rd February, a 45-day consultation will be undertaken. This will allow for full and constructive consideration to be given to how redundancies might be avoided; how the number of redundancies might be reduced; and mitigating the consequences of any redundancies.
36. In order to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies, applications for voluntary redundancy will be considered in areas not at risk of redundancy. The Council has a modestly enhanced redundancy payment scheme which is applicable to both voluntary

and compulsory redundancies, and where an employee volunteers for redundancy to provide an employment opportunity for an employee otherwise at risk themselves (i.e. a ‘bumped redundancy’) or an efficiency saving.

37. Employees will also be encouraged to consider whether a reduction in hours might be appropriate for them, thereby enabling savings to be made from staffing budgets which are not dependent on redundancies.
38. Any voluntary redundancy application and applications for reduced hours will only be approved if they are in the best interests of the service, balanced against employees’ preferences. Such applications will be considered constructively with a view to agreement if possible.
39. Where compulsory redundancies are implemented, all reasonable efforts will be made to secure alternative employment in accordance with the Council’s Redeployment Policy.
40. A range of support measures are also in place to offer employees at risk, or on notice of redundancy, which are detailed in the Council’s Redundancy Policy.

Reform of Local Government Exit Payments

41. The statutory provisions governing exit payments to public sector workers are in the process of reform.
42. A £95,000 exit cap came into effect on 4 November 2020. This applies to the total amount payable when someone exits employment. For Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members the £95k cap applies to the sum of any severance/redundancy payment plus any pension strain cost. This will potentially impact on employees aged 55 and over who, under the current LGPS Regulations, are entitled to release of their unreduced pension benefits in addition to a redundancy payment.
43. In addition to the £95k cap, revised draft statutory provisions have been published which are currently subject to a national legal challenge. These provisions will affect workers with much smaller severance payments i.e. potentially all cases where pension is released with a redundancy payment. Proposed changes include:
44. Preventing an employer making a discretionary redundancy payment in addition to a payment of the pension strain cost, except in very limited circumstances.
45. Provisions to limit payments an employer can make into the LGPS (pension strain cost) where an employee receives a statutory redundancy payment (by reducing the strain cost payment by the amount of the statutory redundancy payment).
46. Making the necessary changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme to cater for these changes, and the effects of the broader £95,000 cap.
47. New Regulations were expected early in 2021, however, recent information from the LGA indicates that as there are several legal challenges to the Regulations, clarification on the final position may not be available until March or April 2021.

48. These changes and the uncertainty as to what the final outcome will be make it extremely difficult to manage a redundancy process at this time, as currently the Council is unable to advise employees on the specific implications in relation to their pension benefits and redundancy payments.

49. The budget proposals for 2021/22 now follow.

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Office of the Chief Executive					Net Budget £'000: 1,007
<hr/>					
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
CE1	Increase Graphics trading income	5	0	Through a targeted approach and self-promotion within the borough and beyond additional income will be generated.	52
CE2	Release the proposed invest to save funding for the Office of the Chief Executive	198	5 (vacant)	Deliver invest to save activities within existing resources	198
Group proposals total		203	5		

Children, Adults & Families					Net Budget £'000: 112,114
Children's Social Care					Net Budget £'000: 33,748
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
CS1	Review of Business Support	160	5	Review of business admin processes following the implementation of the new care system.	752
CS2	Restructure of Children's Centres	40	2	Review of Children's Centres to enhance front-line delivery.	212
CS3	Reduction in high cost placements from the recruitment of a Therapeutic Support Team - attraction of funding from CCG for clinical staff (Invest to Save agreed)	100	0	Enhance the therapeutic offer within Children's Services. Having an enhanced therapeutic offer has significant benefits for children and young people (CYP) and is a better use of resources as it diverts CYP from residential care whilst also providing support to those in in-house provision. Funding from CCG is being sought towards this provision.	5,679
CS4	Increase the number of in-house foster carers particularly for sibling groups	200	0	Proposal to increase the number of in-house foster carers for a further 10 looked after children per annum.	741
Service proposals total		500	7		
Adult Social Care					Net Budget £'000: 68,223
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
AS1	Continuation of current discharge to assess model	1,000	0	The current Hospital Discharge Scheme which started in September 2020, in response to the pandemic, allows the Local Authority to recover the cost of the care package on discharge from hospital for up to six weeks. If this model continues it will result in income to the Council but there is no guarantee. There are no direct staffing implications.	N/A. New funding stream.
AS2	Outcome based assessments and targeted reviews	2,500	0	Review care packages and take a more strength based approach to assessments with a view to improving outcomes for clients and in so doing reducing costs. There are no direct staffing implications.	66,062

Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
AS3	Review Client Income and potentially increase some client charges. Remove automatic entitlement to some payments so they are more bespoke.	200	0	Review care packages with a view to reducing spend on package costs. There are no direct staffing implications. Reviewing charging arrangements. There are no direct staffing implications	-12,720
AS4	Delete/ review vacancies	200	10	Deletion of some vacant posts in provider services. These are vacant posts, which the service has considered and agreed do not need to be filled .	21,299
AS5	Extend the Shared Lives offer to improve the independence and outcomes for clients.	250	None but one new post required to deliver saving.	Will require recruitment of one additional shared lives worker and more self employed Shared Lives Carers, but this will be offset by reduced reliance on more costly residential care placements and/or Supported Living Schemes. One new post requested to deliver this saving.	66,062
AS6	Close one Promoting Independence Centre (PIC) in preparation for the new build in 2022.	300	20	The pandemic, and the discharge to assess policy, have increased the numbers of people who return to their own homes when discharged from hospital so there has been a reduced demand for PIC beds over the past 12 months.	2,695
AS7	Redesign of all day services to develop an "Activity Based Care" function which will reduce the use of building based care but enable a more bespoke programme to be offered to clients which meets their interests and needs.	400	10	Initially delete some vacant posts. Will require a longer-term review of full establishment. Review the following services: Marquisway, Marquisway Bungalow, Enterprises, Community Bases, GATES, Blaydon Day Centre Proposal would be to have a reduced buildings based provision but an enhanced community based response to offering services.	2,484

Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
AS8	Review of in house supported living schemes. Commission three schemes from external providers. Develop complex reablement function for transitions, hospital discharge and people moving out of residential care.	75	21	May involve retaining existing staff, or the TUPE transfer of staff to develop new model which links to the above proposal on outcome based assessments and targeted reviews (AS2)..	845
AS9	Commission long term home care service	250	10	The council adopted an attrition model in 2016 whereby any new service users, requiring long-term support, had their package of care delivered by an independent care provider. This proposal relates to the remaining service users (fewer than 15 clients) who were being provided with domiciliary care before this approach was adopted. This proposal will involve commissioning their care from an independent provider.	782
Service proposals total		5,175	71		

Group proposals total	5,675	78
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Public Health & Wellbeing					Net Budget £'000: 20,461				
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000				
PH1	Reconfiguration of arts team	46	1 (VR)	Deletion of Culture manager Post (VR), and review of arts support as part of library service review (ref PH3)	421				
PH2	Review Community Safety Team	49	1 (vacant)	Realignment of duties within the team allowing for deletion of one post (Vacant). Approach to Public Health Wellbeing Offer as a Group, in line with PH Wellbeing Strategy.	0				
PH3	Public Health Wellbeing Offer - total budget 20% reduction (Leisure/ Libraries/ Culture)	1,200	Est Leisure 53 and Libraries/ Culture between 6-9.	<p>Long Term proposal to develop a transformative approach to Public Health and Wellbeing in supporting delivery of Thrive and the HWB strategy. The overall budget of existing group services after savings will be used to develop a HWB offer for local communities which reflects a place based approach. Activities will be proportionately targeted to 'vulnerable' and 'just coping' communities to prevent inequality rather than 'treat' its symptoms. Propose a move away from dedicated building-based provision to the use of community and/or shared council facilities offering an 'integrated wellbeing offer' as part of the place-based working.</p> <p>Impact to Leisure Services - COVID has had major impact relating to Fees & Charges income (£6.2m Income Budget) particularly relating to Leisure facilities due to closure through national and local lockdowns. On remobilisation of Leisure services in August after the first lockdown approx. 15% of members reactivated their membership. The longer term impact is unknown but expectations are the Leisure industry will take time to recover. Longer term resilience is at risk if the Government does not fund the impact of COVID and uptake does not go back to levels prior to the pandemic. Income impact for 2021/22 (based on £6.2m Income Budget) relating to uptake highlighted below:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>1) - 15% uptake - shortfall £5.2m</td></tr> <tr><td>2) - 25% uptake - shortfall £4.65m</td></tr> <tr><td>3) - 50% uptake - shortfall £3.1m</td></tr> <tr><td>4) - 80% uptake - shortfall £1.24m</td></tr> </table> <p>Short term - A full review of the current Public Health and Wellbeing offer in Gateshead will be undertaken (Libraries /Leisure/Culture/Community Safety budgets). This will also take account of the current estate, including buildings which currently require significant investment to be usable. A set of options and scenarios for 20% savings will then be identified and consulted on throughout 2021-22. Reserves mitigation of £600k would be required to achieve full savings. FTE impact will depend on agreed service reduction. This review will necessarily call for difficult decisions to make the changes necessary to move to a place-based approach and to relieve budget pressure.</p>	1) - 15% uptake - shortfall £5.2m	2) - 25% uptake - shortfall £4.65m	3) - 50% uptake - shortfall £3.1m	4) - 80% uptake - shortfall £1.24m	3699 (plus 2196 ring fenced public health grant)
1) - 15% uptake - shortfall £5.2m									
2) - 25% uptake - shortfall £4.65m									
3) - 50% uptake - shortfall £3.1m									
4) - 80% uptake - shortfall £1.24m									
Group proposals total		1,295	64						

Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities					Net Budget £'000: 21,106
Facilities Management					Net Budget £'000: 1,061
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
FM1	Corporate Landlord Delivery Review	56	0	Adopt Corporate Landlord model to centralise property budgets for effective budget control and long term strategic maintenance planning. Consolidation of capital and cyclical programme management within one service to ensure statutory compliance across all tenures.	48
Service proposals total		56	0		
Neighbourhood Services					Net Budget £'000: 459
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
Page 126 NS1	Remove the Thrive Fund	130	0	Removal of the Thrive Fund. This is currently administered by the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation on behalf the Council and is allocated through a competitive application process with decisions made by a Council advisory group. It is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations with an annual income of less than £250,000, and is aimed to support and develop their capacity and resilience to create stronger communities in Gateshead. The Council would need to continue work with other funders to increase external funding into Gateshead for VCS (eg Big Lottery), although due to COVID funding may be more limited.	130
Service proposals total		130	0		
Highways & Waste					Net Budget £'000: 14,159
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
HW1	Reduction in Directorate support	39	1 (vacant)	Deletion of Post - Service Delivery Officer (vacant)	319
Service proposals total		39	0		
Group proposals total		225	0		

Economy, Innovation & Growth					Net Budget £'000: 729
Business, Employment & Skills					Net Budget £'000: 1,043
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
BE1	Riga office development rental income	63	0	Additional rental income arising from Riga office development, now fully occupied. Rents relatively stable thereafter but subject to ability to retain/attract tenants and rent incentives for new tenants.	0
Service proposals total		63	0		
Major Projects & Corporate Property					Net Budget £'000: -2,652
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
MP1	Gateshead Energy Company concession charge	92	0	Increase in income from Gateshead Energy Company, from recent expansion of the energy network, connecting RIGA, Baltimore House and PROTO to the energy network.	-830
MP2	Property Services	140	3 (0.6 vacant)	Review of the Corporate Property database function and integrating this work into other corporate databases.	225
Service proposals total		232	3		
Group proposals total		295	3		

Corporate Services & Governance				Net Budget £'000:	5,350
HR & Workforce Development				Net Budget £'000:	1,439
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
HR1	Reduce Mileage Rates and reduce mileage budgets across the council	50	0	Mileage has reduced significantly throughout the pandemic, so there will naturally be a reduction in future as more meetings take place online.	644
Group proposals total		50	0		

Resources & Digital					Net Budget £'000: 9,656
Financial Management					Net Budget £'000: 1,714
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
RD1	Reduction to the establishment	72	3	Financial Management deletion of posts arising from a review of working practices leading to efficiencies.	287
RD2	Insurance	240	0	Successful internal claims handling and repudiation of claims has reduced costs to the fund.	1,548
RD3	Early Payment Programme	20	0	The introduction of an early payment programme for the Council. This will enable those suppliers who participate to be paid earlier than their current contracted payment terms. This will benefit the engaged suppliers, the Council and the local economy. Estimates are based on the 50/50 model.	0
Service proposals total		332	3		
Customer Experience & Digital					
					Net Budget £'000: 2,808
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000
CD1	Reduce management	55	1 (vacant)	Vacant Grade L post.	55
CD2	Cease Systems Contract	45	0	Systems contract to be terminated in June 2021 as part of Digitising Customer Experience programme.	45
CD3	E-billing for council tax and notifications for benefits	60	0	Estimating a 20% reduction in costs by moving to e-billing for council tax and notifications for benefits. This would reduce print and postage costs arising from reducing paper bills and notifications for council tax and benefits.	117
Service proposals total		160	1		

IT					Net Budget £'000:	3,203
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000	
IT1	Multi-Function Device (MFD) Managed Print Contract – Reduction in Print	50	0	As a result of the significant shift to homeworking during 2020 there has been a considerable reduction in the volume of print via the MFDs. The council has benefited from a contract that does not include a minimum spend or print volume. Therefore, the risk is entirely with the supplier i.e. the less we print the less we spend.	144	
IT2	Software Budget Consolidation and Removal of Backup Internet connection	32	0	Through the consolidation and associated decommissioning of software products it is predicted that a targeted reduction on the annual software licence costs can be delivered.	78	
Service proposals total		82	0			
Commercialisation & Improvement					Net Budget £'000:	1,731
Ref	Proposal	21/22 £'000	FTEs	Budget Impact	Net Budget £'000	
CI1	Reduction to Performance Management team	50	1 (vacant)	A new performance management framework for the Council is currently being developed to link with the budget/resource allocation, to enable the Council to have real time intelligence of performance and impact and align with other teams across the Council.	256	
Service proposals total		50	1			
Group proposals total		624	5			



TITLE OF REPORT: Council Tax Base and Business Rates Forecast 2021/22

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks Cabinet to agree the council tax base for 2021/22 for the Parish of Lamesley and the whole of the Borough of Gateshead. Cabinet is also requested to agree a Business Rate forecast for 2021/22.

Background

2. The Council is required to calculate and set a new council tax base each year. This council tax base must be forwarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority by 31 January 2021. It is also used for the Council's own purposes in the calculation of the 2021/22 council tax level.
3. The council tax base reflects the amendments contained within the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2012. These amendments require the tax base to reflect any changes introduced from the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme.
4. The Business Rates retention scheme was implemented 1 April 2013, and this allows local authorities to retain 49% of the actual business rates receipts. For Enterprise Zones & New Development Deals, authorities retain 100% of growth in business rates receipts.
5. The Business Rates base for 2021/22 is required to be notified to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government using form NNDR1 and responsibility for certification of this form is delegated to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital under the constitution of the Council (Part 3 Schedule 5) as follows:

“to manage the Gateshead Collection Fund in accordance with statutory requirements, including annual approval and certification of the NNDR1 form, prior to its submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government, setting out the local tax base for business properties for each forthcoming year”.
6. Based upon the information provided by central government the business rates forecast for 2021/22 is £43.114 million. This figure will be reviewed as part of the completion of the NNDR1 form, which is due by 31 January 2021. This estimate will then be varied by the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital under the delegation contained within the Council's constitution.

Proposal

7. The factors that need to be considered in fixing the council tax base are set out in Appendix 1. The proposed council tax base for Gateshead is 52,483.9 an increase of 163 on the current base. This increase is due to an increase in the number of Band D equivalents after taking account of forecast numbers of newly built properties, demolitions, the estimated number of exemptions and discounts, the impact of reviewing entitlements to discounts and reflecting the impacts of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The proposed council tax base for Lamesley is 1198.4 a decrease of 15 on the current base.
8. The provisional business rates forecast for 2021/22 is £43.114 million in line with government estimates.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that Cabinet agree:

- (i) pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Gateshead Council as its council tax base for the year 2021/22 shall be 52483.9
- (ii) pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated as being the Parish Council of Lamesley's council tax base for the year 2021/22 shall be 1198.4
- (iii) That the business rates forecast for 2021/22 is £43.114 million

For the following reason:

- (i) To assist the Council in its financial planning and budget setting
- (ii) To set a council tax base and a business rates forecast for 2021/22 in accordance with statutory requirements

CONTACT: Patrick Scullion Ext 4779

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with Council priorities and in particular ensuring that effective use is made of Council resources to support the framework for “Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives”.

Background

2. The council tax base is the total number of Band D equivalent households in the Borough which will be liable to pay council tax in the forthcoming year.
3. The formal decision to fix the council tax base must be taken by 31 January each year.

Consultation

The Leader of the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report

Alternative Options

4. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Options**Calculation of Relevant Amount**

5. There are 94,350 domestic properties in Gateshead, which have been placed in one of eight bands (from A to H, see Appendix 2) according to the price at which the property might reasonably have been sold on the open market on 1 April 1991, assuming vacant possession and in a state of reasonable repair.
6. For setting the level of council tax for 2021/22, the total number of properties must be recalculated into a common base of Band D equivalents and assumes that there are two or more liable adults living in each property. This recalculation and the adjustments set out in paragraph 7 below are then applied in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 and the resultant figure is known as the ‘relevant amount’.
7. The adjustments that need to be considered for each band of property are: -
 - i) the anticipated number of new dwellings which will be completed during 2021/22;
 - ii) the anticipated number of dwellings to be demolished during 2021/22;
 - iii) the anticipated number of exempt dwellings during 2021/22;
 - iv) the anticipated number of dwellings where the liable person qualifies for a disabled reduction;
 - v) the anticipated number of dwellings where the liable person qualifies for a discount or exemption;

- vi) reviewing entitlement to discounts and exemptions;
 - vii) the adjustment required in respect of the impact for the Council Tax Support Scheme.
8. Applying the adjustments in paragraph 7 has the effect of reducing the total number of properties to a common base for each band, in terms of full year equivalents.
9. To arrive at a common base of Band D equivalents, i.e. the ‘relevant amount’, the appropriate fraction prescribed by Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 is applied to each band, resulting in a Band D equivalent of 53692 for the whole of Gateshead as set out in Appendix 3.
10. The Band D equivalent calculations for Lamesley are 1,226 and are set out in Appendix 4. The figures are relevant to the additional expenditure in this area by the Parish Council.

Calculation of Council Tax Collection Rate

11. To set the council tax at a level which will realise enough income to meet the Authority’s budget requirements, an appropriate percentage collection rate must be applied to the ‘relevant amount’ for Band D equivalent properties, in Gateshead and Lamesley respectively.
12. Despite the economic context, the Council has during 2020/21 been able to maintain positive collection rates. The projected collection to the end March 2021 therefore indicates that the in-year collection rate of 97.75%, which was applied last year, is being sustained. For the year 2021/22 it is proposed to retain this collection rate.

Calculation of Council Tax Base

13. To calculate the Authority’s council tax base for both precepting purposes and council tax setting purposes, the relevant amounts as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 must be multiplied by the Authority’s estimated collection rate (97.75%) which in terms of Band D equivalents equates to 52483.9 for Gateshead and 1,198.4 for Lamesley.

Business Rates Forecast

14. Gateshead receives 50% of business rates income and pays 1% of the total amount to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. The Gateshead element of the estimated business rates base for 2021/22 is £43.114 million, based on central government estimates. The final business rates figure will be assessed as part of the NNDR1 form which is due to be returned by 31 January 2021.

15. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – These are set out in this Appendix. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the agreed council tax base will be used when calculating the amount to be raised from council tax in 2021/22, and the business rates forecast submitted to government will be used for setting the Council's budget for 2021/22.
- b) **Human Resource Implications** – Nil
- c) **Property Implications** – Nil

16. **Risk Management Implications** – There is a risk that the tax base is set at a level which results in a shortfall of income when council tax rates are set, particularly in the current economic climate. However, this has been minimised through the work that has been carried out in estimating the adjustments described in paragraph 7 and the application of the collection rate described in paragraph 12, which is based on actual experience during the first three quarters of 2021/22.

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

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

19. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – Nil

20. **Human Rights Implications** – Nil

21. **Ward Implications** – The tax base covers the whole area of Gateshead. The tax base for Lamesley covers the area of the parish of Lamesley.

APPENDIX 2

STATEMENT OF NUMBERS AND BANDS OF ALL DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

SHOWN IN THE VALUATION LIST FOR GATESHEAD COUNCIL AS AT

3 December 2020

Band	Value	Numbers
A	Up to £40,000	56,491
B	£40,001 to £52,000	12,883
C	£52,001 to £68,000	15,441
D	£68,001 to £88,000	5,726
E	£88,001 to £120,000	2,514
F	£120,001 to £160,000	873
G	£160,001 to £320,000	374
H	Over £320,000	48

		94,350

APPENDIX 3

CALCULATION OF RELEVANT AMOUNT (FULL YEAR BAND D PROPERTIES)

FOR GATESHEAD COUNCIL

Band	No. of Properties	Adjustments (Para. 7)	No. of Properties	Appropriate Fraction	Band D Equivalent Properties
A (disabled reductions)	0	146	146	5/9	81
A	56,491	-21,710	34,781	6/9	23,187
B	12,883	-2,538	10,345	7/9	8,046
C	15,441	-1,812	13,629	8/9	12,114
D	5,726	-61	5,665	9/9	5,665
E	2,514	-205	2,309	11/9	2,822
F	873	-68	805	13/9	1,162
G	374	-23	351	15/9	585
H	48	-33	15	18/9	30
	<hr/> 94,350	<hr/> -26,304	<hr/> 68,046		<hr/> 53,692

Relevant Amount (Band D Equivalents) = 53,692

APPENDIX 4

CALCULATION OF RELEVANT AMOUNT (FULL YEAR BAND D PROPERTIES)

FOR LAMESLEY

Band	No. of Properties	Adjustments (Para. 7)	No. of Properties	Appropriate Fraction	Band D Equivalent Properties
A (disabled reductions)	0	3	3	5/9	2
A	829	-332	497	6/9	331
B	337	-51	286	7/9	222
C	428	-85	343	8/9	304
D	202	-16	186	9/9	186
E	83	-8	75	11/9	92
F	47	-6	41	13/9	59
G	19	-2	17	15/9	28
H	2	-1	1	18/9	2
	1,947	-498	1,449		1,226

Relevant Amount (Band D Equivalents) = 1,226

TITLE OF REPORT:	Gateshead Regeneration Partnership - Delegated Decision taken by Officers
REPORT OF:	Darren Collins Strategic Director, Corporate Resources and Digital

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks Cabinet to note delegated decision taken by officers in accordance with:
 - Urgency procedures under the executive delegations to managers.

Background

2. Gateshead Regeneration LLP (GRP), the housing joint venture partnership between the Council, Evolution Gateshead Developments LLP (EG) is legally required to provide a building warranty to benefit the purchasers of all new homes. The warranty is a legal requirement because all mortgage lenders will make it a condition of mortgage that a form of builder's warranty is in place.
3. The form of warranty to be used is the National Housebuilding Council's (NHBC) Buildmark Choice Warranty. This provides a 10-year warranty cover for private homes and a 12-year warranty for social housing.
4. Previously, under the joint venture arrangements, GRP were able to provide the necessary warranty relying on the NHBC registration of Vistry Partnerships Limited (50% member of EG). NHBC have recently changed their arrangements for joint ventures and now require registration in the name of GRP.
5. As a condition of the registration, NHBC have insisted on a form of Guarantee and Indemnity from both member organisations of GRP, namely EG and the Council. Without a form of warranty being in place, it would be impossible for homes to achieve legal completion.
6. Both member organisations were left with no alternative but to provide the Guarantee and Indemnity and due to the fact that purchasers were completing on GRP homes on the 11th December 2020, an urgent decision had to be made to provide the required Guarantee and Indemnity to ensure NHBC registration was in place.
7. Provision is made within the constitution for managers to take necessary urgent action subject to the action being reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet (Part 3, Schedule 5 of the Council's constitution – General Delegations to Managers).

Proposal

8. A decision has been made by the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources and Digital in consultation with the Service Director Legal and Democratic Services to provide the necessary Guarantee and Indemnity in accordance with the provision set out in paragraph 7 above to enable GRP to register with NHBC.
9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this decision on the Council's budgets, and it will facilitate the continued construction and sale of new family homes within the borough. Further detail is set out in Appendix 1.
10. The Cabinet is asked to note the delegated decisions taken by officers.

Recommendations

11. Cabinet is asked to note the delegated decisions taken by officers as set out in Appendix 1.

For the following reason:

To ensure openness and transparency with the decisions made by officers.

**CONTACT: Andrew Sloan Extension: 3425
David Mason Extension: 3686**

Policy Context

1. The delegated decisions taken by officers below supports the Council's Thrive Agenda.

Background

2. Gateshead Regeneration LLP(GRP), the housing joint venture partnership between the Council, Evolution Gateshead Developments LLP (EG) is legally required to provide a building warranty for all new homes to give protection to the purchaser. The warranty is a legal requirement because all mortgage lenders will make it a condition of mortgage that a form of builder's warranty is in place.
3. The form of warranty to be used is the National Housebuilding Council's (NHBC) Buildmark Choice Warranty. This provides a 10-year warranty for private homes and a 12-year warranty for social housing.
4. Once a property is built the warranty is split into two periods – the defects insurance period, which covers the first two years, and the structural insurance period which covers years three to 10.
5. During the purchasers first two years in the home, if there are issues with the work the builder has done, the builder is obliged to come and fix them. During the structural insurance period, the builder is only responsible for major problems with the structure of the house. This includes foundations, the external render, roofs, ceilings, chimneys and load-bearing parts of the floors.
6. Previously, under the joint venture arrangements, GRP were able to provide the necessary warranty relying on the NHBC registration of Vistry Partnerships Limited (50% member of EG). NHBC have recently changed their arrangements for joint ventures and now require registration in the name of GRP.
7. As a condition of the registration, NHBC have insisted on a form of Guarantee and Indemnity from both member organisations of GRP, namely EG and the Council. Without a form of warranty being in place, it would be impossible for homes to achieve legal completion. Responsibility still rests with GRP as Developer; however the Guarantee and Indemnity enables NHBC to pursue either of GRP's member organisations during the term of the warranty should this be necessary.
8. NHBC have allowed GRP to be registered with an A1 rating which is the highest quality rating that can be given, by relying on the Vistry Group rating, due to its involvement in GRP. This ensures that the warranty can be provided on the most competitive terms.
9. Both member organisations were left with no alternative but to provide the Guarantee and Indemnity and due to the fact that purchasers were completing on GRP homes on the 11th December 2020, an urgent decision had to be made to provide the required Guarantee and Indemnity.
10. The following decision has been made under this delegation on the 2nd December 2020 by the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in consultation with the

Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services in light of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance being a member of the GRP Board.

11. The Leader of the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
12. Provision is made within the constitution for managers to take necessary urgent action subject to it being reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet (Part 3, Schedule 5 of the Council's constitution – General Delegations to Managers). The following decision has been made under that delegation.

Alternative Options

13. Alternatives options were taken into account before the above decisions were taken. There are other warranty providers on the market but it is likely they would have insisted on a similar form of guarantee and potentially GRP would not have benefited from the same level of warranty rating as provided by NHBC which could result in a higher warranty fee.

Implications of Recommended Option

14. **Resources**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Any issues arising relating to the NHBC requirements will be managed through the existing GRP Board arrangements.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** – The property implications were considered in making the delegated decisions and it was acknowledged that without the NHBC registration being in place, it would be difficult to sell the GRP properties.
15. **Risk Management Implications** – The risk management implications were considered in making the delegated decisions. The guarantee and indemnity would only be called upon in the event that GRP did not comply with NHBC requirements. Under the various GRP legal agreements, the Council is able to monitor performance and any issues of non-compliance would be reported to GRP Board in the first instance to resolve.
16. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
17. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
18. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no direct climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.

19. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.
20. **Health Implications** – There are no direct health implications arising from this report.
21. **Ward Implications** - There are no ward implications arising directly from this report.
22. **Background Information** – None.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Response to Consultation

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To endorse the response to the following consultation:
 - North East Transport Plan – North East Joint Transport Committee – appendix 1

Background

2. The background to the consultation and proposed response is set out in appendix 1.

Proposal

3. To endorse the response set out in appendix 1.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the consultation response set out in appendix 1.

For the following reason:

To enable the Council to contribute a response to the consultation.

CONTACT: Kevin Ingledew extension: 2142

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North East Transport Plan 2021-2035

Policy context

1. The North East Joint Transport Committee have prepared a consultation draft of the first Transport Plan for the North East. This will provide the future framework for management of and investment in the region's transport network.

Background

2. The North East Joint Transport Committee is preparing its first transport plan covering the North East. This will replace the current framework provided by the Local Transport Plans for Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland. As such this will be an important document in seeking to guide the future development of the region's transport network. The Plan is intended to cover the period 2021-2035.
3. A full copy of the consultation draft, together with further information on the plan development process, is available to view at:

<https://www.transportnortheast.gov.uk/transportplan/>

Contents

4. The vision for the Plan is:

“Moving to a green, healthy, dynamic and thriving North East.”
5. The Vision is developed into 5 objectives for:
 - a carbon neutral North East;
 - overcoming inequality and growing the economy;
 - a healthier North East;
 - providing appealing sustainable transport choices;
 - providing a safe, secure network.
6. The Plan seeks to enable people to make greener and healthier travel choices whenever possible, and to ensure that sustainable transport networks take people where they need to go at a price they can afford. The approach is then developed through four over-arching policy areas:
 - integration within and between different types of transport so that each contributes to its full potential;
 - seeking funding opportunities to deliver objectives;
 - taking action to make travel net zero in relation to carbon emissions and improving safety and security; and
 - working with partners to develop new roles and promote innovation.

7. Six more specific policy areas are then the subject of more detailed examination:
 - active travel;
 - public transport (bus, ferry and on demand);
 - public transport (local rail and Metro);
 - private transport (travelling by car and using road infrastructure);
 - connectivity beyond our own boundaries;
 - research, development and innovation.
8. Finally the Plan outlines how it will be delivered, including an indicative pipeline of future regional schemes.

Comment

9. The production of the draft Transport Plan is a major step forward for the North East. Transport use is not defined by local authority boundaries, and so a regional framework of this kind is much to be welcomed.
10. The vision and objectives for the Plan are wholly to be supported. These cover the main areas where the transport system needs to make a positive impact in order to deliver improvements for people who live, work or visit the region.
11. Other specific areas in which the Plan is to be welcomed include:
 - the inclusion of the need for continued revenue funding to support the transport network, as well as capital investment. This is particularly relevant at the current time with passenger levels on public transport likely to be depressed for some time as a result of Covid 19, with a consequent need for increased revenue support;
 - recognising the importance of climate change and carbon neutrality. Transport has proved a particularly difficult area to achieve reductions in carbon emissions, and further work is needed to emphasise the scale of the challenge and link this more directly to actions needed to meet the region's aspirations;
 - recognising the importance of maintenance of the network in addition to improvement. This should cover traditional road maintenance but also other areas such as the extent of the bus network as well as important support services, such as cycle and pedestrian safety training for children in schools;
 - presenting an ambitious future programme for action, and one with in-built flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and new evidence. It will be important that schemes that are brought forward through this support the Plan objectives as a whole, and avoid the kind of conflict (for example between economic and climate objectives) that has sometimes been evident in the past.
12. There are also some areas where the Plan could be developed further:

- physical improvements to the network should be accompanied by complementary supporting action in relation to travel awareness and travel planning. While these are mentioned separately the importance of bringing them together as an integral part of scheme design should be recognised. This would help maximise the benefits of investment and minimise the risk of schemes having unintended detrimental impacts;
- the importance of continued investment in small scale transport schemes is perhaps currently under-played. Relatively minor schemes can often have a major impact in local areas and need to continue to be funded as the basis on which more major investment can build;
- more emphasis could be given to the role of transport investment in creating places that are attractive to live and work in or visit. Existing town and city centres face major challenges, especially following the Covid pandemic, and the role of the transport network in creating accessible but attractive locations should be highlighted as an important element in meeting health, economic and environmental objectives. In more residential areas initiatives such as 20mph zones or action to promote children to walk to school can be important;
- there is currently limited attention paid to improving the resilience of existing and new infrastructure to current and future flood risk/extreme weather. Future investments in transport infrastructure should consider the climate in 100 years, taking an adaptive approach which considers a range of scenarios;
- while development of the existing ferry service between North and South Shields is highlighted, little attention is given to exploring the possibilities of further use of the River Tyne for transport purposes;
- local bus services remain the most extensive and most used element of the public transport network. Their primary role in public transport provision, and the importance of sustaining an effective network that is affordable for all users should be reinforced through both the Plan's general approach and proposed actions.

Response

13. It is proposed that the above comments are forwarded as the Council's response to the Plan.

Consultation

14. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport has been consulted on the response and is supportive of it.

Alternative options

15. The main alternative option would be for the Joint Transport Committee not to produce a single plan for the region. This would have meant the opportunity for a co-ordinated and coherent approach to future planning would have been lost.

Implications of the recommendations

16. Resources:

- a. **Financial Implications** – the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no direct implications arising from this response. The Plan should provide a positive basis for discussions with Government around future funding and the preparation of related bids.
- b. **Human Resources** – there are no human resource implications arising from the consultation.
- c. **Property Implications** - there are no property implications arising from the consultation.

17. Risk Management Implications – none.

18. Equality and Diversity Implications – the nature of transport provision can have impacts on different groups, including those related to sex, age, disability and income.

19. Crime and Disorder Implications – crime and anti-social behaviour are often associated with transport through a variety of different kinds of behaviour, for example intimidating behaviour on public transport, poorly lit or insecure pedestrian routes, or speeding traffic.

20. Health Implications – the importance of transport's role in promoting better health, particularly through encouraging increased levels of active and healthy is recognised in the overall objectives of the Plan.

21. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications – transport has a major role to play in achieving carbon neutrality, and this is recognised as one of the Plan's main objectives.

22. Human Rights Implications – None

23. Ward implications – None



TITLE OF REPORT: Surplus Declaration of Gibside School, Burnthouse Lane, Whickham

REPORT OF: Peter Udall, Strategic Director: Economy, Innovation and Growth

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to the property known as Gibside School being declared surplus to the Council's requirements.

Background

2. At its meeting on 19th June 2018 (Minute No. C14), Cabinet agreed the principle of transferring Gibside School to a new site on the former Shipcote Playing Field and to expand its numbers to develop a new build special educational needs school for 170 pupils. The scheme and estimate to build the new school were approved on 16th July 2019 (Min No. C43) and construction is nearing completion. It is anticipated that Gibside School will relocate to its new accommodation over half term in February 2021.
3. Consideration has therefore been given to the future use of the existing Gibside School site in Whickham, shown edged black on the attached plan. While the property is in reasonable condition, it is not considered to be suitable for any alternative use by the Council.
4. As the property is held for Education purposes, Secretary of State consent to any form of disposal would be required under Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010, and Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that the property, shown edged black on the attached plan be declared surplus to the Council's requirements.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the proposal to declare the property surplus to the Council's requirements.

For the following reason:

To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

Policy Context

1. The proposed surplus declaration supports the overall vision for Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives. In particular, investing in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth
2. The proposed declaration will also accord with the provisions of the update of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020. In particular;
 - (i) to manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

Background

3. At its meeting on 19th June 2018 (Minute No. C14), Cabinet agreed the principle of transferring Gibside School to a new site on the former Shipcote Playing Field and to expand its numbers to develop a new build special educational needs school for 170 pupils. The scheme and estimate to build the new school were approved on 16th July 2019 (Min No. C43) and construction is nearing completion. It is anticipated that Gibside School will relocate to its new accommodation over half term in February 2021.
4. Consideration has therefore been given to the future use of the existing Gibside School site in Whickham. While the property is in reasonable condition, it is not considered to be suitable for any alternative use by the Council.
5. The Gibside School site is shown edged black on the attached plan and is currently held for education purposes.
6. Consequently, any disposal (including grant of a lease or appropriation) would be subject to the provisions of Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 which requires the specific consent of the Secretary of State to be obtained prior to the disposal of any land which has been used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a school at any time in the preceding 8 years. In addition, as the school grounds satisfy the definition of a school playing field in section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, consent of the Secretary of State would also be required under this statute prior to any disposal of playing fields which are, immediately before the disposal used by a maintained school for the purposes of the school or which are not so used but have been so used within a period of 10 years.

Consultation

7. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members for Children and Young People, Housing and Environment & Transport. The Ward Councillors for Whickham North have also been consulted.

Alternative Options

8. The option of retaining the property has been discounted as the Council has no further requirement for the accommodation.

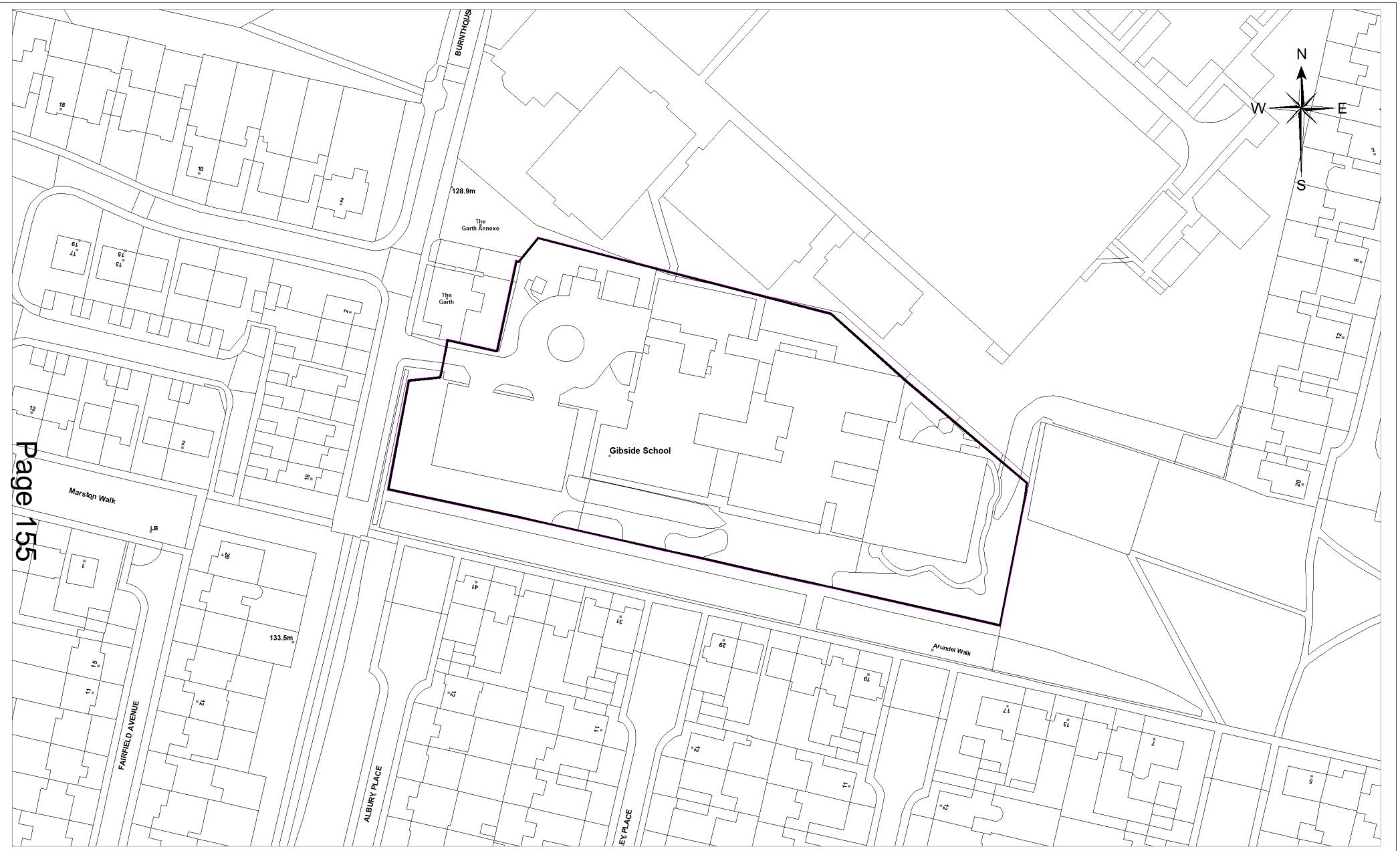
Implications of Recommended Option

9. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that should the property be sold it is expected to generate a capital receipt.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** - There are no direct staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - Any future disposal of this property would result in a reduction in the Council's overall property portfolio thus reducing operational costs.

10. **Risk Management Implication** - Any future disposal of this property would remove opportunities for vandalism to a vulnerable property.
11. **Equality and Diversity** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - Any future disposal of this property would remove opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft.
13. **Health Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
14. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - Any future disposal of this property will reduce the level of the Council's operational costs, including gas and electricity use, which will subsequently result in a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.
15. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
16. **Ward Implications** – Whickham North.
17. **Background Information** – Council Min Nos C14 (2018/19) and C43 (2019/20)

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Title
Gibside School
Burnthouse Lane, Whickham

Scale
1:1250

Date Created
10th December 2020

Drawn By
M Hawkyard

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Drawing Number
000230 (F)

Date Printed
10th December 2020

Rev

O/S NUMBER
NZ2060SW



Major Projects and Corporate Property
Economy Innovation and Growth

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TITLE OF REPORT: Safeguarding Board Update

REPORT OF: **Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Gateshead Safeguarding Adult's Board (SAB) and Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership (GSCP) Annual Reports for endorsement by Cabinet, and present the 2020 refresh of the 2019-2024 SAB Strategic Plan.

Background

2. Gateshead Council, along with Northumbria Police and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, is a statutory partner of the SAB and GSCP.
3. The Care Act 2014 states that a SAB must publish an annual report and strategic plan. The Gateshead SAB continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding adults. The Board has a strong commitment to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together. The 2019/20 Annual Report demonstrates that progress continues to be made within the Safeguarding Adults agenda in Gateshead.
4. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), the three Safeguarding Partners are required to publish an Annual Report that sets out what they have done as a result of the new safeguarding arrangements. The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The GSCP has a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Proposal

5. The SAB 2019-2024 Strategic Plan (2020 refresh) and the GSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements articulate how partners in Gateshead will work together with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults in Gateshead.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the content of the safeguarding reports

For the following reason:

Gateshead Council is a statutory partner of the Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board and Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership

CONTACT: Saira Park – Safeguarding Children Business Manager
Carole Paz-Uceira – Safeguarding Adult Business Manager

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The proposals support the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe and supported.
2. The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults and the Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory body in April 2015. The Care Act states that a Safeguarding Adults Board must:
 - publish a strategic plan for each financial year. This plan could cover 3 – 5 years in order to enable the Board to plan ahead as long as it is reviewed and updated annually
 - publish an annual report which details how the Board and its members achieved the objectives as identified within the strategic plan
3. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaced Local Safeguarding Children's Boards with new local safeguarding arrangements led by the three named statutory safeguarding partners; local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups (health). The three safeguarding partners have assumed the responsibilities for safeguarding arrangements that previously sat with LSCBs and now have a shared and equal duty for new safeguarding arrangements and for working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Gateshead. The Safeguarding partners in Gateshead are:
 - Gateshead Council
 - Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Northumbria Police
4. **Working together to safeguard children 2018** requires that as local safeguarding partners the council, the police and the CCG publish arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, and publish an annual report that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements. This should be published at least once in every 12 month period, and include:
 - evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
 - an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
 - a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.

Background

5. It has been a year of change throughout many of the partner organisations that make up the GSCP and SAB and a number of changes to Board representatives. Despite this the two Annual Reports illustrate that considerable progress has been made.
6. Sir Paul Ennals has now stepped down as independent Chair of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group are working together, as the three statutory partners, to consider future chairing arrangements.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20 and Strategic Plan 2019-24 (2020 refresh)

7. The SAB 2019/20 Annual Report provides a policy context and an overview of the SAB Structure, governance and scrutiny arrangements and performance information. Key achievements of the SAB during 2018/19 are documented within the report and are aligned to the five Strategic Priorities. These include:
 - Held our first Challenge Event during which partners were asked to present their Quality Assurance Frameworks
 - Conducted two themed case files audits relating to neglect and domestic abuse
 - Shared learning from the Winnie Smith appreciative inquiry and actioned recommendations
 - Held a co-production workshop to explore the role of safeguarding in supported people impacted by substance misuse
 - Delivered a full training programme, including bespoke training such as on the psychology of trauma
 - Supported the launch of the Herbert Protocol which is designed to improve response to incidents of individuals with dementia who go missing
 - Refreshed our communication and engagement strategy, including an updated media protocol in response to early recommendations from the County Durham Whorlton Hall organisational abuse case
 - Launched the Safeguarding Adult Champion scheme, providing a link between the Safeguarding Adults Board and services in Gateshead
 - Reviewed our approach to sexual and criminal exploitation in Gateshead
 - Maintaining compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
8. The SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24 was reviewed and updated in July 2020 to ensure that new legislation and emerging issues are reflected and that the Strategic Priorities remain fit for purpose. This is with the recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges placed upon our services and is expected to have a long-lasting detrimental impact upon our communities from a socio-economic perspective. The five SAB strategic priorities that have been in place since 2016 remain fit for purpose for 2019-24 and they are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prevention
 - Community Engagement and Communication

- Improved Operational Practice
 - Implementing Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.
9. Each strategic priority is accompanied by a series of key actions that the Board are committing to deliver during the five-year period. The Strategic Plan is supported by an annual business plan to assist the SAB Executive Group to prioritise workstreams and keep on track with delivery.

Gateshead GSCP Annual Report 2019-20

10. The GSCP Annual Report 2019-2020 details developments for both the GSCP itself and its partner agencies, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include work regionally, developing integrated tools and further integration of processes – performance datasets, QA frameworks, policies & procedures, training, and practice review arrangements.
11. The report also contains an analysis of data, and some narrative.
12. A major focus of work during 2019-2020 has been around developing our new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) and safeguarding plan.

Consultation

13. The GSCP and SAB Boards were fully engaged and consulted with during the production of the Annual Reports and Strategic Plan / Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
14. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

15. There are no alternative options available to the Council.

Implications of Recommended Option

16. **Resources:**
- Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.
 - Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report.
 - Property Implications** - There are no specific property implications arising from this report.
17. **Risk Management Implication** - The production of the Safeguarding Annual reports and Strategic Plan / Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements provides control measures for risk management

18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Safeguarding activity makes a major contribution to protecting vulnerable adults from harassment, abuse and discrimination. The Council has a duty under the s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
19. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The wider safeguarding agenda is an integral part of the Council's work to create a Safer Gateshead. There is a close connection between community safety, safeguarding adults and safeguarding children.
20. **Health Implications** - The priorities identified support the mental health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
21. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no direct climate emergency or sustainability implications within this report.
22. **Human Rights Implications** - Account is taken of respect for private and family life when considering Safeguarding activity. Independent advocacy is also used during the safeguarding process to ensure service users have an independent voice.
23. **Ward Implications** - Safeguarding covers all wards throughout Gateshead.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults from Abuse

Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report
- 2019/20 -

July 2020

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Introduction

This is my final annual report as Chair. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with partners across Gateshead, and to have witnessed the regular improvements in the quality of services made available to vulnerable adults from all partners within the borough. I have been Independent Chair since November 2016, and it is normal good practice to limit the number of years a Chair stays in one place, to avoid me seeming to “mark my own homework”. The statutory partners have clear plans for the coming years, and I am very confident in the strength of the partnership that I am leaving.

During that period we have streamlined the way in which the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has operated, and aligned the work closely with the Children’s Partnership. The two Board Managers work extremely closely together, under the joint management of Jon Gaines, and this has brought real benefits in a more family-oriented approach.

We have made real progress also in improving the way in which we monitor performance data from all partners. Data can become a drain, whereas it is meant to be a tool to help us understand what is happening – and I believe we are now using it as a highly useful tool.

We have been making progress on prevention. We have improved the accessibility of much of the information we make available to people in the community, and our Safeguarding Week activities have been expanding each year.

As we came to the end of the year, all seemed smooth. Then out of a clear blue sky came Covid-19. Although it appeared in Gateshead at the very end of the year that this report covers, it is relevant to discuss what we learnt from it in this report. In the crisis that hit our borough and our nation, our true nature was revealed, and the partnership within Gateshead proved itself to be extremely strong.

Covid 19 hit Gateshead hard. There are high levels of deprivation within the borough, and an age profile which has higher than the average proportion of elderly people, and these factors meant we suffered high levels of infection, and deaths – in care homes, and in the wider community. The partnerships in Gateshead responded with speed and effectiveness as the extent of the pandemic became clear, and partners set up systems for supporting care homes within the borough well before the Government came to realise the full extent of the crisis. The crisis brought out the best in partners. Services adapted very rapidly to the new challenges, communications were fast and efficient, and partnership working flourished. Some of the new ways of working – using video systems for meetings, for example – have proved to be more efficient than the old ways. As I write, preparations are in hand for the possible second wave in the autumn or winter, and whilst none of us can feel relaxed about what is to come, I feel enriched by having seen the quality of the joint working that has been evident here.

Our communities may have been changed by this pandemic. It has been heartening to see the way in which volunteers have come forward to support vulnerable people in their homes. Many people have reported they have had more personal contact, calls, and offers of help during these last months than in the year beforehand. Preventative safeguarding work may be as simple as making sure that every vulnerable person living on their own can count on a personal contact from a friendly supportive person regularly. Building stronger local community hubs, as we have seen happen, might just prove to be the game-changer in improving the safety of vulnerable people across Gateshead.

We can never say confidently that everyone is safe within Gateshead. The circumstances in which people live can change suddenly, and any one of us can face life events that move us from comfort into disorder – as we have all seen in recent months. But the measure of a partnership's strength is how they respond in a crisis – and on that measure, Gateshead's partnership is strong. External inspection reports over the last year have been consistently positive across sectors, which provides a further assurance to the partnership. Vulnerable people living in Gateshead have cause to feel confident in the strength, and responsiveness, of the services they receive.

As ever, warm thanks are due to the work of Carole Paz-Uceira, Jon Gaines, and the numerous chairs of subgroups from partners across the borough.

As I leave Gateshead Safeguarding Board this autumn, I feel confident in the strength of the partnership, the quality of the services in place, and the engagement of the wider community with our work. It has been an honour and a joy to work with you all.



Sir Paul Ennals
Independent Chair, Gateshead SAB



Policy Context

The Care Act 2014 enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults, which aim to ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are afforded appropriate support and protection, and help them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible.

Chapter 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act replaces the No Secrets document as the statutory basis for all safeguarding activity. This was updated in March 2016 by the Department for Health.

The Care Act identifies six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work and which apply equally to all sectors and settings:

- **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation to those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities
- **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

The Care Act sets out the Safeguarding Adult responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners. It places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) and stipulates that SABs must produce a Strategic Plan and Annual Report. The Statutory Guidance encourages the SAB to link with other partnerships in the locality and share relevant information and work plans.

Safeguarding in Gateshead

Gateshead SAB

The Gateshead SAB became a statutory body in April 2015. The Board's vision for adult safeguarding in Gateshead is:

'Everybody in Gateshead has the right to lead a fulfilling life and should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – and to contribute to their own and other people's health and wellbeing'

The Board is responsible for assuming the strategic lead and overseeing the work of Adult Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act arrangements in Gateshead. Within Gateshead we have commissioned an Independent Chair to enhance scrutiny and challenge. The Board has a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding, which is updated annually, and provides a framework for identifying roles and responsibilities and demonstrating accountability.

In law, the statutory members of a SAB are defined as the local authority, the local police force and the clinical commissioning group. However, in Gateshead, we recognise the importance of the contribution made by all of our partner agencies and this is reflected by the wider Board membership (correct as of July 2020):

- Gateshead Council
- Northumbria Police
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – on behalf of NHS England, North East Ambulance Service and incorporating GP lead for Adult Safeguarding
- Lay Members
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT)
- Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW)
- Gateshead College
- The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC)
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Oasis Community Housing
- Connected Voice Advocacy
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The SAB is supported by an Executive Group that meets quarterly. The Executive Group brings together the Independent Chair, the three statutory authorities and the Sub-Group Chairs. The role of the Executive is to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and its sub groups and to report directly to the Board on any emerging themes, risks, areas of good practice and learning. The Executive Group scrutinises the annual Business Plan to ensure that progress is on schedule.

During 2019/20 the SAB and Executive Group were supported by four Sub-Groups:

- **Practice Delivery Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from The Gateshead Housing Company)

The role of the Practice Delivery Group is to ensure that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures and supporting practice guidance continue to be fit for purpose. The Group has responsibility for keeping up to date with national policy changes that may impact upon the work of the SAB, and for the development and implementation of the Communication and Engagement strategy.

- **Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Case (SARCC) Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust)

The Safeguarding Adults Review Group (SARCC) consider Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals, commission reviews and subsequently monitor their progress. The SARCC may also oversee discretionary reviews into cases that do not meet the criteria for a SAR, where the group feel that there are multi-agency lessons to be learned. It will collate and review recommendations from SARs and other reviews, ensuring that achievable action plans are developed and that actions are delivered. The SARCC also provides a forum to discuss complex Safeguarding Adult cases that require additional scrutiny and support.

- **Quality and Assurance Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from Gateshead Council)

The Quality and Assurance Group have developed and implemented a Quality and Assurance Framework that provides a structure for scrutinising activity that is undertaken by Board member agencies and relevant services or organisations. The group monitors and scrutinises the quality of activities to ensure that the interventions offered are person-centred, proportionate and appropriate. The Quality and Assurance Group is responsible for

updating and analysing the performance dashboard. They also consider lessons learned that are identified nationally, regionally and locally from any cases requiring a SAR, Serious Case Review or any other review process relevant to the Safeguarding Adults agenda.

- **Strategic Exploitation Group** (Chaired by an officer from Northumbria Police)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the SAB and the Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership (GSCP). The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

The Board and the four sub-groups regularly commission time limited task and finish groups to undertake specific pieces of project work.

The SAB has developed strong links with other local multi-agency partnerships including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership and Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Partner Governance Arrangements and Scrutiny

Board members are responsible for ensuring that governance arrangements for Safeguarding Adults are incorporated within the structure of their own organisations, and that there are mechanisms for disseminating and sharing information from the SAB. Examples of the governance and scrutiny arrangements for the three statutory partners include:

- Gateshead Council – The Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive updates from the SAB and key pieces of work are submitted to Cabinet. The SAB performance dashboard and annual mandatory Safeguarding Adults Collection are scrutinised within the Adult Social Care performance clinic and strategic items are shared with the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Group Management Team. The Gateshead Council Internal Audit service provide assurance that the Board and Gateshead Council are meeting their statutory duties.
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group – An Executive Director holds the lead for the safeguarding portfolio. A Children and Adults Safeguarding Committee meets bi-monthly and a strategic safeguarding forum is held with providers three times per year. The

CCG safeguarding committee reports to the CCG Quality, Safety and Risk Committee which in turn reports to the CCG Governing Body.

- Northumbria Police – All learning from national and local serious case reviews are scrutinised through the organisational delivery group and the organisational learning log. The organisational learning log is focused on the importance of identifying learning opportunities and drivers, embedding the value of lessons learned, and helping the organisation to become focused on the importance of continuous learning. Each Area Command and Department has a responsibility to consider drivers for lessons learned and to encourage organisational learning within their areas of business. The organisational learning log is submitted to each Operational Delivery Group (ODG) and Board for discussion and agreement of new actions, and to ensure organisational wide learning has been considered. Agreed recommendations and actions from the relevant ODG or board will be managed by the assigned learning owner. Areas of learning and best practice that require Force wide communication or change are escalated through Strategic Management Board.

Strategic Plan 2019/24 and Annual Business Plan 2019/20

The Gateshead Strategic Plan 2019/24 was approved by the SAB in April 2019. The five-year plan incorporates five strategic priorities:

- **Quality Assurance**
- **Prevention**
- **Communication and Engagement**
- **Operational Practice**
- **Mental Capacity**



The Strategic Plan is supported by an Annual Business Plan 2019/20 to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity over the five-year period.

Key Achievements 2019/20

The Annual Report must demonstrate what both the SAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives of its strategic plan. Some of our key achievements for 2019/20 are documented below and are aligned to the SAB Strategic Priorities.

➤ Quality Assurance

- Challenge Event

The Gateshead SAB held its first Challenge Event in January 2020. Prior to the event, partners were required to complete and submit their single agency Safeguarding Adults Quality Assurance Framework. Partners were then asked to review all the frameworks utilising an online survey. This meant that at the event, partners could focus upon developing an understanding of areas of good practice and areas for improvement within Gateshead. Recommendations emanating from the event fed into the annual refresh of the Strategic Plan.

- Case File Audits

Within Gateshead the SAB case file audits follow a themed approach using an evidenced based approach. Two themed case file audits took place during 2019/20 – Neglect (May 2019) and Domestic Abuse (November 2019). Both audits resulted in a series of recommendations to improve practice.

Partner organisations continue to undertake their own internal case file audits. For example, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust have had a rigorous programme of Safeguarding audits undertaken during 2019/20 to monitor safeguarding practice across the Trust. This included compliance with routine and selective enquiry, Making Safeguarding Personal, self-neglect and MCA/DoLs.

- Winnie Smith Appreciative Inquiry outcomes

In April 2019 the SAB approved the Winnie Smith appreciative inquiry. The inquiry was instigated following a significant and sustained period of abuse and neglect experienced by Winnie. Organisations that work within the safeguarding adult arena increasingly talk about the challenges of working with complex cases. The life of Winnie Smith was, and continues to be, complex. Key challenges identified from the inquiry were included within the Gateshead SAB Strategic Plan 2019/24. A number of areas of work instigated by the inquiry subsequently commenced in 2019/20:

- Five Winnie Workshop Learning Events took place for front line practitioners. The workshops reflected upon the learning outcomes from the appreciative inquiry in the context of front-line practice. Feedback from participants was extremely positive. Practitioners welcomed the opportunity

to discuss the challenges of working with complex multi-faceted cases of abuse and neglect.

- Learning from the Winnie Smith inquiry was shared with the North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Safeguarding Adults network
- Gateshead Council presented a paper to the Safeguarding Adults Board about becoming an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) aware Council in April 2019. There was broad support from partners to adopt a commitment to raising awareness of ACE's
- The Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned Zoe Lodrick to provide Psychology of Trauma training to 195 practitioners from a range of partner agencies on 4th March 2020. Throughout the day Zoe reflected upon the findings of the Winnie Smith Inquiry



- Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police have worked together to develop a Missing Adults across Northumbria Protocol. Two workshops have been held with representatives from the five Safeguarding Adults Boards throughout the region. The protocol is expected to be launched in 2020.

- **Learning from Regional and National Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)**

The Quality and Assurance Group review regional and national SARs and relevant Domestic Homicide Reviews. Case details are summarised and the group consider key findings relevant for Safeguarding Adults in Gateshead. Partner agencies are encouraged to share the findings within their own organisations. For example, within Gateshead Council Practice Short sessions were held for front line practitioners providing an overview of SARs from Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland and Lincolnshire. The Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Business Manager continues to be a regional SAR champion, supporting SABs in the region by raising awareness of the national SAR library and raising awareness of the SAR Quality Markers.

The SAB invited the Director of Nursing for County Durham and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Groups to a Board meeting to share early findings from a review of the abuse and neglect uncovered at Whorlton Hall by the BBC panorama programme. This instigated a series of recommendations within Gateshead, such as a review of our Serious Provider Concern process.

- Single Agency Inspections / Scrutiny

A number of partners within the SAB are subject to single agency inspections and / or invite external scrutiny to improve practice. The results are shared with the Board where there are implications from a Safeguarding Adults perspective. For example, Northumbria Police provided an overview of their position on the HMICFRS and HMCPSI joint inspection report ‘The Poor Relation: The Police and CPS Response to Crimes against Older People’ which was published on 17 July 2019.

➤ **Prevention**

- Substance Misuse and Safeguarding workshop ‘Exploring the difficult questions together’

In September 2019 a co-production workshop was held to debate the role of Safeguarding Adults in supporting people impacted by substance misuse. The workshop was aimed at front line practitioners who work directly with adults who misuse substances. Sixty delegates attended from eighteen different organisations. Fulfilling Lives Newcastle Gateshead supported six Experts by Experience to co-facilitate the workshop. There were a significant number of learning outcomes from the event and all delegates were asked to complete a pledge card identifying what they would personally do to take forward the learning.



- Training

The Gateshead Council Workforce Development Adviser worked with the SAB, Gateshead Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (GCSP) and the Community Safety Partnership to produce a comprehensive training directory for 2019/20. Training courses advertised within the directory are free of charge to practitioners and volunteers within Gateshead. Examples of training and awareness raising for the SAB in 2019/20 include:

- ✓ 38 Safeguarding Adult reporting concerns Level 1 training courses
- ✓ 3 Safeguarding Adults Undertaking Enquiries Level 2 training courses
- ✓ 13 Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA Level 1) Training
- ✓ 1 Safeguarding awareness training session for voluntary and community management committee trustees in October

- ✓ 6 half day County Lines training and 2 x 2 hour briefings, all delivered by Edge North East
- ✓ 1 Safeguarding awareness raising session for commissioned voluntary sector organisations working in Gateshead via a 'Business Breakfast' in March
- **Supported the launch of the Herbert Protocol**

The SAB agreed at the April 2019 meeting to support the launch of the Northumbria police led Herbert protocol initiative which is designed to improve responses to incidents of individuals with dementia who go missing. The scheme was widely publicised with our partners and providers.

➤ **Community Engagement and Communication**

- **Communication and Engagement Strategy refresh**

In January 2020 the SAB approved a refresh of the Communication and Engagement Strategy to reflect emerging issues and review how we respond to media requests following initial learning from Whorlton Hall. The Strategy includes general principles of safeguarding adult communication and engagement, key messages and a media protocol.

- **Safeguarding Adults Week**

Gateshead SAB Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week was held 18th – 22nd November 2019. The week was chosen as it coincided with national safeguarding adult awareness events co-ordinated by the Ann Craft Trust. Highlights of the week include:

- ✓ **Speed Safeguarding event 22nd November 2019** – This was a drop-in event held within Gateshead Civic Centre. Speedy bite sized safeguarding adults information was available on various aspects of safeguarding. Northumbria Police brought along their virtual reality resource to help bring to life issues such as exploitation and domestic abuse. Over one hundred delegates attended and there was excellent feedback.
- ✓ **Launch of the Safeguarding Adult Champion Scheme** – The Safeguarding Adults Champion scheme was launched during the speed safeguarding event. Anyone can sign up to be a champion via our Gateshead Safeguarding website [here](#). The Champions scheme provides a link between the Safeguarding Adults Board and our voluntary, community and statutory services in Gateshead. Over 100 Champions have signed up.
- ✓ **QE Hospital information stands** – The Safeguarding Team within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital hosted an information stand for the entire week next to Costa Coffee. Staff, patients and visitors to the hospital all visited the stand
- ✓ **Gateshead Council Adult Social Care in house provider services** – All in house providers were asked to contribute towards safeguarding adult

week. Initiatives included a safeguarding adult coffee morning at Marquisway which raised £82.50 for charity and a safeguarding questionnaire for Shared Lives carers

- ✓ **The Gateshead Housing Company resident training** – The Gateshead Housing Company held an awareness raising course on for Housing Company residents to find out more about Safeguarding adults
- ✓ **Information updates** – Regular updates were shared by twitter and Facebook. Partners supported us by sharing these, including Connected Voice who shared via their e-news.
- **Posters and Visual media displays**

The Practice Delivery Group produced a series of new posters and visual media displays for TV screens. The group wanted these publications to focus upon raising awareness about the 10 categories of abuse and neglect and include information about how to report. Partners can download these resources from the Safeguarding in Gateshead website.



- **Elder Abuse campaign**

In December 2019 a successful media campaign was launched by Northumbria Police with the objective of education in relation to elder abuse. The campaign reached 136,000 people on social media channels alone. During December Community Engagement Teams conducted several face-to-face initiatives across the force area in relation to the campaign.

➤ Improved Operational Practice

- **Review of Exploitation**

In January 2020 the SAB approved revised Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation practice guidance. This included approving a new referral pathway for sexual and criminal exploitation cases utilising the strengthened Multi-Agency Assessment and Referral Team (MAART). The practice guidance is relevant for all cases of Adult Sexual and Criminal Exploitation, regardless of whether the individual meets the Safeguarding Adult definition. The Practice

Guidance includes our Gateshead referral pathway, allocation process, screening tool and case management procedure.

- **Guidance for raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern**

In order to support the launch of the online Safeguarding Concern form, and to increase quality in safeguarding adult concerns, practice guidance was published to illustrate what information is required to raise a Safeguarding Adults Concern in Gateshead. This is shared at the Level one training course and is available on the Safeguarding in Gateshead website and Gateshead Council website.

- **Principles of Engagement in the Safeguarding Adult Process**

The Practice Delivery Group were supported by Fulfilling Lives Experts by Experience to develop some Principles of Engagement within Safeguarding Adults. A similar tool was first developed by Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board and was viewed by partners as being extremely helpful. The tool has been developed taking into account learning from our Winnie Smith appreciative inquiry and our substance misuse and safeguarding workshop.

➤ **Implementing Mental Capacity Act (MCA) / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)**

- **Maintain compliance with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

Gateshead Council, as DoLS Supervisory Body, continues to remain legally compliant with the judgement and there are no local backlogs. This is despite the national challenges and evidence to suggest there are significant backlogs elsewhere, both regionally and nationally.

Gateshead Council has continued to invest in the DoLS staff team responsible for the processing and managing of all DoLS applications by increasing ability to meet most of our demands “in-house”, thereby improving efficiency.

- **Preparation for implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards**

The landscape with respect to the proposals for the introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards via the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 continues to be fluid and ever changing and is being closely monitored by partners within Gateshead. Our Gateshead Council Adult Social Care Manager is the Chair of the regional DoLS steering group and is also on the national DoLS Leads group

Our Performance 2019/20

Safeguarding Adults Headline Performance

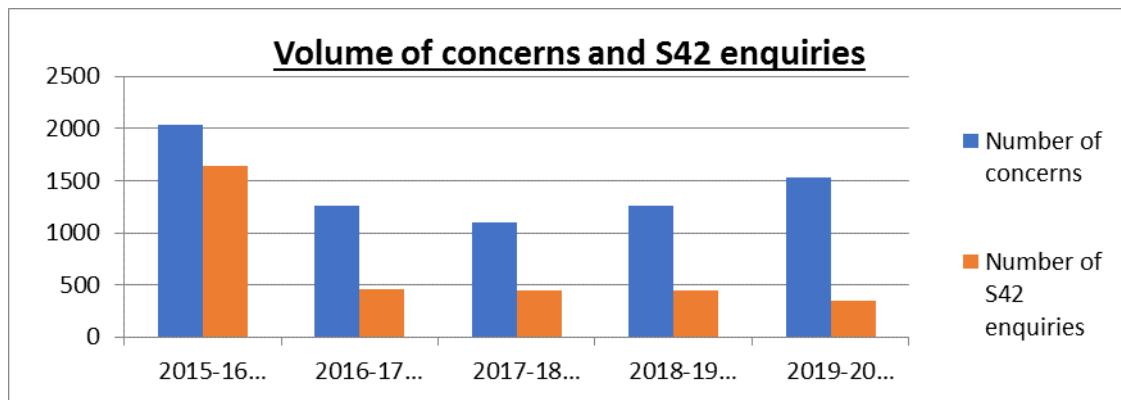
A summary of the headline performance information is provided below.

- Volume of Concerns and Enquiries

For a Concern to progress to a Section 42 Enquiry it must meet the statutory criteria. The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support need is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

In 2019/20 there were 1532 Safeguarding Adult Concerns which led to 344 Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries. In percentage terms, 22.5% of Concerns led to a Section 42 Enquiry. The number of concerns progressing to an enquiry is lower than the 2018-19 NE (37.7%) and England (34.5%) averages.



- Categories of Abuse

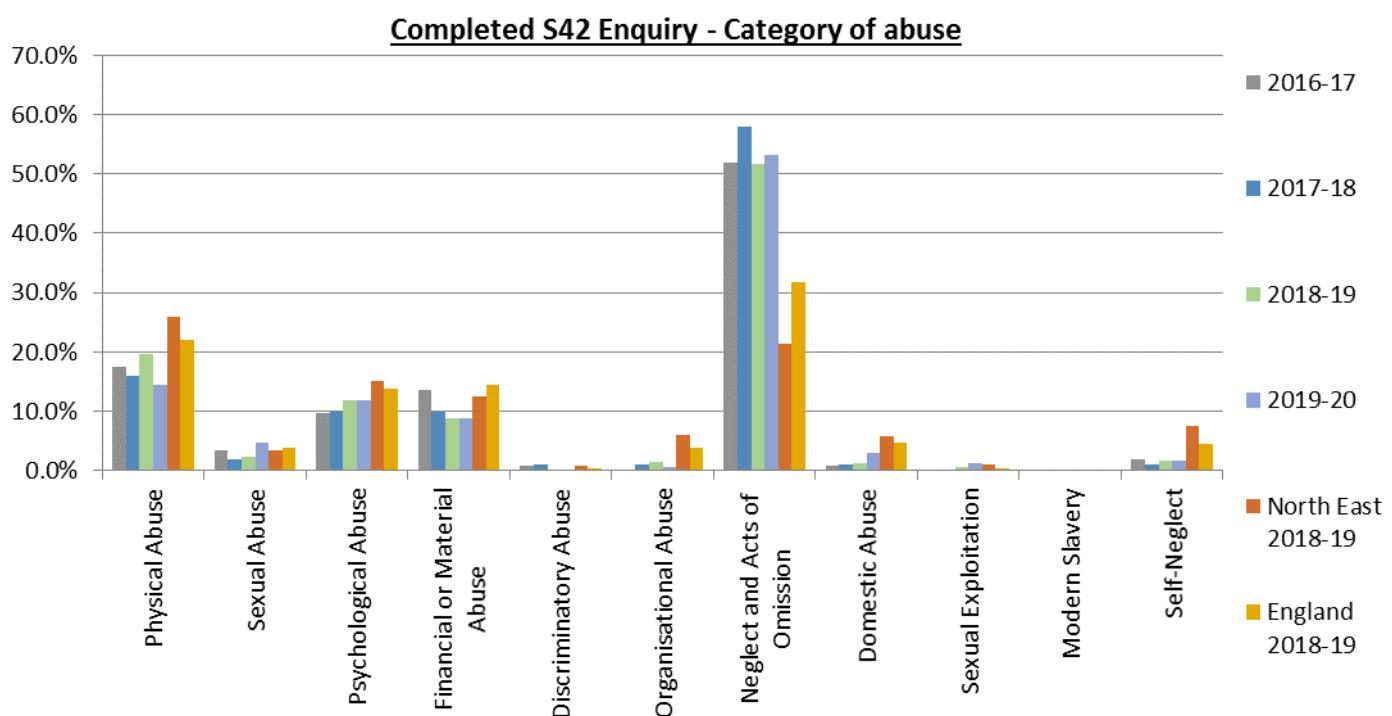
Utilising a count of completed Section 42 Enquiries, and allowing for multiple recording of abuse, the most common category of abuse in Gateshead continues to be Neglect and Acts of Omission which represented 53.3%. This was followed by Physical Abuse (14.4%) and Psychological (12.0%).

Neglect and Acts of Omission in Gateshead continues to be an outlier compared to North East and England averages, it shows an increase from the 51.7% of last year. The Quality and Assurance Group subsequently

commissioned a case file audit of Neglect and Acts of Omission cases in May 2019 which demonstrated a recording issue. This has been summarised below.

The new categories of abuse introduced by the Care Act represented relatively small volumes in 2019/20:

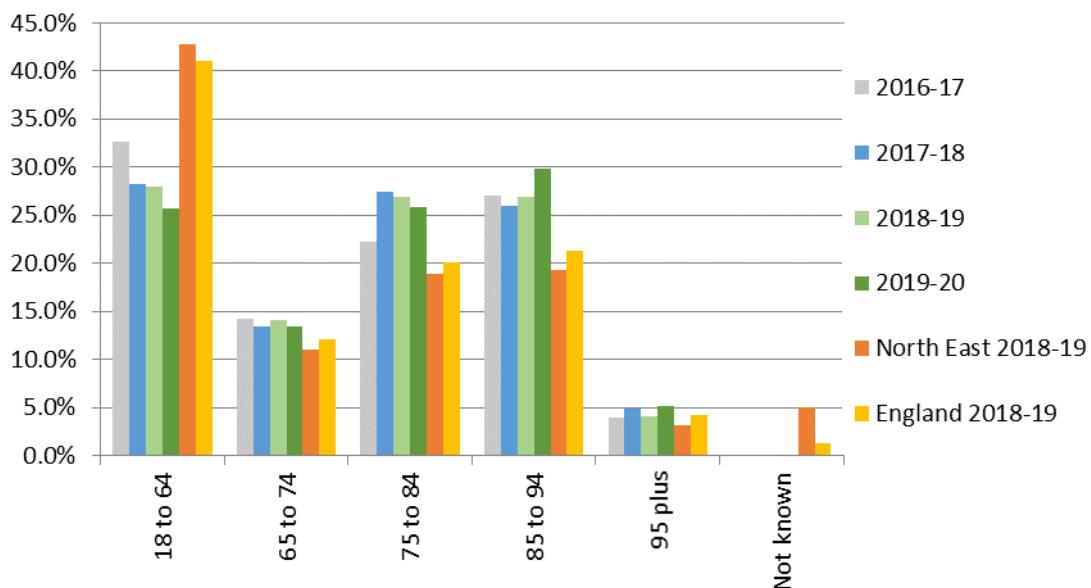
- Domestic Violence – 13 cases, 2.9%
- Modern Slavery – 0 cases, 0.0%
- Self-Neglect – 8 cases, 1.8%



- Age

In Gateshead, 74.3% of Concerns were raised for adults aged 65 and over.

Concerns: percentage of individuals by age



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

For the period April 2019 to March 2020 Gateshead Council received 2211 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard applications. This was a slight increase in activity from the previous financial year (2122) and compared to activity from previous years represents a continued levelling out of the demands placed on local authorities in meeting statutory obligations.

The highest rate for DoLS applications remains with those over the age of 65. Within Gateshead this represents 1980 applications (90% of all applications) for those aged over 65 and 231 for those under 65.

There were 407 applications which have not been authorised, due to various standard reasons. The primary reason for non-authorisation of a DoLS was down to a 'Change in Circumstances', which took place in 314 cases.

Our demographics remain in accordance with previous data with predicted higher percentages of those 85+ being more likely to be subject to DoLS authorisations, (44%) and those more likely to be female (60%).

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

The SARCC Group is responsible, on behalf of the Gateshead SAB, for statutory SARs introduced by the Care Act 2014. All reviews and enquiries are reported back to the SAR Group for scrutiny and challenge. Learning from reviews is fed into the Quality and Assurance Group when there are specific actions or learning that needs to be taken forward.

During 2018/19 the SAR referral form was placed online, providing an accessible and secure mechanism for partners to refer SARs.

During 2019/20 the SARCC received 11 Safeguarding Adult Referrals. Of those:

- 0 progressed to a SAR
- 4 resulted in other reviews
 - GP Investigation
 - Joint appreciative inquiry to be undertaken with GSCP into transition cases
 - Recommended joint drug related death inquiry with Newcastle
 - Appreciative Inquiry with a focus upon whistleblowing
- 6 cases required no further action
- 1 case requires further information before decision is made

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**Gateshead
Safeguarding Adults
Board**

**Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board
Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024
2020 Refresh**

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Introduction

This is the second Strategic Plan for the statutory Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) post implementation of the Care Act (2014) on April 1st 2015. This plan has been reviewed and updated in July 2020. This is with the recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges placed upon our services, and is expected to have a long-lasting detrimental impact upon our communities from a socio-economic and health perspective.

The Gateshead SAB remains committed to making Safeguarding in Gateshead person-led and outcome focussed whilst ensuring that there is an underpinning ethos of prevention. The Board have worked hard to ensure that they are Care Act compliant and have demonstrated via internal and independent scrutiny that we deliver quality services.

The Gateshead SAB continues to provide strategic leadership for our approach to responding to statutory duties detailed within the Mental Capacity Act. As such we are preparing for imminent changes to legislation proposed via the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which includes the abolition of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the subsequent introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards.

The challenges faced by the Board are evolving. Since the commencement of our last Strategic Plan in 2016 we have seen challenges in relation to the stability of the care market, a growth in mechanisms for responding to complex cases and extensive learning from national, regional and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This is combined with uncertainties caused by continued austerity and Brexit.

As part of the consultation process for this Strategic Plan an anonymous responder said:

'In this very challenging economic climate keep up the good work as a lot of what you do goes unnoticed, but it is vital to the individuals that are being safeguarded'

The national and local policy landscape is constantly changing, and we will review the Strategic Plan on an annual basis to ensure that the Strategic priorities remain right for Gateshead. We have a strong commitment from its

members to implement the Strategic Priorities identified within this plan. This five-year Strategic Plan is supported by annual Business Plans to enable the Board to prioritise and focus activity.

Policy Context

The Care Act 2014 has enshrined in law the principles of Safeguarding Adults, which will ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are afforded appropriate support and protection, and help them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible. Chapter 14 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act replaces the No Secrets document as the statutory basis for all safeguarding activity. The Care Act sets out the Safeguarding Adult responsibilities for Local Authorities and their partners and places a duty upon Local Authorities to establish SABs.

A corner stone of the Care Act is the general responsibility placed on all local authorities to promote wellbeing. The Care Act emphasises the assumption that individuals are best placed to judge their own wellbeing, and that protection from abuse and neglect is fundamental.

The Care Act identifies six key principles which underpin all adult safeguarding work, and which apply equally to all sectors and settings:

- **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
- **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation to those in greatest need
- **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities
- **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

Schedule 2 of the Care Act (2014) stipulates that SABs must publish a Strategic Plan each financial year, identifying how the Boards and their members will protect adults in their respective areas from abuse and neglect.

Gateshead Safeguarding Adults Board

Our Vision

Our vision for Adult Safeguarding in Gateshead is:

'Everybody in Gateshead has the right to lead a fulfilling life and should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – and to contribute to their own and other people's health and wellbeing'

In Gateshead we believe that Safeguarding is everyone's business. This means - whoever you are, wherever you are and whatever position you hold – you have a responsibility to take action to help protect our local residents when you hear about allegations of abuse or neglect.

We know you share our vision and it is practiced by all our partner organisations. Safeguarding cannot be fully delivered by agencies acting in isolation – and can only be achieved by working together in partnership to help protect and support adults at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect.

Governance Arrangements

The Gateshead SAB became a statutory body in April 2015, assuming the strategic lead and overseeing the work of Adult Safeguarding arrangements in Gateshead. We have commissioned an Independent Chair to enhance scrutiny and challenge. The Board has a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding, which provides the framework for identifying roles and responsibilities and demonstrating accountability. We have developed strong links with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Board.

In law, the statutory members of a SAB are defined as the local authority, the local police force and the relevant clinical commissioning group. However, in Gateshead, we recognise the importance the contribution made by all of our partner agencies and this is reflected by the wider Board membership (correct as of July 2020):

- Gateshead Council
- Northumbria Police

- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (on behalf of NHS England, North East Ambulance Service and incorporating GP lead for Adult Safeguarding)
- Lay Members
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- Gateshead College
- The Gateshead Housing Company
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Oasis Community Housing
- Connected Voice Advocacy
- Healthwatch
- Department for Work and Pensions

The SAB is supported by four Sub-Groups:

- **Practice Delivery Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from The Gateshead Housing Company)

The role of the Practice Delivery Group is to ensure that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures and supporting practice guidance continue to be fit for purpose. The Group has responsibility for keeping up to date with national policy changes that may impact upon the work of the SAB. The Group also has responsibility for the development and implementation of the Communication and Engagement strategy and implementation of the Dignity Strategy.

- **Safeguarding Adult Review and Complex Case Group (SARCC)** (Chaired by a senior manager from Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust)

The Safeguarding Adults Review Group (SARCC) will consider Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referrals, commission reviews and subsequently monitor their progress. The SARCC may also oversee discretionary reviews into cases that do not meet the criteria for a

SAR, where the group feel there are multi-agency lessons to be learned. It will collate and review recommendations from SARs and other reviews, ensuring that achievable action plans are developed and that actions are delivered. The SARCC also provides a forum to discuss complex Safeguarding Adult cases that require additional scrutiny and support.

- **Quality and Assurance Group** (Chaired by a senior manager from the Local Authority)

The Quality and Assurance Group have developed and implemented a Quality and Assurance Framework that provides a structure for scrutinising activity that is undertaken by Board member agencies and relevant services or organisations. The group monitors and scrutinises the quality of activities to ensure that the interventions offered are person-centred, proportionate and appropriate. The Quality and Assurance Group is responsible for updating and analysing the performance dashboard. They also consider lessons learned that are identified nationally, regionally and locally from any cases requiring a SAR, Serious Case Review or any other review process relevant to the Safeguarding Adults agenda.

- **Strategic Exploitation Group** (Chaired by a senior officer from Northumbria Police)

The Strategic Exploitation Group is a sub-group of both the SAB and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The group is responsible for overseeing all work with respect to sexual exploitation, modern slavery, criminal exploitation, trafficking, missing and female genital mutilation in Gateshead.

A SAB **Executive Group**, which includes the Sub Group Chairs, meets on a quarterly basis to monitor the effectiveness of the Board and to discuss emerging themes, risks, good practice and learning opportunities.

Developing the Strategic Plan

The Gateshead SAB Strategic Plan 2019-24 has been developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders. It is underpinned by performance information, learning from reviews and feedback from members of the general public and safeguarding adult service users. Targeted consultation includes:

- Board member consultation
- Online survey which was circulated to all Sub Group members, key stakeholders, commissioned providers and members of NCVS who support voluntary organisations within Gateshead
- Face to face consultation with:
 - Shared Lives carers
 - Young women in supported housing provision
 - The Gateshead Housing Company residents

Strategic Priorities and Key Actions

The consultation process identified that the five SAB Strategic Priorities that had been in place since 2016 remained fit for purpose for 2019-24, those are:

- Quality Assurance
- Prevention
- Communication and Engagement
- Operational Practice
- Mental Capacity

1. Quality Assurance

The SAB will continue to prioritise Quality Assurance in its widest sense. This will enable the Board to demonstrate quality and effectiveness at both strategic and operational levels. It aims to support a better understanding of how safe adults are locally and how well local services are carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act and the Gateshead Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures. In particular, the Board will ensure that quality is driven by learning.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Develop training for front line practitioners that is guided by learning from reviews and inquiries
- Develop and implement annual Quality Assurance challenge event utilising the regional Quality Assurance Framework
- Enhance our multi-agency approach of sharing learning with front line practitioners
- Revise the Safeguarding Adults Review Policy and Practice Guidance to include a strengthened approach to practical application of learning
- Understand and respond to changes in Safeguarding activity due to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis and recovery

2. Prevention

Prevention is one of the six Principles of Safeguarding. Within Gateshead we have prioritised preventative work and have produced a range of practice guidance notes and bespoke training courses to support our front-line practitioners. The Board would like to see Prevention at the forefront of all Policies, Procedures and Practice Guidance and woven into practice.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Strengthen and embed our Multi-Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART) as a mechanism for supporting vulnerable residents who do not meet the statutory criteria for Safeguarding Adults
- Support closer integration of public services, including the work of Public Sector Reform and the Gateshead Care Partnership
- Become Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) / Adult Attachment informed
- Revise the Self-Neglect Practice Guidance note and deliver updated multi-agency practitioner training
- Revise the Financial Abuse Practice Guidance note, taking into account the issues arising from implementation of Universal Credit
- Strengthen multi-agency arrangements for Modern Slavery in Gateshead; to include awareness raising, responding to pre-planned and unplanned incidents and quality assurance
- Raise awareness about Criminal Exploitation and the Gateshead pathways and provision
- Build community resilience so that our residents are better equipped to keep themselves safe from harm
- Develop a more flexible training programme, to include more e-learning and virtual learning opportunities

- Develop and implement organisational abuse policy and procedure

3. Communication and Engagement

The Safeguarding Adults Board has made significant improvements in Making Safeguarding Personal to ensure that those adults involved within the safeguarding process have their wellbeing promoted and, where appropriate, that regard is given to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs when deciding any action. Consultation has demonstrated that there continues to be a lack of understanding about Safeguarding within the wider community, which can impact upon the effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults as a whole.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Effectively communicate and champion our good practice
- Enhance communication and engagement with partners and providers who are not routinely engaged with the Board and Sub-Groups
- Promote Safeguarding Adult key messages within our communities
- Widely promote our Safeguarding website and social media presence
- Implement our Safeguarding Adult Champion Scheme and develop Safe Reporting Centres
- Develop a safeguarding adult resource library which includes communication and engagement tools, including visual media aids

4. Operational Practice

Whilst this is a Strategic Plan, the SAB must ensure that operational practice is fit for purpose. Whilst significant improvements have been introduced by the SAB and our key partners we know from our quality assurance processes and the sharing of best practice nationally and regionally that further improvements can always be made.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Work with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board to improve how our partner organisations identify and respond to complex cases
- Refresh the SAB Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures by enhancing accessibility and simplifying the procedures
- Enhance our approach to managing risk, to include:
 - Understanding perpetrator motivations
 - Person centred approach v managing risk
 - Identifying and responding to coercive and controlling behaviour
- Improve communication flow with referrers, providers and Adult at risk after a concern has been submitted
- Strengthen multi-agency transition arrangements
- Develop a shared approach to missing adults, including consideration of the use of 'vulnerability markers'

5. Mental Capacity

Understanding and applying the Mental Capacity Act is central to the Safeguarding Adults process. It remains one of our most common areas for improvement in Gateshead, and beyond. Legislative changes are again on the horizon with the proposed Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which will reform the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and replace them with Liberty Protection Safeguards. The agenda will continue to evolve as new ways of working and case law is embedded into practice. Practitioners need tools and guidance to support them with the practical application of the Mental Capacity Act within everyday safeguarding, assessment and care provision.

Key Actions 2019 - 24 include:

- Understand, and effectively respond, to changes within the Mental Capacity Act (Amendment) Bill
- Develop a mechanism for assuring that the proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards are effectively implemented within Gateshead
- Develop and implement a programme of awareness raising for front line practitioners, providers, partners and the wider public about the application of the Mental Capacity Act
- Explore how a health diagnosis supports the practical application of the Mental Capacity act

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Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2019-2020

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FOREWORD – INDEPENDENT CHAIR



This is my final annual report as Chair. For the first half of the year I chaired the Gateshead Children's Board; from September 2019 we became the Gateshead Safeguarding Children's Partnership (GSCP). Just one small change of name, but larger changes in structure and purpose, in response to the Government's legislation. The statutory responsibilities for overseeing safeguarding rest now equally between the 3 "Statutory Partners" – the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police.

As I write, the partners are appointing an Independent Scrutineer for their work, and have made interim arrangements for chairing the Partnership, to allow time to consider options and determine a solution that is right for Gateshead in the longer term, in these changing times.

When the changes were first signposted many years ago, I committed to supporting Gateshead through the transition to the new arrangements before standing down. Four years is long enough to remain as Independent Chair – after a time I run the risk of "marking my own homework".

Whilst the Gateshead Partnership rightly retains a clear focus on the needs of children and families within Gateshead, there is a greater concentration on shared working across the Northumbria region, to exchange best practice, support each other, and provide a continuity of service and approach across the region. As this report shows, plans have been created and implemented to develop this new way of working, with a greater attention to improving the quality of direct practice that professionals of all agencies demonstrate in their work with children and families.

During the year we made real progress in developing our new arrangements, and strengthening our shared regional work. We led on securing funding for a regional project Tackling Child Exploitation. We streamlined our work on Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked children. Our partnership working became consistently stronger and deeper.

Then out of a clear blue sky came Covid-19. Although it appeared in Gateshead at the very end of the year that this report covers, it is relevant to discuss what we learnt from it in this report. In the crisis that hit our borough and our nation, our true nature was revealed, and the partnership within Gateshead proved itself to be extremely strong.

Covid-19 hit Gateshead hard. There are high levels of deprivation within the borough, and an age profile which has a higher than the average proportion of elderly people, and these factors meant we suffered high levels of infection, and deaths. But it brought out the best in partners. Services adapted extremely rapidly to the new challenges, communications were fast and efficient, and partnership working flourished. Some of the new ways of working – using video systems for meetings, for example – have proved to be more efficient than the old ways. Schools remained open to support vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Our young people stay at the heart of our work, so I am pleased that the report shows how much we have managed to engage directly with children and young people, whose ideas always inspire us.

GSCP Annual Report 2019-2020

As ever warm thanks are due to our Board Manager Saira Park, and the support she has received from Jon Gaines and from partners across Gateshead.

As I leave Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership this autumn, I feel confident in the strength of the partnership, the quality of the services in place, and the engagement of the wider community with our work. It has been an honour and a joy to work with you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Ennals".

Sir Paul Ennals
Independent Chair
Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers a period of time when the Local Safeguarding Children Board transitioned to the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership. This change was required by statute in line with the implementation of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

The three Safeguarding Partners ¹are required to publish an Annual Report that sets out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. This should be published at least once in every 12 -month period, and include:

- evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
- an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements

The report will be published on the GSCP website – www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk



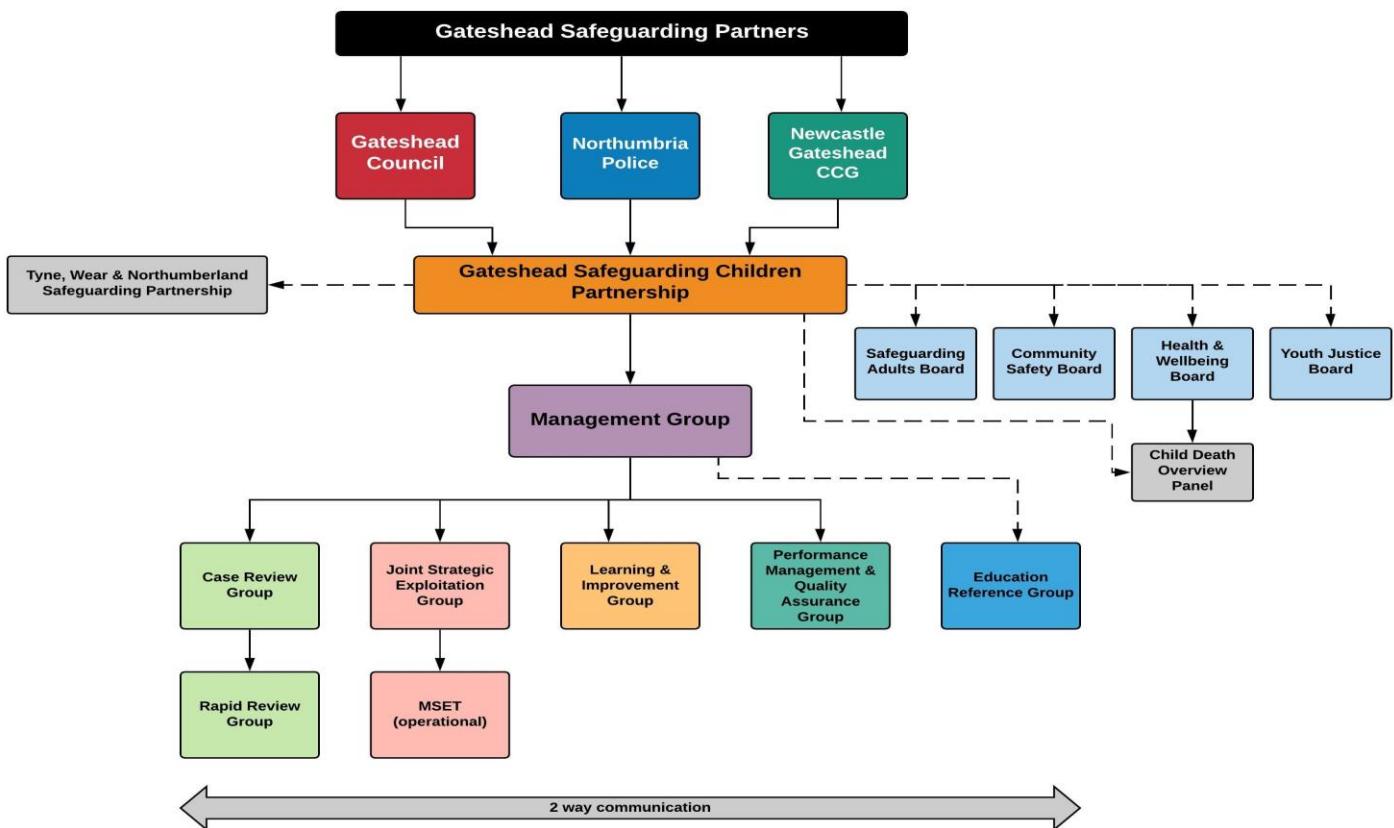
¹ The Three Safeguarding Partners for Gateshead are Gateshead Council, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Police

MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020-2021

Many local organisations and agencies have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the three safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The Section 11 audit this year was undertaken sub regionally under the umbrella of the Tyne, Wear and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership; this provided the opportunity for organisations that cover more than one Local Authority area to provide one locally adapted report and enabled some comparative work to be considered.

The LSCB arrangements transitioned into the Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) in 2019. The new arrangements and plan can be found [here](#). This plan covers the transitional period of September 2019 – September 2020. A new plan will be published at the end of the transitional year outlining the new arrangements.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 also removed the statutory responsibility for the Child Death Review (CDR) process from LSCBs and gave it to Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups who are known as the Child Death Review Partners. It was agreed by the Child Death Review Partners that CDR would now report annually to the Health and Well-Being Board, with the annual report being provided to the GSCP for information. It was also agreed that the South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) would combine with the North of Tyne CDOP from April 2020 to comply with the statutory guidance to review at least 60 child deaths per year, forming The [North and South of Tyne Child Death Overview Panel](#).



WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it
Develop a Gateshead Safeguarding Plan in line with Working Together 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the strong history of multi-agency working, with robust and well-established safeguarding arrangements in place across the Partnership. • Learn from others e.g. Bexley • Agreed minimal change during the transitional phase but take the opportunity to streamline work in terms of moving towards a practice focus model • Address key requirements in Working Together 2018 re new expectations • Explore & develop scrutiny arrangements for the partnership • Continue to engage with children and young people • Continue to participate and contribute to the regional safeguarding forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published and circulated the Gateshead Safeguarding Plan at local and national level • Developed clear criteria outlining the Child Safeguarding Practice review process • Continued to listen to children and young people in order to influence the impact of issues that matter to them • We have maintained the commitment from multi-agency partners • New arrangements are progressing e.g. development of memorandum of understanding, scrutiny framework
Strengthen regional work and maximise the use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Business Manager Collaboration Plan • Implement <u>Early Adopter</u> regional work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Partner attendance at Early Adopter work • North and South of Tyne CDOP established – in place and functioning • Shared training pack developed based on learning from regional reviews <p>Regional multi-agency scorecard, dataset and reporting templates agreed for implementation in 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training pack used to inform 2019-2020 training offer

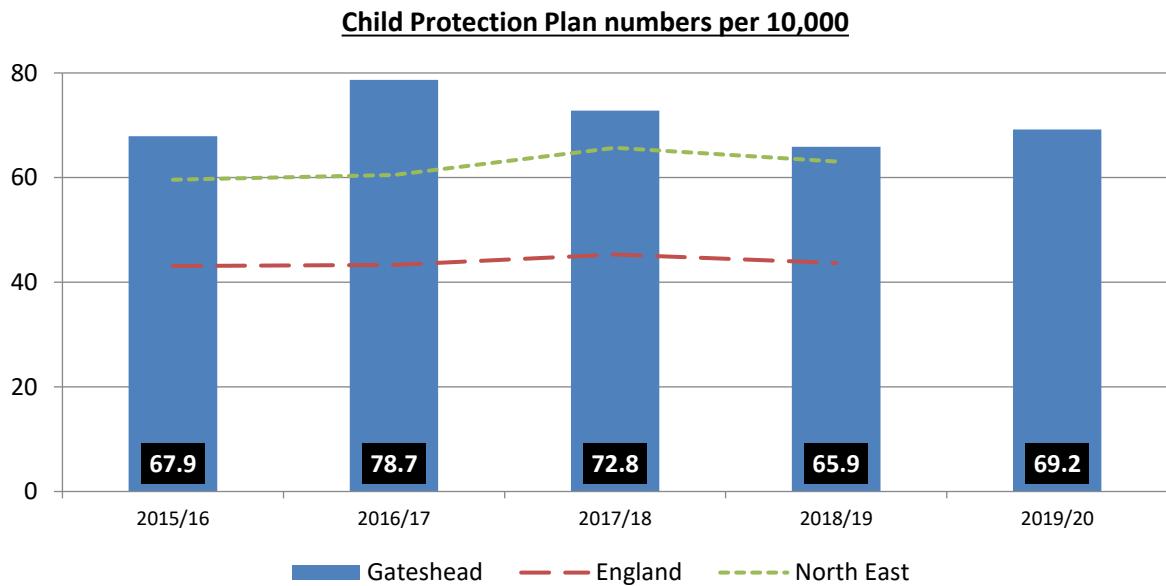
What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning from practice is embedded into future training for the workforce Shared learning undertaken across the region
Seek assurance that all partner agencies are compliant with their statutory safeguarding children duties under <u>Section 11 (S11) Children Act 2004</u>	<p>Lead on developing and implementing sub-regional S11 audit.</p> <p>Same audit tool to be used across 6 areas. Audit tool sent out at the same time, agencies who cross LA boundaries only have to complete one audit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateshead Business Manager developed audit tool and guidance, and coordinated returns. Sub-regional Section 11 report presented to the GSCP in 2020 following collation across the 6 areas. Partners reported ease of use and findings will be tested as part of either local or sub-regional challenge events. The report provides assurance to the GSCP that safeguarding is robust and compliant in Gateshead the three safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies responded alongside British Transport Police, CAFCASS, North East Ambulance Service who provided their own sub regional s11 reports. CCG also sent out S11 audit to GP practices.
Contribute to the development of a safeguarding children procedure manual covering the North and South of Tyne	<p>Assurance provided that Partnership members who cover the North and South of Tyne practice within one shared safeguarding procedure manual. Children and their families will be subject to the same guidance and procedures across the six areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures manual is live and available online – link The same procedures are available to all front-line staff across six LA areas, for organisations such as CNTW and the Police, this means there is one manual for the area they cover.
Introduce the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Model	<p>Develop a sub-regional model and roll this out to all partners and our sub regional partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model in place, being used within all six LA areas. Provides robust processes for rapid review, and Information gathering, decision making and reporting.

What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Panel have provided feedback stating they like the reporting template, which they find easy to follow and understand the rationale of decisions made.
Oversee multi-agency support for children and their families through MSET and Return Home Interview (RHI) arrangements.	Review of missing protocol, including when children are offered a RHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing protocol has been updated, all children who go missing will be offered RHI, regardless of how long they have been missing. The missing process and RHIs will be kept under regular review. Proposal being developed to strengthen approach through regional strategic group and shared local area operational MSETs
Ensure that missing children interviews are being undertaken in a timely manner and that information is being used to help disrupt and prevent further exploitation.	Review RHI arrangements and paperwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHI form was reviewed and updated, to ensure push and pull factors are considered and allows for more narrative (including any previous missing episodes). Guidance notes for completion are available. RHI are now recorded on Carefirst (children's social care case management system). Business manager and police lead for missing delivered training to workers carrying out RHIs. The police report quality of interviews has improved significantly. This will be subject to regular review to ensure information from RHIs is being used to inform disruption.
Lead on the bespoke Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) support project on behalf of the region, promote good partner engagement and facilitate discussions.	Submit application to TCE support programme on behalf of partners across the region and support the process.	The application was successful. Discussions with Research in Practice and partners to commence January to develop project specification (by March), with view to agree delivery after April 2020.

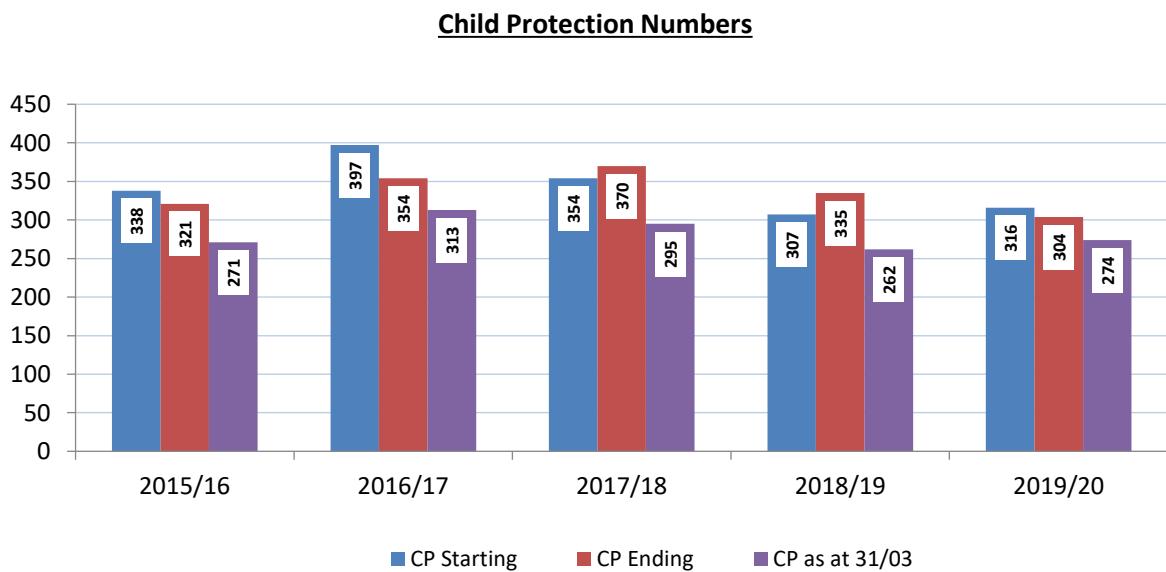
What we said we would do	How we said we would do this	How do we know we have done it
		<p>Project T&F group is being set up, will include relevant partners (across Northumbria Police force area), this will include representation from new Violence Reduction Unit.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place but delays due to COVID-19.</p>
Complete a review of MSET and evaluate effectiveness and impact (regional collaboration)	<p>Police-led review of MSET, including consultation of those involved – ensure learning from Northumberland's Joint Targeted Area Inspection informs review.</p>	<p>Consultation with MSET panel members and SWs who have attended. Same survey being used with regional colleagues to allow comparison and identify any trends. Responses will be analysed and used to update the action plan.</p>

PERFORMANCE DATA AND INFORMATION

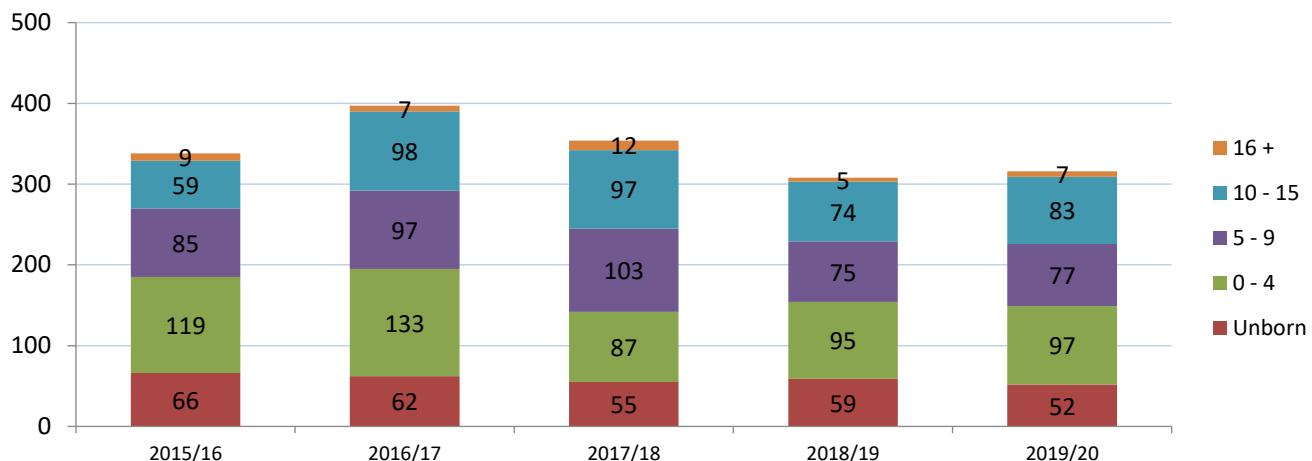
The GSCP Performance Management & Quality Assurance Group monitors performance information on behalf of the GSCP and reports regularly to the partnership against an agreed data set/performance dash board linked to priority areas.



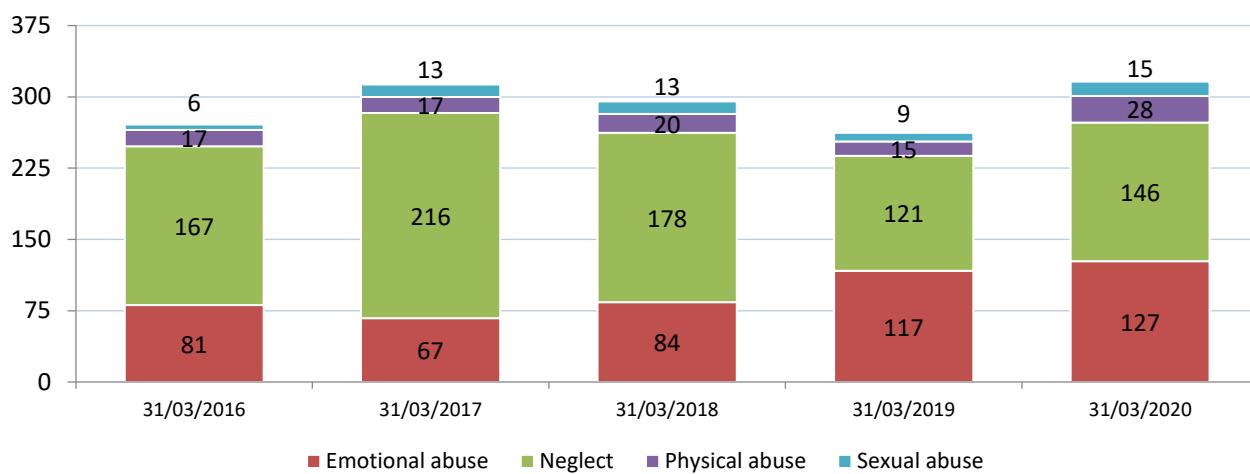
At year end there were **274** children from Gateshead subject to a Child Protection Plan, which is a rate of 69.2 per 10,000, which is higher than both the England rate of 43.7 and North East rate of 63.1 per 10,000 reported in 2018-2019. This is an increase of 12 per 10,000 on the previous year in Gateshead.



Age of Children when placed on a Child Protection Plan (Apr-Mar)

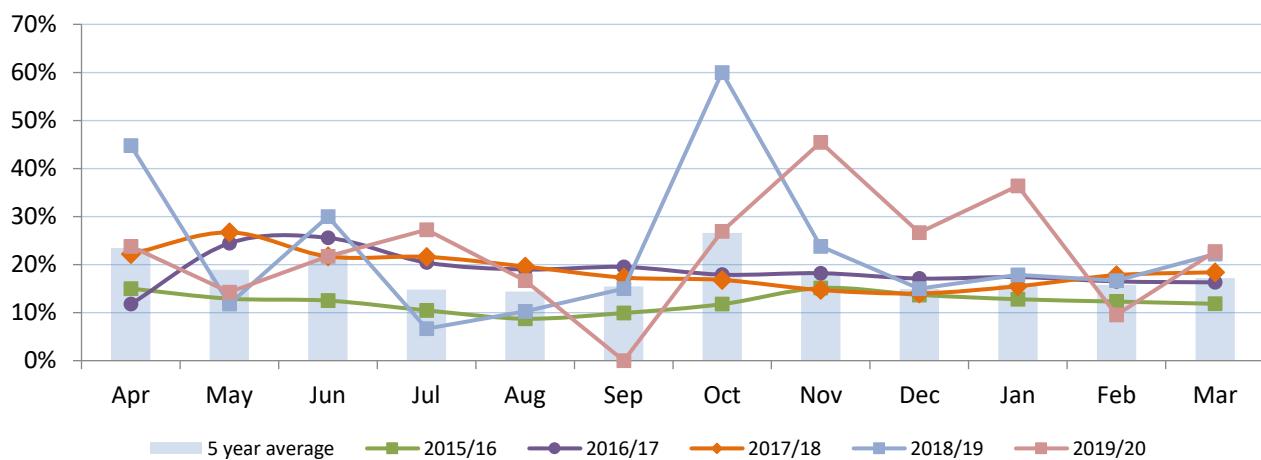


Child Protection Category at month end



The category of neglect continues to remain the highest at 46.2% of all plans; as it was 46.2% reported at the end of March 2019. Neglect was followed by emotional abuse which accounts for 40.2% of plans, and a drop of about four percentage points from plans listed under emotional abuse in March 2019.

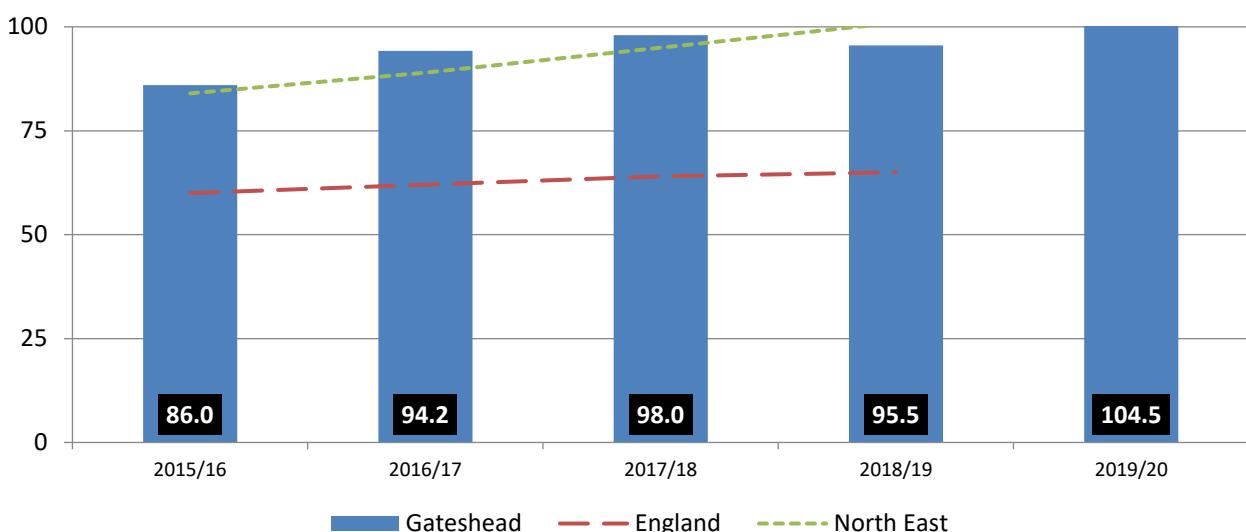
Performance Indicator: Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a 2nd or subsequent time



A continued, but steady increase, has been noted in the numbers of children who became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time (74 of 316 plans that started in 2019-2020 or 23.4%) and work has been undertaken to understand more about the factors involved in these cases.

This reporting period saw an increase in the number of children who are Looked After by Gateshead Council. At year end the rate showed a 9% increase from the previous year end, and the rate continues to be higher than both the England rate of 65 and North East rate of 101, having reduced last year. The Looked After Children performance information indicates good placement stability and timely permanence planning. This data and information on outcomes is monitored regularly by Gateshead Council Children's Social Care Performance Clinic, the Corporate Parenting Partnership, the Looked After Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a number of other partner agency forums.

Looked After Children numbers per 10,000



Other data to note included:

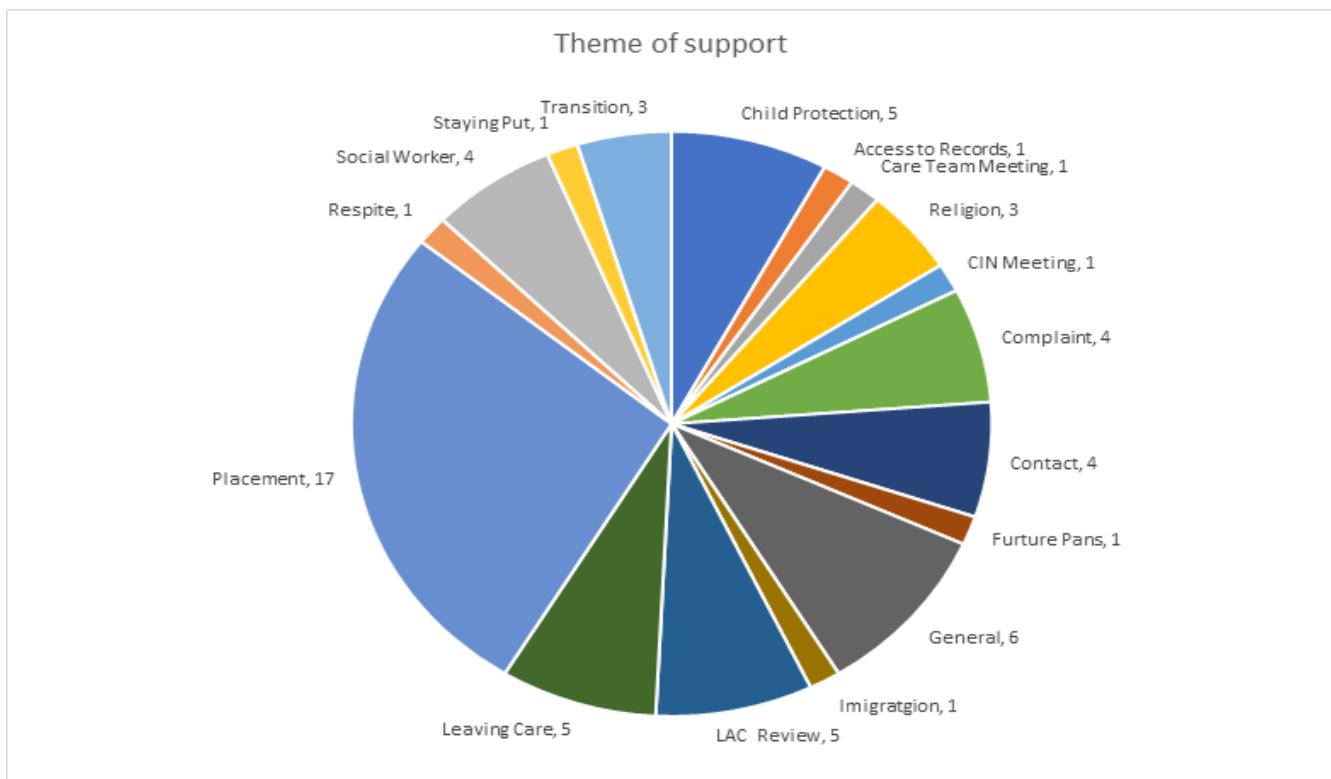
- Child Concern Notifications and contacts to Children's Social Care decreased from previous year's level by about 9% - this decrease follows on a significant decrease of about 38% the previous year; the number of referrals also decreased by just over 14%.
- In 2019-20, a high number of assessments undertaken by Children's Social Care identified mental health (47.2%) and domestic abuse (59.2%) as a factor. Other common factors included alcohol or drug misuse, socially unacceptable behaviour, neglect and emotional abuse. And the numbers of cases where domestic abuse is a factor is higher than the England average (50.6%). The socially unacceptable behaviour rate (17.6%) is also higher than England (8.2%).
- There was a 6.5% decrease in Child in Need (CIN) Assessments being completed in 2019-2020 from 2018-2019 level, whilst there was also a decrease in CIN assessments being authorised within timescales. The % of CIN assessments completed in timescales (87.9%) is higher than the latest reported national average (83.1%) and regional average (79.8%). There has been a 7.5% increase in Section 47 investigations over previous period, and in terms of number of children for whom the Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) was held, an 8.4% increase has

been observed. Of those cases going to ICPC, 79.2% went on to require a Child Protection Plan, which indicates multi-agency agreement on the way to progress these cases

- 96.2% of ICPCs were held within the 15-day timescale (well above the regional average of 82% and national average of 78.7%). Attendance and contribution to CP conferences is monitored and remains strong overall, particularly for some partners e.g. Police. Work is ongoing to improve the contribution of some agencies to the process and also ensure sustained improvement against timescales for distribution of minutes

Advocacy

Advocacy is a fixed agenda item in both Looked After Children (LAC) reviews and Child Protection (CP) conferences, with Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) asking if referrals have been considered, if not already ongoing.



Between 1st April 2019 and 18th April 2020 **63** children and young people have been supported to share their views and be heard in a variety of formats by the Children's Rights Officer or a formal advocate. In the same time period, there were also **129** Mind of My Own statements.

In Gateshead children and young people can opt to receive support from an advocate from an internal service or commissioned provider. Children and young people are informed of the advocacy offer by social workers or IROs and information is included in publicity which is shared with children and young people. Advocacy is also included in complaint leaflets for children and young people.

The Children's Rights Officer (CRO) attends team meetings and service briefings to remind staff of the offer available to children and young people. Information about advocacy can be found on the council's website; This information includes a short animation, created by children and young people.

SUMMARY OF THEMATIC INFORMATION

Missing children

The Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking Operational Group (MSET) monitors and coordinates multi-agency activity for children who are reported missing from home or care.

In total, there were **1,043 episodes** in 2019-2020 where a young person from Gateshead was reported missing or absent to police. **715 (68.6%) of these episodes were children/young people looked after by Gateshead Council**. This represents a **13.7% increase over previous year** on the total episodes and a **17.2% increase in missing from care**.

During 2019-2020 all children who went missing or absent were offered an Independent Return Home Interview (RHI). This differs from a Police Safe and Well Check (which all missing people receive on return) and is carried out by skilled and experienced youth workers to determine underlying reasons for the missing episode and wider risks and vulnerability factors. The interviews are also used to identify broader trends, including "Child Sexual Exploitation hotspots" and there are clear links into MSET meetings and intelligence sharing with police.

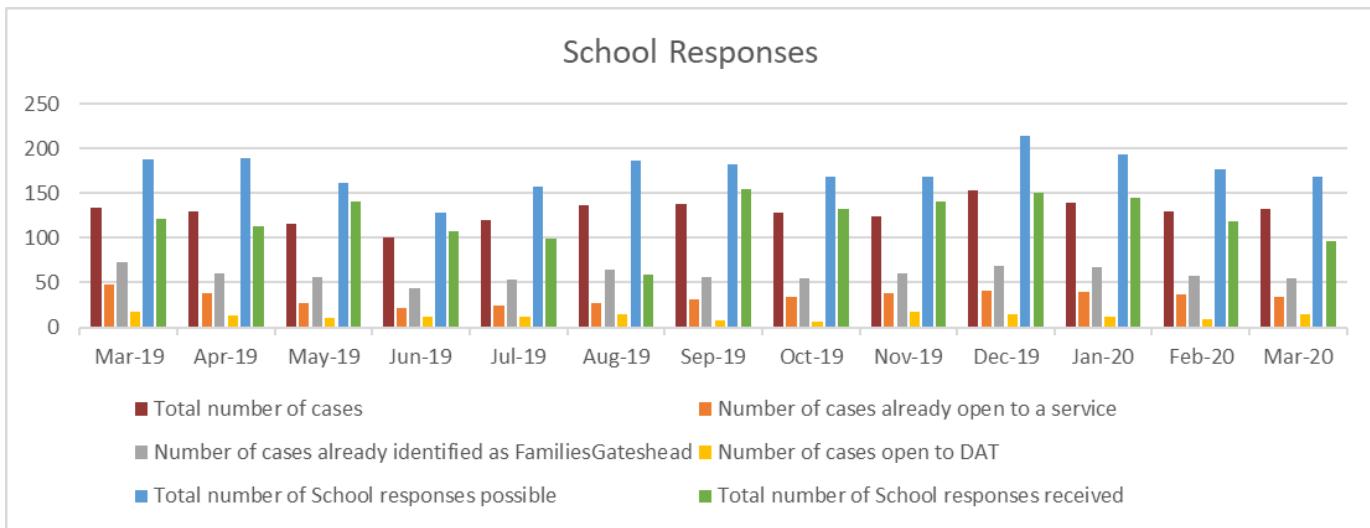
In total there were **720** return interviews offered in 2019-2020 - as 188 missing episodes relate to a smaller number of individuals (32) as a small cohort of young people were reported missing more than once. **314** return interviews were accepted (43.6%), 92 young people refused (45%) and 1 interview was no longer required or not appropriate (0.5%).

Operation Endeavour

Operation Endeavour is an innovative project which started as a pilot in Northumberland in 2018. It builds on the established Operation Encompass process where Police Child Concern Notifications (CCN) regarding domestic violence are shared with Children's Social Care and schools and colleges.

Operation Endeavour aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

Operation Endeavour was rolled out in Gateshead in November 2019. During September & October 2019 4 briefing sessions were held for schools within in Gateshead.



In total there were **274** notifications relating to **54** young people. Only 101 have been sent to school as 173 notifications related to young people who had been reported were non-school attenders.

Child Exploitation

The MSET Operational Group also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about child exploitation. There were **21 cases** discussed at MSET due to concerns about them in 2019-2020, **6** of which were discussed on more than one occasion. This is a **54% decrease** from 2018-2019 when there were 46 cases discussed.

It is not possible to separate how many of those cases were discussed due to missing episodes and how many due to sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation due to the overlap between the concerns, but an MSET risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed and disruption plans put in place.

It is thought that this decrease represents improved screening and assessment of risk, rather than decreased incidence of exploitation. Police CCNs are picked up as part of the Police Triage and Integrated Referral Team Process. The Police MASH officers advise of concerns regarding exploitation and missing, during triage, and invite the worker to consider MSET referrals and risk assessment. This has led to more appropriate referrals to MSET, focussing on high risk cases. It has also meant that lower risk cases that do not meet criteria for MSET can be managed appropriately to manage risks and work done to disrupt exploitation and try to prevent concerns escalating.

It is not possible to provide case studies on how the work of the group improved outcomes as they may lead to the young people being identified.

Child Deaths

In 2019-2020 the GSCP was notified of the deaths of **14** children from Gateshead. There were no significant safeguarding issues in any of the deaths. Detailed information is not presented in this report so that the children cannot be identified but it should be noted that the majority of deaths were premature babies or babies born with life limiting conditions who died within a short period of their birth – [link to South of Tyne CDOP Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

Pupil Exclusions

This year there were a total of 39 secondary permanent exclusions until schools closed on the 23rd March 2020 due to the pandemic. There were no permanent exclusions from primary schools or from the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Whilst this was not a complete two terms the figures were better than the previous year which had 36 in the Autumn term and 22 in the Spring term with a full year total of 69 secondary and 1 primary permanent exclusion.

There were also 5 permanent exclusions withdrawn in 2019/20 prior to the governors meeting to discuss the cases with the students returning to school. The highest number of permanent exclusions was 16 for disruptive behaviour, followed by 6 for drug and alcohol offences.

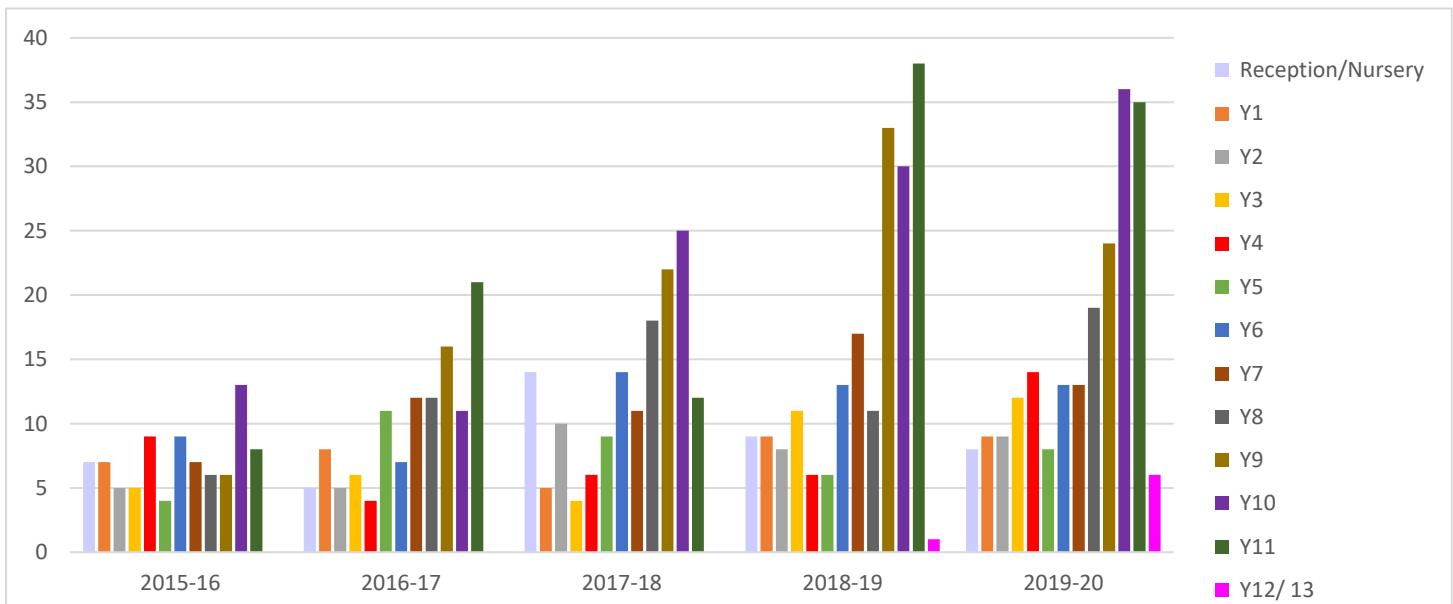
The government issued additional exclusion guidance during the pandemic to allow governors to meet virtually between the 1st June and 24th September to consider the reinstatement of any students permanently excluded prior to schools closing. In Gateshead we had two cases considered under these conditions, both of which were upheld and neither parents chose to participate.

There was only one fixed period exclusion issued to the children of critical workers or vulnerable children accessing school between the 23rd March to the end of term on the 17th July. The general feedback was that all students behaved well and observed all the social distancing measures that were in place.

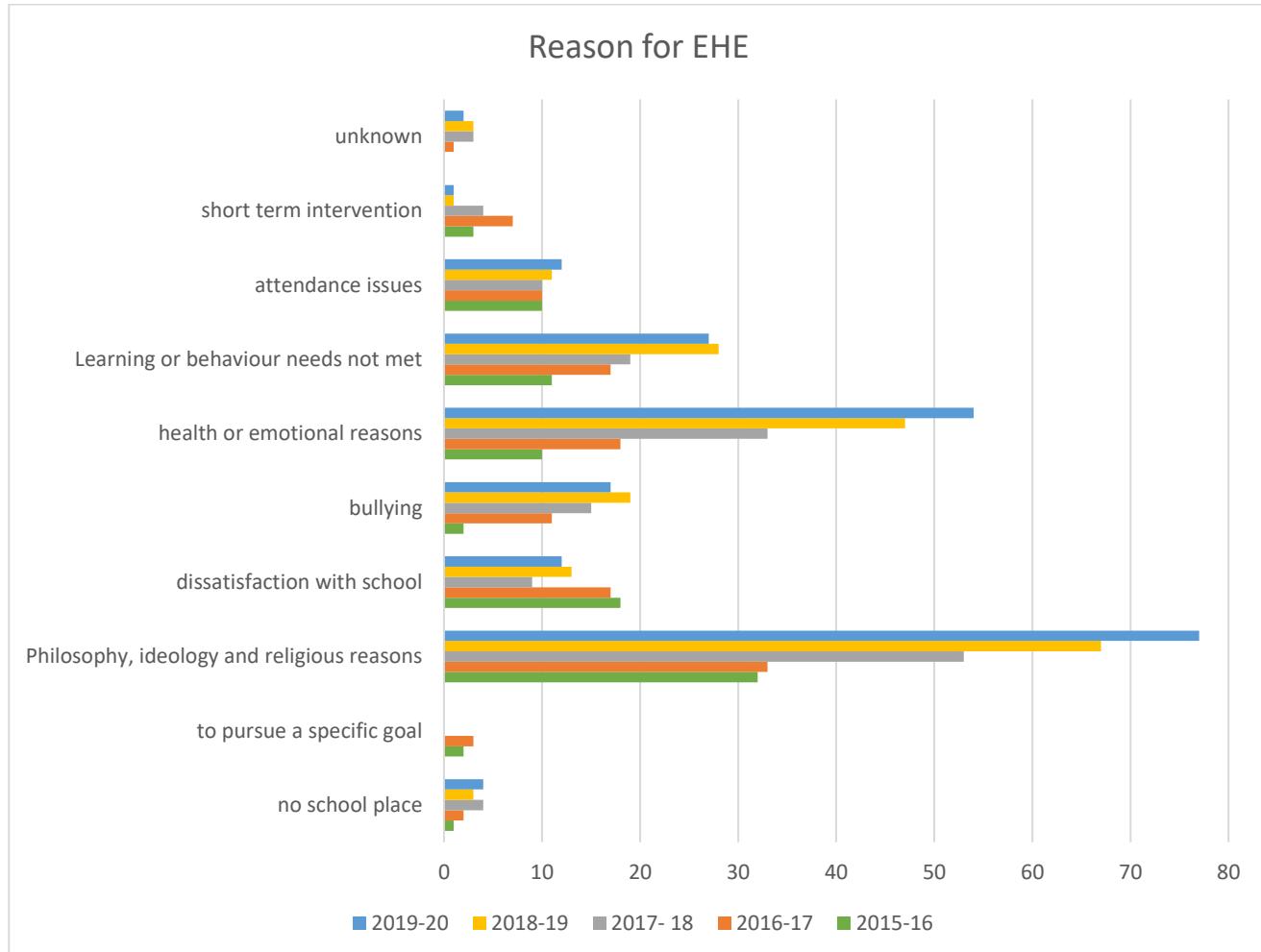
Schools have been advised by the government to amend their behaviour policies for the new academic year. This is to reflect the social distancing measures that will be in place and to outline what their responses will be to any student contravening any of these measures. Schools have also been advised to take account of the heightened sense of anxiety some children and families may be experiencing because of the pandemic and social isolation.

Elective Home Education

The numbers of students in EHE (elective home education) throughout each of last 5 years



The number of children home educated in Gateshead continued to increase in 2019-20; throughout 2019-20 there were 206 young people home educated in Gateshead. This is an increase of 14 young people from 2018-19. There were very few referrals after schools closed due to Covid-19, as most children were being educated remotely at home; it is likely the numbers would have been greater if schools had remained open.



There were 81 children who left a Gateshead school to be home educated this year; 49 left secondary schools. The largest number of children being home educated were in Y10 and Y11 as in 2018-19, and the greatest increase in young people being home educated since last year was in Y8. There were 25 young people at SEN support and 7 young people with Education Health Care plans home educated this year.

To address concerns regarding children who are home educated, an Elective Home Education Multi Agency Group (EHE MAG) was set up in 2018 and met monthly until March 2020. There were 8 EHE Multi Agency meetings held in 2019-20. Young people were referred to the EHE MAG when:

- There were safeguarding concerns
- Children already had involvement from Children's services and were new to home education
- There was no evidence of home education after attempts had been made to gather this information

- The education provision was unsuitable; parent unwilling to cooperate with the local authority in returning the children to school
- Parents raised a concern regarding their child and gave consent for the child to be discussed at the Panel

Children may also be discussed if they appear to have left the authority and were home educated in Gateshead.

There were 3 young people who were on a CP plan, 5 with an open Children in Need plan; there were 32 other young people who had previously had involvement from Children's Services. One young person moved into care; inadequate education provision was a key aspect of the decision to move to care proceedings. There were 34 young people discussed at the EHE MAG in 2019-20. There were a number of positive outcomes from the EHE MAG including

- Sharing of information between health, children's services and the police to ensure the best support was provided for young people
- A number of children who had left the local authority or moved within the local authority being "found". The new local authority was then notified when living outside Gateshead
- Support for robust educational expectations to be a key part of a CP Plan
- Increase in the number of School Attendance Orders issued with the support of the Panel

Throughout the year, 14 children returned to mainstream education, usually supported via the Fair Access Process and 2 children moved into the Hospital and Home Tuition Service supported by the Education Inclusion Panel. There were 9 referrals to the Legal Intervention Team to start the School Attendance Order process and a further 9 parents were being challenged regarding the education they were providing for their child. Twelve young people left Gateshead in 2019-20.

The restrictions brought in as part of the Covid-19 measures have affected the monitoring and challenge of home educated young people. All parents would usually be offered an initial home visit to discuss the reason for home education, to explain expectations regarding home education and to look at support and resources available. Since March 2020 this has taken place via email and telephone communication; this limits the opportunity to see the child and gain the views of the child and also assess the home conditions in regard to the likelihood of a good level of education being provided. School Attendance Orders were suspended due to the closure of courts and also no schools being open to admit children. The challenge process was also suspended as the final outcome of this process is to return a young person to the school system. These processes will recommence in September 2020. The Home Education Officer has continued to contact all parents requesting evidence that they are providing an efficient and suitable education for their children; the majority of parents have cooperated with this request.

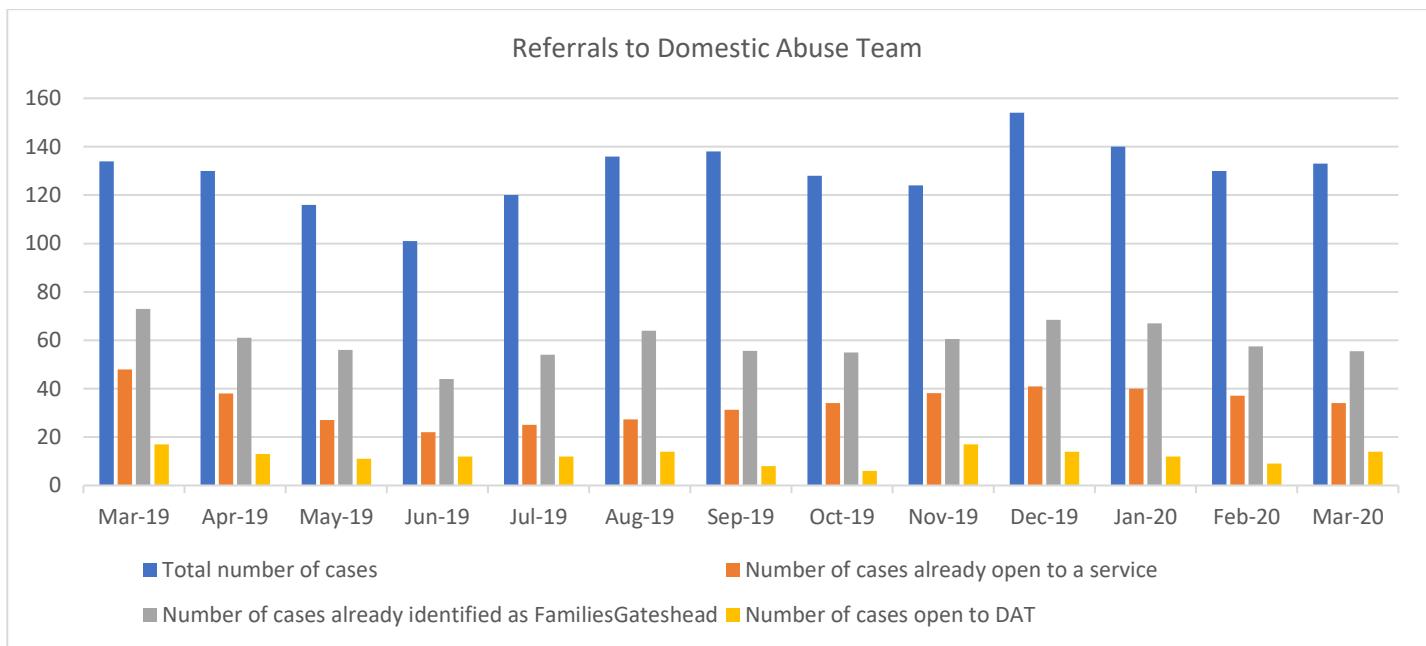
It is likely that during 2020-21 the numbers of children and young people who are home educated will continue to rise; monitoring whether the concerns regarding Covid-19 lead to an increase in parents electing to home educate will be undertaken. The Home Education Officer will continue to work with other services and schools within Gateshead to ensure all children and young people are safeguarded and receive a good education. [Link to Elective Home Education Strategy 2020-2025](#)

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Service update

Domestic abuse (DA) and violence is a significant challenge, it is extremely complex issue that is associated with many factors relating to gender inequality, deprivation and poverty. The impact of DA is a whole system challenge, meaning partnership working is key to reducing the prevalence of DA in our local area.

Gateshead Domestic Abuse Team continue to offer support to individuals referred to the service via existing internal routes e.g. Early Help Service, Safeguarding and Care Planning Team, Integrated Referral Team, self-referrals and external agencies such as the Police, Health and Probation.



There are currently **10 Domestic Abuse Workers** within the team each holding a **case load of around 20-25** per FTE. An assessment framework supports the tailoring of effective support to clients who are referred into the service.

Within the team there is a dedicated Domestic Abuse Worker (DAW) who works directly with children who have witnessed the impact of DA. Creative Interventions are used to support the child as a means of improving understanding of DA, providing an opportunity to share their wishes and feelings, and creating a safe space to rebuild relationships with the non-abusive parent. Approaches are delivered at a pace and stage of the child.

Anecdotal evidence such as letters, drawings and comments from parents confirm the positive outcomes of this specialist work.

Behaviour Change Programme

Two Behaviour Change Workers have been recruited to the team to work predominately with abusive partners to address directly the controlling and abusive behaviours some individuals use within relationships.

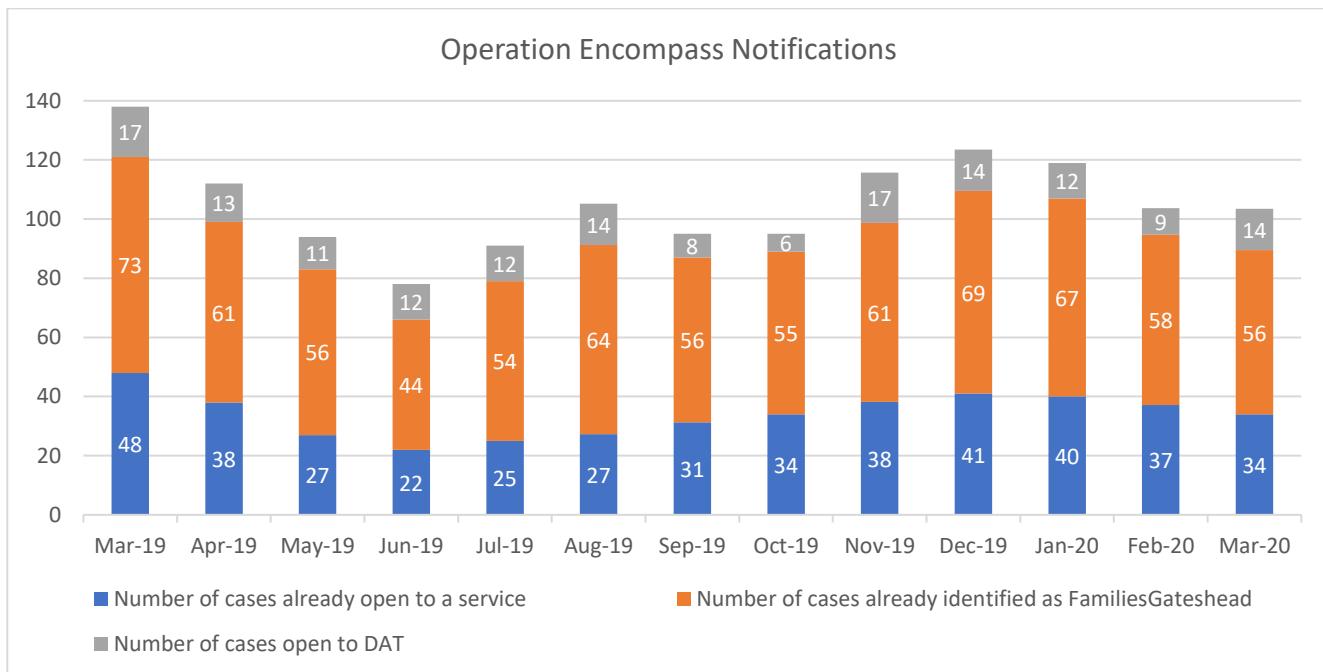
A timeline was developed to support the process to implementation and start-up of the programme with a view to going live from September 2020. The programme content will offer bespoke sessions to behaviour change clients referred through the agreed pathway.

It is proposed that the sessions will cover a range of subjects including: Power and Control; Coercive Control; denial and blame; beliefs and gender roles; feelings and emotions; Impact; Accountability and Empathy.

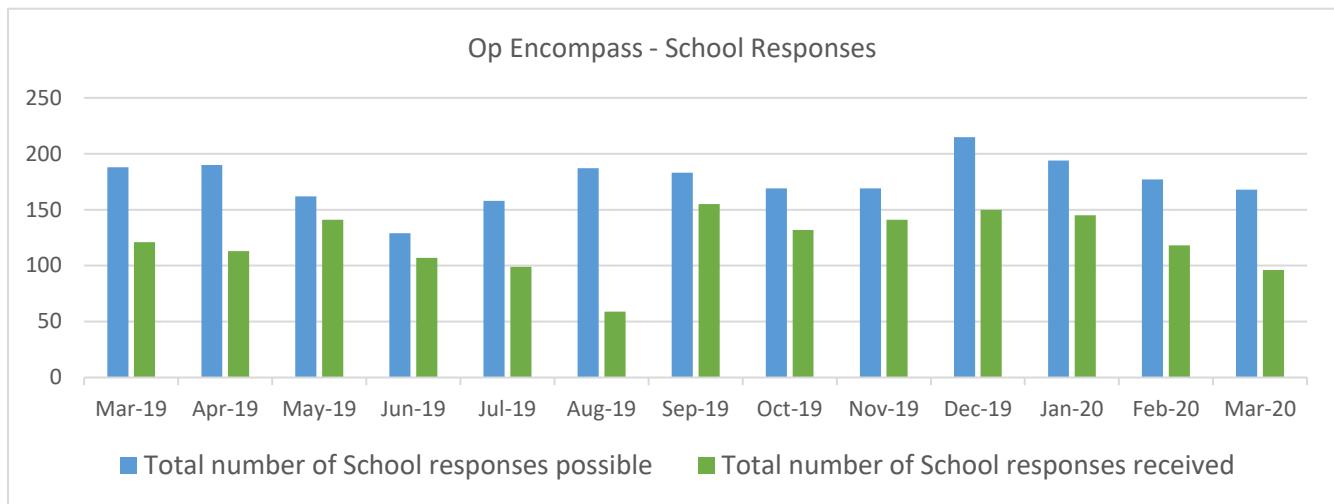
Central to the programme will be the aim of supporting individuals to recognise and take responsibility for their abusive behaviour, be accountable for the impact of that behaviour, and to develop alternative strategies and behaviours to more appropriately deal with their beliefs, feelings and emotions in future relationships.

Operation Encompass

A total of **85** schools in Gateshead participate in the Operation Encompass model for sharing information on domestic abuse incidents the morning after an incident where children are part of the family involved.



There were **1,684** notifications made during 2019-2020, an increase of 51% from 2018-2019 when there were 1,113 notifications.



MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

The Business Manager is a member of MARAC steering group tasked with reviewing current MARAC arrangements in Gateshead and implementing the daily MARAC pilot. A report about the proposed pilot was considered and endorsed by Executive Group, subject to training needs being addressed. Safe Lives delivered MARAC Chair/Co-ordinator training. Attendees were mainly police MASH managers and support officers from across Northumbria police force area but also included some non-police staff from Gateshead (team managers and the named nurse for 0-19 services from the Integrated Referral Team, and managers from Domestic Abuse Team and Early Help service).

Training was also held for agency Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) and briefings went out to front line workers. A new process flow chart and guidance has been developed; formal governance for MARAC is being considered by the steering group alongside DA executive group. A report updating progress on the pilot will come to GSCP after it has been operating for 6 months.

Gateshead Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The Gateshead Youth Justice Service works with **10-18-year olds** to prevent offending and re-offending. The service is committed to providing the highest level of support to victims of crime and also undertakes independent return interviews with children who have been reported missing.

The focus of the Youth Justice Service is to:

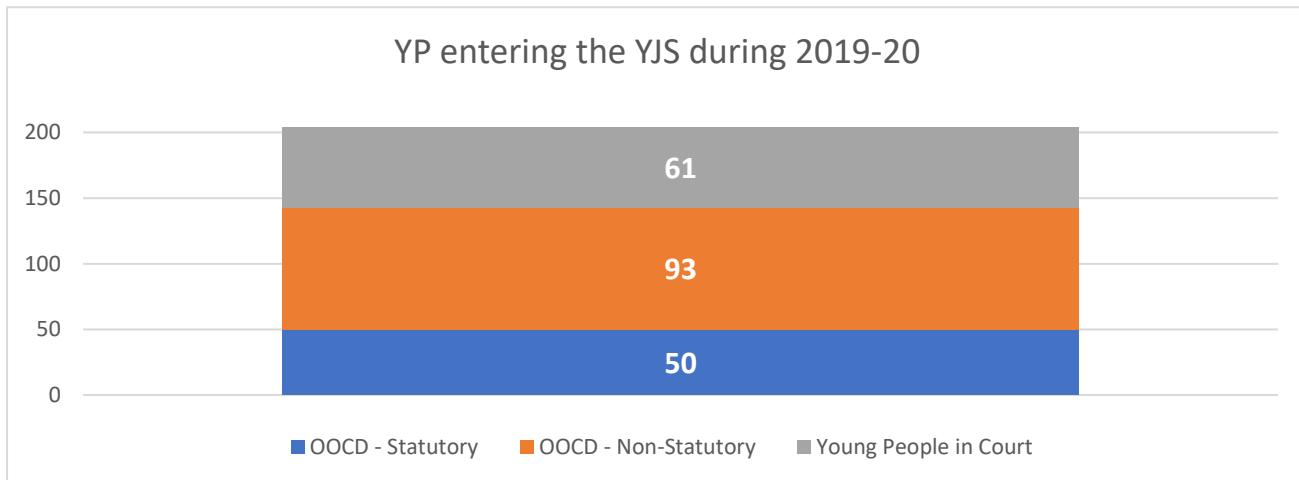
- divert young people from offending and re-offending
- address behavioural problems before they become more serious and challenging
- offer intensive support to high risk young people with complex needs

“I never thought I would be able to speak to you as openly as I can. I don’t think I need to see you anymore as you have helped me to get to a better place. Thank you”

An assessment is undertaken with each young person and an intervention plan developed to meet individual needs. The service is working with an independent Children’s Engagement Officer to develop a robust evaluation process to ensure the voice of the child is heard and central to future developments.

This year has seen the development of prevention work within the team to ensure young people are given the support they need at the earliest opportunity. The workforce is highly skilled and motivated with the best interests of the young people at the heart of everything they do.

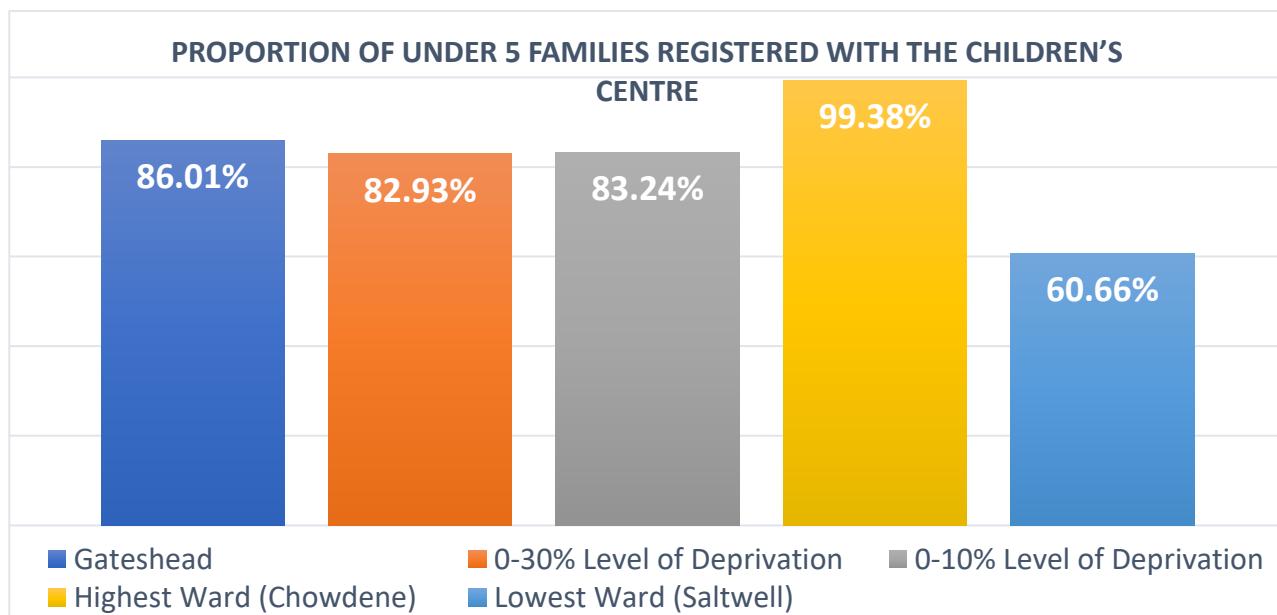
The team consists of **6 case managers, 1 probation officer (seconded), 2 police officers and 3 advocates with a Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager** providing oversight, quality assurance, supervision and support.



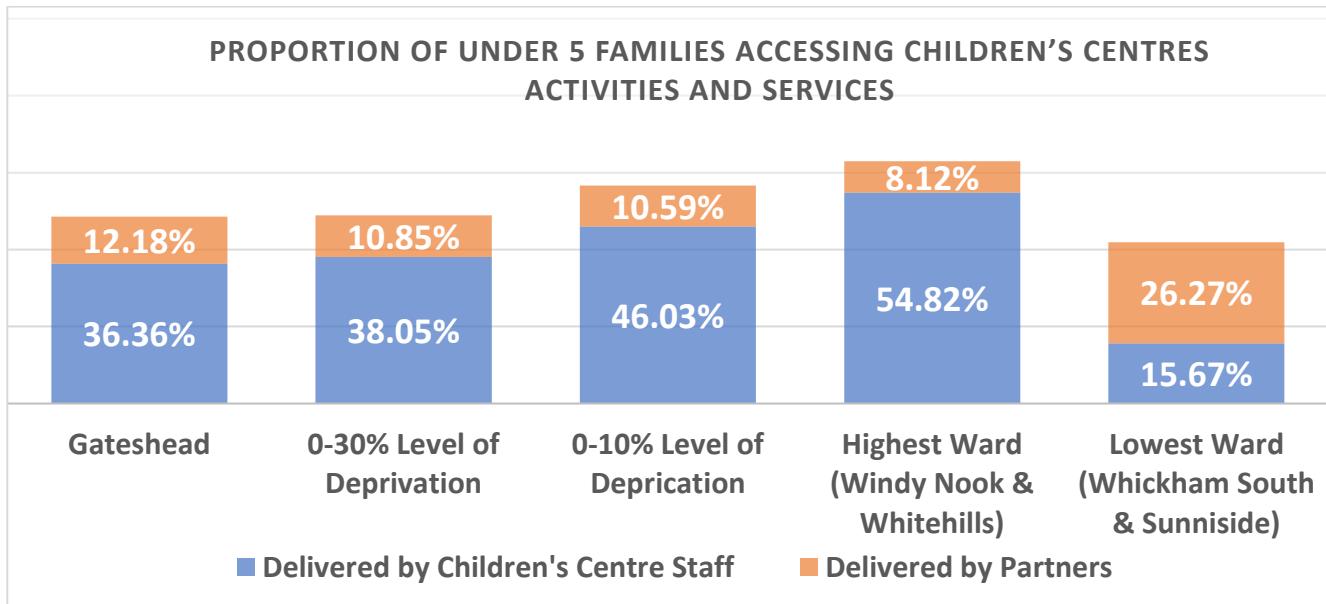
There were a total of **204** young people entering the YJS during 2019-20. 61 coming through the Court System and 143 for Out of Court Disposal.

The Gateshead Youth Justice Board provides leadership and governance to the YJS. Significant development work has taken place during 2019/20 resulting in committed and active board members from a wide range partner organisations. The Board will provide challenge, hold the service to account and take forward the strategic priorities for 2020/21. The Business Manager now attends YJB, to further strengthen links with GSCP.

Children's Centres



Most disadvantaged neighbourhoods with a deprivation index between 0-30% had an overall registration level of 82.93%, marginally below the Gateshead average of 86.01%. The highest levels of engagement in children's centre staff delivered services was in the areas with a deprivation index between 0-10%



38% of registered families living in the neighbourhoods with a deprivation index between 0-30% engaged in Children's Centre delivered services. 11% families from these neighbourhoods engaged in partner delivered services.

Parent outreach workers (POWs)

Activities delivered by POWs were accessed by 539 families. 297 [55.1%] of these families were from the target groups. There was social worker involvement in 18 [3.33%] of these cases and Early Help involvement in 7 of the cases - 5 were CP, 2 CIN status and 7 LAC. These activities were accessed by 18 families with a disabled child. 284 [52.69%] of these families came from the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with a deprivation index between 0-30%. Out of the 2,903 families accessing children's centre supported services 27 were CP; 38 CIN and 23 LAC.

In addition to delivering activities, POWs also provide one-to-one support.

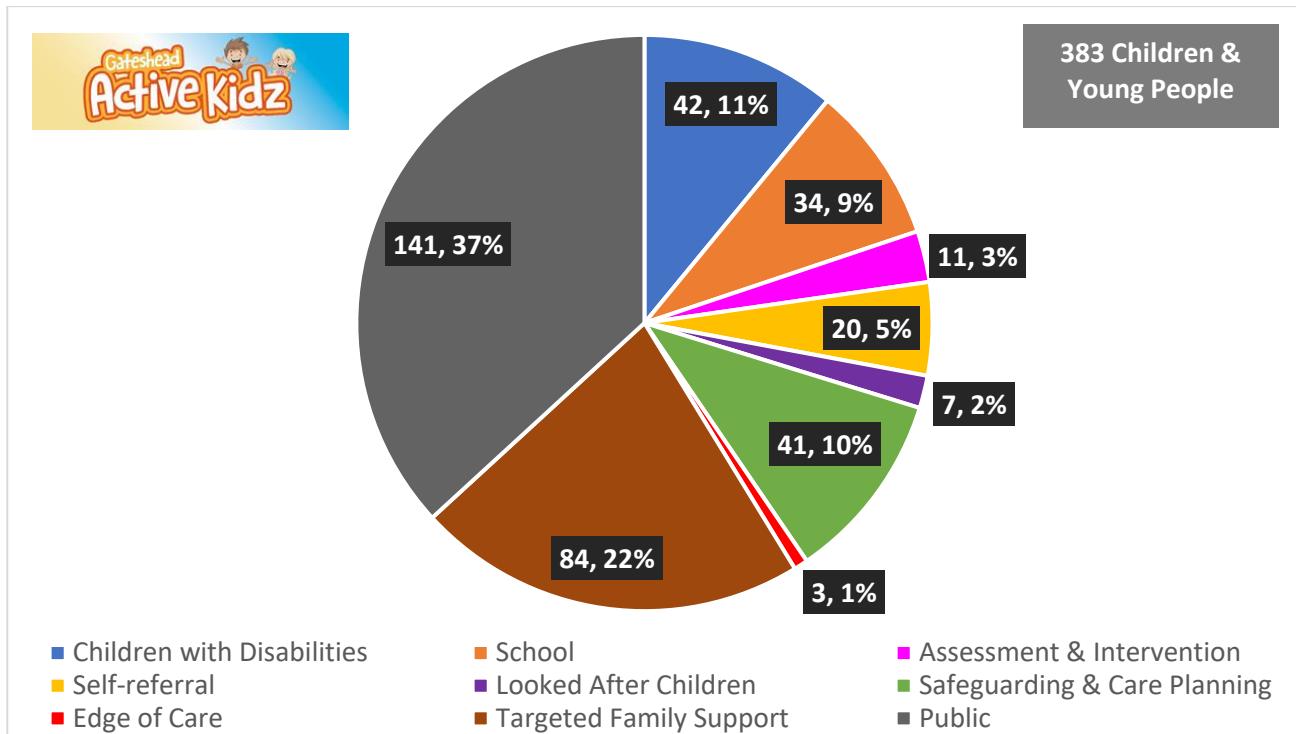
Since May 2019 (which is when we began to collate this data) **231 Families** have benefited from one-to-one support from POWs. This included:

- Additional Support to vulnerable families to encourage them to access targeted activities
- Two Year Funding Support
- Supporting and Signposting to other Children and Family Services
- Supporting Parent/Carers through Family Issues
- Transitional support provided to those Parent/Carers returning to Universal Services

It has developed my *Megan so much!
She has Physically, Socially and Emotionally Matured!
She is gaining so much more out of her Nursery Experience all thanks to you and your Services!!

Active Kidz holiday play schemes are available for children and young people aged 5 to 14.

383 children and young people attended Active Kidz, **242** spaces were allocated following referrals being (chart below).



SafetyWorks!

SafetyWorks! is a facility managed and operated by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with partner agencies. Young people from Gateshead are invited to the centre to take part in realistic and interactive scenarios which enable practical learning in a safe and controlled environment.

Key school year groups 6 and 8 are invited to take part in initiatives every year, where all sessions are tailored to the needs of the visiting group and we ensure that the information provided is up to date and reflects current and emerging issues in our society.

The aim is that everyone who visits the centre will leave with a greater understanding of key aspects around personal safety and how to avoid or minimise risks.

Some of the important topics covered during a visit include: home fire safety, deliberate fires and antisocial behaviour, first aid, crime and consequences, personal choices, road safety, Metro safety and safer travel, water safety, exploitation, hate crime, drugs and County lines.

203

•total sessions held in 2019/2020

9326

•total number of young people who attended sessions

49

•number of sessions held for young people living in Gateshead

1561

•number of young people from Gateshead who attended sessions

All teaching staff and group leaders are asked to give feedback about their visit to SafetyWorks! which is always positive and is reflected in the repeat visits we see from schools year after year.

This was a fantastic experience which provided a wealth of age appropriate knowledge. I was particularly impressed by the pace set for the children and the slick way the session was organised.. I would not hesitate to recommend this experience to other colleagues and schools.

Students really enjoyed the interactive sessions run by excellent staff. Students (and teachers) left with new knowledge which they could use and implement in their daily lives.

The children were engrossed by excellent delivery. They learnt so much

Wow! Whilst I have been aware of SafetyWorks! I have never really understood what it offers. Now I know that this is an amazing resource for life skills. The quality of the learning environment is unbelievably high and realistic.

Emotional & Mental Wellbeing

In February 2019, several schools across Newcastle and Gateshead were selected to take part in a National Trailblazer pilot. There are plans to roll out to all schools across Newcastle and Gateshead.

The goal of the project is to work with children and young people to help them manage their emotional and mental wellbeing at an early stage. This project is supported by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Trust and Northumbria University, along with the Local Education Authority, Public Health and the Local Authority.

The RISE team works with young people in schools across Newcastle and Gateshead to help support their emotional and mental wellbeing. The team consists of 12 Education Mental Health Practitioners, an Occupational Therapist Supervisor, a Clinical Lead, a Team Manager and 2 Admin Workers. All young people from across Newcastle and Gateshead are eligible for help and support from the RISE team.

More information about RISE and what they can help with is available on their website - www.rise-ne.co.uk – including [where to find](#) help and [resources](#)

SELF-HELP APPS

In addition to the support services available across Gateshead there are also online support services. The [Self-Help Apps](#) have been tested and reviewed by young people at [Streetwise](#).

TRAINING

The Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Gateshead Community Safety Board have produced a comprehensive joint training programme which is free for partner agencies operating in Gateshead. The training programme and information about courses can be accessed via the [GSCP website](#).

The 2019-2020 GSCP training programme saw the delivery of **37** training events with **874** professionals and volunteers attending classroom-based training.

This year has been phenomenally successful in raising awareness of County Lines with 156 multi-agency partners benefitting from training delivered by experts in the field of exploitation and trafficking. This training encourages agencies to develop a universal and proportionate approach to identifying and responding to child exploitation.

We have also worked with the Children's Society who received funding to work alongside local authorities in order to raise awareness of Child Exploitation and Modern-Day Slavery and to increase knowledge of the National Referral Mechanism.

There has been a rise in demand for 'Working with hostile families' and 'Disguised compliance' training. Professionals expressed the need to feel confident when addressing and speaking to families who were resistant to change.

Multi-agency safeguarding children training has been extremely well received by all multi-agency delegates. This training has raised the awareness of referral thresholds for services, with an emphasis on raising awareness of services that are available at the early help stage of intervention, to ensure families are supported before reaching crisis point.

Responses from impact evaluation questionnaires highlighted the positive impact that the training had on learners' thinking and practice.

'I feel so privileged to have attended this course, best course attended over 40-year career'

(Health attendee – Sandstories)

'This course was so educational and engaging from start to finish, I would highly recommend this course'

(Voluntary Sector attendee - Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder training)

'Good material, great delivery, fun, engaging but important and relevant'

(Foster Carer attendee – Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age)

'Increased awareness of signs and language to look out for around risks of exploitation and county lines'

(Social Worker attendee County Lines)

'Fantastic course and gained a wealth of knowledge'

(Health attendee - Working with disguised compliance)

As a Safeguarding Children Partnership we are confident that we have effective training that responds well to GSCP priorities. Despite increasing pressures on partner agency staff we have a skilled pool of trainers who deliver a lot of our sessions “in house”, but we also have the resources to commission specialist sessions when appropriate. We continue to carry out work to ensure that our training has an impact on frontline staff to ensure that the sessions lead to improved outcomes and provide the Partnership with best value for money.

Training Developments within Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)

TWFRS rolled out safeguarding awareness training for operational firefighters, during 2019-2020. This focused on the types and signs of abuse they may encounter, as well as internal processes for notifying local authorities. This is now an essential part of TWFRS’s internal training programme for current operational firefighters, with refreshers every two years. Trainee firefighters also have this training as part of their initial 14 week training course. Safeguarding awareness has now been included in the induction process for new corporate staff. Gaps had been identified in reporting safeguarding concerns, when it was believed that other services were capturing information and making notifications. Seminars with Flexi Duty Officers and presentations to Watch Managers Meetings by the Safeguarding Manager has already resulted in an increased number of notifications, specifically around suicidal ideation. These meetings will continue across the Service.

LEARNING FROM REVIEWS IN 2019-2020

The Learning and Improvement Group manages learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and other reviews on behalf of the Board. There have been no CSPRs initiated or published by GSCP in the past 12 months.

One Serious Case Review (SCR) commenced during 2018-19 (initiated March 2018), but a decision was made, following advice from the police and Crown Prosecution Service, to put the SCR on hold due to ongoing criminal proceedings. The National Panel and Ofsted were informed and agreed with our decision. Long delays due to court process mean this continues to be the case, although single agency learning identified as part of the initial scoping has been implemented.

In 2019-2020, 1 Serious Incident Notification was submitted to Ofsted/Department for Education and that case was subject to Rapid Review. Although the case did not meet the criteria for a CSPR, it did identify the need to further explore transitions pathways and support and how agencies work together.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel considered this case and based on all of the information and evidence provided they agreed with our decision not to commission a local CSPR. They also decided not to pursue a national review into this case.

Information gathered from the rapid review will inform the wider themed review to identify improvements around transition services and multi-agency working; this will be undertaken in collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults Board.

We considered CSPRs from other areas to ensure that any relevant learning was disseminated and applied to practice in Gateshead. Our [shared procedures](#) were reviewed and amended following CSPRs being carried out sub-regionally, and training was also updated.

Learning review – Leaving Care Support for Parents

The aim of the learning review was to look at the quality of leaving care support offered to parents, and the risk assessment processes undertaken around the birth of second child with a different parent.

An event for Practitioners was held in December and was well attended by all agencies involved with the family. The learning event provided an opportunity for senior managers, managers and practitioners who were involved with the family, to examine the case together from a systemic perspective.

The group were asked to consider:

- From a whole system perspective what were the aspects of good practice/ learning points. Did they influence perceptions and response to events?
- Were lived experiences of (the first child) fully understood? And if so, how did it contribute to assessment of risk, planning and decision making?
- What difference did the interventions make to reduce risk or enhance professionals' understanding of what life was like for the family?
- How were decisions and practice managed? What could have helped?

The group then discussed and recorded their analysis, setting out:

- What good would have looked like for the children
- What would good have looked like for the adults
- Good practice/learning for agencies

We discussed what we need to do next,

- As individual practitioners
- As managers
- As organisations
- As multi agency partnerships

Participants were also asked to suggest recommendations and actions to help formulate action plan.

The key messages coming out from the review are:

- The importance of assessments when circumstances change (ie when moving into independent accommodation, or pregnant with second/subsequent child.)
- Understanding of the role of those working with Care Leavers, and who has oversight when safeguarding concerns are raised around parenting.
- Lack of challenge – focus was on parent (as care leaver) not children
- Role of fathers – information was not known

The event also highlighted some areas of good practice including:

- Good support network for care leaver, trusted relationships with workers
- Early Help support
- Midwife referring to support services and raising concerns appropriately.

By looking through this case, we were able to identify a number of changes that had already been made to some services, which have strengthened processes. This provided reassurance that some of the issues identified in this case, would be dealt with differently now. This included changes to assessments to include fathers, access to specialist health services, and management oversight of safeguarding concerns.

Feedback from the learning event was positive, participants felt it was a “safe space to share information”, “open and transparent discussions with no blame”, and “in the true spirit of working together to safeguard children”.

The information and learning from this review will also inform the joint review around transitions (from care leavers perspective).

HOW SAFE ARE CHILDREN IN GATESHEAD?

Independent Chair's Commentary

It is never possible to say categorically that all children are safe. However, external scrutiny of our services within Gateshead suggests that our services are at least as good as most other areas, and in most cases better. If we add this to the learning from our audits, from our consultations with young people, and from the performance data, we can feel optimistic of the safety of our children. This is a significant achievement, since the authority scores highly on most deprivation indices, and all the public services have continued to face very severe challenges in funding.

Gateshead **schools** remain more likely than most to be rated outstanding, and no schools in the area have been identified by Ofsted as having weaknesses relating to safeguarding. Good schools are normally safe schools, and schools play a vital role in helping children learn how to keep themselves safe, as well as providing us with a great opportunity to check on how children are doing.

External inspections continue to paint a positive picture of the quality of services operating across Gateshead. The most recent inspection of the Council's Children's Social Care rated them as “good” in April 2019. The most current inspection reports for the hospital trusts, the CCG, the mental health trust and the police have all been positive. Where issues have been presented, partners have responded vigorously to the challenges presented to them, and the partnership itself has been strengthened through the process.

We know too that many of the **child health** indicators in Gateshead remain worrying; our rates of child poverty are rising, though we are seeing improvement in rates of smoking in children, under 16

conceptions, smoking amongst expectant mothers, obesity, and hospital admissions for injuries and for self-harm.

The **safeguarding data** presents a mixed picture. Prior to the arrival of Covid we had a positive reduction in the number of contacts and notifications, to bring us closer to the averages. However, last year's reductions in rates of children on child protection plans and in care have increased again, and the partnership will need to watch these indicators carefully in the coming year. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high. I have been very pleased to see a reduction in the number of permanent exclusions, after the worrying rise in the previous year. This year, however, we are seeing a significant rise in the numbers of children been educated at home – whilst many of these children are well supported and educated by their parents, there is a significant increase in risk when such children are not regularly being observed by professionals.

The most important measure of how safe the systems are within Gateshead came, however, after the end of the year covered by this report. The pandemic brought an existential challenge to the way in which children are kept safe in the borough; the ways in which all agencies operate had to change fundamentally at a moment's notice. The performance of front-line staff, their managers and those in decision-making roles across Gateshead was nothing short of outstanding. Schools remained open to support vulnerable children and children of essential workers. Social workers developed new ways of keeping in touch with vulnerable children and their families and holding meetings – some of this learning will remain in place as the pandemic passes by. Police adapted overnight to their new responsibilities. Traditional boundaries between agencies seemed to melt away.

We can never say that all children will be safe. But we can make a judgement as to how robust, resilient, and flexible our services are to respond to crisis. Gateshead's services for children have been tested and have come through with flying colours.

Sir Paul Ennals

APPENDIX 1 – PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

Summary from Young Peoples Engagement and Participation Groups

Gateshead Young Inspectors (GYI)

GYI was formed during the summer of 2019, 8 young people attended four training sessions over the summer and six of these joined the group in September looking at venues to inspect. They were commissioned by Leisure Services to inspect Clip n Climb at Gateshead Leisure Centre and the Wave Rider at Heworth Leisure Centre. The young people designed their own criteria in collaboration with Leisure Services and completed the inspections in October half term.

As part of this inspection the young people assessed the Go Gateshead website for ease of use.

Alongside this the group began a light touch inspection of the Libraries service, first checking the website for ease of use and then popping into local libraries on a random basis to see what each library offered children and young people and how well the staff engaged with the young people.

The group had planned to inspect The Baltic as a commission from City of Dreams but this was delayed initially because of staff changes at Baltic and then Covid-19 hit, so it remains on the ‘to do’ list.

One Voice Youth Network (OVYN)

OVYN have a range of annual activities such as attending OSC, delivering training to elected members, senior decision makers and staff, devising training for foster carers, and potential foster carers. OVYN helped plan and deliver a fantastic summer programme for LAC and Care Leavers, including arts and crafts, music, circus skills, first aid training, barista training and cookery with Food Nation, which culminated in a Convivial Supper with invited senior decision makers enjoying a fabulous three course meal cooked from scratch by young people and served in St Marys Heritage Centre. This supper was the starting point for a number of activities which continue to be developed such as a messaging app that means simple questions can be asked of the decision makers – such as – ‘anyone got a spare lawn mower for a care leaver with a big garden’ or ‘does anyone know the cheapest provider of electricity’ this app sends all the decision makers who are signed up to it, the question and enables an answer to be quick and easy. This is alongside their own social action projects which in 2019-2020 included starting to look again at the ‘suitcase issue’ discussing Looked After Children moving house using bin bags. Before Covid-19 stopped play, the group were looking at raising funds to work with Madlugs and Gateshead’s decision makers to ensure children and young people entering care have luggage. They were also working on a recipe book project, which, having started as part of the Regional Children in Care Council work, became a larger project. The group developed and tested recipes which are very healthy, and frugal, costing under £3 for a main meal for 4 people. This work continued at the start of Lockdown and the book will be completed by the end of 2020.

Gateshead Youth Assembly (GYA)

GYA runs from November to October annually so this report covers two distinct GYA groups. Some work carries over to the next year, but only when the young people really want to carry it on, so that each GYA has a full year to complete their identified projects.

In April 2019 GYA started a project in collaboration with Public Health to highlight the food availability across Gateshead and to look at the similarities and differences. As you might expect, in the more disadvantaged areas, food options can be limited to a chippy and a NISA, whereas in more affluent areas there is a wealth of options, including chippies and NISAs but also having supermarkets, butchers and greengrocers. This work continues and will be published late 2020.

The summer holidays saw the group finish off their 2018-2019 work – see attached annual review as well as taking part in our annual Bus Day – where young people who rarely get the bus these days get a packed lunch and an all-day ticket, and work out how to get to places they usually get lifts to. This project is a great day, but also helps young people build essential life skills. In summer 2019 they travelled to Seaburn beach, Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, National Glass Centre, Angel of the North, Metrocentre, Barley Mow and South Shields. The aim was to use all available forms of transport, but in the end they just managed the bus, the Shields Ferry and the metro. Next time they plan to add the train to that list.

In October 2019 GYA Executive Committee members met with Gateshead Council's Cabinet to look at their joint priorities and to see where they could all link up.

GYA annual elections were followed in November by the annual training weekend where the newly elected GYA representatives elect their Executive Committee and identify their plans and priorities for 2019-2020 (see attached plans and priority document).

GYA worked with Gateshead Council staff on the climate change agenda, attending the Climate Change conversation on a very snowy day in February at the Baltic and were about to host a school's conference at Gateshead stadium, to make sure all Gateshead's schools were involved in the climate change conversation, when COVID-19 stopped play. We hope to pick this up when the world reopens.

Fire Cadets

Fire Cadets provides young people from the local community with a programme of practical and theoretical instructions, on fire and rescue service related subjects. We currently run Fire Cadet branches in Swalwell and Low Fell.

Meeting each week, our Fire Cadets learn firefighting skills including hose-running, search techniques, vehicle extrication and first aid. This helps build the confidence, teamwork and communication skills that young people can use to support their experiences in education and beyond. Fire Cadets regularly take part in initiatives to combat anti-social behaviour fires and their actions have significantly contributed to the Service's objectives of saving lives and protecting property.

Fire Cadets engage in several social action projects to improve their local communities. For example, our Cadets have supported local care home residents by delivering gifts at Christmas and they have also delivered firefighting skills sessions to children with disabilities, leading to a presentation drill for their family and friends. Fire Cadets are offered the opportunity to represent the Service at ceremonial occasions, fire station open days, and fundraising events; as well as supporting local running events

such as the Gateshead 10k by spraying water from an appliance to cool down runners. They also take part in the annual Fire Cadet Games event, pitting their skills against the best in the country.

Our 2019 international fundraiser helped buy and send wind-up torches to Tanzania. This project, in collaboration with the Royal Victoria Infirmary Burns Unit, helped children in rural communities to read at night without using naked flames.

We recruit throughout the year and young people aged 13-17 years old are invited to join any one of our seven branches across Tyne and Wear.

A Firefighter completed his training this year as an operational member of staff, following years as a Fire Cadet and volunteer Cadet Instructor in Low Fell.

Fire Cadets gave me the grounding and experience of firefighting skills that I needed. As a Fire Cadet I took part in residential trips, training, community projects and social gatherings; all of which prepared me for life, not just the job

Police Cadets

The Police Cadets scheme has a Gateshead group of 40 Cadets at present. The Cadets normally meet each week but this has unfortunately been disrupted by the Covid regulations. We will be taking on another 20 Cadets next January. The last batch of recruits competed race and diversity training, learned about the Police Code of Ethics and Police structure and even learned to march. Sessions are currently being conducted remotely with presentations on knife crime and County Lines awareness. Future learning topics will include: drugs; health and safety; first aid; visits by traffic officers, dog handlers and firearms officers; and inputs on policing topics and the law. The recruits get to take part in Policing events such as the Great North Run, Pride events, the Sunderland Airshow, community fairs and events as well as Christmas events. The Cadets have been involved in some intelligence gathering too which led to a closure order being secured on a Gateshead address for dealing drugs.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the Police Cadets to get in touch to find out about the scheme which is open to year 10 students aged 14 years – information on how to apply has been sent to all Gateshead schools and demand is high therefore anyone interested does need to register their interest quickly.

Police Community Engagement Team

We have on-going work with Gateshead College which has been well received with inputs on hate crime, the Prevent agenda, and use of VR lessons. We have worked with the NUFC Foundation/Princes Trust and have delivered sessions to every new group each quarter. Gateshead young people are included within those taking part. We have begun a new project to develop hate crime and identity-based bullying session for primary school aged children.

We have worked with schools including Whickham Comprehensive, St Thomas Moore, and Thorpe Academy supporting citizenship programmes. Sessions have been delivered to staff at Gibside School

on Hate Crime Awareness with plans to introduce Hate Crime Champions in the future (which has been unfortunately delayed by Covid).

We continue work in the Jewish schools in Gateshead, delivering a hate crime input at the Kesa Special school and also had a Q&A session in the Jewish Boys School (Rabbi Wallace's School) with further inputs planned.

The Virtual Reality kit has been used at HMS Calliope during the knife awareness event with hundreds of young people present, and also used at celebrating achievement event at the Fed Brewery involving looked after children, with young people at the Mini Mela at Gateshead Library, and at Kingsmeadow, Whickham, and Charles Thorpe Schools.

We have delivered an input at the Thorp Academy to support their careers fair. We held a World Café event at Whickham 6th form with themes including PREVENT, CSE, Hate Crime and citizenship. We have worked with Gateshead Youth Parliament on topics including stop and search scrutiny, hate crime, holocaust memorial work and Remembering Srebrenica.

Designated Nurse Looked After Children was successful in securing funding from NHSE to undertake a project with care leavers around their experience of health services – this has been paused due to Covid, but it is hoped to continue as soon as possible.



www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk



REPORT TO CABINET

19th January 2021

TITLE OF REPORT: Nomination of Local Authority School Governors

REPORT OF: **Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families**

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to Nominate Local Authority Governors to schools seeking to retain their Local Authority governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

Background

2. Schools - The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations require all governing bodies to adopt a model for their size and membership. The regulations prescribe which categories of governor must be represented and what the level of representation is for each. The Local Authority's nomination is subject to the approval of the governing body. If approved, the nominee is appointed by the governing body.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that Cabinet approves the nominations to schools as shown in appendix 1.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet:

 - (i) approves the nomination for appointment/reappointment of a Local Authority Governor; and
 - (ii) notes the term of office as determined by the schools' Instrument of Government.

For the following reason:

To ensure the School Governing Body has full membership.

CONTACT: John Finch extension: 8626

Policy Context

1. In accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations, local authorities can nominate any eligible person as a Local Authority governor. Statutory guidance encourages local authorities to appoint high calibre governors with skills appropriate to the school's governance needs, who will uphold the school's ethos, and to nominate candidates irrespective of political affiliation or preferences. A person is disqualified as a Local Authority governor if they are eligible to be a Staff governor at the same school.

Background

2. As above.

Consultation

3. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People has been consulted.

Alternative Options

4. The alternative option would be to make no nomination/appointment to the vacancies, leaving governing bodies under strength and less likely to demonstrate the correct configuration.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – None
- c) **Property Implications** - None

6. Risk Management Implication - None

7. Equality and Diversity Implications - None

8. Crime and Disorder Implications – None

9. Health Implications - None

10. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications - None

11. Human Rights Implications - None

12. Area and Ward Implications - None

Background Information

13. The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

In accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, the following Local Authority governors are nominated for a period of four years (as stipulated in the individual Instruments of Government) with effect from the dates stated below:

School	Nomination	Date from
Glynwood Community Primary School	Cllr Jean Lee	12 th April 2021
Portobello Primary School	Hazel Weatherley	25 th March 2021

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TITLE OF REPORT: Petitions Schedule

REPORT OF: Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on petitions submitted to the Council and the action taken on them.
2. Council Procedure Role 10.1 provides that any member of the Council or resident of the borough may submit a petition to the Leader of the Council, to another member of the Council nominated by the Leader, to the Chief Executive or a Strategic Director.

Proposal

3. Cabinet is asked to note the petitions received and actions taken on them.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet note the petitions received and action taken on them.

For the following reason:

To inform the Cabinet of the progress of the petitions.

CONTACT: Mike Aynsley extension: 2128

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The information is provided in accordance Council Procedure Rule 10.2 whereby progress of petitions is to be reported regularly to meetings of the Cabinet. The procedure supports the Council's Thrive Agenda.

Background

2. Council Procedure Rule 10.1 provides that any member of the Council or resident of the borough may submit a petition to the Leader of the Council, to another member of the Council nominated by the Leader, to the Chief Executive or a Strategic Director.

Consultation

3. This report has been prepared following consultation as set out in the schedule.

Alternative Options

4. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. 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** – Nil
- c) **Property Implications** - Nil

6. Risk Management Implication - Nil

7. Equality and Diversity Implications - Nil

8. Crime and Disorder Implications – Nil

9. Health Implications - Nil

10. Climate Emergency and Sustainability implications – These will be considered by officers as part of their responses to petitioners.

11. Human Rights Implications - Nil

12. Ward Implications - Borough wide

Background Information

13. Petitions schedule attached.

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APPENDIX 2

PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE RECEIVED	REF	FROM	ISSUE	FORWARDED TO	ACTION TO DATE
15.03.19 Submitted to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services ad Governance	04/09	Petition from residents of Rowlands Gill	Petition requesting the removal of road humps in Rowlands Gill.	Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	Some additional investigations are to be carried out in relation to the traffic calming and officers have been waiting for traffic to return to near normal levels post Covid lockdown.
27.08.20 Submitted to the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	01/20	Petition from residents and shopkeepers of Gateshead	Petition requesting the removal of the bollards on Durham Road.	Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	The petition will be considered as part of the experimental traffic regulation order process.
2.9.20. Submitted to Service Director, Development, Transport and Public Protection	02/20	Petition via Change.org	Petition to stop the traffic changes around the Tyne Bridge	Service Director, Development, Transport and Public Protection	Consultation is ongoing whilst temporary changes are in place. The petition is being considered as part of this process.
16.11.20 Submitted to Strategic	03/20	Residents of Winlaton Mill	Petition regarding parking and traffic issues in the vicinity of the Land of Oak and Iron	Strategic Director, Housing,	Officers have responded to the lead petitioner and ward councillors advising that they will carry out surveys. However,

Director, Corporate Services and Governance via Councillor Charlton			Heritage Centre	Environment and Healthy Communities	these need to be undertaken when traffic flows and parking patterns return to near normal levels post Covid lockdown.
17.11.20 Submitted to the Gateshead Housing Company via Councillor Bradford D	04/20	Residents of William Morris Avenue	Petition regarding payment for communal facilities during the pandemic.	The Gateshead Housing Company	All communal lounges have been closed since 16 March 2020. Joint discussions between the Council and Gateshead Housing Company have taken place and a method of providing a compensatory payment is being considered. The lead petitioner, ward councillors and relevant Cabinet members have been updated accordingly.
08.12.20 Submitted to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance	05/20	Gateshead residents	Petition objecting to the proposed traffic regulation order for Camborne Place, Gateshead.	Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	Officers are considering the petition together with other representations received.

Agenda Item 18

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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