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Date: Wednesday,
16 February 2022

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held in the Sports Hall, Gateshead Leisure Centre, at **2.30 pm** on **Thursday, 24 February 2022** to transact the following business:-

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

- 1 **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme** (Pages 3 - 16)
- 2 **Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27** (Pages 17 - 40)
- 3 **Fees and Charges - 2022/23** (Pages 41 - 116)
- 4 **Budget and Council Tax Level 2022/23** (Pages 117 - 200)
- 5 **External Auditor Appointments Beyond 1 April 2023** (Pages 201 - 212)

Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2022

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of:
 - The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23;
 - The proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2022/23 and the indicative programme for the period 2023/24 – 2026/27.
2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account.
3. The Housing Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme with an annual review. The financial implications of the programme are incorporated into the HRA Business Plan. The Housing Capital Programme is also incorporated into the Council's overall Capital Programme.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) Approves the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2 of the attached report
 - (ii) Approves the Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 3 of the attached report.

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22 February 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23.
 - the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2022/23 and the indicative programme for the period 2023/24 – 2026/27.

Background

2. On 18 November 2021 Council agreed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Business Plan. Overall, the HRA Business Plan is fully costed and does not breach the minimum £3 million balance during the life of the plan (30 years).
3. The plan requires minimum efficiency savings over the medium term of £3.350 million. It is important that the savings are underpinned by a robust delivery plan. On 14 December 2021 Cabinet approved the Budget Approach 2022/23 to 2024/25. The report outlined a Priority Zero Based Budget Challenge, and a Priority Based Transformation Programme which includes the Housing Improvement Plan.
4. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account.
5. On the 27 January 2022, Council agreed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charges 2022/23. The rent increase for 2022/23 is 4.1% in line with the rent standard of CPI as of September 2021 (3.1%) plus an additional 1%. Service charges are generally based on full cost recovery.
6. The Housing Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme reviewed annually. The programme is supported from resources available within the HRA and therefore considering the HRA and the Housing Capital Programme together allows the Council to consider the choices necessary to maintain and enhance housing stock in the future. The financial implications of the programme are incorporated into the HRA Business Plan. The Housing Capital Programme is also incorporated into the Council's overall Capital Programme (agenda item 7).

7. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply the Housing Capital Programme includes the delivery of 244 units over the next 5 years.

Proposal

8. The proposed Housing Revenue Account budget 2022/23 will deliver a balanced budget. This is set out in Appendix 2 together with indicative budgets for the subsequent four-year period 2023/24 – 2026/27.
9. The proposed Housing Capital Programme over the next five years 2022/23 to 2026/27 is set out in Appendix 3 and provides for investment of £152.575m. In 2022/23 the proposed Capital Programme totals £22.281m of which £16.119m will be met from the HRA. The Programme will be kept under regular review by Cabinet to ensure that investment plans remain affordable.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - (i) The Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2.
 - (ii) The Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 3.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To set a Housing Revenue Account for 2022/23 that is not in debit a 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 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:

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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. On 18 November 2021 Council agreed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Business Plan. Overall, the HRA Business Plan is fully costed and does not breach the minimum £3 million balance during the life of the plan (30 years). However, over the long term, to incorporate all the cost pressures and anticipated capital investment, including new social housing stock, borrowing will need rise significantly above the current levels.
5. On 14 December 2021 Cabinet approved the Budget Approach 2022/23 to 2024/25. The report outlined a Priority Zero Based Budget Challenge, and a Priority Based Transformation Programme. Whilst the focus of the report and approach was on the Medium Term Financial Strategy Funding Gap of £45m in line with the HRA Business Plan there is also a need to deliver minimum HRA efficiency savings of £3.350m over the medium term and a recognition that the key principles apply equally to the HRA.
6. The Housing Improvement Programme was identified as one of the priority based transformation review areas. The scope of the programme is wide ranging and will focus on delivering services differently to manage demand and to ensure the Council's housing functions and responsibilities are 'fit for purpose', fully compliant with legislation and regulation, are offering better value for money and can achieve improved customer satisfaction.
7. The rules governing the HRA were established pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and require the Council to:

- a. Formulate proposals in respect of HRA income and expenditure for the financial year which, on the best assumptions and estimates that the Council can make at the time, ensure the HRA does not show a debit balance.
- b. Determine a strategy that is designed to ensure the HRA is in balance taking one year with another.
- c. Ensure, that as a ring-fenced account, the costs of managing and maintaining its homes, including debt charges and administration costs, are met from HRA income.

HRA Business Plan

8. The HRA Business Plan sets the Council's long-term investment strategy to maintain the quality of its housing stock. The plan is reviewed, at least, annually and uses current levels of income and expenditure information and projects this for the next 30 years applying several key assumptions in relation to the anticipated stock changes arising from right to buy sales, acquisitions and new build and regeneration plans, the number of void properties, the policy on rent and service charge increases, repairs and maintenance and property management costs, capital investment requirements based on stock condition information and forecast borrowing costs.
9. In previous years a significant number of challenges have been placed on the HRA Business Plan because of:
 - Legislative change such as the impact of the Housing and Planning, and Welfare Reform Acts.
 - The imposition of a social rent cut of 1% per year, for 4 successive years commencing April 2016.
 - Increased buildings compliance and regulatory requirements, particularly post-Grenfell and;
 - New targets for carbon neutrality.
10. In addition, there is a need to:
 - a. Address uneconomic and poor performing housing stock. Stock condition and demand information confirms that the required expenditure on some schemes over the short and longer term significantly exceeds any income from those schemes due to poor or no demand, coupled with the need for high value investment works.
 - b. Identify operational efficiencies and more effective ways of working to ensure services are providing value for money and maximising HRA performance.
 - c. Continue to invest in the existing stock and bring forward new affordable housing.

Budget Position 2021/22

11. The 2021/22 HRA Budget is currently projected to overspend by £1.482m which represents an increase in the use of reserves required. The main variances relate to addressing the void backlog which will have a positive impact upon income going forward and also the cost of the remedial compliance works that have been identified through the compliance reviews. These are detailed in Appendix 2.

Budget Proposal 2022/23

12. The budget proposal for 2022/23 has been prepared considering known changes to housing stock numbers, ongoing management and maintenance requirements, proposed investment needs and assumptions around pay and inflationary increases.
13. The budget proposal takes account of the continuing detrimental impact of Welfare reform on rent collection and tenancy sustainability. As at 2 January 2022, 6,355 (35%) of council tenants were in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) payments, this will continue to increase as new claims or change of circumstances are submitted. Rent collection rates for UC claimants is 97.33% compared to 100.43% for other tenants.
14. Void loss and tenancy turnover remain a challenge and the resultant loss of income for the HRA. A major review of the end to end voids process is underway together with a review of the associated lettings and allocations systems and practices. The outcome of this work will be to identify the necessary measures to reduce void loss, and to allocate and enable occupation of homes more rapidly and effectively. ICT systems are currently in development to support the effectiveness of the delivery team and their resources. Additional investment is included in the proposed budget 2022/23 to enable voids to be reduced to a manageable level and embed the outcomes of the review.
15. Work to identify and implement improvements to repairs and maintenance services has commenced. Learning is currently being gathered from employees, together with a detailed understanding of the reasons for declining customer satisfaction, as well as a forensic review of existing processes, systems, ways of working and the impact of relevant policies. Testing changes to improve the service will take place over the coming months, with any permanent changes embedded during 2022/23. It is expected that the new operating model and resultant improvements will have a significant impact on achieving the required level of HRA efficiencies and savings.
16. In relation to compliance the voluntary undertaking with the Regulator of Social Housing was successfully completed in November 2021. In coming out of the voluntary undertaking the Council has agreed with the Regulator that there will be a continuing and robust Member led governance environment for the reporting of buildings compliance and safety, the identification of any risks and resultant mitigations, performance monitoring and oversight. In addition, there needs to be a continued priority in the funding of measures to ensure and maintain overall buildings compliance and safety. The proposed budget 2022/23 includes investment to continue to enable identified remedial works to be completed.
17. A contingency has been included within the HRA Business Plan for the next and subsequent 4 financial years to cover any future liabilities and unforeseen pay and price increases.
18. The proposed HRA budget 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 2 will deliver a balanced budget.
19. The indicative budget for 2023/24 shows a deficit position due to contributions planned to the Major repairs reserve for costs associated with decisions concerning

the stock options in relation to both high rise blocks and older persons accommodation and this will be subject to review.

Housing Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2026/27

20. Capital investment in the HRA is funded from the Major Repairs Reserve through a combination of the depreciation charged each year to the HRA and using additional voluntary HRA revenue contributions where possible to maximise the level of planned investment in the stock.
21. There are significant capital investment requirements over at least the next 5 years if the Council is to achieve its requirements and ambitions in the key areas of maintaining regulatory and buildings compliance such as decent homes and in maintaining the safety of high rise blocks; in achieving carbon reduction targets; securing catch-up investment in wider HRA assets and responsibilities such as environmental and 'street scene' requirements, garages, open spaces and communal areas; and in continuing to maintain / or increase social housing stock provision in Gateshead. Investment is also identified to digitally transform how blocks are managed, by improving security and supporting the review of high rise living.
22. The proposed Housing Capital Programme for the period from 2022/23 to 2026/27 is set out in Appendix 3. It is estimated that £115.733m of the £152.575m funding requirement will be met from within the Major Repairs Reserve to support capital investment within the HRA over the next five years which will be supplemented using external funding and HRA capital receipts.
23. The capital programme is aligned to the HRA Asset Management Strategy and includes the following investment over the next 5 years:
 - £65m investment in undertaking estate based major works in accordance with the Decent Homes standard, including the replacement of kitchens, bathrooms and electrical improvements, a £12.5m heating improvements programme and £3.5m to continue the window and door replacement programme.
 - £17.2m investment in general stock improvements, including essential works to upgrade communal services and communal areas, CCTV and door entry systems upgrades as well as the continuing provision of major and minor adaptation works to homes.
 - £2m investment in garages and wider estate improvements.
 - £4.2m investment in building safety improvements to ensure continued compliance with legislation.
 - £63.1m investment in new housing, estate regeneration and delivery of the stock options appraisals.
24. The Capital Programme will continue to be reviewed regularly to reflect the progress on committed projects and the availability of resources within the HRA to support capital investment.
25. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply, a proposed Housing Development Strategy and delivery programme will be presented to Cabinet shortly. This proposed programme will include a planned

HRA funded new build programme over a rolling 3-year period, to be reviewed annually as part of the annual refresh of the HRA Business Plan. The focus over the next 12 months will be the completion of the HRA funded scheme at Whitley Court, as well as the identification of a HRA funded new homes delivery programme commencing 2023/24. There is provision within the proposed Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 to deliver 200 new homes in addition to Whitley Court.

Consultation

26. Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Housing.

Alternative Options

27. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

28. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the financial implications are reflected in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

The proposed 2022/23 HRA budget (Appendix 2) will deliver a balanced budget. As at 31 March 2022 the HRA reserve is projected to be £24.330m. The 30-year HRA Business plan is sustainable with a minimum balance of £3m of reserves maintained per annum.

The Housing Improvement Plan is a Priority Transformation review area for the Council and will drive forward savings and efficiencies to deliver the required HRA medium term savings identified in the HRA Business Plan and contribute to the delivery of the Council's budget approach.

- b. **Human Resources Implications** – Nil.

- c. **Property Implications** – Capital investment in HRA assets helps to improve the overall sustainability of the HRA and supports the delivery of corporate priorities under the Thrive agenda. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

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

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

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

32. **Health Implications** – Nil
33. **Sustainability and Climate Emergency Implications** – The report contains a number of measures, which will help deliver a more Sustainable Gateshead and support the HRA Asset Strategy which includes carbon neutrality targets for the Council's housing stock.
34. **Human Rights Implications** – Nil
35. **Ward Implications** – All wards will be affected by the proposals in this report.

Background Information

Direction on the Rent Standard 2019

The Housing Revenue Account Self Financing Determinations February 2012

Welfare Reform Act 2016

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

HRA Budget 2022/23 to 2026/27

	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Projected 2021/22 £'000	Variance 2021/22 £'000		Budget 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000
Dwelling rents (gross)	(73,512)	(73,228)	284	Voids/Decommissioned Units	(75,526)	(78,927)	(83,162)	(82,745)	(84,078)
Non-dwelling rents (gross)	(1,312)	(1,346)	(34)		(1,345)	(1,345)	(1,345)	(1,345)	(1,345)
Charges for services and facilities	(4,127)	(4,345)	(218)		(4,426)	(4,601)	(4,757)	(4,809)	(4,907)
Water & Other Income	(931)	(890)	41	Void loss	(977)	(1,025)	(1,060)	(1,090)	(1,090)
HRA investment income	(204)	(25)	179	Reduced Cash Balances	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	(80,086)	(79,834)	252		(82,274)	(85,898)	(90,325)	(89,989)	(91,420)
Supervision and Management	27,142	27,138	(4)		27,661	27,828	27,953	27,553	28,215
Repairs and Maintenance	23,269	24,973	1,704	Voids and Compliance	25,643	24,922	24,882	24,745	24,710
Interest on borrowing	12,207	12,072	(135)	Borrowing costs	12,010	12,078	11,914	11,854	11,831
Capital Programme Funding	21,671	21,286	(385)	Capital slippage	16,119	30,683	23,127	20,797	25,006
Increased provision for bad debt	700	750	50		768	794	827	822	833
Debt management expenses	70	70	0		73	77	80	82	84
Total Expenditure	85,059	86,289	1,231		82,274	96,383	88,783	85,853	90,680
Net Operating Cost/(Surplus)	4,973	6,455	1,483		(0)	10,485	(1,541)	(4,136)	(741)
HRA Reserves									
Opening Balance	30,785	30,785			24,330	24,330	13,845	15,386	19,522
Net Operating Cost for the year	4,973	6,455	1,483		(0)	10,485	(1,541)	(4,136)	(741)
Closing Balance	25,812	24,330	(1,483)		24,330	13,845	15,386	19,522	20,263

Housing Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

Housing Capital	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Improvement Works							
Aids & Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	7,500
Communal Mechanical & Electrical works	Essential works to upgrade communal services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	312	543	566	570	625	2,616
Digital Transformation	Transformational upgrade work to block building management services such as CCTV and door entry services	700	700	702	700	804	3,606
Environmental & Estate Improvement	Improvements to the public realm in and round estates	101	100	103	100	715	1,119
Garage Improvement Programme	Essential works to improve sustainable garage blocks, demolish unviable stock and investigation conversion & change of use where practicable	50	200	200	220	340	1,010
Block communal improvements	Improvements to the communal areas and spaces in blocks	629	661	686	702	803	3,482
Total Improvement Works		3,293	3,704	3,756	3,792	4,787	19,332
Building Safety							
Building safety improvements	Essential work to meet building safety and compliance obligations	890	790	877	827	250	3,635
Safety & Security	Work to install and renew smoke and CO detection.	66	56	67	68	93	350
HRA Commercial Property Improvements	Targeted interventions in the HRA commercial portfolio to meet landlord obligations	50	50	50	50	50	250
Total Building Safety Works		1,006	896	995	946	393	4,235
Major Future Works							
Energy & Carbon Net Zero	Delivery of work packages to improve insulation, install green technology and energy solutions that will support achieving Net Zero.	0	0	0	0	4,777	4,777
Major Investment Scheme	Targeted Transformation investment work	1,985	1,972	0	0	0	3,958
Domestic Heating Improvements	Replacement of failed and obsolete heating systems, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	2,343	2,444	2,511	2,564	2,672	12,534
Door & Window replacements	Continuation of the window replacement door replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	645	748	958	798	350	3,499

Decent Homes	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	4,503	5,024	5,497	6,068	6,535	27,628
Contractual Obligations	Preliminary costs associated with schemes	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Fixed Budget Fees	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	550	550	550	550	550	2,750
Total Major Future Works		12,027	12,738	11,516	11,980	16,884	65,146
Expectational Works							
Option appraisal	Delivery of option appraisal outcomes - acquisition / conversion / demolition of unsustainable HRA assets.	1,123	8,665	3,038	2,374	561	15,762
Felling Regeneration	The acquisition, demolition and clearance costs associated with the Felling regeneration project.	1,574	1,983	0	0	0	3,556
Total Exceptional Works		2,697	10,648	3,038	2,374	561	19,318
Housing Developments							
New Build/Acquisition - Various	Investment to create new Council homes.	3,015	9,803	11,047	9,366	10,591	43,823
Total Housing Developments		3,015	9,803	11,047	9,366	10,591	43,823
Other Capital							
ICT refresh	Replacement of IT Hardware & Software licences	244	38	273	154	11	721
Total Other Capital		244	38	273	154	11	721
Total Capital Programme		22,281	37,828	30,626	28,613	33,228	152,575
Funded by							
Major Repairs Reserve Contribution		(16,119)	(30,684)	(23,127)	(20,797)	(25,006)	(115,733)
HRA Capital Receipts		(5,410)	(5,602)	(5,705)	(5,767)	(5,905)	(28,388)
Grant Funding		(752)	(1,542)	(1,794)	(2,049)	(2,317)	(8,454)
Total Funding		(22,281)	(37,828)	(30,626)	(28,613)	(33,228)	(152,575)

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2022

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the Capital Programme for the next five years to provide significant investment within the Borough to support the Council's strategic approach to Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.
2. The Capital Programme for 2022/23 totals £146.79m, comprising of £124.4m General Fund and £22.3m HRA investments. Over the five years to 2026/27, the level of capital investment is estimated to be £491.4m, of which £338.8m relates to the General Fund and £152.6m relates to the HRA.
3. The proposed Capital Programme is set out in Appendix 2 and the provisional capital financing in Appendix 3.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) approves the capital programme for 2022/23;
 - (ii) approves the provisional programmes for 2023/24 to 2026/27; and
 - (iii) Notes the provisional capital financing for the programme, as set out in Appendix 3, and delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to enter prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend Council approve the proposed Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27. This will provide significant investment within the borough to support the Council's strategic approach to make Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. The Capital Programme has been prepared to cover the period 2022/23 to 2026/27; all financial implications have been incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which aligns resources to support the Council's priorities.
3. Local Authorities are free to invest in capital schemes so long as their spending plans are affordable, proportionate, prudent, and sustainable.
4. This report should be considered alongside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme, which as part of self-financing, must be supported from the resources available within the HRA. Where schemes are brought forward and require additional HRA borrowing, these will be considered against the agreed HRA prudential indicators and business model.

Proposal

5. The Capital Programme for 2022/23 totals £146.7m, comprising of £124.4m General Fund and £22.3m HRA investments. Over the five years to 2026/27, the level of Capital investment is estimated to be £491.4m, of which £338.8m relates to the General Fund and £152.6m relates to the HRA.
6. Capital investment has a positive impact on the local economy, creating jobs, housing and can also reduce carbon emissions. This five-year Capital Programme is estimated to create an additional 1950 jobs, 1600 new homes and reduce carbon emissions by 1500 tonnes per annum.
7. The programme includes projects that will enable improvements to service delivery and those that are of a strategic nature to assist with the delivery of the Council's priorities and help to make Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives namely:
 - Projects that support climate change
 - Projects that promote health and wellbeing
 - Projects that promote or stimulate housing development

- Projects that focus on improving the highways infrastructure within the borough, improving public transport, and reducing congestion.
 - Projects that support the economy by promoting and supporting business growth within the borough.
 - Projects that ensure children and young people are safe and have the opportunities to thrive.
8. The strategic projects that have been added to the capital programme and require large allocations of capital investment will be monitored closely and will remain flexible. Through the development of the Quays, it is anticipated that this will generate a greater commercial interest in the development of these larger schemes thereby potentially reducing the requirement for Council investment.
9. The Council's Capital Strategy sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions are made giving due consideration to risks, rewards and impact on the achievement of priority outcomes.
10. There may be opportunities to include additional schemes to the Capital Programme throughout the year should a project demonstrate that the investment will satisfy the prudential framework or when additional external resources have been sourced e.g., developer contributions, grants or capital receipts.
11. The proposed Capital Programme is presented in Appendix 2, the provisional capital financing is presented in Appendix 3.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that
- (i) Cabinet recommends Council to approve the Capital Programme for 2022/23.
 - (ii) Cabinet recommends Council to approve the provisional programmes for 2023/24 to 2026/27.
 - (iii) Cabinet notes the provisional capital financing required for the programme as set out in Appendix 3 and delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital to enter into prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To continue to provide investment within the borough to delivery Council priorities.
- (ii) To assist with the medium- and long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. All Council capital expenditure is consistent with the Council's strategic priority 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives'. This means that the Council's decision making, including the setting of the Capital Programme, will be policy and priority led and driven. The financial implications of the capital programme are incorporated within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Background

2. Details of potential future capital schemes for the 2022/23 to 2026/27 Capital Programme were considered alongside the schemes within the existing programme. The capital and revenue implications of each proposed scheme were considered to ensure that they were affordable and could be accommodated within the level of revenue support available within the MTFS and HRA.
3. The basic principle of the prudential system is that local authorities are free to borrow so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, proportional, prudent, and sustainable. Councils are prohibited to borrow to fund commercial investment. There is, therefore, an explicit link with the Council's revenue spending plans which have been considered as part of the MTFS process and setting the 2022/23 revenue budget.

Proposed Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

4. The basis for considering the programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 prioritised those schemes which:
 - Were consistent with the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.
 - Supported the Council's main strategies, namely
 - Asset Strategy
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Economic Strategy
 - Climate Strategy
 - Transport Strategy
 - Digital Strategy.
5. The proposed capital programme is shown in Appendix 2 and the proposed financing of programme is detailed in Appendix 3.
6. The Council continues to maximise the use of external funding where possible, including the utilisation of the following grants:
 - £19.8m Department for Transport Grant to improve transport infrastructure in accordance with the principals set out in the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan;
 - £9.3m Department for Education Grant to address the condition and capacity issues of Schools.

- £2.9m Public Sector Decarbonisation funding to address climate change within the Borough.
7. The Council has the ability to fund schemes through prudential borrowing. This allows the Council more flexibility to fund capital projects, however in practice this is limited by pressures on revenue budgets and the need to generate budget savings. An allowance has been made in the revenue budget for the costs associated with the level of prudential borrowing required to support the capital programme set out in Appendix 3.
 8. The Council has a five-year rolling programme of disposals which is used to identify the level of receipts available. For 2022/23 capital receipts totalling £1m have been included within the capital financing projections, however this will be monitored in year and may be subject to change.
 9. Additional schemes may be added to the capital programme following the completion of a detailed business case provided that the projects generate sufficient revenue savings to satisfy the prudential framework, or utilise available external funding, and do not add additional pressure on the revenue budget.

Consultation

10. The development of detailed project proposals arising from this report will involve consultations with all stakeholders.

Alternative Options

11. No alternative options were considered.

Implications of Recommended Option

12. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital confirms that the financial implications are set out in the report and appendices. The proposed capital programme can be accommodated from within the provision currently included within the Council's MTFS and Revenue budget.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Capital projects require project management resources to ensure that the planned investment is successfully delivered. In accordance with accounting regulations, where it can be demonstrated that a project management resource is integral to the delivery of major capital investment this cost can be capitalised and funded as part of the specific project. The human resources implications of individual schemes are considered prior to implementing a project.
- c) **Property Implications** - Capital investment optimises the use of property assets to support the delivery of the Council's priority outcomes. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

- 13. Risk Management Implication** - There is a risk that resources identified to fund the proposed programme are not realised. The impact of this will be managed through the monitoring process and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
- 14. Equality and Diversity Implications** - The framework for the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Council's spending plans is based on legislative and policy priorities of the Council which include:
- The Equality Act 2010; and
 - The Local Government Improvement and Development Equalities Framework.
- The Equality and Diversity implications will be considered for each individual scheme within the capital programme
- 15. Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.
- 16. Health Implications** – There are no direct health implications arising from this report.
- 17. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - Capital investment can help to reduce carbon emissions and improve sustainability by using more energy efficient materials and practices in the refurbishment or construction of assets. Projects will follow strict Council Sustainable Construction guidelines and where applicable the impact of a project on the climate emergency will be reported separately.
- 18. Human Rights Implications** - There may be interference or disturbance to tenants and residents while works are carried out. However, such interference or disturbance will be kept to a minimum and the works will result in benefits to tenants and residents.
- 19. Ward Implications** - The proposals will have implications for all wards in Gateshead.

Background Information

- 20.** The following background papers have been used in the preparation of this report:
- (i) Report for Cabinet, 22 February 2022 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme
 - (ii) Report for Cabinet, 25 January 2022 – Capital Programme 2021/22 – Third Quarter Review.
 - (iii) Report for Cabinet, 16th November 2021 – Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27
 - (iv) Report for Cabinet, 19th October 2021 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27
 - (v) Report for Cabinet, 23 February 2021 – Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26

Appendix 2

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME						
Strategic Investment						
Asset Management						
Conversion of Birtley's Children's Centre	Modifications to the internal structure to enable more effective use of the building	337				
Kingsmeadow Lifelong Learning Centre	Adaptations to the structure of the building to enable more effective use of the building.	153				
Total Asset Management		490	0	0	0	0
Economic Strategy						
Accelerated Development Zone Investment - Gateshead Quays	Investment to provide infrastructure to facilitate the Gateshead Quays development, helping to generate significant economic growth.	56,374	57,377	24,939		
Gateshead Regeneration Partnership Urban Core - Exemplar Neighbourhood	Investment in enabling works to facilitate the development of 300 homes by Gateshead Regeneration Partnership at the Freight Depot site.	1,100				
High Street North - Future Place	To develop the Future Place project proposals to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Plan Work Stages 2 Concept and Design	90				

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Baltic Quarter Enabling Infrastructure	Creation of a road and sustainable drainage infrastructure at Baltic Quarter.	7,114				
Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park	Creation of a multi storey car park at Baltic Quarter	6,994				
Riverside Park	Creation of new flexible buildings and trail for Riverside Park	50	685	575		
Baltic Quarter Remediation	Determination of infrastructure and remediation works to attract private sector investment	105		1,500	1,500	
Total Economic Strategy		71,827	58,062	27,014	1,500	0
Health and Wellbeing Strategy						
Community Hubs	To support residents by co-locating different organisations together.	75				
Extra Care Scheme	To support the development of 3 Extra Care sites and agree with developers to make a third of apartments available for purchase		1,270		1,350	

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Library & Locality Review	Re-design and reconfiguration of Council Library Buildings	100	200	200		
Total Health and Wellbeing Strategy		175	1,470	200	1,350	0
Housing Strategy						
West Askew Road junction improvements	Introduction of a signalised all movements junction to facilitate residential development on Council owned land to the north side of Askew Road.	2,800	1,000			
Metrogreen	Development of delivery strategy and action plan for Metrogreen to help progress future development.	128				
High Street South Regeneration	Continued assembly of development area through acquisition and demolition of properties, enabling private investment.	728	728			
Clasper Housing Development	Delivery of up to 190 homes on the former Clasper housing site		2,000	3,000		
Dunston Hill Strategic Infrastructure Works	Persimmon Homes Limited and Gateshead Council to enter into a collaboration agreement to share the costs of infrastructure work based on the net developable area for each party.			1,900		

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
High Street South	To assemble development areas to enable private investment by purchasing and demolishing private properties and to carry out site remediation works to ready the site for development.	253	533	5,528	859	14,737
Total Housing Strategy		3,909	4,261	10,428	859	14,737
Transport Strategy						
Quays fixed signage and Variable Message Signs	New signage linked to the development of the Quays	360	340			
Quays traffic signal upgrades	Upgraded signals to enable traffic to move around and leave the area quicker after a major event.	60	241	180		
Total Transport Strategy		420	581	180	0	0
Total Strategic Investment		76,821	64,374	37,822	3,709	14,737

Investment in Service Delivery Improvements						
Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Blaydon West Primary School New Build	Delivery of a new, replacement one form entry Blaydon West Primary School on land within the school's existing catchment area	4,400	2,000			
Children's Three bed Residential Home	Acquisition and conversion of a property to provide a 3 bed residential children's home for looked after children.	300				
Children's Two Bed Residential Assessment Service in Gateshead	To provide a 2 to 4 bed assessment service for assessment of children entering looked after services, aiding the child's transition into care and understanding their specific needs.	750				
Health & Safety	Programme of works to address health and safety related issues in the Council's property assets.	600	510	520	530	540
School Condition Investment	Externally funded investment programme to address condition issues within the Council's Schools.	1,969	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417
Schools Devolved Formula Funding	External funding awarded directly to Schools to purchase equipment or contribute to larger capital schemes.	250	250	250	250	250

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Sister Winifred Laver Personal Integrated Care	Purchase of a 50-60 bed purpose-built care facility to consolidate the provision of intermediate care to enable recovery, rehabilitation and reablement.	5,783	413			
Specialist Therapeutic Children's Home in Gateshead	Development of a 2 bed residential children's home designed to meet therapeutic needs.		500			
Strategic Maintenance	Programme of preventative maintenance works to address condition issues within the Council's operational buildings.	850	750	760	770	780
Replacement Bins	Procurement of refuse and recycling bins for new developments and existing households	120	130	140	150	160
Flood Alleviation Investment	Strategic investment to create sustainable surface water management schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in Gateshead using Environment Agency funding.	5,417	1,037			
Gateshead District Energy Scheme - Solar Photovoltaics	To install up to 2MW of solar photovoltaics systems on Council buildings, Council car parks, and major development sites in Gateshead Town Centre, which are connected to Gateshead District Energy Scheme.	1,402				
Salix Energy Efficiency Works	Energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings	150	150	150	150	150

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Street Lighting Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Replacement - Phase 4	Completion of lighting replacement programme, installing light-emitting diode lanterns to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs and energy consumption.	80				
Broadband Delivery UK	Provision of high-speed broadband to rural areas as part of the Broadband Delivery UK Project.	80	82	84	86	88
Digital Gateshead	Ongoing investment in the Council's Digital Platform to improve the delivery of Digital services.	720	730	695	682	668
IT Strategic Plan	Investment in capital improvements and service transformation as part of the implementation of the IT strategic plan.	241	241	241	241	
Technology Plan: Infrastructure	Ongoing investment in IT infrastructure to ensure the effective delivery of Council services and the provision of a reliable, robust and secure network.	3,490	3,840	2,750	2,632	3,142
Technology Plan: Transformation Through Technology & New Ways of Working	Investment in mobile devices and technology improvements to ensure effective service delivery.	821	369	198	234	198
Major Projects - Project Management Costs	Capitalisation of dedicated Project Managers to co-ordinate the delivery of major strategic capital projects.	290	290	290	290	290

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Extensions and adaptations to the homes of foster carers	Funding to enable foster carers or special guardians to enlarge their homes to accommodate looked after children and provide additional capacity to secure permanence for sibling groups.	250	160	160		
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	Grants to private individuals to facilitate adaptations to their homes to ensure people can continue to live independently	2,550	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950
Telecare Equipment	Provision of telecare equipment to residents over 75, helping to preserve their independence.	75	75	75	75	75
Fixed Play Facility Renewals	Programme of renewal and replacement of fixed play equipment throughout the Borough.	720	720	360	360	
Occupational Health Management Software	System to provide an effective offer to services across the Council and schools.	14				
Virtual Reality Fitness System	Purchase of virtual reality fitness systems for Leisure Centres	120				
Specialist IT equipment for Children and Young People with low incidence needs	Providing specialist equipment to those children and young people who have sensory impairments to enable them to access the curriculum	30	30	30	30	30

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Specialist IT Equipment for Children and Young People with high incidence needs	Providing specialist equipment to those children and young people who have sensory impairments to enable them to access the curriculum	30	30	30	30	30
Development Site Preparation Works	Works to facilitate future redevelopments within Gateshead. To enable Strategic Regeneration Frameworks and acquisition of Sites/Properties to enable regeneration & housing	600	800	800	800	800
Follingsby Salt Store	To provide a covered facility for the storage of the Council's main stock of salt	878				
Flagged Footways	Structural work to footways throughout the borough.	333	340	350		
Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	Externally funded investment in improving sustainable transport infrastructure, traffic management and road safety.	1,233	1,233	1,233	1,233	1,233
Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	Externally funded investment in undertaking planned maintenance to improve highways infrastructure.	3,653	3,288	3,288	3,288	3,288
Transforming Cities (Tranche 2)	External funding to support the delivery of major, strategic transport improvement schemes, seeking to improve public transport and encourage sustainable travel.	3,534	790	50		

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment	Programme to replace the Council's fleet, primarily high value Refuse Collection Vehicles.	1,750	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375
Street Lighting Column Replacement and Central Management System Removal	Programme to replace street lighting columns throughout the Borough.	1,175	1,698	1,698	1,619	660
Traffic Sign Replacement	Programme of traffic sign replacement and improvements throughout the borough.	150	150	150	150	150
Unclassified Road Resurfacing - Micro Asphalt	Unclassified road micro asphalt resurfacing throughout the borough.	289	500	500		
Bensham Road Corridor	To facilitate the delivery of stage 2 of the Benham Road Corridor study and enable recommendations from the study to be implemented.	516	500			
Step up Provision for Children and Young People with Complex Needs	Accommodation to provide support for and to work with complex children and young people.					700
Refurbishment of Metrology Lab	Refurbishment and modernisation of the Metrology Lab	150	50			

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Renewal of Health Surveillance Equipment and upgrades to clinical rooms	Purchase of new equipment used to carry out health surveillance					50
Gateshead District Energy Scheme - Old Ford/Nest House extension	Connect 550 homes, 2 primary schools and a private care home to the District Energy Network to provide zero carbon heating	114	4,581	4,987		
Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council Depots	Installation of electric vehicle charging points at key operational depots across the borough to enable the electrification of the Council fleet by 2025.	807				
Customer Experience	To develop the system capabilities to enable e-billing for Council Tax. Continue the development of the GOSS platform to enable customers to interact with the Council through digital means and deliver more services directly.	105	107	109	111	114
The Angel	Renew the landscape setting at the Angel		290	275		
Blaydon Business Centre Extension	Construction of two additional units for light industry	438	412			

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Greensfield Business Centre Refurbishment	Refurbish the Greensfield Business Centre, to modernise it and make it fit for purpose	242				
Technology Enabled Care	Develop Technology Enabled care as a preventative service	100	100	100	100	100
OCTO Event Manager System	Software used by Gateshead Council Emergency Response Team to record and log decisions during critical and major incidents.	42				
Total Investment in Service Delivery Improvements		47,611	31,888	25,015	18,553	18,238
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL INVESTMENT		124,432	96,262	62,837	22,262	32,975

Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT						
Improvement Works						
Aids & Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Communal Mechanical & Electrical works	Essential works to upgrade communal services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	312	543	566	570	625
Digital Transformation	Transformational upgrade work to block building management services such as CCTV and door entry services	700	700	702	700	804
Environmental & Estate Improvement	Improvements to the public realm in and round estates	101	100	103	100	715
Garage Improvement Programme	Essential works to improve sustainable garage blocks, demolish unviable stock and investigation conversion & change of use where practicable	50	200	200	220	340
Block communal improvements	Improvements to the communal areas and spaces in blocks	630	661	685	702	803
Total Improvement Works		3,293	3,704	3,756	3,792	4,787
Building Safety						
Building safety improvements	Essential work to meet building safety and compliance obligations	890	790	878	828	250
Safety & Security	Work to install and renew smoke and Carbon monoxide detection.	66	56	67	68	93
HRA Commercial Property Improvements	Targeted interventions in the HRA commercial portfolio to meet landlord obligations	50	50	50	50	50

Total Building Safety Works		1,006	896	995	946	393
Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Major Future Works						
Energy & Carbon Net Zero	Delivery of work packages to improve insulation, install green technology and energy solutions that will support achieving Net Zero.	0	0	0	0	4,777
Major Investment Scheme	Targeted Transformation investment work	1,985	1,972	0	0	0
Domestic Heating Improvements	Replacement of failed and obsolete heating systems, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	2,343	2,444	2,511	2,564	2,672
Door & Window replacements	Continuation of the window replacement door replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	645	748	958	798	350
Decent Homes	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	4,503	5,025	5,498	6,069	6,536
Contractual Obligations	Preliminary costs associated with HRA schemes	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fixed Budget Fees	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	550	550	550	550	550
Total Major Future Works		12,026	12,739	11,517	11,981	16,885
Expectational Works						
Option appraisal	Delivery of option appraisal outcomes - acquisition / conversion / demolition of unsustainable HRA assets.	1,123	8,665	3,038	2,374	561
Felling Regeneration	The acquisition, demolition and clearance costs associated with the Felling regeneration project.	1,574	1,983	0	0	0

Total Exceptional Works		2,697	10,648	3,038	2,374	561
Project Title	Brief Description	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Housing Developments						
New Build/Acquisition - Various	Investment to create new Council homes.	3,015	9,803	11,047	9,366	10,591
Total Housing Developments		3,015	9,803	11,047	9,366	10,591
Other Capital						
IT refresh	Replacement of IT Hardware & Software licences	244	38	273	154	11
Total Other Capital		244	38	273	154	11
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL INVESTMENT		22,281	37,828	30,626	28,613	33,228

Appendix 3

PROJECTED CAPITAL FUNDING	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Council Resources					
Prudential Borrowing	90,473	83,139	49,487	13,849	14,152
Capital Receipts	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Confirmed Capital Grant Funding					
Department for Transport Local Transport Plan	4,261	3,896	3,896	3,896	3,896
Department for Education School Capital Grant Funding	2,619	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667
Environment Agency Funding	5,351	969			
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme		2,856			
Better Care Fund	2,450	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850
Anticipated Capital Grant Funding					
Highways England		145	137		
Transforming Cities Tranche 2	2,329	740			
Anticipated External Funding					
External Funds	15,949		4,800		10,410
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL FUNDING	124,432	96,262	62,837	22,262	32,975
Housing Revenue Account Resources					
Major Repairs Reserve Contribution (HRA)	16,119	30,684	23,127	20,797	25,006
Homes England	752	1,542	1,794	2,049	2,317
HRA Capital Receipts	5,410	5,602	5,705	5,767	5,905
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL FUNDING	22,281	37,828	30,626	28,613	33,228
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING	146,713	134,090	93,463	50,875	66,203

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2022

FEES AND CHARGES 2022/23

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2022/23.
2. The Council reviews its fees and charges annually and proposes revised and new charges from 1 April each year.
3. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered. The review of fees and charges has been undertaken in the context of guidance indicating a general uplift where appropriate of 3.1% to reflect the inflationary increase for the year (12-month CPI rate was 3.1% in September 2021).
4. A summary of the proposed changes to fees and charges for 2022/23 is presented in Appendix 1 and the full listing is presented in Appendix 2.
5. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.394m. This is largely in Adult Social Care where the additional income is expected to be offset by additional costs.
6. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) approves the fees and charges as set out for 2022/23 in Appendix 2; and
 - (ii) authorises the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Fees and Charges 2022/23

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The review of fees and charges is an integral part of the annual budget process. The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to agree to recommend to Council the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2022/23.

Background

2. The Council raised £19.1m from Fees and Charges in 2020/21. The forecast for this year is to raise in the region of £21.4m with the impact of Covid-19 estimated to be £5.1m.
3. The Council reviews its fees and charges annually with revised and new charges implemented from 1 April each year. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered. The review of fees and charges has been undertaken in the context of guidance indicating a general uplift where appropriate of 3.1% to reflect the inflationary increase for the year (12-month CPI rate was 3.1% in September 2021).
4. In the Council's Constitution under delegations to individual managers, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has delegated authority to:
 - Amend statutory fees and charges and those tied to service level agreements or charged annually;
 - Approve commercially sensitive traded fees and charges in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - Amend fees and charges during the financial year for any changes in legislation, changes to statutory fees or any changes to the rate of VAT.

Proposal

5. A summary of the recommended changes to fees and charges for the Council in 2022/23 is presented in Appendix 1 and the full listing is presented in Appendix 2.
6. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.394m. This is largely in Adult Social Care where the additional income is expected to be offset by additional costs.

Recommendations

7. It is asked that Cabinet agrees to recommend to Council:

- (i) The fees and charges as set out for 2022/23 in Appendix 2;
- (ii) Authorisation for the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure that Fees and Charges are set in accordance with Council priorities.
- To support the delivery of the Council's budget and the strategic approach to making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council's strategic approach 'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives'. The Council recognises there are huge financial pressures on not just Council resources, but those of partners, local businesses and residents. This means that the Council's decision making, including the setting of fees and charges to support the budget, will be policy and priority led and driven.
2. In the Councils' Constitution under delegations to individual managers, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has delegated authority to:
 - Amend statutory fees and charges and those tied to service level agreements or charged annually;
 - Approve commercially sensitive traded fees and charges in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - Amend fees and charges during the financial year for any changes in legislation, changes to statutory fees or any changes to the rate of VAT.
3. The Council has explored the potential for new fees and charges for discretionary services afforded to it under its trading and charging powers.

Background

4. A review of fees and charges has taken place and the outcome of this review has informed the changes to fees and charges for 2022/23.
5. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered.
6. Proposals have been made to increase 33% of charges by 3.1% and a further 7% by above this level. In doing so it's judged that demand and delivery of Council objectives will not be adversely affected.
7. 53% of charges remain unchanged, 3% are new charges, 1% are proposed to decrease and 3% are to be removed as the Council no longer offer the service, changes to service delivery are proposed or charges have been consolidated.

Changes to Fees and Charges

8. The main changes to proposed fees and charges are listed below and the full listing of all fees and charges for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 2.

Increases by Inflation

It is proposed that 40% are to increase (34% in 2021/22): 33% are proposed to increase by inflation, and 7% are proposed to increase by above inflation. These proposals include:

- **Adult Social Services:** The proposal is to increase the day services and meals by inflation. The charges for the Home Care Service and Extra Care are increased in line with the commissioned service rates.
- **Building Control:** It is proposed to increase the majority of services by inflation in relation to inspections, building notices and regularisation charges.
- **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** It is proposed to increase all Cemeteries and Crematoria charges by inflation.
- **Highways and Transport:** The charges for costs associated with development, Street Naming and Numbering and Network Management have been increased by inflation.
- **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** It is proposed to apply the recommended inflationary increase to the charges relating to Housing Act 2004 Actions, House in Multiple Occupation Licenses and renewals, immigration inspections and redress schemes for lettings Agency work.
- **Licensing:** The majority of non-statutory licence fees have been increased by inflation.
- **Hire of Facilities:** The majority of charges have been increased in line with inflation.
- **Recreation:** The majority of the charges have had the recommended inflationary increase applied. Allotments prices are set every 3 years therefore a 3 year inflationary increase has been applied for charges from 1 April 2022.
- **Planning:** The charges for planning history searches are proposed to increase by inflation.
- **Business Centres:** Meeting room hire charges have been increased by inflation for the following business centres; Gateshead International, Northern Design, Greenesfield, Blaydon and Baltimore House.
- **Corporate Services:** The majority of the charges have had the recommended increase applied.
- **Registrars:** Most non-statutory charges have had the inflationary increase applied.
- **Property and Land:** Charges for Property Transactions and Copying Charges have been increased by inflation.

Increases Above inflation

7% of charges are proposed to increase by more than inflation. Proposals are;

- **Adult Social Services:** Care Call fees model have been reviewed and some increased above inflation due to shift to digital and the use of more complex items of Assistive Technology, these have been endorsed by Portfolio.

- **Car Parking:** A number of car parking charges are increasing by up to 33% due to this being the first increase applied in several years and to control demand in the following car parks; Charles Street, Church Street, Civic Centre, Quarryfield Road, Regent Court, Sunderland Road (Tynegate), Church Street (Nos 1-3), Mulgrave Terrace (Gateshead) and Queen Elizabeth Avenue. This excludes Swinburne Street Car Park and Town Hall Car Park which are both proposed to increase by 67% to bring them in line with other car parks.
- **Building Control:** Several plan charges are proposed to increase by up to 43% due to market conditions and to bring in line with other Local Authorities.
- **Highways and Transport:** Road Opening Notices are proposing to increase by 18% to 25%, charges relating to Permission to Maintain Apparatus in Public Highways are proposed to increase between 7% to 25% and Approval of temporary traffic management proposals to increase by 43%. This is due to this being the first increase applied in several years.
- **Licensing:** The charges for the provision of advice per hour for Scrap Metal Licensing, Hackney Carriage, Street Trading and Market, Gambling Act applications and Enforcement advice are proposing to increase between 6% to 8%.
- **Sport and Leisure:** It is proposed to increase some Swimming Lesson charges between 6% to 8% based on competitor analysis of neighbouring local authorities. However, no increase will be applied to Go Access Junior and Adult categories. This applies to any resident who falls within means tested concessionary criteria.
- **Business Centres:** The charges for Virtual Office Service (Gateshead International, Greenesfield, Blaydon, Baltimore House and Northern Centre for Emerging Technologies Business Centres) and Dedicated Desk (Northern Design Centre & PROTO) increase by 20% which is due to a correction of previous years charges in relation to VAT. The Occupancy Charge for Baltimore House has been increased by more than inflation to align with other Business Centres.

No Change

53% of charges are proposed not to change, 30% of which are Statutory. These include:

- **Children's Services:** It is proposed not to increase most of the charges to continue to be affordable to families from the most deprived areas.
- **Car Parking:** The service has proposed not to increase the charges in all other car parks than those listed above and some tariffs that are decreasing as mentioned later in the report. The majority of On Street Parking charges and Resident Zone Annual Permits are also not proposed to increase. This will also help support local businesses so as to not discourage customers from visiting local shops in car parks where there is currently almost no demand.
- **Development and Public Protection:** The majority of the charges are not proposed to change as they are set by statute.

- **Property and Land:** No changes proposed to search fees.
- **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** No change to the Selective Landlord Licensing fees as these cannot be changed part way through the 5-year scheme.
- **Highways and Transport:** No increase to Streetworks charges as overall impact on revenue is negligible. Road Works and Street Works Permit Scheme unable to change for first 3 years with this being year 3.
- **Libraries:** No change to the majority of Library charges.
- **Registrars:** No increases to Statutory charges.
- **Business Centres:** No increases to hire charges in PROTO, Photogrammetry Capture Stage, Motion Capture Stage, Sound Capture Stage, Multi-Purpose Hall, Technical support, Photocopying and Business Support Services due to market conditions.
- **Sport and Leisure:** The service proposes a price freeze on charges. Due to the current situation within leisure with the service just starting to remobilise after longer periods of closure and some activities not yet operational due to resource, added to the fact that leisure is in the midst of a service review.
- **Licensing:** There have been no increases applied to Statutory Fees. There has been no increase applied to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licence fees pending a full cost recovery review.
- **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** It is proposed not to increase the charges for replacement bins to remain comparable regionally. No increase to Bulky Household Waste Collections as increases could lead to increased fly tipping.
- **Planning:** There have been no change to Statutory services.

Reduced Charges

- **Adult Social Care:** The platinum monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit, unlimited assistive technology and activity monitoring service charge have been reduced by 20% as part of a fundamental review of all Care Call charges.
- **Building Control:** Some of the Regularisation, Inspection and Building Notice charges have been reduced due to market conditions and charges in other local authorities.
- **Car Parking:** 12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day) charges in Quarryfield Road and Regent Court Car Parks have been reduced by 5% and the up to 3 hours charge in Garden Street Car Park (Oakwellgate) has been reduced by 17% as Tariff changed by Traffic Regulation Order connected with Quays development.

- **Licensing:** A decrease of 2% has been proposed for Environmental Health Enforcement Advice – per hour due to equalisation and correction of previous years charges.
- **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** Penalty charges for redress schemes for lettings agency work and property management – reduced to correct previous years charges.

New Charges

The following charges are proposed to be included in 2022/23:

- **Adult Social Care:** A new charge for a Shopping Service where Care Call make online grocery orders for service users.
- **Car Parking:** There are new tariffs being introduced in some Car Parks. Administration fees for refunds for all parking permits (car parks and residents) are also being introduced.
- **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** A new charge for direct cremation and charges for witness scattering of cremated remains if cremation was carried out within or outside of Gateshead.
- **Highways and Transport:** New charges added for multi-phase signals application and the charging of Electric Vehicles. A new charge for the cost of employees attending events to ensure the traffic management plan is carried out to the satisfaction of Gateshead Council acting as the highway authority. The officers will also enable reactive interaction to other unplanned events on the surrounding highway to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic as far as practicable. This charge has previously been costed on an ad hoc basis but the decision has been made to standardise the charge for all events.
- **Hire of Facilities:** Caedmon Hall day time rates have changed from 2 hour, 5 hour and 8 hour rates to a standard Half day or Full day rate. The charge basis for the hire of Community Library Rooms – Central Library and Community Library Rooms – Blaydon Library have changed to an Hourly Rate and Day Rate.
- **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** Standard Treatments for Rodent Control have been added for each individual pest, previously the charge was provided on application. New charges for bin decontamination have been added at a range of capacities.
- **Licensing:** New charges for Variations to Street Trading Consents.
- **Business Centres:** New charges for Vacant Office Hire at Blaydon Business Centre.

Removals

The following charges are proposed to be removed from the 2022/23 brochure:

- **Building Control:** Removal of electrical work (carried out by installer not registered to an approved self-certifying Competent Persons Scheme) charges and Regularisation charge for Internal alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or, structural alterations (If ancillary to the building of the extension no additional charge) as service no longer offered.
- **Car Parking:** Removal of Computer House Car Park charges. A number of tariffs are being removed and replaced with different tariff charges. Some tariffs deleted by Traffic Regulation Order connected with Quayside Development in Pipewellgate Car Park. Charges removed for South Shore Road Car Park as permanently closed. Annual Staff permit charge removed for Swinburne Street Car Park as staff permits not available in this Car Park. Charges removed for Swinburne Street/Swinburne Place, Gateshead as charges no longer apply.
- **Hire of Facilities:** New day time rates have been introduced in Caedmon Hall, Community Library Rooms – Central Library and Community Library Rooms – Blaydon Library, therefore previous day time rates removed.
- **Libraries:** Removal of Audio/Visual Minimum replacement charge as individuals are asked to replace items.
- **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** Removal of Standard/Special Treatment charge which have been replaced by individual pest treatment charges. Removal of charge for Feral Cats as service no longer offered.
- **Recreation:** Removal of Bowls, Football Pitches and Cricket Pitches charges as service no longer provided.
- **Business Centres:** Removal of charges for Virtual Office & Access to Lounge (Gateshead International Business Centre) as this is provided for free in other Business Centres. This leads users to apply for physical space and using other services like meeting rooms. The Dedicated Desk (PROTO) has been removed and the charge has been replaced with a single charge for Dedicated Desk at Northern Design Centre and PROTO.

Consultation

9. No specific consultation on proposed fees and charges has been undertaken with Gateshead residents for 2022/23. Council services have engaged with portfolio holders on proposed changes as part of the budget setting process. Where there is a change to existing fees and charges these will be communicated to services users.

Alternative Options

10. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources

a. Financial Implications – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the financial implications are detailed in the attached appendices and that the full financial implications of this report are included in Council's Budget and Council Tax Level 2022/23 report presented elsewhere on the agenda. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases on current income is estimated at £0.394m.

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.

12. **Risk Management Implications** - The risks associated with the impact on demand for services have been assessed when considering increases in fees and charges.
13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - These are reflected in the proposed fees and charges, which also consider where appropriate the individual's ability to pay. Integrated impact Assessments have been completed for any of the new or significantly increased fees and charges within the report and will be used to evaluate and take action, if necessary, to mitigate the effects of any equality and diversity implications.
14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no immediate crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
15. **Climate and Sustainability Implications** – There are no immediate sustainability implications arising from this report.
16. **Health Implications** - There are no immediate health implications arising from this report.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no immediate Human Rights implications arising from this report.
18. **Ward Implications** – The recommendations apply to all Wards.

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Gateshead Council

Fees and Charges

2022/23

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ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Residential Accommodation for Older People		
Minimum (per week)	£122.60	£126.40
Maximum - Gateshead residents (per week)	£991.40	£1,022.10
Short Term Residential Accommodation for all Adults		
All Establishments (per week)	£122.60	£126.40
Transport to Day Centre (per journey)	£3.30	£3.40
Home Care Service* (per hour)	£16.52	£17.52
Extra Care (per hour)	£14.80	£15.68
Day Services* (per day)	£26.30	£27.10
Day Services* (per half day)	£13.20	£13.55
* Excluding referrals under S117 of Mental Health Act 1983		
Service users will be financially assessed to determine their contribution to the cost of their care and takes account the Department of Health tariff income for savings and capital (currently between £14,250 and £23,250)		
Provision of Meals		
Day Centres (per meal)	£4.20	£4.30
Telephones for Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons	50% of rental	50% of rental
Care Call Fees Model		
Sheltered Schemes		
Bronze - Monitoring, response and annual visit	£4.00	£4.92
Silver - Monitoring, response, annual visit and 1 additional item of assistive technology	£5.20	£7.92
Gold - Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit and unlimited assistive technology	£5.90	£8.76
Platinum Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit, unlimited assistive technology and activity monitoring service	£9.00	£12.48
	£19.80	£19.08
Smoke Alarm Monitoring	£0.72	£0.89
Installation charge	£15.40	£25.20
Shopping Service	NEW	£6.00
Supporting Independence Service (per hour)	£16.55	£17.05
Sporting Clubs for People with Disabilities (Per session)	£5.30	£5.50
MATP (per person per session)	£5.30	£5.50
Rebound Therapy (per person per session)	£26.70	£27.50
iMuse (Per person per session)	£16.20	£16.70
Wheelchair Dance (per person per session)	£10.70	£11.00
Guidepost	£3.20	£3.30
S* where installation of the alarm is requested by tenant VAT is standard rated. If alarm is already built into the property and part of the rent or is part of care package VAT is outside the scope. Tenants with disabilities VAT is zero-rated.		

CHILDREN'S SERVICES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Replacement of lost Bus Passes (Age 11-16 only)	£6.70	£6.90
Equipment Hire		
Electric Breast Pump (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£25.50	£25.50
TENS machine (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£11.50	£11.50
Equipment Purchase		
Manual Breast Pump	£17.00	£17.00
Toy Library		
Parent Membership:		
6 months	£5.50	£5.50
1 year	£10.00	£10.00
Small organisation membership	£15.00	£15.00
Large organisation membership - 1 year	£55.00	£55.00
Equipment loans - per item dependent upon item and will range between	£1 - £50	£1 - £50
Active Kidz		
Per day	£15.70	£16.20
Elgin Centre		
Community Play Provision (per session)	£1.00	£1.00
Sensory Room Per child	£1.00	£1.00
Sensory Room Exclusive Booking	£16.00	£16.00
Early Years Childcare Training Service		
Single Setting Child Protection Training	£334.00	£344.40
Single Setting Designated Persons Training	£334.00	£344.40
Children's Centres		
Activities (per session)	£1.00	£1.00

BUILDING CONTROL	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Standard Charges for New Build Houses		
1 Dwelling		
Plan Charge	£209.60	£216.00
Inspection Charge	£628.80	£650.00
Building Notice Charge	£838.40	£860.00
Regularisation charge	£1,100.50	£1,080.00
2 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£314.40	£324.00
Inspection Charge	£838.40	£860.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,152.90	£1,190.00
Regularisation charge	£1,441.10	£1,485.00
3 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£419.20	£432.00
Inspection Charge	£1,006.10	£1,040.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,425.30	£1,470.00
Regularisation charge	£1,781.70	£1,830.00
4 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£524.00	£540.00
Inspection Charge	£1,152.90	£1,190.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,676.90	£1,730.00
Regularisation charge	£2,096.10	£2,160.00
5 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£628.80	£650.00
Inspection Charge	£1,310.10	£1,350.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,938.90	£2,000.00
Regularisation charge	£2,423.70	£2,505.00
6 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£670.80	£690.00
Inspection Charge	£1,551.10	£1,600.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,221.90	£2,290.00
Regularisation charge	£2,777.30	£2,865.00
7 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£712.70	£735.00
Inspection Charge	£1,792.20	£1,850.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,504.80	£2,580.00
Regularisation charge	£3,130.50	£3,225.00
8 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£754.60	£780.00
Inspection Charge	£2,033.20	£2,100.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,787.80	£2,870.00
Regularisation charge	£3,484.80	£3,585.00
9 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£796.50	£828.00
Inspection Charge	£2,274.30	£2,340.00
Building Notice Charge	£3,070.80	£3,170.00
Regularisation charge	£3,838.50	£3,960.00
10 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£838.40	£864.00
Inspection Charge	£2,515.30	£2,590.00
Building Notice Charge	£3,353.80	£3,460.00
Regularisation charge	£4,192.20	£4,320.00
<p>For applications with number of dwellings in excess of 10 – please contact the Building Control team to discuss the relevant charge. Email D&E Building Control</p> <p>An additional charge becomes payable when electrical work is not carried out by a Part P Registered Electrician and is set to recover additional Local Authority costs – currently set at £466.67 + VAT per unit.</p> <p>A Part P Registered Electrician is a qualified electrician who also has the necessary Building Regulations knowledge to enable his accreditation body to certify his work.</p>		
Domestic Extensions to a Single Building		
Single storey extension floor area not exceeding 10m²		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£251.50	£260.00
Building Notice Charge	£450.70	£460.00
Regularisation Charge	£563.40	£575.00
Single storey extension floor exceeding 10m²		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£440.20	£455.00
Building Notice Charge	£639.30	£660.00
Regularisation Charge	£799.20	£825.00
Two storey extension		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£660.30	£680.00
Building Notice Charge	£808.00	£835.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,074.30	£1,117.50

Loft conversion		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£545.00	£560.00
Building Notice Charge	£744.10	£765.00
Regularisation Charge	£930.20	£962.50
Erection or extension of a non exempt attached or detached single storey domestic garage or carport up to 100m²		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£199.10	£205.00
Building Notice Charge	£398.30	£410.00
Regularisation Charge	£497.80	£512.50
Conversion of a garage to a dwelling to a habitable room(s)		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£272.50	£250.00
Building Notice Charge	£471.60	£460.00
Regularisation Charge	£589.60	£575.00
Alterations to extend or create a basement up to 100m²		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£545.00	£560.00
Building Notice Charge	£744.10	£765.00
Regularisation Charge	£930.20	£962.50
* An additional charge is for work when the relevant building work, or part thereof, has not been carried out by a person referred to in regulation 7(5) (g) or (h) of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 applies. It is additional to the inspection charge, building notice charge or regularisation charge		
Domestic Alterations to a Single Building		
Underpinning		
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price		
Plan Charge	£199.10	£210.00
Inspection Charge	£230.60	£240.00
Building Notice Charge	£429.70	£445.00
Regularisation Charge	£537.20	£575.00
Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling		
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price		
Plan Charge	£125.80	£150.00
Inspection Charge	£115.30	£120.00
Building Notice Charge	£241.10	£250.00
Regularisation Charge	£301.40	£312.50
Internal alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or, structural alterations (If ancillary to the building of the extension no additional charge)		
Basis of Charge		
Fixed Price Based on Estimated Cost Bands		
Building Notice Charge	£188.60	£195.00
Estimated cost less than £2,000		
Estimated cost less than £5,000		
Plan Charge	£125.80	£150.00
Inspection Charge	£115.30	£120.00
Building Notice Charge	£241.10	£250.00
Regularisation Charge	£301.30	£312.50
Estimated cost exceeding £5,000 up to £25,000		
Plan Charge	£125.80	£150.00
Inspection Charge	£356.30	£365.00
Building Notice Charge	£482.10	£495.00
Regularisation Charge	£602.60	£625.00
Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 up to £50,000		
Plan Charge	£125.80	£150.00
Inspection Charge	£607.90	£625.00
Building Notice Charge	£733.60	£755.00
Regularisation Charge	£917.00	£937.50
Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 up to £75,000		
Plan Charge	£125.80	£150.00
Inspection Charge	£974.70	£1,000.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,100.50	£1,130.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,375.00	£1,412.50
Window replacement (non competent persons scheme)		
Basis of Charge - Fixed price grouped by numbers of windows:		
Per installation up to 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£115.30	£120.00
Regularisation Charge	£144.10	£150.00
Per installation over 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£283.00	£290.00
Regularisation Charge	£353.20	£362.50
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.		
Other, Non-Domestic Work - Extensions and New Build		
Floor area not exceeding 40m²		
Other Residential (Institution and Other)		
Plan Charge	£262.00	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£524.00	£540.00
Regularisation charge	£943.20	£1,012.50

Non residential buildings		
Plan Charge	£262.00	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£548.62	£540.00
Regularisation charge	£1,013.28	£1,050.00
Floor area exceeding 40m² but not exceeding 100m²		
Other Residential (Institution and Other)		
Plan Charge	£262.00	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£869.90	£900.00
Regularisation charge	£1,414.90	£1,455.00
Non residential buildings		
Plan Charge	£262.00	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£869.90	£900.00
Regularisation charge	£1,414.90	£1,455.00
The amount of time to carry out the building regulation functions varies, dependent on the different use categories of buildings.		
All Non-Domestic Buildings, Domestic Alterations and Extensions		
Estimated Cost of Work £0-£5,000		
Plan Charge	£209.60	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£157.20	£120.00
Building Notice Charge	£366.80	£420.00
Regularisation charge	£458.00	£525.00
Estimated Cost of Work £5,001 - £10,000		
Plan Charge	£209.60	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£209.60	£132.00
Building Notice Charge	£419.20	£432.00
Regularisation charge	£503.10	£540.00
Estimated Cost of Work £10,001-£15,000		
Plan Charge	£209.60	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£262.00	£270.00
Building Notice Charge	£471.60	£485.00
Regularisation charge	£589.00	£600.00
Estimated Cost of Work £15,001-£20,000		
Plan Charge	£209.60	£300.00
Inspection Charge	£314.40	£325.00
Building Notice Charge	£524.00	£540.00
Regularisation charge	£655.00	£675.00
Estimated Cost of Work £20,001-£100,000		
Plan Charge for each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Inspection Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Building Notice Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Regularisation charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Demolition Charge	£209.60	£216.00
Window Replacement up to 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£115.30	£120.00
Regularisation charge	£144.10	£150.00
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.		
Scaffold Registration Fee	£72.00	£75.00
Skips *		
Annual Permit Scheme Membership	£52.00	£54.00
Standard Permit (Permit Scheme Member)	£21.00	£21.70
Standard Permit (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£26.00	£27.00
Same Day (Permit Scheme Member)	£47.00	£48.00
Retrospective	£94.00	£97.00
Renewal (Permit Scheme Member)	£10.50	£11.00
Renewal (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£15.70	£16.00
Retrospective Application for skips on highways	£94.00	£97.00
* The skip provider/supplier is responsible for payment. Copy of waste carrier licence and public liability insurance must be provided.		
General		
Copies of Approvals and Certificates	£26.70	£28.00
Safety Advice - per hour	£80.00	£82.60
Scaffold and hoardings		
12 weeks permit	£131.00	£135.00
12 weeks permit (competent contractor with appropriate, current qualifications)	£81.00	£84.00
If a site visit is required	£52.50	£54.00
For up to 28 days extension	£26.00	£27.00
Re-inspection fee	£52.50	£54.00

CAR PARKING	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
CAR PARKS - OFF STREET		
Off-Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge)*		
Minimum	£50.00	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00	£70.00
*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment		
Back Regent Terrace / Back Walker Terrace Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Up to 3 hours	£3.00	£3.00
Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£840.00	£840.00
Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,260.00	£1,260.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£480.00	£480.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£672.00	£672.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£255.00	£255.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (All days)	£357.00	£357.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days (per day))	£184.80	£184.80
Suspension of Car Park or bay	£75 flat fee + £5.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £5.00 per bay per day
Charles Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.30	£1.50
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	£2.60	£3.00
Up to 3 hours	£3.90	£4.50
Suspension of Car Park (per day)	£75 flat fee + £7.80 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £9.00 per bay per day
Church Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday all times, max stay 3 days)		
Up to 2 hours	£2.60	£3.00
Up to 4 hours [new tariff]	NEW	£4.50
Up to 12 hours	£5.00	£6.00
Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 72 hours)	£7.50	£8.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£840.00	£1,008.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,260.00	£1,512.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£480.00	£576.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£672.00	£806.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£255.00	£306.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£357.00	£428.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£184.80	£202.00
Suspension of Car Park or bay	£75 flat fee + £7.50 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £8.00 per bay per day
Civic Centre Car Park A (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm)		
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	Free	Free
Up to 1 hour	£1.20	£1.30
Up to 2 hours	£2.40	£2.60
Up to 3 hours	£3.60	£3.90
Up to 4 hours	£4.80	£5.20
All day	£6.00	£6.50
Saturday, Sunday & BH fixed daily charge	£1.50	£2.00
Annual staff permit	£425.04	£425.04
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £6.50 per bay per day
Coach Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 9.00pm)		
Up to 1 hour	£2.00	£2.00
Up to 2 hours	£3.00	£3.00
Up to 3 hours	£4.00	£4.00
Over 3 hours/All Day	£6.00	£6.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £12.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £12.00 per bay per day
Bay reservation fee (inclusive of full day's parking fee)	£12.00 per day	£12.00 per day

Cross Keys Lane Car Park (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) (per hour) All Day Seasonal Permits (All days)	£0.40 £2.00 £150.00	£0.40 £2.00 £150.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £2 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £2 per bay per day
Felling Metro Car Park (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm) Up to 1 hour [new tariff] Up to 2 hours All day Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	NEW £2.00 £3.40 £1.50	£1.20 £2.00 £3.50 £2.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £3.40 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day
Garden Street Car Park (Oakwellgate) (Monday - Friday 4.00pm - 9.00pm. Permit holders only 8.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri) Up to 3 hours Over 3 hours/All Day (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 8.00am-9.00pm) Up to 3 hours [new tariff] Over 3 hours/All Day [new tariff] (Permit holders - all days, all times) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£2.40 £3.20 NEW NEW £307.00 £430.00	£2.00 £3.50 £2.00 £3.50 £336.00 £470.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £3.20 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day
Gateshead Leisure Centre Car Park Loading Bay Permit (per vehicle per day)	£10.00 £75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day	£10.00 £100 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or Bay		
Heworth North Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm) Up to 4 hours [new tariff] Up to 12 hours Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 168 hours) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (specified days)	NEW £2.50 £3.50 £420.00 £630.00 £240.00 £336.00 £128.00 £179.00 £92.40	£1.80 £2.50 £3.50 £420.00 £630.00 £240.00 £336.00 £128.00 £179.00 £92.40
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day
Heworth South Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm 4hr max stay) Up to 2 hours Up to 4 hours Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£2.00 £3.50 £1.50	£2.00 £3.50 £2.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day
Hilda House Car Park Annual staff permit	£260.04 £75 flat fee + £1.50 per bay per day	£260.04 £100 flat fee + £1.50 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or Bay		
Lowrey's Lane Car Park (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) First 20 minutes Per hour All day	Free £0.40 £2.00	Free £0.40 £2.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day
Pipewellgate Car Park All days 8.00am - 6.00pm. Permit holders only Mon - Fri 8.00am - 4.00pm Monday-Friday 4.00pm-6.00pm - up to 2 hours Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays - All Day 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	NEW £2.70 £259.00	£1.50 £3.00 £259.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £2.70 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £3.00 per bay per day

Quarryfield Road Car Park (Monday to Sunday all times, maximum stay 3 days)		
Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.20
Up to 4 hours	£3.00	£3.20
Up to 12 hours	£4.50	£4.70
Up to 24 hours	£6.50	£6.70
Up to 48 hours	£13.00	£13.40
Up to 72 hours	£19.50	£20.10
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£756.00	£790.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,134.00	£1,184.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£432.00	£451.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£605.00	£632.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£230.00	£240.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£321.00	£336.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£166.32	£158.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £6.50 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £6.70 per bay per day
Regent Court Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm)		
Up to 2 hours	£2.10	£2.30
Up to 3 hours	£3.00	£3.10
Up to 4 hours	£3.90	£4.00
All day	£4.70	£4.90
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.50	£2.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£790.00	£823.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,069.00	£1,123.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£451.00	£470.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£570.00	£599.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£240.00	£250.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£303.00	£318.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£173.80	£165.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£75 flat fee + £4.70 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £4.90 per bay per day
Sunderland Road (Tynegate) Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)		
All day	£1.00	£1.20
Annual Staff Permit	£260.04	£260.04
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£168.00	£202.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£252.00	£302.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £1.20 per bay per day
Swinburne Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)		
Up to 2 hours	£1.80	£2.00
All Day	£3.60	£4.00
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.20	£2.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £4.60 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £4.00 per bay per day
Town Hall Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm)		
Up to 2 hours	£1.80	£2.00
All day	£3.60	£4.00
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£1.20	£2.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75flat fee + £4.60 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £4.00 per bay per day
Whickham Shopping Centre (East) Car Park (short stay) (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm 4hr max stay)		
Per hour	£0.40	£0.40
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £3 per bay per day	£100.00 flat fee + £3.00 per bay per day
Whickham Shopping Centre (West) Car Park (long stay) (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm)		
Per hour	£0.40	£0.40
All Day	£2.00	£2.00
Seasonal Permit (All days)	£150.00	£150.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £2 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £3.00 per bay per day
Other car parks where no parking charge is payable		
Suspension of car park or bay	£75 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day	£100 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day
Replacement permit fee (all car parks, all circumstances)	£50.00	£50.00

ON STREET PARKING		
On Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge) *		
Minimum	£50.00	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00	£70.00
*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment		
Church Street (Nos 1-3) Gateshead		
(All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.60	£1.80
Up to 2 hours	£3.10	£3.30
Up to 3 hours	£4.60	£4.80
Ely Street, Gateshead		
(Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 15 mins	£0.30	£0.30
Up to 30 mins	£0.50	£0.50
Up to 45 mins	£0.70	£0.70
Up to 1 hour	£0.90	£0.90
Up to 1 hr 15 mins	£1.10	£1.10
Up to 1 hr 30 mins	£1.30	£1.30
Up to 1 hr 45 mins	£1.50	£1.50
Up to 2 hours	£1.70	£1.70
Half Moon Lane/Hudson Street/Wellington St, Gateshead		
(Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£0.80	£0.80
Up to 2 hours	£1.30	£1.30
Up to 3 hours	£1.80	£1.80
High Street, Gateshead		
(All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 20 mins	£0.70	£0.70
Up to 40 mins	£1.40	£1.40
Up to 1 hour	£2.10	£2.10
Up to 1 hour 20 mins	£2.80	£2.80
Up to 1 hr 40 mins	£3.50	£3.50
Up to 2 hours	£4.20	£4.20
Hopper Street, Gateshead		
(Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Mulgrave Terrace, Gateshead		
(Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5.30pm)		
Per hour	£0.40	£0.50
Peterborough Close, Gateshead		
(Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2 hr max stay)		
Per Hour	£0.60	£0.60
Queen Elizabeth Avenue		
(Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£0.70	£0.80
Up to 2 hours	£1.40	£1.60
Up to 3 hours (new tariff)	NEW	£2.40
Swinburne Street/Swinburne Place, Gateshead		
(All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Bensham Rd (Walker Terrace), Gateshead		
(All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 20 mins	£0.70	£0.70
Up to 40 mins	£1.40	£1.40
Up to 1 hour	£2.10	£2.10
Up to 1 hr 20 mins	£2.80	£2.80
Up to 1 hr 40 mins	£3.50	£3.50
Up to 2 hours	£4.20	£4.20
Warwick Street, Gateshead		
(Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.00

Worcester Green access road, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 15 mins	£0.30	£0.30
Up to 30 mins	£0.50	£0.50
Up to 45 mins	£0.70	£0.70
Up to 1 hour	£0.90	£0.90
Up to 1 hr 15 mins	£1.10	£1.10
Up to 1 hr 30 mins	£1.30	£1.30
Up to 1 hr 45 mins	£1.50	£1.50
Up to 2 hours	£1.70	£1.70
BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT (subject to Council and Secretary of State approval)		
Penalty Charge Notices under S144 Transport Act 2000 for being in a bus lane	£60.00 (discounted by 50% if paid within a statutory period)	£60.00 (discounted by 50% if paid within a statutory period)
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents (per permit)		
First Permit	£25.00	£25.00
Second permit (if applicable)	£50.00	£50.00
Third permit (if applicable)	£75.00	£75.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents' Visitor		
Book (10 vouchers) (3hr max stay)	£5.00	£5.00
OAP/Blue Badge Residents (3hr max stay) permit valid for 3 years	£15.00	£15.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Businesses (charge per permit)		
Blue Badge (Statutory Charge)	£150.00	£150.00
Replacement permit charge	£10.00	£10.00
Change of vehicle charge	£20.00	£20.00
Change of vehicle charge	£10.00	£10.00
Health Professionals' permit	£100.00	£100.00
Landlord Permit	£50.00	£50.00
Trade permit (maximum 2 weeks)	£5.00 flat fee plus £2.00 per day	£5.00 flat fee plus £2.00 per day
West Street Loading Bay	£150.00 £75.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 for each 6 metres or part thereof	£150.00 £100.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 for each 6 metres or part thereof
Parking Dispensation Notice	£75.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 per bay/space per day	£100.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.00 per bay/space per day
Suspension Notice (Parking Bays)	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof
Site visit charge (per visit)		
Refunds for all parking permits (car parks and residents')		
Admin fee for refunds made by BACS	NEW	£10.00
Admin fee for refunds made by cheque (no other mode of refund is available)	NEW	£20.00

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Interments		
For the interment in a grave taken in rotation of an adult 18 years of age or over. (This does not include the Exclusive Rights of Burial)	£859.00	£886.00
Additional cost of a grave taken out of rotation	£74.00	£76.50
For the interment of cremated remains in a grave taken in rotation	£248.00	£255.00
Interment fee Mon - Thurs 2pm - 4pm, Fri 1.45pm - 4pm	£1,080.00	£1,113.00
Interment Saturday up to 3pm (by prior arrangement only)	£1,717.00	£1,770.00
For any interment taking place more than 15 minutes before or after the appointment time, an additional fee for every further 15 minutes or fractional part thereof	£56.00	£57.70
Exclusive Rights of Burial in full graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£740.00	£762.00
For period of 60 years	£888.00	£915.00
For period of 70 years	£1,035.00	£1,067.00
For period of 80 years	£1,182.00	£1,218.00
For period of 90 years	£1,331.00	£1,372.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in cremated remains graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£432.00	£445.00
For period of 60 years	£517.00	£533.00
For period of 70 years	£604.00	£623.00
For period of 80 years	£691.00	£712.00
For period of 90 years	£775.00	£800.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in child's grave. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£432.00	£445.00
For period of 60 years	£517.00	£533.00
For period of 70 years	£604.00	£623.00
For period of 80 years	£691.00	£712.00
For period of 90 years	£775.00	£800.00
Note- The fees indicated include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof. On the expiry of original term referred to above, an option may be exercised to extend the period of Exclusive Right of Burial for a further period (total term must not exceed 90 years).		
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of burial on expiry of initial lease (Must not extend beyond 90 years in total)		
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of Burial - Full Grave		
20 years	£296.00	£305.00
30 years	£444.00	£458.00
40 years	£592.00	£610.00
Extension to existing to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Cremated Remains Grave		
20 years	£173.00	£178.00
30 years	£259.00	£267.00
40 years	£346.00	£357.00
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Childrens Grave		
20 years	£173.00	£178.00
30 years	£259.00	£267.00
40 years	£346.00	£357.00
Note - In some instances double fees may apply for non - residents. Please check with Bereavement Office.		

Gravestones, Tablets and Monumental Inscriptions		
For the right to erect or place a grave or vault in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted:		
A memorial stone 450mm up to 915mm in height and 450mm to 915mm in width (vertical)	£290.00	£299.00
NB All stones over 915mm in height or width will be priced on application	POA	POA
Additional inscription on a headstone	£60.00	£62.00
Half kerbstones - lawned section width of stone 600mm in front (full burials only)	£185.00	£191.00
Kerbstones or border stones enclosing a space not exceeding the measurements specified in the Regulations.	£370.00	£381.50
Horizontal Plaque to be placed between kerb stones not exceeding 750mm x 750mm.	£70.00	£72.00
A Memorial Seat		
Memorial seat without the need for a base to be constructed	£1,336.00	£1,377.00
Memorial Seat with the need for a base to be constructed	£2,055.00	£2,119.00
Memorial cast iron plaque on existing seat in Saltwell Park for 10 years	£562.00	£579.00
Additional or replacement plaque on an existing seat	£205.00	£211.00
Renewal of 10 year lease for plaque	£356.00	£367.00
Miscellaneous Charges		
Exhumation fees (excluding charges for re-interring)	POA	POA
Free standing vase, tablet, or flower stand (right to place) up to 450mm x 300mm	£30.00	£31.00
Coffin Cover	£656.00	£676.00
Register transfer of ownership of grave or vault	£41.00	£41.00
Use of cemetery chapel for services (only if available) fee is in addition to interment fee.	£103.00	£106.00
Replacement memorial stone	£70.00	£72.00
Replacement kerbstone (Half Kerbs)	£93.00	£96.00
Replacement kerbstone (Full Kerbs)	£183.00	£189.00
Renovation - regilding, cleaning etc	£43.00	£44.00
Service cancellation (less than 72 hours notice)	£177.00	£182.50
Cremation		
Of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 18 years	£671.00	£691.00
Environmental Surcharge	£49.00	£50.00
Non-Resident Surcharge	£36.00	£37.00
Additional service time of 20 mins at Saltwell Crematorium for 12 noon & 3 pm services only	£67.00	£69.00
Note - These fees apply where a cremation takes place between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm on weekdays, in any other cases, the fee will be increased by 100%. The cremation fee includes: Use of Chapel, waiting room, etc, and all attendance after coffin placed on catafalque by undertaker The fees include the disposal of cremated remains in the garden of remembrance and a polycontainer for cremated remains.		
Direct Cremation - No Service Available		
Direct Cremation	NEW	£436.00
Entries in Book of Remembrance including touch screen visual display of entry accessible throughout the year		
Each line of entry (entries must consist of either 2, 5 or 8 ines)	£36.00	£37.00
For Emblem or Service Badge	£119.00	£122.50
Family Crest or Coat of Arms	£141.00	£145.00
Token Entry charged at actual cost plus: Admin fee	£35.00	£36.00
Miscellaneous Charges		
Medical Referee	£41.00	£42.00
Witness Scattering of Cremated Remains if Cremation was carried out within Gateshead	NEW	£45.00
Witness Scattering of Cremated Remains if Cremation was carried out elsewhere	NEW	£60.00
Disposal in Garden of Remembrance of a person cremated elsewhere	£59.00	£60.00
Family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free). Charge applicable for all other searches. Charge is for one name, at one location.	£36.00	£37.00
Memorial Wall Plaque for 10 years	£470.00	£484.50
Extension of memorial wall plaque or memorial kerb plaque for period of 10 years (on expiry of lease)	£265.00	£273.00
Memorial Kerb Tablet including plaque, inscription & vase (for a period of 10 years)	£819.00	£844.00
Memorial Wall / Kerb Tablet - replacement plaque (for remainder of 10 year lease)	£207.00	£213.00
Appointment with staff to be shown grave location for family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free)	£39.00	£40.00
Dignified disposal of body parts - charged at 50% of the appropriate charge for an interment or a cremation.	POA	POA
Webcasting Service	£50.00	£52.00

DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Trading Standards		
Fees for the purpose of any work carried out under the provisions of Weights and Measures Act 1985 and for any other metrological activity. For the testing of any equipment, the fee will be determined by the hourly rate of the Weights and Measures Inspector and will include a fee for time for preparation and travelling to the place of verification or testing. Where the nature of the equipment requires the presence of support staff, an additional fee will be charged to include an hourly rate for the member of staff and will include travelling to the place of verification or testing. An additional charge will be made to cover the cost of hiring any additional equipment required for the test.		
Hourly rate for an Inspector of Weights and Measures	£87.30	£90.00
Hourly rate for a member of support staff	£38.50	£39.70
General Trading Standards Advice - per hour	£80.10	£82.60
Metrology Laboratory Weighbridge		
Vehicle not exceeding 20 tonnes	£5.00	£5.50
Vehicle exceeding 20 tonnes, not exceeding 35 tonnes	£7.00	£7.50
Vehicle Exceeding 35 tonnes	£9.00	£9.75
Authorisations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 / Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 Local Authority Pollution Control		
Application Fee - All charges are Statutory		
Standard Process	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00
PVR 1 & dry cleaners	£155.00	£155.00
PVR 1 & 2 combined	£257.00	£257.00
Vehicle refinishers & other reduced fee activities	£362.00	£362.00
Reduced fee activities*: Additional fee for operating without a permit	£99.00	£99.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
For the third to seventh applications	£985.00	£985.00
For the eighth and subsequent applications	£498.00	£498.00
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application, an extra charge is added to the above amounts	£308.00	£308.00
Annual Subsistence Charge		
Standard Process - Low Risk	£810.00	£835.00
Standard Process - Low Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£110.00	£113.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk	£1,215.00	£1,253.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£165.00	£170.00
Standard Process - High Risk	£1,830.00	£1,890.00
Standard Process - High Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£215.00	£222.00
Reduced fee activities - Low Risk - Statutory Charge	£79.00	£79.00
Reduced fee activities - Medium Risk - Statutory Charge	£158.00	£158.00
Reduced fee activities - High Risk - Statutory Charge	£237.00	£237.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Low Risk	£120.00	£124.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Medium Risk	£235.00	£242.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - High Risk	£357.50	£369.00
* Reduced fee activities are service stations, vehicle refinishers, dry cleaners		
Vehicle refinishers, Low Risk**	£240.00	£247.00
Vehicle refinishers, Medium Risk**	£380.00	£392.00
Vehicle refinishers, High Risk**	£575.00	£593.00
Odouring of natural gas, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£79.00	£79.00
Odouring of natural gas, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£158.00	£158.00
Odouring of natural gas, High Risk - Statutory charge	£237.00	£237.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£646.00	£646.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, High Risk - Statutory charge	£1,506.00	£1,506.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£385.00	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£617.00	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£924.00	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£198.00	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£316.00	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£473.00	£473.00
Additional charge if subsistence payment is made by quarterly instalments - Statutory charge	£38.00	£38.00
**Where part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation, an extra £98.00 must be added to the above amounts.		

Transfer and surrender - All charges are Statutory		
Standard process transfer	£169.00	£169.00
Standard process partial transfer	£497.00	£497.00
Surrender: all Part B activities	n/a	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: transfer	n/a	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: partial transfer	£47.00	£47.00
(2010/11) New Operator at low risk reduced fee activity	£78.00	£78.00
Temporary Transfers for Mobiles - All charges are Statutory		
First Transfer	£53.00	£53.00
Repeat following enforcement or warning	£53.00	£53.00
Substantial Changes (Sections 10 and 11 of the Act) - All charges are Statutory		
Standard Process	£1,050.00	£1,050.00
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
Reduced fee activities***	£102.00	£102.00
***All above charges include the extra £98 for reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation		
Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control - All charges are Statutory		
Application	£3,363.00	£3,363.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00
Annual Subsistence - Low	£1,446.00	£1,446.00
Annual Subsistence - Medium	£1,610.00	£1,610.00
Annual Subsistence - High	£2,333.00	£2,333.00
Additional charge of subsistence payment is made by quarterly instalments	£38.00	£38.00
Late Payment Fee	£52.00	£52.00
Substantial Variation	£1,368.00	£1,368.00
Transfer	£235.00	£235.00
Partial Transfer	£698.00	£698.00
Surrender	£698.00	£698.00
LAPC and LAPPC mobile plant charges (Application/ Subsistence) - All charges are Statutory		
1 authorisation, Application fee	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00	£646.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00	£1,506.00
2 authorisations, Application fee	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00	£646.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00	£1,506.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Application fee	£985.00	£985.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£385.00	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£617.00	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£924.00	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Application fee	£498.00	£498.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£198.00	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£316.00	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£473.00	£473.00
Land Contamination queries		
General Queries	£154.00	£158.80
Large or Complex Queries - actual cost using hourly charge out rates	POA	POA
Environmental Enforcement		
Littering	£75.40	£77.70
Dog control offences	£75.40	£77.70
Graffiti	£75.40	£77.70
Fly-posting	£75.40	£77.70

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Road Opening Notice		
Section 171 Licence (Road Opening Notice)	£250.00	£295.00
Amendments to Section 171 Licence	£60.00	£75.00
Permission to maintain apparatus in Public Highways		
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (new apparatus)	£550.00	£595.00
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (existing apparatus)	£275.00	£295.00
Amendments to Section 50 Licence	£60.00	£75.00
Temporary Traffic Signals Fees (for non-statutory undertakers)		
Approval of temporary traffic management proposals	£35.00	£50.00
2 Way Signals application	£50.00	£50.00
Multi-phase signals application	NEW	£75.00
Amendment	£25.00	£25.00
Site Visit (per visit where required, additional to other fees)	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof
Highways Inspection Reports		
Highways Inspection Reports (per street per year)	£51.50	£52.90
Request for Service / Complaint Records (per street per year)	£51.50	£52.90
Works Orders (per street per year)	£51.50	£52.90
Street Works Records (per street per year)	£34.40	£35.30
Plan extract of adoption records (additional/follow up) (per OS plan used)	£12.10	£12.10
Plan extract of adoption records (duplicate) (per OS plan used)	£24.90	£24.90
Standard search additional questions (per question)	£12.80	£13.20
Non-Standard search additional questions (per question)	£20.10	£20.70
NRASWA Inspection Fees (Statutory fees)		
Sample Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Defective Reinstatement Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£47.50	£47.50
Third Party Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£68.00	£68.00
Traffic Regulation Orders	actual cost	actual cost
NRASWA Penalty Charges (Statutory fees)		
Street Works Fixed Penalty Notices	£120.00 (£80.00 if paid within a statutory period)	£120.00 (£80.00 if paid within a statutory period)
NRASWA S74 Charges (Statutory fees)		
Overrun charges under S74	variable	variable
Road Works and Street Works Permit Scheme		
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£81.00	£81.00
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 3-4 and non-traffic sensitive)	£72.00	£72.00
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£171.00	£171.00
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£115.00	£115.00
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00	£120.00
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00	£75.00
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00	£65.00
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00	£40.00
Standard works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00	£120.00
Standard works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00	£75.00
Minor works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00	£65.00
Minor works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00	£40.00
Immediate works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£49.00	£49.00
Immediate works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£36.00	£36.00
Permit Variation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£45.00	£45.00
Permit Variation (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive)	£35.00	£35.00
Traffic and Accident Data Unit Charges		
Traffic and Accident Data - 1-4 items	£188.40	£194.00
Unit - Charge for Data for each subsequent item	£46.80	£48.30
Road Traffic Collision Data - 1-4 items	£204.00	£210.00
Road Traffic Collision Data for each subsequent item	£51.60	£53.20
Annual fee for access to CIRTAS or TRADS	£1,634.40	£1,685.00

Charging of Electric Vehicles EV Charging Posts, per kWh Heworth North	NEW	£0.20
Transport Costs Associated with Development Where changes to the transport network are required in order to accommodate development. Checking of Designs - Estimated cost of works: <£25,000 £25,000 - £75,000 £75,000 - £250,000 > £250,000	£1,069.00 £1,603.50 £3,207.00 £5,345.10	£1,102.10 £1,653.20 £3,306.40 £5,510.80
This does not include any charges for checking the design of highway structures, exceptional or complex works or traffic signals.		
Supervision/ Inspection of Works - A charge of £1,000 +9% of the estimated cost of the works will be levied. - (This charge may be varied by agreement in exceptional circumstances).		
Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) Assignment of name to a new street	£205.50	£211.90
Postal numbering for a new development on a new or existing street	£205.50 1st plot and £5.14 per additional plot	£211.90 1st plot and £5.30 per additional plot
Alteration at the request of the developer/applicant in either street name or property numbers to new development after initial SNN has been undertaken, this charge is in addition to the above charges where applicable	£205.50	£211.90
Renaming or the assignment of a name to an existing street at developer's/occupier's request	£205.50 plus £20.55 per property	£211.90 plus £21.20 per property
Changing the assigned postal numbering/street of an existing single property at the developer's/occupier's request, which does not involve the creation or renaming of a street.	£102.80	£106.00
Subdividing/merging of an existing property to create new postal addresses.	£51.38 per unit	£52.97 per unit
Allocating/altering a house name to an existing address.	£51.38 per unit	£52.97 per unit
Confirmation of postal address to property occupiers/owners/solicitors/conveyancers and other third parties	£51.38 per address	£52.97 per address
Network Management Footway crossing applications	205.50	£211.90
Temporary sign (including tourist sign applications)	135.60	£139.80
H Bar road marking applications	92.50	£95.40
H Bar road marking maintenance	£85.43 to maintain the line when required	£88.08 to maintain the line when required
Multiple phase temporary traffic signal application	£488.00 or £308.25 if 21 days' notice is given	£503.10 or £317.80 if 21 days' notice is given
Temporary traffic regulation order (by order)	POA	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by notice)	POA	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by emergency notice)	POA	POA
Temporary traffic regulation order (by the Police Clauses act)	POA	POA
ID Badge for Central Transport Unit contractors (per badge) (this is needed for contracted runs)	£10.50	£10.80
Traffic Management Supervision at Events (per hour)	NEW	£46.00
Clearance of stopped private drains Normal Hours	£117.10	£120.70
Other Times	£233.10	£240.30
Installation of Vehicle Crossings - Base price will be £700 but subject to survey	POA	POA
Private Hardstands (private driveways)	POA	POA

HIRE OF FACILITIES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Multipurpose Buildings		
Room Bookings Hourly Rate		
Small room (less than 10 people)		
Weekday	£19.50	£20.10
Saturday	£25.60	£26.40
Sunday	£32.30	£33.30
Medium room (11-20 people)		
Weekday	£24.60	£25.40
Saturday	£30.20	£31.10
Sunday	£40.00	£41.20
Large Room (more than 20 people)		
Weekday	£29.20	£30.10
Saturday	£31.30	£32.30
Sunday	£40.00	£41.20
Room Bookings Daily Rate		
Small room (less than 10 people)		
Weekday	£126.10	£130.00
Saturday	£172.20	£177.50
Sunday	£220.90	£227.70
Medium room (11-20 people)		
Weekday	£162.50	£167.50
Saturday	£209.10	£215.60
Sunday	£276.80	£285.40
Large Room (more than 20 people)		
Weekday	£198.40	£204.60
Saturday	£217.80	£224.60
Sunday	£276.80	£285.40
Elgin Centre		
Meeting Room - as per small room hire shown above		£0.00
Multi Use Games Area (per hour)	£13.80	£14.20
Sports Hall (per hour)	£45.10	£46.50
Sports Hall (per day)	£314.70	£324.50
LIBRARIES		
Caedmon Hall* - day time rate		
Half Day - use of room	NEW	£100.00
Full Day - use of room	NEW	£200.00
*A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead based not-for-profit organisations. All evening hires incur an additional £25.50 per hour cost for staffing. Caedmon Hall requires 2 additional members of staff after the day time occupancy hours for safety due to the design of the building and the location of the hall. Technicians charges, use of piano and extra staff are costed at the actual rate of the charge to the council as they are sourced externally		
Community Library Rooms - Central Library - day time rate**		
Hourly rate - use of room	NEW	£17.50
Sowerby Room - Central Library - rate per hour	£11.25	£11.25
**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations.		
Community Library Rooms - Blaydon Library - day time rate**		
Hourly rate - use of room	NEW	£15.00
**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations.		
Cancellation of Bookings - Central Library		
Within 48 hours of intended use	100% of hire charge	100% of hire charge
Within two weeks prior to date of the event	75% of hire charge	75% of hire charge
Between two and four weeks prior to date of the event	50% of hire charge	50% of hire charge
St Mary's Heritage Centre**		
Daytime rate		
Main Hall (per hour)	£60.50	£60.50
Chancel (per hour)	£35.00	£35.00
**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations. A discount of 20% is available for hire of the whole building. All evening hires incur an additional £25.50 per person per hour cost for staffing.		

SALTWELL PARK		
Weekdays		
Wailes Room (half day)	£167.30	£172.50
Wailes Room (full day)	£313.70	£323.40
Training Room (half day)	£65.90	£67.90
Training Room (Full day)	£109.80	£113.20
Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight)	£784.20	£808.50
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£784.20	£808.50
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,568.40	£1,617.00
Saturday		
Wailes Room (half day)	£167.30	£172.50
Wailes Room (full day)	£313.70	£323.40
Training Room (half day)	£65.90	£67.90
Training Room (Full day)	£109.80	£113.20
Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight)	£784.20	£808.50
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£784.20	£808.50
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,568.40	£1,617.00
Sunday		
Wailes Room (half day)	£167.30	£172.50
Wailes Room (full day)	£313.70	£323.40
Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm to midnight)	£1,568.40	£1,617.00
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£1,568.40	£1,617.00
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,568.40	£1,617.00
** Where hire of room is for wedding facilities (ceremony, wedding breakfast or evening reception the whole charge is standard rated).		
CIVIC CENTRE		
Bewicks B (half day) Weekdays Only x 4 Hours	£151.50	£156.20
Bewicks B (full day) Weekdays Only	£273.40	£281.90
Bewicks A&B Friday Evening	£1,025.10	£1,056.90
Bewicks A&B (half day) Sat or Sun x 4 Hours	£2,050.20	£2,113.80
Bewicks A&B (full day) Sat or Sun > 4 Hours	£2,050.20	£2,113.80
Weekday per Half Day		
The Lamesely Room	£92.30	£95.20
The Bridges Room	£92.30	£95.20
The Whickham Room	£92.30	£95.20
The Blaydon Room	£92.30	£95.20
Saltwell Room	£92.30	£95.20
Dave Hopper Room	£63.00	£65.00
The Council Chamber	£195.80	£201.90
Weekday per Full Day		
The Lamesely Room	£184.00	£189.70
The Bridges Room	£184.00	£189.70
The Whickham Room	£184.00	£189.70
The Blaydon Room	£184.00	£189.70
Saltwell Room	£184.00	£189.70
Dave Hopper Room	£126.10	£130.00
The Council Chamber (per session)	£392.10	£404.30
PARKS AND PAVILIONS		
** Where the charge is negotiable – A session is of no fixed period but is dependent upon the needs of the individual organisation.		
	*Negotiable	*Negotiable
DRYDEN CENTRE		
Non Commercial Organisations **		
Weekdays		
(Discount of 20% if five consecutive weekdays (Mon-Fri 18:00 - 22:00) booked. May be subject to sole user charge £50.00)		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£72.30	£74.50
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£197.30	£203.40
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£54.80	£56.50
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£165.00	£170.10
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£18.50	£19.10
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£52.80	£54.40
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£28.20	£29.10
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£73.30	£75.60
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£32.30	£33.30
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£92.80	£95.70
Conference Room (per hour)	£36.40	£37.50
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£107.60	£110.90
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£165.00	£170.10

Saturday		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£105.60	£108.90
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£296.30	£305.50
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£66.60	£68.70
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£198.40	£204.60
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£24.60	£25.40
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£71.20	£73.40
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£33.30	£34.30
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£96.90	£99.90
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£34.30	£35.40
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£101.00	£104.10
Conference Room (per hour)	£43.10	£44.40
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£120.40	£124.10
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£198.40	£204.60
Sunday and Bank Holiday		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£124.00	£127.80
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£343.40	£354.00
Conference Hall (per hour) Theatre Groups	£66.60	£68.70
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session) Theatre Groups	£198.40	£204.60
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£27.00	£27.80
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£77.40	£79.80
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£43.10	£44.40
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£118.40	£122.10
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£46.10	£47.50
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£131.20	£135.30
Conference Room (per hour)	£49.70	£51.20
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£139.90	£144.20
Theatre package for amateur operatic, dramatic or other performances including rehearsals. ***	£198.40	£204.60
Photocopying - per copy	£0.11	£0.11
Commercial Organisations **		
Weekdays		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£84.10	£86.70
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£248.60	£256.30
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£21.50	£22.20
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£63.60	£65.60
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£33.30	£34.30
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£98.90	£102.00
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£43.10	£44.40
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£127.10	£131.00
Conference Room (per hour)	£49.70	£51.20
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£147.60	£152.20
Saturday		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£127.10	£131.00
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£377.70	£389.40
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£27.20	£28.00
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£77.40	£79.80
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£46.10	£47.50
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£137.90	£142.20
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£49.70	£51.20
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£147.60	£152.20
Conference Room (per hour)	£55.90	£57.60
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£168.10	£173.30
Sunday and Bank Holiday		
Conference Hall (per hour)	£144.50	£149.00
Conference Hall (per 3 hour session)	£430.50	£443.80
Rooms Up to 10 People (per hour)	£31.30	£32.30
Rooms Up to 10 People (per 3 hour session)	£91.70	£94.50
Rooms Up to 20 People (per hour)	£54.80	£56.50
Rooms Up to 20 People (per 3 hour session)	£165.00	£170.10
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per hour)	£62.50	£64.40
Rooms 21 - 30 People (per 3 hour session)	£186.60	£192.40
Conference Room (per hour)	£67.70	£69.80
Conference Room (per 3 hour session)	£203.50	£209.80
Photocopying - per copy	£0.21	£0.21
Refreshments - Buffet Lunch menu available for choices and price.	POA	POA
Cancellation of Bookings		
Up to 2 weeks' notice	50% of Hire Charge	50% of Hire Charge
Up to 5 working days notice	75% of Hire Charge	75% of Hire Charge
Up to 2 working days notice	100% of Hire Charge	100% of Hire Charge
Cancellation on day of hire	100% of Hire Charge	100% of Hire Charge
** Equipment hire is included in relevant charges above. Where a separate identifiable charge is made for equipment hire this will be subject to VAT at the standard rate.		
***Includes use of specialist sound and lighting equipment and access to stage, under stage area, use of piano i.e. all specialist facilities for a stage performance.		

HOUSING RELATED CHARGES AND LICENSING	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Baltic Road Gypsy and Traveller's Site		
Entry Deposit	£233.00	£240.20
Site Rental Double Pitch - per week	£52.00	£53.60
Electricity sale tariffs to be adjusted in line with Electricity Board increases		
Housing Act 2004 Action		
Housing Act Notices and Orders - Charge imposed when Housing Act Notices are served or orders made under Part 1 of the Act (except Hazard Awareness Notices).	£425.00	£438.20
Works in default - A charge for the administration of carrying out works in default for notices served under Town and County Planning, Housing, Public Health, Environmental Protection Prevention of Damage by Pests and Building Acts and for the administration of emergency remedial action carried out under the Housing Act 2004. £235 or 20% is charged whichever is the greater.	£228.00	£235.10
Mandatory HMO Licencing*		
HMO Licence (up to 14 bedrooms) (£532 payment due at the time of application / £354.70 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£860.00	£886.70
HMO Licence (15+ bedrooms) (£580 payment due at the time of application / £386 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£937.00	£966.00
Renewal of Mandatory HMO Licencing*		
HMO Licence Renewal (up to 14 bedrooms) (£467 payment due at the time of application / £312.40 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£756.00	£779.40
HMO Licence Renewal (15+ bedrooms) (£515 payment due at the time of application / £343.80 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£833.00	£858.80
Variation of HMO Licence (at Licence Holders request)	£165.00	£170.10
Immigration Inspections - Charge imposed when EHO's inspect properties in respect of immigration and visa purposes.	£126.50	£130.40
Housing Grants		
Support fee on Housing Grants - A 15% support fee is charged for the administration of all private sector home repair, renovation and disabled facility grants.	15% oncost of relevant fee	15% oncost of relevant fee
Selective Licencing - Central Gateshead Ph2 and The Avenues Phase 1		
Early Application Fee (complete application received prior to scheme live date, or before licensable property is purchased / managed mid scheme)	£ 550.00	£550.00
Standard Fee (complete application received within 28 days of becoming licensable)	£ 750.00	£750.00
Standard Fee Plus (complete application received more than 28 days of property becoming licensable and reminder sent)	£ 850.00	£850.00
Late Application Fee (complete application received more than 28 days of becoming licensable and application had to be pursued on multiple occasions)	£ 1,000.00	£1,000.00
Discounts		
Accredited property (paid at expiry if licence) (£100 18% discount from standard fee)		
* Unaccredited on application - discount repaid if property accredited within agreed timescales and property meets standard for full licence duration		
* Accredited at time of application - £50 upfront discount for properties already accredited and £50 paid at licence expiry if standard maintained		
* Accredited member of a National Landlords Association (or equivalent) (£100 up front discount for current accredited members / licence holder commits to and attends foundation course / joins association. £65 additional discount at end of scheme if accredited status and association membership maintained for full licence duration.		
* Multiple properties (discount on the fit and proper element of a licence after the first application) (£10 per subsequent application)		
Licence Variations		
Change of licence to new licence holder (where proposed licence holder is not an existing licence holder) either £550 (where application is received prior to the revocation of the current one or prior to the property requiring a licence) , £750 (where application provided within 28 days of the property becoming licensable), £850 (where application provided more than 28 days later of the property becoming licensable and a reminder has been sent) or £1000 (where provided more than 28 days of the property becoming licensable and has had to be pursued for an application on multiple occasions).	£ 854.30	£854.30
Change of licence to new licence holder (where property owner stays the same and proposed licence holder is an existing licence holder)	£ 50.00	£50.00
Charges		
Charge for provision of and receipt of a paper application (for applications received after online system becomes available)	£ 50.30	£50.30
Charge for each incomplete / deficient application received	£25 + fee	£25 + fee
Phased payment plan (per property)	£ 25.10	£25.10
Charge for failing to return requested property / licence information mid scheme	£ 25.10	£25.10
Caution issue (as an alternative to prosecution) in response to housing or anti-social behaviour related offence.	£ 301.50	£310.80
Public register - request for paper copy	£ 50.30	£51.90

Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management		
Penalty Charge - First Warning Letter Issued	£107.00	£100.00
Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and First Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served*	£3,206.00	£3,000.00
Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and Second Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served	£4,275.00	£4,000.00
Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter, persistent and multiple non-compliance - Notice of Intent Served	£5,345.00	£5,000.00
* Reduced to a penalty of £2,000 where the agent has failed to comply with the requirements under the regulations, but has ceased to operate in that capacity at the time of the issue of a Notice of Intent		

LICENSING	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018		
Pet Shop Licence*	£277.70	£286.30
Pet Shop Renewal*	£218.00	£224.80
Animal Boarding Establishment - Licence*	£281.90	£290.60
Animal Boarding Establishment - Renewal	£199.10	£205.30
Host Licence	£76.50	£78.90
Host Licence Renewal	£76.50	£78.90
Dog Breeders - Licence*	£277.70	£286.30
Dog Breeding Renewal	£199.10	£205.30
Dangerous Wild Animals - Licence	£152.00	£156.70
Riding Establishment - Licence*	£277.70	£286.30
Riding Establishment - Renewal*	£239.00	£246.40
Performing Animals Registration	£256.80	£264.80
Performing Animals Renewal	£218.00	£224.80
Performing Animals - Amendment to a current listed above	£15.70	£16.20
Performing Animals - Copies of licence	£15.70	£16.20
Zoo Licensing *	£314.40	£324.10
Any additional work for variations of the above will be charged at the hourly rate of £36		
* Plus cost of veterinary inspection		
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013		
New Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£374.10	£385.70
New Application (3yrs) - Collector Licence	£153.90	£158.70
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£276.90	£285.50
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Collectors Licence	£83.40	£86.00
Variation Application - Site Licence	£73.80	£76.10
Variation Application - Collector Licence	£41.20	£42.50
Variations (address/ vehicles/ contact details)	£11.20	£11.50
Replacement Licence or Badge	£9.80	£10.10
Provision of scrap metal licensing advice , per hour	£78.00	£82.60
Practice of acupuncture or the business of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis		
Person (one off charge)	£131.00	£135.10
Premises (one off charge)	£256.80	£264.80
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licences		
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£180.30	£180.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£180.30	£180.30
A full refund (less a variable administration fee) on any licence fee will only be made following a written request made within 28 days of the licence having been processed. After 28 days, the value of the refund will equal the vehicle plate deposit, plus (if the 6 month test has not been taken) the vehicle test fee.		
Private Hire Operators Licence	£157.00	£157.00
Operators Annual Fee (Years 2-5)	£105.00	£105.00
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90	£51.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90	£86.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90	£121.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90	£51.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90	£86.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90	£121.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£84.00	£84.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£119.00	£119.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£154.00	£154.00
Upgrade to dual driver licence from hackney carriage or private hire driver	£32.10	£32.10
Replacement of Licence or Badge	£10.70	£11.00
Vehicle Plate Deposit	£14.50	£14.90
Locality Test Fee	£14.50	£14.90
Transfer of vehicle proprietor or change of vehicle	£27.00	£27.00
Replacement door crest (each)	£5.10	£5.30
Copy of CSE course attendance certificate - Hackney, Private, or Dual driver	£10.90	£11.20
Expedited Applications (48 hour response)		
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£230.30	£230.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£230.30	£230.30
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90	£101.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90	£136.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90	£171.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90	£101.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90	£136.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90	£171.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£134.00	£134.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£169.00	£169.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£204.00	£204.00
Provision of hackney carriage and or private hire licensing advice, per hour	£76.50	£82.60

Pleasure Craft Licences		
Vessel (Annual)	£75.80	£78.10
Person (Annual)	£23.40	£24.10
Sex Establishments		
Sex Shop	£2,058.90	£2,120.00
Sex Cinema	£2,058.90	£2,120.00
Sexual Entertainment Venue	£2,058.90	£2,120.00
Sex Establishment Variation/ Transfer Fee	£921.50	£950.00
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice		
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice - per hour	£84.30	£82.60
Food Safety export certificates	£82 plus £82 per hour	£84 plus £84 per hour
Food Hygiene Rerating	£172.60	£178.00
General Licensing Advice - per hour	£80.10	£82.60
Initial purchase fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges		
Rateable Value		
£0 - £4,300	£100.00	£100.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£190.00	£190.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£315.00	£315.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£450.00	£450.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£900.00	£900.00
£125,001 & Over	£635.00	£635.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,905.00	£1,905.00
Annual renewal fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges		
Rateable Value		
£0 - £4,300	£70.00	£70.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£180.00	£180.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£295.00	£295.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£320.00	£320.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£640.00	£640.00
£125,001 & Over	£350.00	£350.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,050.00	£1,050.00
Other Statutory Charges		
Minor Variation of Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate	£89.00	£89.00
Theft/Loss of Club Premises Certificate, Premises Licence or Summary	£10.50	£10.50
Change to Name or Address	£10.50	£10.50
Change of Club Name or Alteration to Rules	£10.50	£10.50
Change of Registered Address of Club	£10.50	£10.50
Additional fees for Premises (Large Scale Venues) Contact Licensing Section on 0191 433 4741 or licensing@gateshead.gov.uk		
Variation of DPS on Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Application to Transfer Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Interim Authority for Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Disapplication of a Mandatory Alcohol Condition	£23.00	£23.00
Interest in Premises (Right of Freeholder to be Notified)	£21.00	£21.00
Temporary Event Notice	£21.00	£21.00
Theft/Loss of Temporary Event Notice	£10.50	£10.50
Provisional Statement	£315.00	£315.00
Theft/Loss of Provisional Statement	£10.50	£10.50
Personal Licence (Grant or Renewal)	£37.00	£37.00
Change to Name or Address	£10.50	£10.50
Theft/Loss of Personal Licence	£10.50	£10.50
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£300.00	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Prize Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£300.00	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00

Club Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£200.00	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Club Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£200.00	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Application Fee	£150.00	£150.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Transfer	£25.00	£25.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Licensed Premises Automatic Notification Process - Statutory charge		
Notification	£50.00	£50.00
Small Lottery Registration - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£40.00	£40.00
Annual Fee	£20.00	£20.00
Street Trading Consent		
1 Day (1 to 6 days)	£26.70	£27.50
1 Week	£106.90	£110.20
Summer Season (1 May to 31 October)	£454.40	£468.50
Winter Season (1 November to 30 April)	£454.40	£468.50
12 Months	£801.80	£826.70
Variations to above Consents:		
Change in Location	NEW	£78.00
Change of individual's name/address	NEW	£36.00
Transfer of ownership	NEW	£36.00
Change of Vehicle	NEW	£36.00
Consent for Markets with Multiple Traders (per stall)		
Daily (1-6 market days)	£26.70	£27.50
1 Week	£106.90	£110.20
Summer Season	£454.40	£468.50
Winter Season	£454.40	£468.50
12 Months	£801.80	£826.70
Market		
Daily per stall per day (1-6 market days)	£26.70	£27.50
Up to monthly per stall (7-12 market days)	£106.90	£110.20
Up to weekly per stall (13-52 market days)	£454.40	£468.50
Block Consent Annual Fee	£1,731.70	£1,785.00
Provision of street trading and Market advice	£78.00	£82.60
Gambling Act Fees		
Bingo Club		
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,030.10	£2,090.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,750)	£1,750.00	£1,750.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00	£1,180.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00	£1,180.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,030.10	£2,090.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00

Betting Premises		
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,624.90	£1,680.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £600)	£600.00	£600.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,500)	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00	£1,180.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00	£1,180.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,607.80	£1,660.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Track betting		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,030	£2,090.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,250)	£1,250.00	£1,250.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,030.00	£2,090.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Adult Gaming Centres		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.40	£1,480.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,146.00	£1,180.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,123.50	£1,160.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,404.40	£1,450.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,123.50	£1,160.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Family Entertainment		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.30	£1,480.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £750)	£750.00	£750.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,432.40	£1,480.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Provision of advice about gambling Act applications, per hour	£78.00	£82.60
Planning, highways and environmental enforcement		
Provision of enforcement services	£291.30 per day	£300.00 per day
Provision of enforcement advice, per hour	£78.00	£82.60
Highway Licensing		
Planting Trees, Shrubs in the Highway		
New Licence Application (subject to additionally)	£272.60	£280.00
Annual Inspection and monitoring fee (this is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted)	£81.30	£83.80
Licence transfer	£26.70	£27.50
Hoardings		
Per Hoarding - Up to 6 months	£108.00	£110.00
Portable Cabins (including storage containers)		
Up to 28 days	£59.80	£62.00
Up to 28 days extension	£26.70	£27.50
Where cabins or containers are required for considerably longer than 56 days, contact should be made directly with Officers.		
Building Materials, Rubbish, etc.		
Up to 10 days	£33.10	£34.10
Up to 10 days extension	£26.70	£27.50
Building materials will not be permitted in the highway for longer than 20 days.		
Buildings		
0 -5 years	£1,352.30	£1,395.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90	£700.00
Annual inspection fee	£135.70	£140.00
To transfer the licence	£26.70	£27.50
The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.		
Bridges over the Highway*		
0 - 5 years	£1,352.30	£1,395.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90	£700.00
Annual Inspection fee	£135.70	£140.00
To Transfer the Licence	£26.70	£27.50

Beams, Cables, Wires and Pipes along over or across the highway*		
0 - 5 years	£352.70	£365.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£178.50	£185.00
Annual Inspection fee	£81.30	£84.00
To transfer the licence	£26.70	£27.50
Cellars and Vaults under the Highway*		
0 - 5 years	£1,352.30	£1,395.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£678.90	£700.00
Annual Inspection fee	£135.70	£140.00
To transfer the licence	£26.70	£27.50
Openings into Cellars and Vaults under the streets*		
Additional fees may be incurred where there are multiple openings.		
0 - 5 years	£272.60	£280.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£135.70	£140.00
Annual Inspection fee	£81.30	£84.00
To transfer the licence	£26.70	£27.50
*The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.		
Crane Oversailing (fixed)		
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.		
0 - 6 months	£700.20	£722.00
For every 3 months thereafter	£135.70	£140.00
Variation of Licence	£135.70	£140.00
Site Inspection fee	£81.30	£83.80
To transfer the Licence	£26.70	£27.50
Crane Oversailing (mobile)		
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.		
Per day	£163.60	£169.00
Part Day (4 hours)	£106.90	£110.00
Multiple sites (2 or more)	£106.90	£110.00
- thereafter (per site)	£48.10	£49.60
Variation of the Licence	£54.50	£56.20
A Boards (annual licence fee)	£38.40	£39.60
Variation Fee	£26.70	£27.50
Removal of unlawful advertising		
Per Item	£26.70	£27.50
Storage per Day	£5.30	£5.50
Removal of unlawfully parked advertising trailers, large A Boards		
Per Item	£26.70	£27.50
Storage per Day	£5.30	£5.50
Pavement Displays (annual licence fee)	£38.40	£39.60
Pavement Cafes (annual licence fee)	£128.20	£132.00
Projecting signs, canopies and projections from buildings Licence Fee		
For 5 Years	£320.70	£331.00
For every five years thereafter	£133.70	£138.00
Annual inspection fee	£80.10	£83.00
To transfer the licence	£26.70	£27.50

SPORT AND LEISURE	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Use of coin retain locker	£0.20	£0.20
Use of showers, changing facilities	£4.20	£4.20
Group 1 - Standard Charge (no GO Card) - any customer without a GO Card.		
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card) - 18-64 years of age with a GO Card.		
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)		
Group 4 - Junior (GO Card) - 0-17 Years.		
Group 5 - GO Access - Customers meet the criteria for GO Access.		
Activity Charges		
Table Tennis per table per hour		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£5.30	£5.30
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£4.60	£4.60
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£3.40	£3.40
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£2.70	£2.70
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.15	£2.15
Badminton per court per hour		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£13.75	£13.75
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£11.25	£11.25
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£8.50	£8.50
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.40	£5.40
Group 5 - GO Access	£4.20	£4.20
Major Games (4 Badminton courts per hour)		
Standard charge (no Go Card)	£60.00	£60.00
Go Card	£45.00	£45.00
Go Card - Club fee without Club Mark	£40.00	£40.00
Go Card - Club fee with Club Mark	£37.50	£37.50
Go Card Junior Club hire -without Club Mark	£35.00	£35.00
Go Card Junior Club hire -with Club Mark	£30.00	£30.00
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA	POA
Ancillary Hall (Birtley Leisure Centre) per hour		
Standard charge (no GO Card)	£35.00	£35.00
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA	POA
Go Card	£30.00	£30.00
Hire of Equipment		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£3.50	£3.50
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£2.95	£2.95
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£1.75	£1.75
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	Free	Free
Group 5 - GO Access	Free	Free
Fitness Room		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.10	£7.10
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.10	£6.10
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£4.70	£4.70
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.00	£4.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.10	£3.10
Fitness Room (Birtley Leisure Centre)		
Standard charge (all users)	£7.65	£7.65
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£3.85	£3.85
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.85	£3.85
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.85	£3.85
Coaching Fees - Keep Fit classes		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£6.20	£6.20
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£5.20	£5.20
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£4.00	£4.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.00	£3.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.25	£2.25
Squash (per court per session)		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£9.15	£9.15
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£8.00	£8.00
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£6.40	£6.40
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.20	£5.20
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.90	£3.90
Track		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£6.05	£6.05
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£5.10	£5.10
Group 3 - 65+ & Students (GO Card)	£3.90	£3.90
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.10	£3.10
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.50	£2.50

Track Pass (Indoor track only) - 3 months		
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£50.60	£50.60
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£32.60	£32.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£25.30	£25.30
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£25.30	£25.30
Track Pass (Outdoor track only) - 3 months		
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£50.60	£50.60
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£32.60	£32.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£25.30	£25.30
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£25.30	£25.30
Track Pass (Indoor & Outdoor Track) - 3 months		
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£79.70	£79.70
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£50.60	£50.60
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£40.60	£40.60
Group 5 - GO ACCESS	£40.60	£40.60
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Gateshead International Stadium)per hour	£85.00	£85.00
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Blaydon Leisure Centre)per hour	£75.00	£75.00
Artificial Turf Pitches		
Lower Field (Sand based - GIS)	£35.00	£35.00
Lower Field - Event/ Commercial Rate	POA	POA
3G pitch Hire (half pitch)		
Standard	£60.00	£60.00
Chater Standard Club Hire	£40.00	£40.00
3G pitches (Full pitch)		
Standard	£100.00	£100.00
Chater Standard Club Hire	£60.00	£60.00
Event/ Commercial Rate	POA	POA
3G Pitch - Club League Future Bookings	POA	POA
GO Bears Den		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£5.00	£5.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.00	£4.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.00	£3.00
Loyalty pay for 9 visits get 10th free		
Exclusive Use* - Subject to availability 1.5hrs	£300.00	£300.00
Clip n Climb		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£10.00	£10.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£10.00	£10.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m	£8.00	£8.00
Group bookings for affiliated groups i.e scouts, clubs etc	£8.00	£8.00
Vertical drop slide & Leap of Faith (can only be booked as part for Clip n Climb)	£2.50	£2.50
Clip and Climb Crew (booked in blocks term time after school club)	£5.00	£5.00
Toddler 1/2 hour clip & climb / GO Bears Den Includes hot drink and juice	£10.00	£10.00
Swimming**		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£4.90	£4.90
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£3.90	£3.90
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£2.90	£2.90
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£2.60	£2.60
Group 5 - GO Access	£1.70	£1.70
Children under 4 years	Free	Free
** casual swimming is free for children and adults enrolled on Council-run swimming lessons with a paying adult		
Family Swim (up to 2 adults and 2 children)		
Standard price (no GO Card)	£16.00	£16.00
GO Card	£11.00	£11.00
GO Access	£7.00	£7.00
Pool hire per hour including staff		
Small Pools - Monday to Friday	£25.00	£25.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£14.20	£14.20
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£17.00	£17.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£40.00	£40.00
Small Pools - Saturday & Sunday	£30.00	£30.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£17.70	£17.70
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£22.00	£22.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£40.00	£40.00
Large Pools - Monday to Friday 7am to 10pm	£100.00	£100.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£69.00	£69.00
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£82.00	£82.00
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00	£150.00

Large Pools - Monday to Friday before 7am or after 10pm	£120.00	£120.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£86.00	£86.00
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£103.30	£103.30
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00	£150.00
* Large Pools - Saturday & Sunday 8am to 4pm	£100.00	£100.00
* Club Hire - With a club Mark	£73.00	£73.00
* Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£87.50	£87.50
* Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00	£150.00
Large Pools - Saturday & Sunday Before 8am or after 4pm	£120.00	£120.00
Club Hire - With a club Mark	£95.15	£95.15
Club Hire - Without a club Mark	£114.20	£114.20
Club Hire - Commercial Rate	£150.00	£150.00
Gala Fee per hour - (includes Dunston Leisure Centre Pool only, gallery and changing areas). Also included F.O.C. will be use of Sauna Steam rest area, circulation areas for the clubs purposes and a meeting room for officials.		
Large Pool - Weekday	£90.00	£90.00
Large Pool - Weekend during normal pool operating hours	£90.00	£90.00
Large Pool - Weekend out of normal pool operating hours	£160.00	£160.00
Small Pool - Weekday	£40.00	£40.00
Small Pool - Weekend during normal pool operating hours	£60.00	£60.00
Small Pool - Weekend out of normal pool operating hours	£75.00	£75.00
Swimming Lessons		
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.98	£7.20
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£5.64	£5.80
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£5.67	£6.10
Group 5 - Juniors GO Access	£4.25	£4.25
Group 6 - Adult GO Access	£4.65	£4.65
Group 7 - Adult - (Go member)	£4.65	£4.80
Group 8 - Junior - additional swimming lessons (used if booking more than one lesson per week)	£4.25	£4.55
Group 9 - Trainee Teacher Lessons	£2.00	£2.10
Joining Fee - Junior Lessons only	£15.00	£15.50
One-to-one swimming lesson (per half hour)		
Adult	£20.00	£20.50
Junior	£20.00	£20.50
Premium small group lessons (no more than 6 per group.Price per person	£10.30	£10.50
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks)	£3,200.00	£3,300.00
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks) less than 20 pupils	£1,890.00	£1,950.00
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 10 pupils	£30.00	£31.00
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 20 pupils	£60.00	£62.00
Flowrider		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week) (GO Card)	£12.00	£12.00
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£10.00	£10.00
Group 5 - GO Access	£10.00	£10.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m	£8.00	£8.00
School Term, before 4.00p.m Monday - Friday - Full flow rider 8 riders	£50.00	£50.00
School Term, After 4.00p.m Monday - Friday and weekends - Full flow rider 8 riders	£80.00	£80.00
Sauna per 2 hour sessions		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.20	£7.20
Group 2 - Adult (GO Card)	£6.10	£6.10
Group 3 - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week) (GO Card)	£4.20	£4.20
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£3.70	£3.70
Group 5 - GO Access	£2.95	£2.95
Gymnastics- per person per lesson - 10 lessons		
Group 1 - Standard charge (no GO Card)	£7.70	£7.70
Group 4 - Juniors (GO Card)	£4.85	£4.85
Group 5 - GO Access	£3.65	£3.65
Grassed Pitch Hire -seasonal hire		
Adult with changing facilities	£848.70	£848.70
Junior with changing facilities	£356.50	£356.50
Additional games with changing facilities		
Adult	£111.00	£111.00
Junior	£56.70	£56.70

GO Unlimited Membership (12 month contract) - per month		
GO Unlimited - Adult	£32.00	£32.00
GO unlimited - Concession - 65+ & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week)	£26.00	£26.00
GO unlimited - Junior* / Active Access	£19.00	£19.00
GO unlimited - Joint	£57.00	£57.00
GO unlimited - Corporate	£25.00	£25.00
GO Kids- 0-7 years	£19.50	£19.50
GO Kids 8-13 years	£19.50	£19.50
* Junior is a month to month DD contract paid by someone over 18 years of age, now available from the age of 11 years.		
Annual membership pay for 12 months upfront and get 13 months membership on any category		
Joining Fee - GO Gateshead Memberships		
Gym induction	£15.00	£15.00
	£10.00	£10.00
GO Unlimited Non-contract Membership - per month CASH PAYMENT		
GO Unlimited - Adult	£45.00	£45.00
GO Unlimited - Concession	£45.00	£45.00
GO Unlimited - Junior	£25.00	£25.00
Go Unlimited - Access	£36.00	£36.00
Swim only pass - Birtley Swimming Centre (12 month contract) - per month*		
Adult	£22.00	£22.00
All other concessions	£15.00	£15.00
* Direct debit payment		
Gateshead GO Card		
Adult	£10.00	£10.00
65+ & Students	£10.00	£10.00
Juniors	£1.00	£1.00
Juniors (non-resident)	£2.00	£2.00
Replacement Cards	£1.00	£1.00
Room Hire including studios for school, clubs*		
* Clubs who already hire the facility for other bookings		
Up to 2 hours	£20.00	£20.00
2 - 4 hours	£50.00	£50.00
Full Day	£85.00	£85.00
Open - Close	£120.00	£120.00
Standard Rate		
Up to 2 hours	£25.00	£25.00
2 - 4 hours	£75.00	£75.00
Full Day	£100.00	£100.00
Open - Close	£150.00	£150.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite up to 4 hours (5 rooms)	£175.00	£175.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite up to 8 hours (5 rooms)	£300.00	£300.00
Gateshead Stadium - Full suite over 8 hours (5 rooms)	£475.00	£475.00
School Bookings - schools to receive 20% off bookings badminton and squash courts Monday - Friday Term time only		

LIBRARIES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2020/21 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Reservations		
Adult Books - on shelves (per item)	£0.30	£0.30
Adult Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.80	£0.80
Junior Books - on shelves	Free	Free
Junior Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.30	£0.30
Pensioners Books - on shelves (per item)	£0.30	£0.30
Pensioners Books - on loan or on order (per item)	£0.55	£0.55
Audio Visual (per item)	£0.30	£0.30
Vocal Scores (per item)	£1.30	£1.30
Item borrowed from other library service (per item)	£4.20	£4.20
Audio / Visual Loans		
Compact Discs	£0.90	£0.90
Premium DVDs (Overnight Hire)	£1.00	£1.00
Standard DVDs (Weekly Hire)	£1.00	£1.00
DVD Box Sets (Fortnightly Hire)	£2.00	£2.00
Fines		
Books and CD's - per item per day (limit £9.25 per item)	£0.20	£0.20
Books (Pensioners) - per item per day (limit £4.60 per item)	£0.11	£0.11
Books (Children)	Exempt	Exempt
Lost Library Tickets		
Replacement of tickets	£2.35	£2.35
Photocopying		
A4 B & W per sheet	£0.10	£0.10
A3 B & W per sheet	£0.20	£0.20
A4 Colour per sheet	£0.50	£0.50
A3 Colour per sheet	£0.90	£0.90
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A4)	£0.60	£0.60
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A3)	£1.10	£1.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) B & W per sheet	£0.10	£0.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) Colour per sheet	£0.50	£0.50
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) B & W per sheet	£0.20	£0.20
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) Colour per sheet	£0.90	£0.90
Book Cradle Scan(upto A3)	£0.60	£0.60
Fax Service		
Outgoing UK only (Initial Sheet)	£1.15	£1.15
Outgoing UK only (any additional sheets)	£0.95	£0.95
International:		
Bands 1-6	£1.55	£1.55
Bands 7-13	£2.15	£2.15
Incoming	£1.35	£1.35
Exhibition Service		
Providing arts exhibition sales facilities - minimum 20% commission on sales	£0.20	£0.20
Booking charge for selling exhibitions (non-returnable in case of customer cancellation)	£8.20	£8.20
Local History Service		
Photographs - price varies depending on format, quality and size (price quoted is minimum)	from £0.60	from £0.60
Initial enquiry to Local History Service is free of charge. Each subsequent enquiry	£30.00	£30.00

WASTE SERVICES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Trade Refuse Standard Dustbins per bin per week	POA	POA
Wheel Bins 240 litres 360 litres 1100 litres	POA POA POA	POA POA POA
Supply and delivery of replacement and new property bins Refuse Wheeled Bin Recycling (Blue) Wheeled Bin Garden Waste Wheeled Bin 140L Bin decontamination charge 240L Bin decontamination charge 360L Bin decontamination charge 660L Bin decontamination charge 1100L Bin decontamination charge	£36.00 £26.00 £36.00 NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW	£36.00 £26.00 £36.00 £6.78 £11.30 £17.41 £32.62 £53.22
Green Waste Charges (sign up before 31 Jan 2022)	£34.00	£34.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up after 31 Jan 2022)	£36.00	£36.00
Bulky Household Waste - Special Collection Charges		
Large sized Items		
Garage Door, Bathroom Suite, Dismantled Shed, Window Frames	£43.00	£43.00
Note - all collections subject to a minimum charge of £16, this can be made up of a mix of medium and small items listed below:		
Medium sized items		
Mattress, Carpet, Bed, Fridge/Freezer, Large Table, Wardrobe, Door, Washer, Armchair, Cabinet, Sofa	£8.00	£8.00
Small sized items		
Bag of Household Waste, Bag of Garden Rubbish, Boxes, Small Table, Vacuum Cleaner, Headboard, Television Stand, Lawnmower	£2.00	£2.00
Asbestos removal	POA	POA
Graffiti Removal		
Removal of non offensive graffiti from private property.	POA	POA
Removal of syringes from private property	POA	POA
Supply and delivery of bagged rock salt to e.g. hospitals, emergency services properties etc. per bag	£7.80	£8.00
Floristry service products	POA	POA
MOT Tests		
Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (major)	£54.85	£54.85
Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (minor)	£27.42	£27.42
Test Fee - Private Hire	£54.85	£54.85
Class IV Vehicles	£54.85	£54.85
Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats	£57.30	£57.30
Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats (with seat belt check)	£64.00	£64.00
Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats	£59.55	£59.55
Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats (with seat belt check)	£80.50	£80.50
Class V Vehicles over 16 seats	£80.65	£80.65
Class V Vehicles over 16 seats (with seat belt check)	£124.50	£124.50
Class VII Vehicles	£58.60	£58.60
Duplicate Section 50 Certificate	£18.30	£18.30
MOT (at same time as Section 50 test)	£27.70	£27.70
Disinfestation		
Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Private Houses / Allotments		
Standard Treatment	POA	POA
Special Treatment	Actual Cost	Actual Cost

Rodent Control		
Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Allotments / Private Houses		
Standard Treatment - Rats	£42.00	£43.30
Standard Treatment - Ants	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Bed Bugs	£97.50	£100.50
Standard Treatment - Beetles	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Booklice	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Cluster Flies	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Cockroaches	£97.50	£100.50
Standard Treatment - Fleas	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Grey Squirrels	£97.50	£100.50
Standard Treatment - Mice	£42.00	£43.30
Standard Treatment - Mites	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Pigeons	POA	POA
Standard Treatment - Silverfish	£55.00	£56.70
Standard Treatment - Wasps	£55.00	£56.70
Recovery of stray dog from kennels		
Statutory Fee	£27.00	£27.00
Administrative Fee	£30.80	£30.80

PLANNING	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Formal confirmation that planning application conditions have been fulfilled*	£14.00	£14.50
*An additional hourly rate is applied to the above charge (per hour)	£67.00	£69.00
Pre Planning Advice		
Householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£25.00	£26.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning application following advice that their development needs permission	£20.00	£21.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning advice	£40.00	£41.00
Non householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£45.00	£46.00
Telecommunications enquiry for pre planning application	£200.00	£207.00
Advert pre application advice	£50.00	£52.00
Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£200.00	£206.00
Revised Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£100.00	£103.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£1,000.00	£1,030.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£500.00	£515.00
Strategic Development Enquiry (additional charges may apply)	£2,000.00	£2,060.00
Planning History Search (per hour)		
Major Applications	£69.00	£69.00
Minor Applications	£47.00	£47.00
Other and householders applications	£25.00	£25.00
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FEES - STATUTORY CHARGES		
Outline Applications		
Where the site area does not exceed 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00	£462.00
Where the site area exceeds 2.5 hectares (price for the first 2.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£11,432.00	£11,432.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £150,000 applies		
Full Applications		
The erection or creation of a dwelling(s)		
Where the number of dwellings to be created is 50 or fewer (per dwelling)	£462.00	£462.00
Where the number of dwellings to be created exceeds 50 (charge for the first 50 dwellings) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00	£22,859.00
For each additional dwelling in excess of 50 (per dwelling)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies		
The erection of buildings		
Where floor space is created or the gross floor space created does not exceed 40sq.m	£234.00	£234.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 40sq.m but does not exceed 75sq.m	£462.00	£462.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 75sq.m but does not exceed 3,750sq.m (charge for each 75sq.m)	£462.00	£462.00
The development exceeds 3,750sq.m (charge for 3,750sq.m.) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00	£22,859.00
For each additional 75sq.m	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies		
The erection of buildings to be used for agricultural purposes on agricultural land		
Where the gross floor area does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00	£96.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 465sq.m but does not exceed 540sq.m	£462.00	£462.00
The floor area exceeds 540sq.m but does not exceed 4,215sq.m £462 for the first 540 sq.m then an additional £462 for each 75sq.m in excess of 540 sq.m	£462.00	£462.00
The gross floor area exceeds 4,215sq.m (charge for 4,215sq.m) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00	£22,859.00
For each additional 75sq.m in excess of 4,215sq.m (per 75sq.m)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies		
The erection of glasshouses on agricultural land		
The gross floor space does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00	£96.00
The gross floor space does exceed 465sq.m	£2,580.00	£2,580.00
The erection, alteration or replacement of plant and machinery		
The site area does not exceed 5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00	£462.00
The site area exceeds 5 hectares (price for the first 5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00	£22,859.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies		
Householder Application works to a single dwelling (including works within the boundary)	£206.00	£206.00
Alterations/extensions to 2 or more dwellings (flat rate)	£407.00	£407.00
The construction of car parks, service roads and and other means of access where the development is incidental to the existing use of the land	£234.00	£234.00

The carrying out of any operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas		
The site area does not exceed 7.5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£508.00	£508.00
The site area exceeds 7.5 hectares (price for the first 7.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,070.00	£38,070.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 7.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00	£151.00
A maximum charge of £300,000 applies		
Other Operations - winning and Working of Minerals		
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00	£234.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00	£34,934.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies		
Other Operations for the winning and working of Oil and Natural Gas		
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£257.00	£257.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,520.00	£38,520.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00	£151.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies		
Use of land for waste disposal or mineral storage or external mineral storage		
The site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00	£234.00
The site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00	£34,934.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£138.00
A maximum charge of £78,000 applies		
Other Operations (not coming within any of the above categories)	£234.00	£234.00
Change of use	£462.00	£462.00
Application for a non-material change to a planning permission		
Householder applications	£34.00	£34.00
Any other applications	£234.00	£234.00
Variation of condition including renewals of temporary permissions (unless submitted within 12 months of permission - if so no fee) equalling that for a full application for entire site	£234.00	£234.00
Reserved Matters - where applicants earlier reserved matters applications have incurred total fees equalling that for a full application for entire site	£462.00	£462.00
Advertisements		
Advertisement specifically relating to the site where they are displayed or 'advance signs'	£132.00	£132.00
All other advertisements	£462.00	£462.00
Prior Approval		
Larger Homes Extensions	£96.00	£96.00
Determination of Prior Approval - Agricultural and Forestry buildings and operations or Demolition of buildings	£96.00	£96.00
Determination of Prior approval (telecommunications)	£462.00	£462.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use where there are no associated building operations	£96.00	£96.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use with associated building operations	£206.00	£206.00
Playing fields for (non profit making sports clubs etc)	£462.00	£462.00
Lawful Development Certificates		
Existing use	Normal fee	Normal fee
existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	£234.00	£234.00
Proposed use	Half normal fee	Half normal fee
Existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	£234.00	£234.00
Application for Permission in Principle - for 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£402.00	£402.00
Applications by Parish etc Councils	Half normal fee	Half normal fee
Development crossing planning authority boundaries, requiring several applications. Only one fee, paid to the authority having the larger site but calculated for the whole scheme.	Based on relevant fee category	Based on relevant fee category
Alternative applications for one site. Highest of fees applicable for each alternative and a sum equal to half the rest.	Based on relevant fee category	Based on relevant fee category
Applications required only because of the removal of permitted development rights, by a condition restricting changes of use within a class, or by an Article 4 direction	No Fee	No Fee
Works to improve a disabled person's access to a public building, or to improve his/her access, safety, health or comfort at his/her dwelling house	No Fee	No Fee
One revised or fresh application by the same applicant for the same character or description with 12 months of receiving permission or refusal, or the making of the application if withdrawn.	No Fee	No Fee
Formal Discharge of Planning Conditions		
Conditions imposed on householder approvals (per request)	£34.00	£34.00
Conditions imposed on non-householder approvals (per request)	£116.00	£116.00

S106 Monitoring - ability to charge allowed in Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019		
Financial MonitoringFinancial Contribution with commencement trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£258.63	£258.63
Financial MonitoringFinancial Contribution with future trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£517.26	£517.26
Physical Monitoring Obligations on site during construction and post occupation e.g.		
•Employment & training Plans		
•Local workforce commitments	£517.26	£517.26
•Restriction of occupation (per obligation and per trigger point)		
Physical Monitoring		
Developer provision e.g.		
•Open Space/Play	£517.26	£517.26
•Affordable Housing		
•Highway works (per obligation and per trigger point)		
Very large or complex developments may require a longer monitoring with commensurate monitoring charges	POA	POA
Request to confirm compliance with S106 Obligations (per obligation)	£52.42	£52.42

RECREATION	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
LAND FEES Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session peak times Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session off peak 6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer) 6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer) 6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter) 6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter)	£10.50 £7.90 £125.80 £188.60 £94.30 £157.20	£10.80 £8.10 £129.70 £194.40 £97.20 £162.10
Daily land use fee: Set up / dismantle fee 60% of daily fee charged	POA POA	POA POA
Hourly activity sessions Memorial Trees Filming in Parks	£10.30 POA POA	£10.60 POA POA
ALLOTMENTS Rents per annum Area up to 200m ² 201m ² - 300m ² 301m ² - 400m ² Rents above 400m ² to be charged the 400m ² fee together with the next band fee appropriate to make up the size e.g. a 600m ² allotment will be charged at the 400m ² and 200m ² combined total	£42.00 £57.00 £77.00	£46.00 £62.00 £84.00
Lettings for Fairgrounds and open space events - (charges per day) To set up and dismantle To operate	£60.30 £170.90	£62.20 £176.20

BUSINESS CENTRES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Blaydon, Greenesfield and Gateshead International Business Centres, Northern Design Centre		
Occupancy Fees - per sq ft		
Blaydon Business Centre (Workshop)	£8.50	£8.50
Blaydon Business Centre (Office)	£15.50	£16.00
Greenesfield Business Centre	£27.00	£27.00
Gateshead International Business Centre	£26.00	£26.80
Northern Design Centre	£33.00	£34.00
Baltimore House	£30.00	£31.20
PROTO	£27.00	£27.80
Day Office Hire	Day Rent Rate + Day NNDR rate + 5%	Day Rent Rate + Day NNDR rate + 5%
Contribution to overheads (all centres)	£6.50	£7.00
Virtual Office Service (GIBC, GBC, BLBC, BH, NCET)	£75.00	£90.00
Virtual Office Service (NDC)	£100.00	£102.00
Dedicated Desk (NDC & PROTO)	£150.00	£180.00
Use of Additional Office/Unit for Temporary Storage - 50% of standard licence fee (Licence agreements for storage last for 3 months and can be renewed once. Thereafter a full licence agreement must be entered into).		
Gateshead International Business Centre		
12 people meeting room - per day	£75.00	£77.50
12 people meeting room - per half day	£40.00	£41.50
12 people meeting room - per hour	£12.00	£12.50
5 people meeting room - per day	£55.00	£56.75
5 people meeting room - per half day	£30.00	£31.00
5 people meeting room - per hour	£8.00	£8.25
Northern Design Centre		
12 people meeting room - per day	£120.00	£123.70
12 people meeting room - per half day	£60.00	£61.90
12 people meeting room - per hour	£18.00	£18.60
5 people meeting room - per day	£66.00	£68.00
5 people meeting room - per half day	£36.00	£37.10
5 people meeting room - per hour	£9.60	£9.90
Greenesfield Business Centre		
12 people meeting room - per day	£80.00	£82.50
12 people meeting room - per half day	£46.00	£47.50
12 people meeting room - per hour	£15.00	£15.50
Blaydon Business Centre		
Vacant Office Hire - per day	NEW	£68.00
Vacant Office Hire - per half day	NEW	£35.00
Vacant Office Hire - per hour	NEW	£14.00
8 person meeting room - Occupiers	Included in rent	Included in rent
8 person meeting room - per day (non-occupiers)	£60.00	£62.00
8 person meeting room - half day (non-occupiers)	£30.00	£31.00
Broadband Charge per month	£30.00	£31.00
Baltimore House		
12 person meeting room - per day	£120.00	£124.00
12 person meeting room - half day	£60.00	£62.00
12 person meeting room - per hour	£18.00	£18.50
6 person meeting room - per day	£66.00	£68.00
6 person meeting room - half day	£36.00	£37.00
6 person meeting room - per hour	£9.60	£10.00
PROTO		
Immersive Lab (Meeting space only no access to equipment)		
Per day	£100.00	£103.00
Half day	£50.00	£51.50
Per hour	£15.00	£15.50
Photogrammetry Capture Stage		
Per day*	£2,400.00	£2,400.00
Half day*	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Per hour*	£360.00	£360.00
Optimised Model	£600.00	£620.00
5+ day Consecutive discount	Cost -20%	Cost -20%

Motion Capture Stage		
Per day*	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
Half day*	£900.00	£900.00
Per hour*	£300.00	£300.00
Post Production Clean Up	£5 per second	£5 per second
5+ day Consecutive discount*	Cost -20%	Cost -20%
Sound Capture Stage		
Per day*	£240.00	£240.00
Half day*	£120.00	£120.00
Per hour*	£36.00	£36.00
5+ day Consecutive discount*	Cost -20%	Cost -20%
Multi Purpose Hall		
Per day	£500.00	£500.00
Half day	£250.00	£250.00
Per hour	£75.00	£75.00
5+ day Consecutive discount	Cost -20%	Cost -20%
Technical Support		
Per day	£600.00	£600.00
Half day	£360.00	£360.00
Per hour	£120.00	£120.00
*These are discretionary services to be delivered subject to availability. 50% reduction in cost for businesses based in Gateshead (Primary location or NNDR payer).		
PROTO Educational Package 10 (per year)	£21,600.00	£21,600.00
PROTO Educational Package 15 (per year)	£32,400.00	£32,400.00
PROTO Educational Package 20 (per year)	£43,200.00	£43,200.00
School Day Package	£600.00	£600.00
School Half Day Package	£300.00	£300.00
School Taster Session	£120.00	£120.00
Sponsorship		
Sponsorship of boardrooms at Business Centres (each)	£3,060.00	£3,150.00
Photocopying / Black & White Printing		
A4	£0.30	£0.30
A4 (double sided)	£0.30	£0.30
A3	£0.30	£0.30
A3 (double sided)	£0.40	£0.40
Multiple copies /colour printing charged at cost from Central Print Unit plus 25%	Cost + 25%	Cost + 25%
Buffet	Cost + 25%	Cost + 25%
Tea / Coffee - per cup	£1.20	£1.20
Biscuits - per plate	£3.50	£3.60
Additional Refreshments (not buffets) available at cost plus 200%	Cost + 200%	Cost + 200%
Stationery available at cost plus 25%	Cost + 25%	Cost + 25%
Replacement or additional key fobs and keys	£10.00	£12.00
Business Support Services*		
Business Development Consultancy (per day)	£250 - £500	£250 - £500
Business Planning Support - subject to negotiation up to	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
*These are discretionary services to be delivered subject to availability and demand to potential and existing occupiers of business centres. It is likely that costs will be met via third party public funding.		

CORPORATE SERVICES	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Charge for Funeral and protection of property arrangements	Up to a maximum of £950	Up to a maximum of £980
Charge for appointeeship cases	Up to a maximum of £1,080	Up to a maximum of £1,115
Charge for administering deferred payments	Actual cost	Actual cost
Charge for arranging care packages for self funders	Actual cost	Actual cost
Deferred payment interest rate	The lower of 1.15% or the rate set by the Department of Health	The lower of 1.15% or the rate set by the Department of Health
Disclosure and Barring Service		
Enhanced Check (includes administration fee of £10.50)	£50.00	£50.50
Standard Check (includes administration fee of £10.50)	£33.00	£33.50
Identity Cards		
Charge per card	£2.40	£2.50
Charge per card (chipped)	£6.40	£6.60
Design Fee	£15.70	£16.20
Clip	£0.30	£0.30
Lanyard	£0.40	£0.40
Card Holder	£0.40	£0.40
Yo-Yo	£0.40	£0.40
Electoral Services		
Street Index	£12.20	£12.60
Confirmation of entry on Electoral Register	£16.00	£16.50
Registers - paper - Statutory Charge	£10.00 plus £5.00 per 1,000 entries	£10.00 plus £5.00 per 1,000 entries
Registers - data - Statutory Charge	£20.00 plus £1.50 per 1,000 entries	£20.00 plus £1.50 per 1,000 entries
Monthly register updates	as above	as above
Copies of marked register		
Paper Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£30 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries	£30 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries
Data Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£10 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries	£10 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries

REGISTRARS	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES		
From the Registrar who registered the birth, death, marriage or civil partnership (Statutory Charges):		
Standard Certificate at the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Standard Certificate after the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate at the time	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate	£11.00	£11.00
Certificates are available from the Registrar only at the time of registration or shortly afterwards. Once a register is filled, it is passed to the Superintendent Registrar and certificates are no longer available from the Registrar.		
From the Superintendent Registrar:		
Standard Certificate in Person at Registered Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate in Person at Registered Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Application and receipt of certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00	£35.00
Searches		
General searches at a Superintendent Registrar's Office - Statutory Charge	£18.00	£18.00
Any certificates purchased as a result of a search are subject to charges above - Statutory Charge	as shown above	as shown above
Marriages		
From the Superintendent Registrar:		
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£47.00	£47.00
For attending a marriage of a detained person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£68.00	£68.00
For entering notice of marriage in a marriage notice book (notice to be given in each area in which party resides) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge	£84.00	£84.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound or detained person - Statutory Charge	£94.00	£94.00
Copy Marriage certificate (collection within 15 working days)	£11.00	£11.30
Copy Marriage certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00	£36.10
From the Registrar:		
For attending a marriage solemnized in a register office Mon-Thursday only - Statutory Charge	£46.00	£46.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge - Reduced by the General Registry Office	£81.00	£81.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound or detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00	£88.00
Standard certificate of marriage or civil partnership at the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Certificate for Worship and Registration for Marriage		
From the Superintendent Registrar		
Certification of a place of meeting for religious worship - Statutory Charge	£29.00	£29.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Registered Buildings		
Registrar Attendance (church) - Statutory Charge (additional £11 for cost of certification also applies)	£86.00	£86.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couple (previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£64.00	£64.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples (not previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of equal marriage - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Change the time or date of wedding	£20.10	£20.70
Booking fee for all ceremonies - non refundable	£30.00	£30.00
Ravensworth - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£169.00	£175.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£229.00	£235.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£284.00	£290.00
Tyne Suite - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£114.00	£120.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£174.00	£180.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£214.00	£220.00
Mayor's Parlour - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Friday	£360.00	£370.00
Saturday	£550.00	£565.00
Bewicks (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Friday	£350.00	£360.00
Saturday	£550.00	£565.00

Blaydon Room (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Friday	£350.00	£360.00
Saturday	£550.00	£565.00
Lamesley Room (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Friday	£306.00	£315.00
Saturday	£357.00	£370.00
NB If rooms are available on Sunday then the 'Friday to Saturday' charges will apply		
Civil Partnership		
Notice of Civil Partnership (per person) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
Formation of Civil Partnership in a register office (with or without a ceremony) Statutory Charge - Additional £11.00 for cost of certificate also applies	£46.00	£46.00
Full certification at the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Extract at time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Full extract or certificate after the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
On giving notice to a registration authority under the Civil Partnership Order 2005 (Certificate of No Impediment) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for housebound person - Statutory Charge	£81.00	£81.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00	£88.00
Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships		
Attendance at an approved premises (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£439.00	£455.00
Friday and Saturday	£504.00	£520.00
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£569.00	£585.00
Civil Partnership Conversion to Marriage		
Administration Service Conversion Only in Superintendent Registrars Office	£45.00	£45.00
Administration Service Conversion 2 stage	£27.00	£27.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony- at the Tyne suite		
Monday to Thursday	£138.00	£142.30
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£210.00	£216.50
Friday and Saturday After 12	£258.00	£266.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony - Ravensworth suite		
Monday to Thursday	£202.80	£209.10
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£274.80	£283.30
Friday and Saturday After 12	£340.80	£351.40
Re-affirmation of Vows - at an Outside Venue		
Monday to Thursday	£526.80	£543.10
Friday and Saturday	£604.80	£623.50
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£682.80	£704.00
Conversion Marriage Certificates		
On the day	£11.00	£11.00
Thereafter	£11.00	£11.00
Statutory priority certificate fee Same day collection or next day post (24hr Service)	£35.00	£35.00
Certification of a building as a place of worship	£29.00	£29.00
Registration of Approved Premises		
Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership	£1,785.00	£1,785.00
Renewal of Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership - 3 years	£1,530.00	£1,530.00
Registering a building for the solemnisation of marriages		
Fee for Certification of Approved Premises	£123.00	£123.00
British Citizenship Ceremony		
Personal British Citizenship Ceremony (at Civic Centre)	£155.00	£160.00
Booking fee for citizenship ceremony - non refundable	£25.00	£25.00
Amendment fee for changing ceremony date or time	£20.00	£20.00
Corrections to registration entries - involvement by general register office	£94.30	£97.20
Corrections to registration entries - without involvement by general register office	£78.60	£81.00

PROPERTY AND LAND	2021/22 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2022/23 AGREED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Property Transactions		
Registration of assignments and mortgages on Commercial Leases	£117.80	£121.50
Dealings in respect of Commercial Property (including Wayleaves, easements and surrenders) (Hourly Rate)	£117.80	£121.50
Registration of dealings on Residential Lease (Former Council Flats) (Per Dealing)	£80.90	£83.40
Consent to assign on Commercial Leases (charge dependent on time spent) (a minimum charge applies)	£113.00	£116.50
Application for depositing landowner statements and declarations	£426.40	£439.60
For each additional parcel of land contained within a statement and declaration	£96.10	£99.10
Retrospective Consent on alteration to former Council House	£92.90	£95.80
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Consent given by letter	£63.30	£65.30
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Lender requires formal Deed sealed	£92.90	£95.80
Redemption of Council Mortgage on residential property	£153.70	£158.50
Engrossment of Standard Council House Transfer	£38.60	£39.80
Copying Charges for all Legal Documents		
Standard retrieval fee	£68.90	£71.00
Copy charges A4	£0.21	£0.22
Copy Charges A3	£0.31	£0.32
Per Plan	£6.80	£7.00
Copy extract of Covenants		
Standard retrieval fee	£28.20	£29.10
Copy charges A4	£0.21	£0.22
Copy Charges A3	£0.31	£0.32
Per Plan	£6.80	£7.00
Draft and negotiate s.106 Agreements		
Commercial	£1,354.00	1354.00
Non-Commercial	£677.00	677.00
Licence	£462.00	462.00
Draft and negotiate s.278 s.38 Agreements	£1,932.00	1932.00
Emergency Road Closure	£161.20	£161.20
Temporary Traffic Orders	£268.80	£268.80
Permanent Traffic Orders	£644.00	£644.00
Stopping Up Orders	£2,040.00	£2,040.00
*If the charge relates to a commercial property for which no option to tax has been made, the charge will be exempt from VAT. If the charge relates to a commercial property for which an option to tax is in place, the charge will be subject to VAT at the standard rate. If the charge relates to a residential Council property, it will be considered to be non-business.		

Commercial Fees					
ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	2022/23 Charges		2021/22 Charges	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
Planning and Building Regulations					
1.1. Planning and building decisions and pending applications					
Which of the following relating to the property have been granted, issued or refused or (where applicable) are the subject of pending applications or agreements?	(a) - (f) This information is publicly available, 1980 - to date information is available via internet http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/ or the pc terminals in Communities and Environment reception, 1974 - 1980 information is available in paper registers in reception.				
(a) a planning permission		£2.93	£2.82	£2.93	£2.82
(b) a listed building consent		£1.90	£1.79	£1.90	£1.79
(c) a conservation area consent		£1.90	£1.79	£1.90	£1.79
(d) a certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(e) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed use or development		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(f) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for listed buildings		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(g) a heritage partnership agreement		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(h) a listed building consent order		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(i) a local listed building consent order		£1.74	£1.64	£1.74	£1.64
(j) building regulation approval	(g) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.34	£2.24	£2.34	£2.24
(k) a building regulation completion certificate and		£2.22	£2.11	£2.22	£2.11
(l) any building regulations certificate or notice issued in respect of work carried out under a competent person self-certification scheme?		£2.41	£2.30	£2.41	£2.30
1.2. Planning designations and proposals					
What designations of land use for the property, or the area, and what specific proposals for the property, are contained in any existing or proposed development plan?	Local Plan documents are available online including an interactive GIS-based version, and paper copies are available as follows: - the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon Tyne (March 2015) - £25.00 - the Unitary Development Plan UDP (adopted 2007) - £12.10 for residents and £60.70 for commercial customers (please note that a number of UDP policies have been deleted, having been superseded by more recent Local Plan Policies - a full list of current Local Plan Policies is available on the Council's website.)	£2.51	£2.41	£2.51	£2.41

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
ROADS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY					
Roads, footways and footpaths					
2.1 Which of the roads, footways and footpaths named in the application for this search (via boxes B and C) are:					
(a) highways maintainable at public expense	(a) - (d) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.04	£1.94	£2.04	£1.94
(b) subject to adoption and supported by a bond or bond waiver		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(c) to be made up by a local authority who will reclaim the cost from the frontagers		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(d) to be adopted by a local authority without reclaiming the cost from the frontagers		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
Public rights of way					
2.2 Is any public right of way which abuts on, or crosses the property, shown on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
2.3 Are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts or crosses the property, on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
2.4 Are there any legal orders to stop up, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
2.5 If so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route.	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.04	£1.94	£2.04	£1.94
OTHER MATTERS					
Apart from matters entered on the registers of local land charges, do any of the following matters apply to the property? If so, how can copies of relevant documents be obtained?					
3.1 Land required for public purposes					
Is the property included in land required for public purposes?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.58	£1.49	£1.58	£1.49
3.2. Land to be acquired for road works					
Is the property included in land to be acquired for road works?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
3.3 Drainage matters					
(a) Is the property served by a sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS)?	(a) - (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.04	£1.94	£2.04	£1.94
(b) Are there SuDS features within the boundary of the property? If yes, is the owner responsible for maintenance?		£2.04	£1.94	£2.04	£1.94
(c) If the property benefits from a SuDS for which there is a charge, who bills the property for the surface water drainage charge?		£2.04	£1.94	£2.04	£1.94

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
3.4 Nearby road schemes					
Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of any of the following:					
(a) the centre line of a new trunk road or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(b) the centre line of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(c) the outer limits of construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road, involving:					
(i) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), or		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(ii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(d) the outer limits of:					
(i) construction of a new road to be built by a local authority,	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(ii) an approved alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway,					
(iii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(e) the centre line of the proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(f) the outer limits of:-		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(i) construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway					
(ii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout)					
(iii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation					
3.5 Nearby railway schemes					
(a) Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of the centre line of a proposed railway, tramway, light railway or monorail?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
(b) Are there any proposals for a railway, tramway, light railway or monorail within the Local Authority's boundary?		£1.79	£1.69	£1.79	£1.69
3.6 Traffic schemes					
Has a local authority approved but not yet implemented any of the following for the roads, footways and footpaths which are named in boxes B and C and are within 200 metres of the boundaries of the property?					
(a) permanent stopping up or diversion	(a) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(b) waiting or loading restrictions		£1.78	£1.68	£1.78	£1.68
(c) one way driving		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(d) prohibition of driving		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(e) pedestrianisation		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(f) vehicle width or weight restriction		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(g) traffic calming works including road humps		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(h) residents parking controls		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(i) minor road widening or improvement		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66
(j) pedestrian crossings		£1.76	£1.67	£1.76	£1.67
(k) cycle tracks		£1.76	£1.67	£1.76	£1.67
(l) bridge building		£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.66

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
3.11 Conservation areas Do the following apply in relation to the property: (a) the making of the area a conservation area before 31 August 1974 (b) an unimplemented resolution to designate the area a Conservation Area?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.34 £1.58	£2.24 £1.49	£2.34 £1.58	£2.24 £1.49
3.12 Compulsory purchase Has any enforceable order or decision been made to compulsorily purchase or acquire the property?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.91	£1.81	£1.91	£1.81
3.13 Contaminated land Do any of the following apply (including any relating to land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been identified as contaminated land because it is in such a condition that harm or pollution of controlled waters might be caused on the property)? (a) a contaminated land notice (b) in relation to a register maintained under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (i) a decision to make an entry (ii) an entry (c) consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under section 78G(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 before the service of a remediation notice	(a) - (bii) This information is publicly available Any follow up enquiries would incur a charge with regard to cost (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.67 £1.76 £1.46	£1.56 £1.69 £1.36	£1.67 £1.76 £1.46	£1.56 £1.69 £1.36
3.14 Radon gas Do records indicate that the property is in a "Radon Affected Area" as identified by Public Health England or Public Health Wales?	This information is publicly available. Action Levels have been recommended by the NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) for radon. Where there is a 1% probability or more of present or future homes being above an Action Level they are regarded as Affected Areas (such areas were identified by radiological survey evidence). The indicative map shows the borough of Gateshead as being in the 0 - 1% probability band. It is therefore NOT a radon gas Affected Area. Further information, including the indicative Atlas of Radon in England and Wales, is available from http://www.hpa.org.uk	£1.67	£1.56	£1.67	£1.56
3.15 Assets of Community Value (a) Has the property been nominated as an asset of community value? If so: (i) is it listed as an asset of community value? (ii) Was it excluded and placed on the "nominated but not listed" list? (iii) Has the listing expired? (iv) Is the Local Authority reviewing or proposing to review the listing? (v) Are there any subsisting appeals against the listing? (b) If the property is listed: (i) Has the Local Authority decided to apply to the Land Registry for an entry or cancellation of a restriction in respect of listed land affecting the property? (ii) Has the Local Authority received a notice of disposal? (iii) Has any community interest group requested to be treated as a bidder?	(a) - (b) This information is available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.93 £2.93	£2.82 £2.82	£2.93 £2.93	£2.82 £2.82
CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total		Total	
4 ROAD PROPOSALS BY PRIVATE BODIES 4. What proposals by others have been approved, or are the subject of pending applications, the limits of construction of which are adjoining or adjacent to the property, for- (a) the construction of a new road, or (b) the alteration or improvement of an existing road, involving the construction, whether or not within existing highway limits, of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road, dual carriageway, the construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or the widening of an existing road by the construction of one or more additional traffic lanes?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24		£10.24	

<p>5 ADVERTISEMENTS Entries in the Register</p> <p>5.1. Please list any entries in the register of applications, directions and decisions relating to consent for the display of advertisements.</p> <p>5.2. If there are any entries, where can that register be inspected?</p> <p>Notices, proceedings and orders</p> <p>5.3. Except as shown in the official certificate of search:</p> <p>(a) Has any notice been given by the Secretary of State or served in respect of a direction or proposed direction restricting deemed consent for any class of advertisement?</p> <p>(b) has the local authority resolved to serve a notice requiring the display of any advertisement to be discontinued?</p> <p>(c) If a discontinuance notice has been served, has it been complied with to the satisfaction of the local authority?</p> <p>(d) Has the local authority resolved to serve any other notice or proceedings relating to a contravention of the control of advertisements?</p> <p>(e) has the local authority resolved to make an order for the special control of advertisements for the area?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£7.33</p>	<p>£7.33</p>
<p>COMPLETION NOTICES</p> <p>6. Which of the planning permissions in force has the local authority resolved to terminate by means of a completion notice under s.94 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£7.33</p>	<p>£7.33</p>
<p>PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>7.1. Has any order under s.82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 been made?</p> <p>National Parks</p> <p>7.2. Is the property within a National Park designated under s.7 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£7.33</p>	<p>£7.33</p>

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
PIPELINES 8. Has a map been deposited under s.35 of the Pipelines Act 1962, or Schedule 7 of the Gas Act 1986, showing a pipeline laid through, or within 100 feet (30.48 metres) of the property?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION 9. Is the property a house in multiple occupation, or is it designated or proposed to be designated for selective licensing or residential accommodation in accordance with the Housing Act 2004?	Information available by tailored report only.	£6.76	£6.76
NOISE ABATEMENT Noise Abatement Zone 10.1. Has the local authority made, or resolved to make, any noise abatement zone order under s.63 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 for the area? Entries in Register 10.2. Has any entry been recorded in the Noise Level Register kept pursuant to s.64 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974? 10.3. If there is any entry, how can copies be obtained and where can that Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£6.76	£6.76
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREAS 11.1. Is the area an urban development area designated under Part XVI of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980? 11.2. If so, please state the name of the urban development corporation and the address of its principal office.	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
ENTERPRISE ZONES, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS & BIDS 12.1 Is the area designated as an enterprise zone? 12.2 Is the area subject to a local development order? 12.3 Is the area a business improvement district (BID)?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24
INNER URBAN IMPROVEMENT AREAS 13. Has the local authority resolved to define the area as an improvement area under s.4 of the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
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LAND MAINTENANCE NOTICES 15. Has the local authority authorised the service of a maintenance notice under s.215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
MINERAL CONSULTATION AND SAFEGUARDING AREAS 16. Is the area a mineral consultation area or mineral safeguarding area notified by the county planning authority under Schedule 1 para 7 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CONSENTS 17.1. Please list any entries in the Register kept pursuant to s.28 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990. 17.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the entries be obtained? (b) Where can the Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION NOTICES 18. What outstanding statutory or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or the Control of Pollution Act 1974? (This enquiry does not cover notices under Part IIA or Part III of the EPA, to which enquiries 3.7 or 3.13 apply)	Information available by tailored report only.	£6.76	£6.76
FOOD SAFETY NOTICES 19. What outstanding statutory notices or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Food Safety Act 1990 or the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013?	Information available by tailored report only.	£6.76	£6.76
HEDGEROW NOTICES 20.1. Please list any entries in the record maintained under regulation 10 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. 20.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the matters entered be obtained? (b) Where can the record be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.33	£7.33
FLOOD DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE CONSENTS 21. Has any flood defence or land drainage consent relating to the property been given or refused, or (if applicable) is the subject of a pending application?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24
COMMON LAND AND TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN 22.1. Is the property, or any land which abuts the property, registered common land or town or village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006? 22.2. Is there any prescribed information about maps and statements, deposited under s.15A of the Commons Act 2006, in the register maintained under s.15B(1) of the Commons Act 2006 or under s.31A of the Highways Act 1980? 22.3. If there are any entries, how can copies of the matters registered be obtained and where can the register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24

RESIDENTIAL FEES					
ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
Planning and Building Regulations					
1.1. Planning and building decisions and pending applications					
Which of the following relating to the property have been granted, issued or refused or (where applicable) are the subject of pending applications or agreements?	(a) - (f) This information is publicly available, 1980 - to date information is available via internet http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/ or the pc terminals in Communities and Environment reception, 1974 - 1980 information is available in paper registers in reception.				
(a) a planning permission		£2.54	£2.44	£2.54	£2.44
(b) a listed building consent		£1.51	£1.40	£1.51	£1.40
(c) a conservation area consent		£1.51	£1.40	£1.51	£1.40
(d) a certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(e) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed use or development		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(f) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for listed buildings		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(g) a heritage partnership agreement		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(h) a listed building consent order		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(i) a local listed building consent order		£1.36	£1.25	£1.36	£1.25
(j) building regulation approval	(g) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.85	£1.97	£1.85
(k) a building regulation completion certificate and		£1.84	£1.73	£1.84	£1.73
(l) any building regulations certificate or notice issued in respect of work carried out under a competent person self-certification scheme?		£2.03	£1.92	£2.03	£1.92
1.2. Planning designations and proposals					
What designations of land use for the property, or the area, and what specific proposals for the property, are contained in any existing or proposed development plan?	Local Plan documents are available online including an interactive GIS-based version, and paper copies are available as follows: - the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon Tyne (March 2015) - £25.00 - the Unitary Development Plan UDP (adopted 2007) - £12.10 for residents and £60.70 for commercial customers (please note that a number of UDP policies have been deleted, having been superseded by more recent Local Plan Policies - a full list of current Local Plan Policies is available on the Council's website.	£2.12	£2.02	£2.12	£2.02
ROADS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY					
Roads, footways and footpaths					
2.1 Which of the roads, footways and footpaths named in the application for this search (via boxes B and C) are:					
(a) highways maintainable at public expense		£1.67	£1.55	£1.67	£1.55
(b) subject to adoption and supported by a bond or bond waiver		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(c) to be made up by a local authority who will reclaim the cost from the frontagers	(a) - (d) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(d) to be adopted by a local authority without reclaiming the cost from the frontagers		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
Public rights of way					
2.2 Is any public right of way which abuts on, or crosses the property, shown on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
2.3 Are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts or crosses the property, on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
2.4 Are there any legal orders to stop up, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
2.5 If so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route.	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.67	£1.55	£1.67	£1.55
OTHER MATTERS					
Apart from matters entered on the registers of local land charges, do any of the following matters apply to the property? If so, how can copies of relevant documents be obtained?					
3.1 Land required for public purposes					
Is the property included in land required for public purposes?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.21	£1.09	£1.21	£1.09
3.2. Land to be acquired for road works					
Is the property included in land to be acquired for road works?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
3.3 Drainage matters					
(a) Is the property served by a sustainable urban drainage system ((SuDS)?		£1.67	£1.55	£1.67	£1.55
(b) Are there SuDS features within the boundary of the property? If yes, is the owner responsible for maintenance?	(a) - (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.67	£1.55	£1.67	£1.55
(c) If the property benefits from a SuDS for which there is a charge, who bills the property for the surface water drainage charge?		£1.67	£1.55	£1.67	£1.55

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.4 Nearby road schemes					
Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of any of the following:					
(a) the centre line of a new trunk road or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(b) the centre line of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(c) the outer limits of construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road, involving:					
(i) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), or		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(ii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(d) the outer limits of:					
(i) construction of a new road to be built by a local authority,	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(ii) an approved alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway,		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(iii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(e) the centre line of the proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(f) the outer limits of:-					
(i) construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(ii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout)					
(iii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation					
3.5 Nearby railway schemes					
(a) Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of the centre line of a proposed railway, tramway, light railway or monorail?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
(b) Are there any proposals for a railway, tramway, light railway or monorail within the Local Authority's boundary?		£1.42	£1.30	£1.42	£1.30
3.6 Traffic schemes					
Has a local authority approved but not yet implemented any of the following for the roads, footways and footpaths which are named in boxes B and C and are within 200 metres of the boundaries of the property?					
(a) permanent stopping up or diversion	(a) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(b) waiting or loading restrictions		£1.40	£1.28	£1.40	£1.28
(c) one way driving		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(d) prohibition of driving		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(e) pedestrianisation		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(f) vehicle width or weight restriction		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(g) traffic calming works including road humps		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(h) residents parking controls		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(i) minor road widening or improvement		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26
(j) pedestrian crossings		£1.39	£1.27	£1.39	£1.27
(k) cycle tracks		£1.39	£1.27	£1.39	£1.27
(l) bridge building		£1.37	£1.26	£1.37	£1.26

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.10 Community infrastructure levy (CIL) (a) Is there a CIL charging schedule? (b) if, yes, do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or has a local authority decided to issue, serve, make or commence any of the following: (i) a liability notice? (ii) a notice of chargeable development? (iii) a demand notice? (iv) a default liability notice? (v) an assumption of liability notice? (vi) a commencement notice? (c) Has any demand notice been suspended? (d) Has the Local Authority received full or part payment of any CIL liability? (e) Has the Local Authority received any appeal against any of the above? (f) Has a decision been taken to apply for a liability order? (g) Has a liability order been granted? (h) Have any other enforcement measures been taken?	(a) - (h) Information available by viewing or tailored report only	£1.21	£1.09	£1.21	£1.09
3.11 Conservation areas Do the following apply in relation to the property: (a) the making of the area a conservation area before 31 August 1974 (b) an unimplemented resolution to designate the area a Conservation Area?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.85	£1.97	£1.85
3.12 Compulsory purchase Has any enforceable order or decision been made to compulsorily purchase or acquire the property?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.57	£1.45	£1.57	£1.45
3.13 Contaminated land Do any of the following apply (including any relating to land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been identified as contaminated land because it is in such a condition that harm or pollution of controlled waters might be caused on the property)? (a) a contaminated land notice (b) in relation to a register maintained under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (i) a decision to make an entry (ii) an entry (c) consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under section 78G(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 before the service of a remediation notice	(a) - (bii) This information is publicly available Any follow up enquiries would incur a charge with regard to cost (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.28	£1.18	£1.28	£1.18
3.14 Radon gas Do records indicate that the property is in a "Radon Affected Area" as identified by Public Health England or Public Health Wales?	This information is publicly available. Action Levels have been recommended by the NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) for radon. Where there is a 1% probability or more of present or future homes being above an Action Level they are regarded as Affected Areas (such areas were identified by radiological survey evidence). The indicative map shows the borough of Gateshead as being in the 0 - 1% probability band. It is therefore NOT a radon gas Affected Area. Further information, including the indicative Atlas of Radon in England and Wales, is available from http://www.hpa.org.uk	£1.28	£1.18	£1.28	£1.18

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		£2.54	£2.44	£2.54	£2.44

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ENTERPRISE ZONES, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS & BIDS 12.1 Is the area designated as an enterprise zone? 12.2 Is the area subject to a local development order? 12.3 Is the area a business improvement district (BID)?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24
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CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
FLOOD DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE CONSENTS 21. Has any flood defence or land drainage consent relating to the property been given or refused, or (if applicable) is the subject of a pending application?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24
COMMON LAND AND TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN 22.1. Is the property, or any land which abuts the property, registered common land or town or village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006? 22.2. Is there any prescribed information about maps and statements, deposited under s.15A of the Commons Act 2006, in the register maintained under s.15B(1) of the Commons Act 2006 or under s.31A of the Highways Act 1980? 22.3. If there are any entries, how can copies of the matters registered be obtained and where can the register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£10.24	£10.24

OFFICIAL SEARCH FEES		TOTAL	TOTAL
LLC1 - Commercial - Electronic		£22.16	£22.16
Con29R - Commercial - Electronic		£145.03	£145.03
LLC1 and Con29R - Commercial - Electronic		£167.19	£167.19
LLC1 - Commercial - Non-Electronic		£28.67	£28.67
Con29R Commercial - Non-Electronic		£153.19	£153.19
LLC1 and Con29R - Commercial - Non-Electronic		£181.86	£181.86
Additional Parcel Fee			
LLC1		£2.63	£2.63
Con29R		£14.11	£14.11
Additional Parcel Fee		£16.74	£16.74
Additional Enquiry		£34.40	£34.40
Optional Enquiries			
	4	£10.24	£10.24
	5	£7.33	£7.33
	6	£7.33	£7.33
	7	£7.33	£7.33
	8	£7.33	£7.33
	9	£6.76	£6.76
	10	£6.76	£6.76
	11	£7.33	£7.33
	12	£10.24	£10.24
	13	£7.33	£7.33
	14	£7.33	£7.33
	15	£7.33	£7.33
	16	£7.33	£7.33
	17	£7.33	£7.33
	18	£6.76	£6.76
	19	£6.76	£6.76
	20	£7.33	£7.33
	21	£10.24	£10.24
	22	£10.24	£10.24

ITEM		TOTAL	TOTAL
LLC1 - Residential - Electronic		£22.16	£22.16
Con29R - Residential - Electronic		£111.58	£111.58
LLC1 and Con29R - Residential - Electronic		£133.74	£133.74
LLC1 - Residential - Non-Electronic		£28.67	£28.67
Con29R - Residential - Non-Electronic		£121.41	£121.41
LLC1 and Con29R - Residential- Non-Electronic		£150.08	£150.08
Additional Parcel Fee			
LLC1		£2.63	£2.63
Con29R		£14.11	£14.11
Additional Parcel Fee		£16.74	£16.74
Additional Enquiry		£34.40	£34.40
Optional Enquiries			
	4	£10.24	£10.24
	5	£7.33	£7.33
	6	£7.33	£7.33
	7	£7.33	£7.33
	8	£7.33	£7.33
	9	£6.76	£6.76
	10	£6.76	£6.76
	11	£7.33	£7.33
	12	£10.24	£10.24
	13	£7.33	£7.33
	14	£7.33	£7.33
	15	£7.33	£7.33
	16	£7.33	£7.33
	17	£7.33	£7.33
	18	£6.76	£6.76
	19	£6.76	£6.76
	20	£7.33	£7.33
	21	£10.24	£10.24
	22	£10.24	£10.24

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2022

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVEL 2022/23

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the Budget and Council Tax level for 2022/23. As part of the council tax setting process the Council is asked to approve the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in the attached report. The budget forms a key element of the Council's strategic approach to making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives and agreeing a balanced budget is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Council and is required by statute.
2. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

3. Council is asked to approve the recommendations set out in section 20 of the attached report.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Budget and Council Tax Level 2022/23

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey – Chief Executive**
 Darren Collins - Strategic Director, Resources and Digital
 Corporate Management Team

Purpose of Report

1. To request Cabinet to recommend to Council on 24 February 2022 the Budget and Council Tax level for 2022/23. As part of the council tax setting process, Cabinet is also asked to recommend to Council the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement set out in this report. The Budget forms a key element of the Council's strategic approach to making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, and agreeing a balanced budget is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Council and is required by statute.

Background

2. On 18 November 2021 Council agreed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2026/27. The outcome of the review estimated that efficiencies and savings of £45 million are required over the medium term. It is essential these are delivered to ensure the financial sustainability of the Council.
3. On 14 December 2021 Cabinet agreed a framework for the approach to budget 2022/23 to 2024/25.
4. On 16 December 2021 the Government announced the provisional local government finance settlement for 2022/23, including council tax referendum principles.
5. On 12 January 2022 the Council responded to the provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 Consultation.
6. On 25 January 2022 Cabinet agreed the council tax base and business rates base forecasts for 2022/23.
7. On 27 January 2022 Council agreed the local council tax support scheme for 2022/23. Adopting the scheme means that approximately 12,000 council taxpayers (out of 13,400 working age claimants) will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax.
8. On 7 February 2022 the final local government funding settlement figures were announced. Overall funding was in line with the provisional settlement. Ringfenced Public Health Grant was also confirmed.
9. This report represents the final stage of the budget setting process in determining the budget and council tax level for 2022/23.

Proposal

A Budget to Deliver Council Priorities

10. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives provides a framework to demonstrate how the Council makes decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is built upon the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that 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. In the context of the MTFS gap and facing tough financial challenges ahead, it is vital that financial sustainability is at the core of the budget approach, and all resources are targeted to achieving priority outcomes. To ensure this the Council must manage competing priorities and make best use of the resources that are available.
12. On 14 December 2021 Cabinet agreed a framework for the approach to budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 including a timeline that will support the delivery of the Council's thrive priority objectives and meet the increasing financial challenges outlined in the Council's MTFS. This report proposes a balanced budget in 2022/23 using reserves in a planned way to move forward a priority driven approach to revenue resource allocation. The annual budget savings cycle will be a continuous approach with budget developments brought to Cabinet for consideration throughout the year to allocate resources to Services and consider consultation outcomes.
13. Government assumed in their financial settlement announcements that Council's would increase council tax by the maximum allowable of 2.99%.
14. The proposed budget will result in a council tax increase of 1.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of Gateshead Council expenditure plus an additional council tax increase of 1% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of the Government's charge for adult social care expenditure.
15. This will result in a combined council tax increase of 2.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead (excluding precepts from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and Lamesley Parish) resulting in £0.73 a week rise for the majority of council taxpayers in Gateshead living in the lowest value properties (Band A) or £1.10 a week for those in Band D. This report recommends a 2.99% council tax increase in the Council's council tax for 2022/23.

16. The proposed balanced base budget for 2022/23 after investment and budgeted use of reserves is £254.304 million. Available funding for 2022/23 is £248.406 million based on the budgeted use of reserves, final settlement, a proposed council tax increase of 2.99%, council tax income and collection fund transfers. This results in a budget savings requirement of £5.818 million. Unlike in previous years and in line with the agreed MTFS and budget approach this will be temporarily funded from the budget sustainability reserve. This can be summarised as follows:

Proposed Net Budget 2022/23 (£m)	254.304
Funded by;	
Local Funding (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(129.435)
Government Funding	(95.630)
Reserves Supporting Business Rates	(12.675)
Strategic Earmarked Reserves	(1.750)
Pandemic Reserves	(8.996)
Budget Sustainability Reserve (Temporary Funding)	(5.818)
Total Funding 2022/23	(254.304)

17. The Council recognises the impact of the recommended council tax increase on some of the most vulnerable in society and particularly those on fixed incomes. However, a combination of continued cost pressures and significant funding reductions has left the Council with little choice but to increase council tax to protect the delivery of essential Council services to the residents of Gateshead. The Council will continue to provide the current council tax support scheme that enables targeted support for those residents that are likely to be most affected by the increase.
18. On 4 February 2022 the Government announced a rebate towards council tax and the Council is awaiting further guidance in relation to payments to be made.
19. To provide additional support alongside the local council tax support scheme, this report recommends that Cabinet approve to extend the council tax hardship scheme into 2022/23 using £0.7m of remaining funds to reduce all working age Local Council Tax Support recipients bills by £50 in 2022/23.

Recommendations

20. Cabinet is requested to make the following recommendations to Council:
- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2022/23 is increased by 2.99% (including a 1% adult social care Government charge) to £1,972.17.
 - (2) The revenue estimates of £254.304 million for 2022/23 are approved.
 - (3) That Cabinet approve to extend the council tax hardship scheme into 2022/23 using existing funds to reduce all working age Local Council Tax Support recipients bills by £50 in 2022/23.
 - (4) The budgeted use of £29.239 million Earmarked Reserves in 2022/23 be approved (comprising of £1.750 million budgeted use of strategic, £8.996 million budgeted use of pandemic, £12.675 million ringfenced covid support to retained business rates and £5.818 million budget sustainability).
 - (5) That the proposed budgets including the indicative schools funding presented in Appendix 2 be agreed.
 - (6) That the outcome of initial budget consultation outlined in Appendix 4 be noted.
 - (7) To note the conclusions of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in respect of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves outlined in Appendix 5.
 - (8) That the prudential and treasury indicators set out in Appendix 7 to this report be agreed.
 - (9) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 8 be approved.
 - (10) That it be noted that at its meeting on 25 January 2022, Cabinet agreed the following amounts for the year 2022/23 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
 - (a) **52,660.9** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year;
 - (b) **1,214.1** for Lamesley Parish being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

- (11) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31A,31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'):
- (a) **£614,685,003** being the aggregate total of the expenditure amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Lamesley Parish Council
 - (b) **(£510,816,169)** being the aggregate total of the income amounts, which the Council estimate for the items, set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act
 - (c) **£103,868,834** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
 - (d) **£1,972.4090** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (10)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
 - (e) **£12,467.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
 - (f) **£1,972.1723** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (10)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item (Lamesley Parish Council) relates
 - (g) Part of the Council's area: Lamesley Parish
£1,982.4408 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (10)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (Lamesley Parish Council) relate

h)

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6.85	1,314.79
B	7.99	1,533.91
C	9.13	1,753.04
D	10.27	1,972.17
E	12.55	2,410.44
F	14.83	2,848.70
G	17.12	3,286.96
H	20.54	3,944.34

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (12) That it be noted that for the year 2022/23, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
	£	£
A	102.56	58.23
B	119.65	67.94
C	136.75	77.64
D	153.84	87.35
E	188.03	106.76
F	222.21	126.17
G	256.40	145.58
H	307.68	174.70

- (13) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (11) (h) and (12) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish	All other parts of the Council's area
	£	£
A	1,482.43	1,475.58
B	1,729.49	1,721.50
C	1,976.56	1,967.43
D	2,223.63	2,213.36
E	2,717.78	2,705.23
F	3,211.91	3,197.08
G	3,706.06	3,688.94
H	4,447.26	4,426.72

- (14) That under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

For the following reason:

- To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2022/23.

CONTACT: Darren Collins, extension 3582

PLAN REF:

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 the delivery of 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. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives provides a framework to demonstrate how the Council will work and make decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is aligned to the timeframe of the Council's MTFS and is built upon on the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that 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
4. The strategic approach sets the major policy directions for the Council within the resources available and will seek new funding sources to redress the imbalance of inequality, champion fairness and social justice.
5. The ability to invest in priority areas will require to be resourced from other areas of the Council where services could be reduced, delivered differently, or stopped. Areas of cross council efficiencies will be developed to ensure the Council is focused on delivering priorities and statutory functions in the most effective way and making the best possible use of resources. In line with the agreed budget approach the Council will take a longer-term approach to the shift in resources to achieve priority outcomes.
6. The Council's budget estimates to achieve a balanced budget for 2022/23 are attached at Appendix 2 and have been prepared in accordance with the new priority approach and after consideration of the outcome of the initial budget consultation on council tax increases. Further formal consultation will take place throughout the financial year on any specific proposals and the outcome reported to Cabinet.

Considerations

7. In finalising the budget and council tax for 2022/23, the following issues require consideration and are set out in the body of this appendices: -
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy context;
 - Final settlement 2022/23;
 - Projected revenue outturn 2021/22;
 - Budget guidance and base budget requirements 2022/23;
 - Proposed service budgets 2022/23;
(See also appendix 2)
 - Projected business rates 2022/23;
 - Proposed Council tax 2022/23;
 - Adequacy of reserves and robustness of budget estimates;
(See also appendix 5)
 - Proposed use of reserves 2022/23;
 - Approval of prudential indicators for 2022/23 (see also appendix 7);
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) (see also appendix 8).

Medium Term Financial Strategy

8. The Council has adopted a longer-term approach to its strategic and financial planning. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was updated and agreed by Cabinet in October 2021 and is based on a financial forecast over a rolling five-year timeframe to 2026/27. This sets the financial context for the Council's resource allocation process and budget setting.
9. Due to proposed funding reforms for local government, there is no certainty of funding levels beyond 2022/23 and an absence of guidance in this area. The hugely challenging financial context is expected to continue over the medium term and the general uncertainty around future funding reforms and the economy following the UK exit from the European Union and current and future impacts arising from the pandemic adds to the potential for financial volatility and risk.

Final Settlement 2022/23

10. On 7 February 2022, the final local government funding settlement was announced. Overall funding was in line with expectations from the provisional settlement. The settlement is for a single year only, and further details on proposed funding reform and consultations are due to follow later in the year.
11. Increases in Core Spending Power, the Government's assessment of the revenue resources available to local government through the annual local government finance settlement, are due to increases in council tax rather than funding from central government. Local sources of income, including council tax, business rates and sales, fees and charges have become increasingly important as a source of income to local government
12. The pandemic has had a significant impact on these local sources of income, in addition, income will take a while to recover, so there is likely to still be a gap going forward. The council has set aside specific funding in reserves to smooth these impacts.

13. The 2021 Autumn Budget and Spending Review provided some limited new government funding for councils over the next three years. Much of this was short term or to cover additional cost burdens. While the additional funding for adult and children's social care is welcome, it is not enough to address the significant existing pressures these vital services face and initial LGA analysis suggests that there will still be a shortfall nationally in this area of more than £1 billion in the last year of the Spending Review period.
14. As part of the 2022/23 settlement, the Government announced a commitment to work with local government to consider the way in which the funding is distributed between councils. This is known as "fair funding".
15. Council tax is regressive as people on a lower income pay more of their total income in council tax than people who are better off. Domestic properties have not been revalued since 1991. Most discounts and the band structure are fixed nationally and increases in council tax are constrained by referendum limits.
16. Council tax raises different amounts in different areas unrelated to need, and the changing nature of business alongside pressures and extreme volatility within the business rates system as a consequence of the pandemic means that councils cannot look to business rates to form a substantial and stable part of funding in the future.
17. There remains a significant funding gap facing children's and adult social care both nationally and locally. There continues to be huge funding pressures facing local authorities to continue to protect the vital services which care for older and disabled people, protect children and support families. The funding announced within the final settlement is not sufficient to invest in the preventative and early help services or improve the quality of care services that the Council delivers. Over 70% of the Council's service budgets are dedicated to social care which demonstrates the Council's commitment to these critical services, but it comes at the expense of funding for other important services.
18. Additional and sustained funding for social care is essential if councils are to deliver on the Government ambition set out in the recent white paper, including a greater and earlier share of the social care levy. The Council is waiting for further announcements on the longer-term funding set out in the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care paper and remain concerned that the high level national funding announced will not be sufficient to deliver on this agenda.
19. The Council looks forward to the outcome of the Independent Review of Children's Social care which needs to make clear the investment that is necessary to give children and families the help they need to thrive.
20. It is vital that any future funding approach for local government is fair and provides recognition of the support required in those areas of greatest need. Government must consider the impacts of their policy decisions and the level of local government statutory duties at a time of significantly reducing funding.
21. The Council has been able to close the 2022/23 financial gap and set a balanced budget through revisiting cost pressures, one off additional funding, a review of the revenue cost of capital investment and investment income. A balanced budget has been achieved through the agreed approach to use the budget sustainability reserve to allow sufficient time to plan for cuts.

Projected Revenue Outturn 2021/22

22. The agreed net revenue budget for 2021/22 is £238.758m. On 25 January 2022, Cabinet received a report on projected spending considering performance to 30 November 2021. The 2021/22 projected outturn at the third quarter shows a projected overspend of £0.267m for the year. The final outturn position will be reported to Cabinet in June 2022 and due to active budget management, it remains the intention that the outturn will be delivered within budget estimates.
23. Given the significant financial challenges ahead, work is being undertaken in year to reduce costs, increase income and achieve underspends wherever feasible. This is good financial management that aids financial sustainability. The Council has an exceptionally strong track record of delivering the outturn within budget.
24. This has been a challenging year due to the impacts arising on services and wider economy from a world pandemic. The outturn will reflect one off government Covid grants and variations to budgets arising from increases or decreases in demand, loss of income as well as savings.
25. Some prior year outstanding savings already agreed by Cabinet will require further activity to deliver in 2022/23. Agreed levels of savings mitigation to allow for timing of delivery will be removed as planned in 2022/23. Areas of outstanding activity which in some cases will require further consultation are;

Proposal	Value of outstanding activity 1 April 22 £m
Public Health Wellbeing Offer in Leisure/ Libraries/Culture	0.9
Adult Social Care Continuation of Current Discharge to Assess Model	1.0
Adult Social Care Outcome based assessments and targeted reviews	2.5
Council Wide - Contract Analysis Savings	0.2
TOTAL	4.6

Base Budget Requirement 2022/23

26. The base requirement has been kept to a minimum and pressures will be monitored. The following key assumptions have been made in development of the 2022/23 budget;
- Budget uplifts for general inflation on areas such as utilities and contractual inflation (£1.6m). General Inflation of 3.1% was assumed however, levels of CPI are increasing and forecasted by the Bank of England to be around 7% by April 2022. In 2022/23 due to increased pressures in the energy market electric and gas budgets were uplifted by 20% causing a significant cost pressure of £0.8m. Inflationary pressures will need to be kept under review.
 - Resources have been included in relation to pay pressures (£1.3m) The cost impact from the 1.25% increase in employers National Insurance has been included in the budget and offset partially by a decrease in pension costs. The pay award for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are yet to be agreed nationally.
 - Provision has been made within the budget for the North East Combined Authority Transport, Environment Agency and Port of Tyne Levies. The government is withdrawing its Covid-19 funding from the Tyne and Wear Metro system at the end of March 2022/23. People in our communities need bus services to access jobs, schools and colleges, and essential services like healthcare. Buses also support efforts to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions. Council Leaders therefore agreed for an unprecedented increase to the Tyne and Wear levy of 6.75% meaning an unplanned additional cost of £0.7m for Gateshead. This is consistent with the Joint Transport Committee's budget proposals to help mitigate the impact of Government grant funding decisions on the regional transport network.
 - Revenue support grant inflationary increase from £15.3m to £15.8m.
 - An estimation of funding available to support the budget from retained business rates and Section 31 business rates grant based on the National Non-Domestic Rates Return (NNDR1) return to Government.
 - An increase to £103.9m in the amount of council tax income receivable (excluding Lamesley) arising from growth in the tax base (£0.3m) and agreement of the proposed council tax increase (£3.0m).
 - The amount of Improved Better Care Fund payable via the Clinical Commissioning Group is unconfirmed to date but is expected to be a minimum of 2021/22 funding levels.
 - The ringfenced Public Health allocations for 2022/23 were announced on 7 February 2022 (£17.2m) and these are reflected in the draft base budget.
 - A budget for covid pressures of £9m is included to be financed from pandemic reserves.
27. Growth in the Council budget has been kept to a minimum with provision being made in a general contingency of £10.6m (£9.1m 2021/22) to protect against one off in year unforeseen events, provide for budget allocations in relation to the pay award, budget pressures from changes in the national living wage, workforce, utilities, risk and demand pressures. This is consistent with MTFS principles and good financial management.

28. An additional budget contingency of £1.4m has been provided to facilitate the approach to budget reviews and possible new spending priorities as well as covering the timing for delivery of prior year savings. The base budget proposed figures are presented in Appendix 2.

Budget Growth and Savings Proposals 2022/23 Onward

29. Work continues to consider the shift in resources needed to achieve priority outcomes through three-year planning. This year the approach to budget setting is different, in line with the agreed budget approach planned use of reserves will allow time to identify cuts and efficiencies required over three-year planning. A balanced budget will be agreed by Cabinet and Council and any savings identified in the approach throughout the year will be subject to further formal consultation.
30. Priority investment agreed in 2021/22 continues into 2022/23 to allow for different ways of working and to generate future savings. These areas are;
- £1m investment to continue social work in schools and to address increased demand in children's social care looked after children;
 - £1.1m intervention to address pressures and different ways of working in locality hubs, working with the voluntary sector as well as digital and IT services, economy, and jobs;
 - £0.4m investment in parks and open spaces.
31. Additional budget growth in social care is proposed for 2022/23
- Adult Social Care to meet additional demand and increases in fees (£5.9m);
 - Children's Social Care to meet additional demand and increases in fees (£2.9m);
 - Children's Social Care growth to fund a social worker academy to address increased caseloads and the difficulties recruiting experienced social workers (£0.6m) as well as growth for Early Help posts to support more families at an earlier stage and helping them to be more resilient and attempt to prevent them from returning to services (£0.2m).

Budget Planning to 2024/25

32. Following receipt of the final settlement and setting of 2022/23 estimates a projection of savings requirements to 2024/25 to achieve a balanced budget and financial sustainability is shown below; (this excludes budgeted use of strategic or pandemic reserves)

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Service Budget Envelope	189.8	201.3	216.2
Non - Service Budgets	53.8	55.9	56.9
Total Budget	242.5	256.2	272.1
Estimated Resources	(236.7)	(235.6)	(241.0)
Cumulative Gap	5.8	20.6	31.1
Annual Gap	5.8	14.8	10.5
Savings Phasing		5.8	10.0
Temporary Reserve Smoothing	(5.8)	(10.0)	(4.0)
Cuts to Service Envelope	(0.0)	10.6	16.5

Projected Business Rates 2022/23

33. As part of the 2022/23 settlement, the Government provided a baseline figure for retained business rates of £43.1m. The National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) 2022/23 submitted to the Department for Levelling up, Housing & Communities on 31 January 2022 estimated that the Council's retained element will be £25.7m (adjusted for cost of collection). Unlike previous years this will be supported with Section 31 grants of £12.7m received in advance in 2021/22 and held in reserves to support the collection fund from the pandemic impacts. An additional estimate of £11.6m is included in the base budget funding in relation to rate reliefs which are reimbursed through a Section 31 grant.
34. Businesses in Gateshead have been awarded the following grants and rates relief since the start of the pandemic:
 - Over 17,000 grants totaling £76.6m paid to businesses across Gateshead since March 2020.
 - £55m was awarded in rates relief in 2020/21 and £22.5m awarded to date in 2021/22.

Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Rates Relief for Small and medium properties

35. As a result of the Government decision to extend the date of the next business rates revaluation until 2023/24, Government have also extended the current Transitional Relief (TR) and Supporting Small Business Relief for Small and Medium properties (SSB) rate relief schemes for a further 12 months.
36. These extensions are a temporary measure to provide support for the 2022/23 financial year until April 2023 when the next revaluation of the business rates rating list will take.
37. The Transitional Relief (TR) and Supporting Small Business Relief for Small and Medium properties (SSB) schemes provide extra support for qualifying businesses and is automatically calculated without the need for an application form.
38. These are statutory schemes, and the Council is unable to vary the scheme, eligibility criteria or awards in any way. The Government is not changing business rates legislation relating to these schemes and billing authorities are required to make these awards using our discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme

39. The Government has also introduced a new temporary business rates relief scheme for 2022/23 for eligible retail, hospitality, and leisure properties. The 2022/23 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Relief Scheme (RHL) will provide eligible, occupied, retail, hospitality, and leisure properties with a 50% relief, up to a cash cap limit of £110,000 per business.
40. The new Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme is also a temporary measure and Government is not changing business rates legislation in respect of this and has instructed billing authorities to introduce this scheme using discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
41. The Council will be fully reimbursed by Government for any relief awarded under the above schemes.

Council Tax 2022/23

42. Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set an amount of Council Tax for each financial year for each category of dwellings in its area. The council tax must be set before the 11 March in the preceding financial year. The statutory requirements and council tax calculations are outlined in appendix 3 for information.

Council Tax Referendums

43. A council tax bill is made up of several different charges. Alongside the charge to fund council services which includes the costs Councils must pay in levies or special levies to any number of bodies, there can be precepts which consist of council tax that will be redistributed to bodies to provide specific services to the area. For Gateshead these are for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and Lamesley Parish.
44. Each year ministers set out in advance what they deem to be an excessive tax rise. The following council tax referendum principles were announced for 2022/23:
- a core principle of up to 2% applying to local authorities and fire and rescue authorities;
 - in addition to the core principle, a continuation of the adult social care precept, with an additional 1% flexibility available for social care authorities;
 - Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) allowed increases of up to £10 on a band D from their 2021/22 level;
 - The Government proposed to continue with no referendum principles for town and parish Councils in 2022/23 but have said they will keep this matter under active review for future years.
45. The consequences of setting an increase in the relevant basic amount of council tax which is excessive would mean that the Council would have to make arrangements to hold a referendum and make “substitute calculations” of a relevant basic amount of council tax which does not exceed the excessiveness principles. The substitute calculations would automatically take effect if voters reject the Council’s increase.
46. Against the backdrop of continued Government funding reductions, new burdens and spending pressures which cumulatively are having a significant impact on the Council’s ability to deliver its priorities during 2022/23, this report recommends that Gateshead Council agrees a council tax increase of 2.99% (including a 1% adult social care charge). This will mean the Council will be exempt from the Government’s excessiveness principles.
47. The proposed council relevant basic amount of council tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

Council Tax Requirement 2022/23

48. In calculating the council tax requirement as required by the legislation, the local Parish precept and use of reserves must be considered.
49. The Parish of Lamesley agreed at the parish meeting of 14 February 2022 to issue a budget precept for 2022/23 of £12,467 which is a 2.99% increase on the 2021/22 precept of £12,105. However, due to an increase in the council tax base level this means a band D precept increase of 1.68% is required to result in a £12,467 precept value.
50. In arriving at the Council's council tax requirement, general grants such as Settlement Funding Assessment (revenue support grant, retained business rates and top up grant), other grants in revenue spending power and public health must be deducted.
51. Any amount transferred to or from the collection fund and the general fund in relation to council tax must also be deducted or added. For 2022/23 this figure has been estimated to be a £0.2m deficit transfer from the general fund.
52. The 2022/23 Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley), based on an increase of 2.99% is £103,868,834, summarised as follows: -

	£
Net Budget 2022/23 Gateshead Council	254,303,953
<i>Less - Use of Earmarked Reserves</i>	(16,564,419)
<i>Add - Lamesley Parish Precept</i>	12,467
Budget Requirement 2022/23 (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	237,752,001
<i>Less - Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)*</i>	(56,906,434)
<i>Less - Use of Reserves Supporting Retained Rates **</i>	(12,675,000)
<i>Public Health</i>	(17,225,309)
<i>Other Grants</i>	(47,235,056)
<i>Balance to be raised locally</i>	103,710,202
<i>Transfer from Collection Fund (Council Tax)</i>	158,632
Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	103,868,834

*Includes transfer to/from Collection Fund for retained business rates

** Covid grant support to Collection Fund see report for details

Council Tax Resolution

53. The council tax for Gateshead is calculated by dividing the council tax requirement by the council tax base of 52,660.9 This calculation gives a basic amount of council tax of £1,972.41. However, from this figure, the legislation requires the Parish element to be deducted (£0.24). This gives a Band D Council Tax for Gateshead of £1,972.17. Section 36 of the 1992 Act requires the council tax to be calculated by reference to Band D.
54. The amount payable for dwellings in different valuation bands is calculated using the following proportions for each valuation banding: -

A	6/9
B	7/9
C	8/9
D	9/9
E	11/9
F	13/9
G	15/9
H	18/9

Thus, giving the following council tax amounts for the Gateshead area, (including a 1% precept to fund adult social care but excluding other precepts)

Valuation Band	Gateshead Council £
A	1,314.79
B	1,533.91
C	1,753.04
D	1,972.17
E	2,410.44
F	2,848.70
G	3,286.96
H	3,944.34

55. The council tax for the Parish area is calculated by dividing the Parish precept by the council tax base for the Parish area. This calculation gives a Band D precept of £10.27 for Lamesley Parish area in 2022/23
56. These result in the following additional council tax amounts for the Lamesley Parish area (excluding Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire precepts):

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £
A	6.85
B	7.99
C	9.13
D	10.27
E	12.55
F	14.83
G	17.12
H	20.54

57. To these must be added the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. On 7 February 2022 the Police and Crime Panel agreed to increase the Band D charge by £10.00 which is permitted under the current referendum principles of up to £10. The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority agreed a precept increase of 1.99% (£1.71 on band D) at their meeting on 14 February 2022. These are as follows;

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
	£	£
A	102.56	58.23
B	119.65	67.94
C	136.75	77.64
D	153.84	87.35
E	188.03	106.76
F	222.21	126.17
G	256.40	145.58
H	307.68	174.70

58. These result in the following total council tax amounts (including precepts);

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish	All other parts of the Council's area
	£	£
A	1,482.43	1,475.58
B	1,729.49	1,721.50
C	1,976.56	1,967.43
D	2,223.63	2,213.36
E	2,717.78	2,705.23
F	3,211.91	3,197.08
G	3,706.06	3,688.94
H	4,447.26	4,426.72

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

59. Cabinet agreed the 2022/23 scheme in December 2021 which retains the minimum contribution of all working age claimants at 8.5% of their Council Tax liability.
60. The removal of the ring-fence within the Government funding calculation means that Government funding for this area has been significantly reduced. The best estimate of the overall cost of the scheme to the Council is approximately £23.8 million, with Government funding currently estimated at £3.6m.
61. Adopting the scheme means that approximately 12,000 council taxpayers (out of 13,400 working age claimants) will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax (around £126 per year / £2.42 per week). This is based on current numbers of claims. It is anticipated that these numbers may significantly increase. However additional unquantifiable factors are changes announced in the latest budget (in particular the Universal Credit taper) which will increase benefit income but may then reduce the amount of support available in this scheme, however, claimants would gain financially overall. These impacts will be closely monitored. There are also 8,348 pension age Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) claimants, of which approximately 5,216 receive 100% reduction to their council tax liability.

62. The total number so far who have received Council Tax support at any time during the year is 22,653 out of 94,558 council tax accounts, 23.96% of council taxpayers. Note there are changes of circumstances which change the number of recipients supported during the year.
63. A discretionary fund of £25,000 is available to be used to support the most vulnerable claimants in exceptional circumstances and additional COVID funding in the form of a variety of grants and discretionary awards has been available to support this client group during 2021/22.

Council Tax Support Hardship Fund

64. In 2021/22 the Council were awarded £2.779m from the Hardship Fund, this funding has been used to reduce the liability of current working age LCTS claimants by up to £150 in 2021/22, as a result over 10,000 claimants have had their council tax liability reduced to nil.
65. It is estimated that £0.7m of the initial £2.8m allocation will remain by 31 March 2022, which is available to be used at the Council's discretion. It is proposed to use the remaining funding by reducing all working age recipients of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme by £50 for their 2022/23 council tax liability. It is anticipated based on current cases that this would amount to £0.6m of the remaining funds. However, it is difficult to predict the impact of the pandemic on applications for Local Council Tax Support in 2022/23 and this will be monitored throughout the year.
66. It is recommended that Cabinet approve to extend the council tax hardship scheme into 2022/23 using £0.7m of existing funds to reduce all working age Local Council Tax Support recipients bills by £50 in 2022/23.

Schools Budget

67. The Council will receive an indicative £174.5m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is estimated to be £64.3m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Funding for 2-year old's is estimated at £1.9m, funding for 3 & 4 year old's is estimated at £10.8m in 2022/23 and will be confirmed in June 2022 based on actual take up.
68. The Pupil Premium for 2022/23 will be £1,385 for primary school children and £985 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,410 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £320 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £8.9m, of which an estimated £3.2m will be recouped for academies.
69. Early Years Pupil Premium for eligible 3 & 4-year old's have been confirmed at £342 per pupil for a full financial year. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.60 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.2m.
70. The number of schools with projected deficits is increasing. There has been some increased funding to mainstream schools however part of this funding relates to the increase in National Insurance contributions. Every mainstream school will receive at least 1.3% increase in per pupil funding. The increase in funding is expected to continue for 2023/24 at a similar level, but no detailed announcements have been made.

Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget Estimates

71. The Council keeps a level of reserves to strengthen its financial position so that it has enough reserves and balances to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen events without impacting key services and delivery outcomes. This is considered best practice and demonstrates sound financial planning. The Council's policy on reserves is outlined in the MTFS.
72. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to undertake an assessment of the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves. In assessing the robustness of the budget, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has considered the following issues:
 - The general financial standing of the Council;
 - The adequacy of the budget monitoring and financial reporting arrangements;
 - The adequacy of the Council's internal control system;
 - The future budget pressures faced by the Council, as identified in the Council's MTFS;
 - The impact of reduced income and funding;
 - The proposed Capital Programme;
 - The delivery of agreed budget cuts/income targets;
 - The agreed three year approach to budget.
73. In addition to the above, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has undertaken a risk assessment of the underlying budget assumptions applied to income and expenditure estimates. This includes an assessment of the estimates for inflationary increases. Further details are shown at Appendix 4.
74. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has also considered the adequacy of reserves to cover any potential financial risks faced by the Council. The Council's general and earmarked reserves are maintained at a prudent level and are subject to continuous review. Appendix 5 to this report shows the opening balances as at 1 October 2021 and an estimate of reserves through to 31 March 2025 subject to the proposals in this report. The position on reserves will be further reviewed following the revenue outturn in June 2022 and as part of the review of the MTFS. It is likely that reserves will need to be replenished over the MTFS period.
75. The Council maintains a general fund reserve which acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen expenditure. This currently stands at £16.9m. This figure includes £8.9m LMS Schools reserves which are ring-fenced and £8.0m General Reserve which is at the minimum level of 3% of the net revenue budget in line with MTFS principles.
76. The proposed 2022/23 base budget includes £1.8m budgeted use of strategic earmarked reserves (Financial Risk and Resilience £0.3m and Thrive £1.5m) in support of council priorities.
77. Some reserves are agreed by Council to be earmarked and held for specific strategic purposes. This may be to help achieve key priorities or held for specific purposes primarily to mitigate unforeseen events, risks or provide insurance. Other reserves are ring fenced and committed to be used for specific projects or activities, usually prescribed by Government, and cannot support the general Council budget such as school's reserves, developer contributions and the Public Health reserve.

78. Reserves can only be used once and are therefore not a sustainable source of financing without placing the Council's financial position at risk. This is an area of interest to external audit who will look at both how the Council has planned to use and actually uses its reserves. Due to the reduced funding from Government coupled with increasing demand, the Council will be required and is intending to, find a permanent solution to the funding gap, rather than a short-term solution by using reserves, a fundamental principle of the MTFS.
79. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have produced a financial resilience index in an attempt to objectively compare reserve levels with Local Authorities and measure financial risk. Comparisons available of Gateshead's reserves to nearest neighbours show a relatively low level of available reserves but a stable level. Reserve sustainability shows a medium to high risk.
80. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that, after taking account of these issues, the revenue estimates are considered robust and that the level of reserves is considered adequate to cover the financial risks faced by the Council in the medium term. This assessment is based on the requirement that spending will be reduced to meet the funding gap in the MTFS as any shortfall will put the Council's sustainable financial position at risk.

Workforce Management

81. Proposals for budget savings in relation to the Public Health and Wellbeing Offer are already the subject of separate reports to Cabinet and Council.
82. In light of the Council's new budget approach for 2022/23 to 2024/25, proposals for savings will be put forward as budget reviews take place. Where proposals include potential redundancies, 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. The statutory redundancy consultation period is either 30 days where 20 to 99 redundancies are proposed, 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*. However, since budget savings will be put forward as and when reviews take place which may result in potential redundancies, it is anticipated that a 45-day consultation be applied in each instance. 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.
83. Where it may be necessary to propose redundancies, in order to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies, applications for voluntary redundancy will be considered. 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.
84. 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.

85. 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.
86. Where compulsory redundancies are implemented, all reasonable efforts will be made to secure alternative employment in accordance with the Council's Redeployment Policy.
87. 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.

Prudential and Treasury Indicators

88. CIPFA's Prudential Code is a professional code of practice to support local authorities in taking decisions about capital investment. All local authorities are required to have regard to the Prudential Code under part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Prudential Framework for Local Authority Capital Investment was refreshed in 2021 and includes further guidance on the rules regarding non-treasury investments and commercial activities the Council may undertake.
89. The key objectives of the Codes are to ensure: -
 - Capital investment and investment plans are affordable and proportionate;
 - All borrowing/other long-term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels;
 - Risks associated with investment are proportionate to financial capacity;
 - And treasury management decisions are in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how these risks will be managed to levels that are acceptable to the Council;
 - Consistency with the organisational strategy and resources and ensure that decisions are being made with enough regard to the long-term financial implications and potential risks to the Council. Effective financial planning, option appraisal, risk management and governance processes are essential in achieving a prudential approach to capital expenditure, investment and debt.
90. The Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services sets out a range of prudential and treasury indicators that need to be agreed by the Council. In setting and revising prudential and treasury indicators, the Council is required to take account of the following issues: -
 - affordability, including the impact on council tax;
 - prudence and sustainability;
 - value for money;
 - stewardship of assets and asset management planning;
 - service objectives;
 - practicality.

91. Appendix 7 to this report details the prudential indicators required under the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services recommended for approval.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

92. MRP is the amount that needs to be charged to revenue to reflect the repayment of debt. It is proposed that the Council continues to use the annuity method for charging MRP in respect of PFI contracts and the asset life method on self-financed expenditure. The Council's annual MRP statement for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 8.

Consultation

93. Section 65 of the 1992 Act requires the Council to consult with persons or bodies subject to non-domestic business rates in Gateshead about spending proposals.
94. The Council recognises consultation as a key part of policy formulation and makes considerable effort to ensure that the views of residents, businesses and other key stakeholders are considered.
95. There has been an online public consultation on the proposed Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept increases and responses are included at Appendix 4 of this report.
96. A meeting was held with the North-East Chamber of Commerce on 8 February 2022, and we have engaged both formally and informally with other stakeholders on the Council's new budget approach.
97. The Council 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).
98. With a different approach being taken towards consultation in 2022/23, Cabinet is asked to note that in respect of statutory or common law duties to consult arising from a change in service delivery, 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.
99. As the longer-term budget approach is developed, the Council will ensure that there is appropriate engagement throughout the year, at the right time and in the right way, where proposals may have an impact on employees, residents, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, or other stakeholders. Engagement activities will vary and may be broad in their focus or primarily targeted at a specific group of service users.

100. The Council has undertaken different approaches to engagement on the budget in recent years. However, the most consistent approach taken combines:

- Population survey on budget themes and issues, including those signed up for consultation email alerts, together with online surveys to enable residents to give their views on key issues. These surveys are widely promoted across our key channels (website, social media, newsletter, partner networks).
- Complementary to this we have also engaged and consulted with service users on specific proposals – services and teams consult service users on specific proposals relating to a particular service.
- We also undertake wider engagement, including with voluntary and community sector organisations, businesses, and key strategic partners in the borough.

101. As part of our commitment to increase involvement and engagement in decision making, we will look at alternative approaches to increase engagement in our budget setting. This year, we are proposing to undertake two phases of activity to enable residents and partners to consider the council's medium term financial position. This approach is set out below:

Phase 1 – This will provide an opportunity to engage residents and partners in the strategic approach and public service challenges facing the borough over the coming years. This will include a focus on

- Sharing the strategic context and priorities of the Council
- An increasingly open and transparent communication of Gateshead Council's budget and challenges - using the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to frame a conversation about the borough's finances over the coming years and our budget strategy
- Build greater public awareness of the financial challenges and decisions faced by Gateshead Council
- Accompanying online and face to face consultation, seeking views on the broad budget strategy, as well as service specific engagement on individual proposals
- Strategic engagement on budget with key strategic partners
- Opportunity for some joint activity with local media (e.g., Q&A events)
- Increased opportunity for the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the budget setting process
- Partner 'deep-dive' sessions - events focusing on some key specific opportunities / issues / challenges each year, bringing together key partners
- Shared campaign for change - continue to make the case to Government for a fairer resource settlement for Gateshead
- Demonstrate our coherent approach to delivering solutions (i.e., public service reform/improved 'Gateshead offer' across all public sector bodies; supporting fairer economic growth; and climate change response)

Phase 2 – This will focus more heavily on specific proposals which emerge in support of the 2023/24 budget, and will include a focus on:

- The role of service-level consultation on specific budget proposals, which is a critical part of our budget setting approach. This approach includes pre-proposal dialogue with those likely to be affected by budget cuts if they can be specifically tied into a proposal, together with an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) of the full budget and specific IIAs of any proposals that either change service delivery or impact on service users.
 - An essential part of our engagement approach will include reaching out to the wider population in Gateshead. An option within this phase could include a Residents Survey, to better understand the perception and views of those living in Gateshead. This would feed in directly to the budget consultation exercise.
 - All activity would be supported by the Council's Communications and Engagement team.
102. The Council remains committed to continual constructive engagement with its recognised trade unions, whose contributions are welcomed and valued. Trade unions have been engaged in our new approach to the budget and have been thanked for their engagement to date and the representation they have made.
103. Councillors have been consulted on the new budget approach at Corporate Advisory Groups, portfolio meetings and briefing sessions.

Alternative Options

104. There are no alternative options. The Council is statutorily required to agree a lawfully balanced budget each year. To not identify budget cuts and additional income in order to bridge the funding gap, would be to jeopardise this requirement and put the Council's financial sustainability at risk.

Implications of Recommended Option

1. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that these are set out in the report and appendices to reflect the position to achieve a legally balanced budget for the start of 2022/23. Due to the new long-term approach to budget further reports will be brought forward for consideration on an ongoing basis throughout the financial year as proposals are finalised and financial implications are clarified.
- b. **Human Resource Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance confirms that implications for the Council's workforce are considered within the report. Further reports will be brought forward for consideration on an ongoing basis throughout the financial year as proposals are finalised and human resource implications confirmed.
- c. **Property Implications** – The Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth confirms the implications for the Council's asset portfolio will be set out in detail in future separate reports. The Council will continue to implement its Asset Management Strategy and seek to reduce the costs associated with buildings and property through a corporate landlord model and seek to use the Council's assets to deliver the Thrive agenda and to help deliver the corporate priorities.

2. **Risk Management Implications** – Appendix 6 to this report is a financial risk assessment of the budget. This seeks to capture risks and identify mitigation where possible. Overall the financial context faced by the Council, as identified in the MTFs, poses significant risks to the Council's continued ability to provide essential services to the residents of Gateshead over the medium term. This risk is mitigated to an extent by effective financial management and planning that supports delivery of council priorities identified within the new strategic approach.
3. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Appendix 4 provides an overview of the new approach to using Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA's) to consider how proposals that emerge as part of the Councils budget approach may impact on protected characteristics, health, environment or socioeconomic disadvantage or cumulatively. Any IIA will be developed as part of the decision- making process when proposals are taken for consideration.
4. **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 likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area”. Individual proposals have been assessed as to their impact on crime and disorder and no direct impacts have been identified.
5. **Health Implications** – Appendix 4 highlights health and wellbeing impact.
6. **Climate Change and Sustainability Implications** –. Any future 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.
7. **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, in the IIA's which are available from the Council.
8. **Area and Ward Implications** – The proposals in this report cover the whole of Gateshead.

Background Information:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27 –19 October 2021
- Budget Approach 2022/23 to 2024/25– 14 December 2021
- Revenue Budget Third Quarter review 2021/22 – 25 January 2022

Group and Service (Net Budgets)	Base Budget and Contingency	Budgeted Reserves Use	Proposed Budget
	2022/23 £000	2022/23 £000	2022/23 £000
<u>Integrated Adults' and Social Care Services</u>			
Adult Social Care	72,917	0	72,917
Quality Assurance and Commissioning	6,930	0	6,930
<u>Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning</u>			
Children's Social Care	39,802	0	39,802
Education, Schools and Inclusion	4,563	0	4,563
<u>Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)</u>			
Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)	19,861	0	19,861
<u>Office of the Chief Executive</u>			
Office of the Chief Executive	858	0	858
<u>Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities</u>			
Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical	320	0	320
Property & Assets	2,710	0	2,710
Strategic Services & Residential Growth	1,070	0	1,070
Locality Services & Housing	860	204	1,064
Highways and Waste	16,864	0	16,864
Environment and Fleet Management	2,252	250	2,502
<u>Economy, Innovation and Growth</u>			
Business, Employment and Skills	1,312	15	1,327
Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	2,240	738	2,978
Major Projects	(617)	0	(617)
<u>Corporate Services and Governance</u>			
Legal and Democratic Services	3,907	0	3,907
Human Resources and Workforce Development	1,379	257	1,636
Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	478	0	478
Public Service Reform	391	0	391
<u>Resources and Digital</u>			
Financial Management	2,047	0	2,047
Customer Experience and Digital	3,047	271	3,318
Housing Benefits	200	0	200
IT	4,172	0	4,172
Commercialisation and Improvement	2,239	15	2,254
Other Services	1,807	0	1,807
General Contingency	10,574	0	10,574
Budget Contingency	1,388	0	1,388
COVID Funding	8,996	0	8,996
Capital Financing Costs	33,866	0	33,866
Investment & Trading Income	(3,710)	0	(3,710)
Expenditure Passed Outside General Fund	(1,855)	0	(1,855)
<u>Levies</u>			
Environment Agency Levy	175	0	175
North East Combined Authority	11,488	0	11,488
Port of Tyne Levy	23	0	23
Total Net Budget	252,554	1,750	254,304
<u>Financed By</u>			
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)			(56,907)
Other Grants			(47,235)
Public Health			(17,225)
Council Tax (Excluding Parish Precept)			(103,856)
Collection Fund			159
Reserves to Support Retained Rates			(12,675)
Earmarked Reserves			(16,565)
Total Funding	0	0	(254,304)

SCHOOLS - ESTIMATES 2022/23

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Dedicated Schools Grant (Indicative)	168,449	(168,449)	0	174,479	(174,479)	0
Use of Schools Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Recoupment for Academies and commissioned Non-Maintained Special Schools	(55,721)	55,721	0	(64,318)	64,318	0
Total Retained in Council	112,728	(112,728)	0	110,160	(110,160)	0
Less: DSG funding allocated to High Needs, Early Years and other service areas	(32,346)	32,346	0	(35,454)	35,454	0
Schools Budget (Maintained)	80,382	(80,382)	0	74,707	(74,707)	0
Estimated Pupil Premium	9,696	(9,696)	0	8,900	(8,900)	0
Less: Academies Recoupment	(3,668)	3,668	0	(3,200)	3,200	0
Pupil Premium (Maintained)	6,028	(6,028)	0	5,700	(5,700)	0
TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET 2022/23						0

The Council will receive an indicative £174.479m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is estimated to be £64.318m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Funding for 2-year olds is estimated at £1.943m, funding for 3 & 4 year old's is estimated at £10.787m in 2022/23 and will be confirmed in June 2022 based on actual take up.

For 2022/23, High Needs Block funding increased by £2.604m. The Pupil Premium for 2022/23 will be £1,385 for primary school children and £985 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,410 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £320 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £8.9m, of which an estimated £3.2m will be recouped for academies.

Early Years Pupil Premium for eligible 3 & 4 year olds has been confirmed at £342 per pupil for a full financial year. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.60 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.178m.

INTEGRATED ADULTS' AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Adult Social Care	102,726	(35,272)	67,454	108,240	(35,323)	72,917
Total Adult Social Care 2022/23				108,240	(35,323)	72,917

INTEGRATED ADULTS' AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND COMMISSIONING

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Quality Assurance and Commissioning	7,105	(360)	6,745	7,292	(362)	6,930
Total Quality Assurance and Commissioning 2022/23				7,292	(362)	6,930

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LIFELONG LEARNING - ESTIMATES 2022/23

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Children's Social Care	38,049	(1,906)	36,143	41,622	(1,820)	39,802
Total Children's Social Care 2022/23				41,622	(1,820)	39,802

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LIFELONG LEARNING - ESTIMATES 2022/23

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND INCLUSION

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Education, Schools and Inclusion	52,953	(48,465)	4,488	53,151	(48,588)	4,563
Total Education, Schools and Inclusion 2022/23				53,151	(48,588)	4,563

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - ESTIMATES 2022/23

PUBLIC HEALTH

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Public Health	16,541		16,541	17,225	0	17,225
Total Public Health 2022/23				17,225	0	17,225

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - ESTIMATES 2022/23

Health and Wellbeing

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Health and Wellbeing	8,962	(6,649)	2,313	9,285	(6,649)	2,636
Total Health and Wellbeing 2022/23				9,285	(6,649)	2,636

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - ESTIMATES 2022/23

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Office of the Chief Executive	900	(92)	808	1,071	(213)	858
Total Office of the Chief Executive 2022/23				1,071	(213)	858

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

CONSTRUCTION - BUILDING MAINTENANCE, TECHNICAL & CYCLICAL

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical	308	0	308	622	(302)	320
Total Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical 2022/23				622	(302)	320

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

PROPERTY & ASSETS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Property & Assets	16,350	(15,092)	1,258	18,222	(15,512)	2,710
Total Property & Assets 2022/23				18,222	(15,512)	2,710

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

STRATEGIC SERVICES & RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Strategic Services & Residential Growth	1,846	(738)	1,108	1,871	(801)	1,070
Total Strategic Services & Residential Growth 2022/23				1,871	(801)	1,070

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

LOCALITY SERVICES & HOUSING

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Locality Services & Housing	3,399	(1,987)	1,412	2,910	(2,050)	860
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Extension Programme Manager				29	0	29
Community Advice at Citizens Advice Gateshead				135	0	135
Locality Working in Gateshead				40	0	40
				204	0	204
Total Locality Services & Housing 2022/23				3,114	(2,050)	1,064

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

HIGHWAYS AND WASTE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Highways and Waste	26,416	(10,567)	15,849	27,509	(10,645)	16,864
Total Highways and Waste 2022/23				27,509	(10,645)	16,864

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2022/23

ENVIRONMENT AND FLEET MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Environment and Fleet Management	5,893	(2,681)	3,212	4,933	(2,681)	2,252
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Environment Investment Plan				250	0	250
				250	0	250
Total Environment and Fleet Management 2022/23				5,183	(2,681)	2,502

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2022/23

BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Business, Employment and Skills	3,624	(2,276)	1,348	3,378	(2,066)	1,312
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Working Gateshead				15	0	15
				15	0	15
Total Business, Employment and Skills 2022/23				3,393	(2,066)	1,327

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2022/23

PLANNING, POLICY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	4,832	(2,557)	2,275	4,955	(2,715)	2,240
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Climate Change				351	0	351
Local Plan				387	0	387
				738	0	738
Total Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport 2022/23				5,693	(2,715)	2,978

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2022/23

MAJOR PROJECTS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Major Projects	290	(1,563)	(1,273)	1,290	(1,907)	(617)
Total Major Projects 2022/23				1,290	(1,907)	(617)

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2022/23

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Legal and Democratic Services	4,776	(1,115)	3,661	4,873	(966)	3,907
Total Legal and Democratic Services 2022/23				4,873	(966)	3,907

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2022/23

HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Human Resources and Workforce Development	1,961	(527)	1,434	1,925	(546)	1,379
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Leadership Development Programme	10	0		10	0	10
Apprenticeship Coordinator	47	0		47	0	47
Corporate Pay and Grading Review	50	0		50	0	50
Employee Health and Wellbeing Budget	150	0		150	0	150
	257	0		257	0	257
Total Human Resources and Workforce Development 2022/23	2,182	(546)		2,182	(546)	1,636

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2022/23

CORPORATE COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	1,070	(609)	461	1,087	(609)	478
Total Corporate Commissioning and Procurement 2022/23				1,087	(609)	478

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2022/23

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Public Service Reform	528	0	528	391	0	391
Total Public Service Reform 2022/23				391	0	391

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Financial Management	3,929	(1,947)	1,982	3,981	(1,934)	2,047
Total Financial Management 2022/23				3,981	(1,934)	2,047

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND DIGITAL

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Customer Experience and Digital	5,541	(2,398)	3,143	5,245	(2,198)	3,047
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Discretionary Payments				50	0	50
Local Discretionary Payments Advisor at Citizens Advice Gateshead				30	0	30
Benefits Posts				31	0	31
Welfare Benefits Posts at Citizens Advice Gateshead				120	0	120
Specialist Welfare Benefits Advisor at Citizens Advice Gateshead				40	0	40
				271	0	271
Total Customer Experience and Digital 2022/23				5,516	(2,198)	3,318

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

HOUSING BENEFITS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Housing Benefits	51,851	(51,651)	200	51,851	(51,651)	200
Total Housing Benefits 2022/23				51,851	(51,651)	200

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

IT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
IT	6,034	(2,253)	3,781	6,414	(2,242)	4,172
Total IT 2022/23				6,414	(2,242)	4,172

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

COMMERCIALISATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Commercialisation and Improvement	3,144	(342)	2,802	2,531	(292)	2,239
<u>Budgeted Use of Reserves</u>						
Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure (Try on the Tyne)				15	0	15
Total Commercialisation and Improvement 2022/23				2,546	(292)	2,254

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2022/23

OTHER SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Other Services	1,427	(48)	1,379	1,855	(48)	1,807
Contingencies	8,752	0	8,752	11,962	0	11,962
COVID Funding	6,130	0	6,130	8,996	0	8,996
Capital Financing Costs	33,427	0	33,427	33,866	0	33,866
Investment & Trading Income	0	(3,566)	(3,566)	0	(3,710)	(3,710)
Expenditure passed outside general fund	0	(1,855)	(1,855)	0	(1,855)	(1,855)
Levies	11,013	0	11,013	11,686	0	11,686
Savings Mitigation	2,718	0	2,718	0	0	0
Hardship Funding	2,779	0	2,779	0	0	0
Total	66,246	(5,469)	60,777	68,365	(5,613)	62,752
Total Other Services 2022/23				68,365	(5,613)	62,752

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED USE OF RESERVES		AMOUNT £000S
Financial Risk and Resilience Reserve		257
Leadership Development Programme		10
Apprenticeship Coordinator		47
Corporate Pay and Grading Review		50
Employee Health and Wellbeing Budget		150
Thrive Reserve		1,493
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Extension Programme Manager		29
Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure (Try on the Tyne)		15
Climate Change		351
Environment Investment Plan		250
Discretionary Payments		50
Local Discretionary Payments Advisor at Citizens Advice Gateshead		30
Benefits Posts		31
Welfare Benefits Posts at Citizens Advice Gateshead		120
Specialist Welfare Benefits Advisor at Citizens Advice Gateshead		40
Working Gateshead		15
Community Advice at Citizens Advice Gateshead		135
Locality Working in Gateshead		40
Local Plan		387
BUDGETED USE OF RESERVES TOTAL		1,750

Statutory Requirements: Calculation of Council Tax Requirement

1. Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set an amount of Council Tax for each financial year for each category of dwellings in its area. The council tax must be set before the 11 March in the preceding financial year. For a category of dwellings, the amount of Council Tax is the aggregate of: -
 - (i) the amount of tax in relation to the year that the Authority itself has calculated, and
 - (ii) the sum of the amounts of tax in relation to the year that major precepting authorities have calculated in precepts issued to the authority by major precepting authorities.

2. Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the 1992 Act (the 1992 Act) require the Authority to calculate its own amount of tax for each category of dwellings in its area, reflecting its council tax requirement. In calculating its council tax requirement, the Authority must make the following calculations: -
 - (1) In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must make the calculations required by the section 31A of the 1992 Act.
 - (2) The Authority must calculate the aggregate of: -
 - (a) the expenditure which the Authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a Business Improvement District (BID) Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (b) such allowance as the Authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (c) the financial reserves which the Authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure;
 - (d) such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the Authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for;
 - (da) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2B) of the of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Act (the 1988 Act);
 - (e) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97 (4) of the 1988 Act;
 - (f) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

- (3) The aggregate of: -
- (a) the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (aa) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2A) of the 1988 Act;
 - (b) any amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97 (3) of the 1988 Act;
 - (c) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and
 - (d) the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b), (e) and (f) above.
- (4) If the aggregate calculated under (2) above exceeds that calculated under (3) above, the authority must calculate the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is to be its council tax requirement for the year.
- (5) In making the calculation under subsection (2) above the authority must ignore payments which must be met from its collection fund under section 90(2) of the 1988 Act or from a trust fund and, subject to paragraphs (da), (e) and (f) of subsection (2) above, sums which have been or are to be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund.
- (6) In estimating under subsection (2)(a) above the authority must consider: -
- (a) the amount of any expenditure which it estimates it will incur in the year in making any repayments of grants or other sums paid to it by the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) the amount of any precept issued to it for the year by a local precepting authority and the amount of any levy or special levy issued to it for the year.
- (7) But (except as provided by regulations under section 41 of the 1992 Act or regulations under section 74 or 75 of the 1988 Act) the authority must not anticipate a precept, levy or special levy not issued.
- (8) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c) above an authority's estimated future expenditure is: -
- (a) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year following the year in question, will charge to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices and will have to defray before the following sums are

sufficiently available: -

- i. sums which will be payable for the year into its general fund and in respect of which amounts will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, and
 - ii. sums which will be transferred as regards the year from its collection fund to its general fund, and
 - (b) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year referred to in paragraph (a) above or any subsequent financial year in performing its functions and which will be charged to a revenue account for that or any other year in accordance with proper practices.
- (9) In making the calculation under subsection (3) above the authority must ignore: -
 - (a) payments which must be made into its collection fund under section 90(1) of the 1988 Act or to a trust fund, and
 - (b) subject to paragraphs (aa), (b) and (c) of subsection (3) above, sums which have been or are to be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund.
- (10) The Secretary of State may by regulations do either or both of the following: -
 - (a) alter the constituents of any calculation to be made under subsection (2) or (3) above (whether by adding, deleting or amending items);
 - (b) alter the rules governing the making of any calculation under subsection (2) or (3) above (whether by deleting or amending subsections (5) to (9) above, or any of them, or by adding other provisions, or by a combination of those methods).
- (11) Calculations to be made in relation to a particular financial year under this section must be made before 11 March in the preceding financial year, but they are not invalid merely because they are made on or after that date.
- (12) This section is subject to section 52ZS of the 1992 Act (which requires a direction to a billing authority that the referendum provisions in chapter 4ZA of the 1992 Act are not to apply to the authority for a financial year to state the amount of the authority's council tax requirement for the year)

Calculation of Basic Amount of Tax

- (13) In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must calculate the basic amount of its council tax by applying the formula: -

$$\frac{R}{T}$$

where: -

- R is the amount calculated (or last calculated) by the authority under section 31A (4) of the 1992 Act as its council tax requirement for the year;
- T is the amount which is calculated by the authority as its council tax base for the year and, where one or more major precepting authorities have power to issue precepts to it, is notified by it to those authorities (“the major precepting authorities concerned”) within the prescribed period.
- (14) Where the aggregate calculated (or last calculated) by the authority for the year under subsection (2) of section 31A does not exceed that so calculated under subsection (3) of that section, the amount for item R above is to be nil.
- (15) The Secretary of State must make regulations containing rules for making for any year the calculation required by item T above; and a billing authority must make the calculation for any year in accordance with the rules for the time being effective (as regards the year) under the regulations.
- (16) Regulations prescribing a period for the purposes of item T above may provide that, in any case where a billing authority fails to notify its calculation to the major precepting authorities concerned within that period, that item must be determined in the prescribed manner by such authority or authorities as may be prescribed.
- (17) The Secretary of State may by regulations do either or both of the following:
- (a) alter the constituents of any calculation to be made under subsection (13) (whether by adding, deleting or amending items);
 - (b) provide for rules governing the making of any calculation under that subsection (whether by adding provisions to, or deleting or amending provisions of, this section, or by a combination of those methods).

Introduction

1. The Council has consulted and sought views on a proposed Council Tax increase (1.99%) and Adult Social Care precept increase (1%) as part of its budget setting process for 2022/23.
2. There is an estimated funding gap of £45m anticipated over the next five years. If the proposed uplifts did not go ahead the impacts would be £15m additional loss over the period. This approach is consistent and supports the Council's strategic approach "Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives", and the budgetary framework of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
3. From 26 January 2022 a consultation on the proposed increases went live to the public and stakeholders.

Method

4. The Budget consultation 2022/23 ran from 26 January to 13 February 2022. The consultation was made available on the Council's consultation portal. Comments on the proposals were also received by email through a Budget Consultation inbox.
5. Promotion of the consultation was carried out using social media, Gateshead Now and was also publicised on the Council's website and through internal communications channels.
6. A series of Corporate Advisory Groups have been held for councillors to consider and comment on the context and budget approach.
7. A news article, explaining the Council's budget in greater detail and providing more information on Council Tax was featured within the Winter edition of Council News, which can be found here: - www.gateshead.gov.uk/councilnews
8. Discussions have been held with key stakeholders including trade unions, as well as the North-East England Chamber of Commerce.

Public Consultation

9. Overall, there has been a good response in the number of people who have engaged with the Council on its budget consultation. There were 2,012 responses via the consultation portal.
10. The following data has been gathered from the council website, social media, and emails:
 - Budget consultation webpage views totalled 1,822
 - Gateshead Now email featured the budget consultation on two occasions, with a total of 1,463 clicks
 - Four Twitter posts received 3,655 impressions and 261 engagements
 - Four Facebook posts achieved a reach of 64,500 people, with 16,412 engagements and 688 comments
 - 13 emails received into budgetconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk

11. The direct consultation feedback on the two specific questions posed is as follows: -

Council Tax increase for the Adult Social Care Precept

- 38% of respondents agree that the Council should apply a 1% increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept, which will contribute towards the cost of services for older and vulnerable residents
 - 61% disagree
 - 2% don't know
- (Figures do not sum due to rounding)

Council Tax increase for the Essential Local Services

- 24% of respondents agree that the Council should apply a 1.99% increase to Council Tax to fund essential local services.
- 75% disagree
- 1% don't know

12. Further detailed breakdown and demographics from the consultation can be found at appendix 4i.

13. In addition, there were a significant number of general comments made by respondents to the budget consultation. Initial analysis of these shows the greatest numbers of comments were made in relation to the financial burden any increase places upon residents, alongside the current costs of living. Most comments made expressed the view of not increasing the current Council Tax level.

Trade Unions

14. The Council remains committed to continual constructive engagement with its recognised trade unions, whose contributions are welcomed and valued. While consultation differs to previous years, we will continue to engage with trade unions on our budget approach. Further consultation will take place, as necessary, when proposals for service changes relating to budget reductions are developed at appropriate times throughout the year.

15. Trade unions have been thanked for their engagement to date and the representation they have made.

Other public consultation

16. Over the past twelve months the Council has undertaken 49 consultations using its online consultation portal. Many of these help to inform Council policy, including:

- School Admission Arrangements for September 2023
- Climate Strategy Gateshead 2021
- Gateshead Library Service Consultation 2021
- GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure Survey 2022
- Economic Development Strategy Survey
- How Do You Use Your Local Pharmacy? (PNA 2021)
- Transforming Cities Funding - Quays Sustainable Access Proposals
- What Next? - Year 11 Leavers Survey 2021
- Placemaking Supplementary Planning Document – First Review
- Specialist and Supported Housing Supplementary Planning Document

17. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives identifies a commitment to reduce the levels of inequality that are apparent within the borough.
18. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Nearly 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas.
19. The population of Gateshead is ageing it is projected that by 2041 there will be an additional 7,545 people aged 65 or older, an increase of 18%. There will also be a slight decrease in the number of children and young people aged 0-15 of around 2,793 or 8%.
20. To achieve a balanced budget in 2022/23, the Council has reviewed its base budget. This has resulted in a 3-year budget approach being agreed to help deliver against Council priorities.
21. An integrated impact assessment (IIA) will be developed for any budget proposal brought forward for decision throughout the year. This IIA approach considers any impact, whether negative or positive, on people with protected characteristics alongside health, environment, socio-economic disadvantage and considers cumulative impact. The Council's role will be to consider any disproportionate impact identified in the integrated impact assessments as part of the decision-making process and wherever possible, mitigate this impact, following implementation of proposals.
22. At this point it is not possible to identify the likely impact on employees or service users. Impact assessments will be reviewed throughout the development of budget options during 2022/23 and updated as knowledge of any likely impact is understood following consultation and engagement activity.

Voluntary and Community Sector

23. The Council continues to value the contribution of the community and voluntary sector in Gateshead and the significant impact that is made in supporting residents across the borough. The Council will continue to engage, support, and collaborate with the voluntary sector leaders' groups on the development of in-year budget proposals.
24. The Service Director – Voluntary and Community Sector Development has and will also continue to forge relationships to ensure ongoing support to residents who are vulnerable and continue to require help and support with the assistance.
25. The Council's relationship with Connected Voice remains strong and the collective capacity building that results from this will ensure the VCSE continues to receive help and support from the Council and this key partner.

Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health Statement of Assessment of Impact on Health and Wellbeing of Gateshead Council's Budget Consultation (2022/23)

Purpose of the Health Impact Statement

This statement:

- provides a brief overview of current health and wellbeing challenges in Gateshead in the context of austerity and welfare reform and COVID-19

- highlights the potential health impact of the Council’s budget proposals on the delivery of the Thrive agenda and sets out key areas relevant for mitigation.

The Council takes its statutory duty, ‘to protect and improve the public’s health’, seriously and recognises that many Council activities impact upon health and wellbeing. Consequently, it is important that an assessment of the health and wellbeing impact of all the Council’s budget proposals is undertaken.

In the context of a prolonged period of austerity, which has been amplified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this health impact approach aims to:

1. Understand which proposals will result in the least negative impact.
2. Understand any negative consequences, which may require mitigation.

The purpose of this statement is to reflect on work undertaken across the Council to assess the impact of the budget approach and provide a high-level overview statement of impact and mitigation.

Principles of a health impact assessment

This health impact assessment statement has been completed to help the Council to consider the impact of the budget proposals (both positive and negative) on health and wellbeing, consistent with its Thrive agenda but recognising the complexity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:

- **Impact on social, economic, and environmental living conditions** that would indirectly affect health e.g., it would affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, green space or climate change.
- **Direct impact on physical health, mental health and wellbeing** e.g., it would cause or worsen ill health, or affect social inclusion, independence and participation.
- **Impact on people’s ability to improve their own health and wellbeing** e.g., it would affect their ability to be physical active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking; or
- **Increase the need for, or access to, health and social care services** e.g., Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services.

These impacts may be observable in the short, medium, or long-term depending upon the nature of the proposal itself. The impacts may be felt by individuals or communities or by the population of Gateshead as a whole.

Budget Approach

The Council is required to close a gap of £45 million over the next 5 years and a new budget approach, which seeks to reduce the gap over this period, has been agreed. Consultation this year has centred on a Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept increase totalling 2.99%, which would raise £3m in support of the Council’s strategic approach “Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives”, and the budgetary framework of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

For 2022/23 budget pressures have been mitigated using one off reserves. However, this position is not sustainable in the medium term and the decisions that need to be made over the next three years will need to balance the needs of the local population, with statutory requirements for local government, the budget available from central government, and the opportunity to increase revenue locally.

Overview

COVID-19 has been with us now for around two years. The pandemic has exposed, exacerbated and created new challenges for many across our community. Inequalities in the social determinants of health has worked to make people from our deprived communities more vulnerable to infection from COVID-19 even when they have no underlying health conditions. This means that those living in poorer areas were more likely to die from COVID-19 and suffer financial hardship due measures taken to control the spread of the virus. Financial struggles make it harder to buy healthier food, to pay for good quality accommodation, and they increase stress when worrying about making ends meet. This can negatively impact both physical and mental health.

While the pandemic is not over by any means we are now able to see the impact it has had on many people across our community.

Direct risk of the virus – Published data suggests that the most deprived areas of England have twice

the rate of deaths involving COVID-19 than the most affluent. COVID-19 is not unique in this respect: inequalities in mortality have long been evident. Indeed, deaths from suicide, conditions such as liver disease and cancer as well as overall mortality rates, all show that death rates for people living in the most deprived areas of the country are higher than those in the least deprived. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Around 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas.

Government funding – As Director of Public Health for Gateshead I am concerned that the Government funding for local authorities is under enormous pressure. Even prior to the pandemic funding had been constrained and in response to this the Council, like many others, has been forced into decisions to make savings in the short-term which are likely to have a detrimental impact on future sustainability. Whilst the Council will fulfil its responsibilities regarding duties set out in the Equality Act, I am concerned that the UK Equality Duty doesn't include a requirement to consider social disadvantaged. As such, some groups may not be sufficiently protected due to the disproportionate cuts imposed on areas with high levels of deprivation.

Inequality and covid – Evidence suggests that COVID-19 may have a disproportionate impact on people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups. The relationship between ethnicity and health is complex and likely to be the result of a combination of factors. People of BAME communities are likely to be at increased risk of acquiring the infection. BAME communities are also likely to be at increased risk of poorer outcomes if they acquire COVID-19. For example, people of Bangladeshi and Pakistani background have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than people from White British ethnicity, and people of Black Caribbean and Black African ethnicity have higher rates of hypertension compared with other ethnic groups.

COVID-19 has affected different sections of the population to different degrees. As the pandemic goes on, we are becoming more aware of groups who are at risk for many different reasons.

Domestic Abuse – We also know that during the COVID-19 lockdown that social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, has resulted in increased levels of gender-based violence. Many have been forced to 'lockdown' at home with an abusive partner while services to support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible.

Economy – The longer-term and largest consequences of the ‘lockdown’ for health inequalities will be through political and economic choices. Economists fear that the economic impact will be far greater than the financial crisis of 2007/2008, and some have said that it is likely to be worse in depth than the Great Depression.

The economic pain inflicted by COVID-19 will be felt unequally across the UK. Compared to the UK as a whole, the Northeast and the North West of England both had a higher proportion of employment in ‘shutdown sectors’ such as retail and manufacturing. Those on already on low incomes were more likely to be working in ‘shut down’ sectors and furloughed, increasing the financial burden and stress felt.

The cost of living has now increased for three out of four adults in the UK (ONS, 2022), with increases reported for the cost of food, energy, and fuel. Financial hardship can have a long-term impact on health through chronic stress, reduced opportunities and resources, access to healthy food and secure, stable, and good quality homes.

Children and Young People – Thankfully the virus has been shown to have the lowest risk with our children and young people. However, they have now suffered two years of disruption as one of the most significant points of life for development. The babies born during covid will have had less opportunity for normal social development, there has been a marked difference in learning hours and digital access to resources for children with the reduction of time in school and some children will have been exposed to stressful and damaging situations at home as families struggled with wider pressures. Inequalities have widened as children and young people who were vulnerable or disadvantaged before the pandemic may have been more affected by disruption to education, loss of family income, their living conditions, and exposure to domestic abuse.

In Early Years education, even in normal circumstances, the poorest children are already 11 months behind their better-off peers before they even start at school. There are significant risks of both short term and long-term impacts on the most disadvantaged children, who may not have a suitable home learning environment. Extra support is now needed to ensure this generation of children are not disadvantaged longer term.

Research has shown that the pandemic, and subsequent measures, have had significant impacts on the mental health of some children and young people. Some children have experienced increased anxiety and stress about the virus, and school closures and social distancing measures have led to a loss of structure and social contact. Such circumstances, coupled with reductions in support services, are likely to lead to a range of poor mental health outcomes.

Children and young people from certain groups (such as those from poorer households, young carers and those with disabilities) are already disproportionately affected by higher levels of mental health issues. For example, one study found that children from the poorest 20% of UK households are four times as likely to have serious mental health difficulties by the age of 11 as those from the wealthiest 20%. Experts express concern that the COVID-19 outbreak may widen these mental health inequalities further, as well as increasing the overall prevalence of mental health issues in children.

Sex – Women make up almost 80% of the health and social care workforce and as such have been significantly exposed to COVID-19. This has impacted on women’s mental well-being and inequalities, particularly amongst women who are single mothers. Single mothers are less likely to own houses, cars, and the most at risk for depression. The complexity of these many stresses on family life and the impact of these inequalities, will become apparent in the future.

A perfect storm – In combination, austerity, welfare reform and the impact of COVID-19 provide a perfect storm, where outcomes for those most disadvantaged in Gateshead are set to get progressively worse.

Mitigation

It is noted that any savings have the potential to be detrimental to health and wellbeing. Therefore, our decisions on how and where to implement those savings should be consistent with the five Council Pledges as part of the Thrive agenda 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.

In addition, the impact of covid, has strengthened the need for us to focus on implementation of the policy objectives set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Gateshead 'Good Jobs, Homes, Health and Friends' which include:

- Give every child the best start in life (with a focus on the first 3 years of a child's life)
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all, in accordance with international law on economic and social rights
- Create and develop sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

While the Council has no choice but to make savings to meet budget cuts from central Government, the identification of priority areas is positive and as they are set out above these are congruent with improved public health and wellbeing as part of the Thrive agenda.

However, they should be closely monitored during their implementation to ensure that the desired positive outcomes are being realised. If this is not the case, then there needs to be flexibility built in to enable timely changes to prevent any detrimental impact.

The five strategic mitigations identified in 2019/20 and 21 remain pertinent and I believe there is an opportunity to refresh our approach to them as we set out the implementation plan for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The five mitigations are:

1. **Embed Health in all policies** – I consider that the Thrive pledges provide a strategic framework for the Council, and its partners, to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our community in all our decision-making processes. Implementation of a health in all policies approach will ensure that negative impacts are understood so mitigation can be implemented where possible.
2. **Proportionate resourcing based on need** – The pledge to put people and families at the heart of everything we do and tackle inequality, so people have a fair chance underpins everything we do and should remain central to the budget decisions. In this context it is vital that the Council considers those proposals, however intractable, that will have the 'least

worst' impact on the communities, families, and individuals most in need. This means that difficult decisions will have to be made so that resources are proportionately used based on need (e.g., those who are most in need will receive the greatest level of support). This does not mean that those who are already thriving get none but instead suggests a gradient of resource which is based on need. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is based on a place-based approach to help improve health and reduce inequalities. When different proposals are considered, it is important the cumulative impact that decisions across differing service areas may have on place and communities is considered, to prevent widening inequalities.

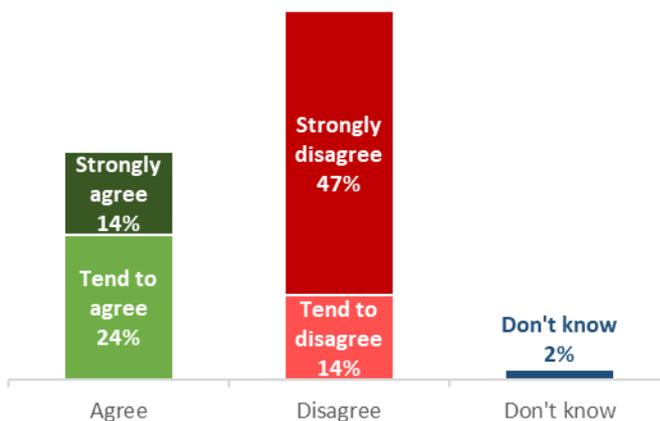
3. **Working with and for communities** – With regard to mitigating the potential negative impact, I consider that our partners and our communities will be able to design and/or offer some solutions to the challenges faced by our communities. We have observed some amazing community action during the pandemic and there are also examples where the community and VCS organisations have been able to effectively take on some of the work that was previously done by the council (e.g., asset transfers for Community Centres and responsibility for maintenance of parks and leisure spaces). A focus should be on enabling those communities that are able to do more for themselves to have greater freedom to lead work in their local community. At the same time, we must ensure support is proportionately targeted to communities which require more assistance in gaining the confidence to lead work in their community.
4. **Strengthen our partnerships** – It is vital that our focus remains on nurturing and strengthening the partnerships and relationships that we have. In view of the pledge to work together and to fight for a better future for Gateshead, we need to work together as a whole system including with local partners and communities. This will go some way to minimise the impacts of the proposed budget reductions and help to protect the people of Gateshead.
5. **Focus on the whole budget** – This proposed mitigation has been strengthened this year with the introduction of the 'zero based budgeting approach. I firmly believe this approach will allow the council to maximise the use of the remaining budget, for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of people living in Gateshead, rather than focusing specifically on cuts.

The Budget 2022-23 consultation ran from 26 January to 13 February 2022. The consultation was made available on the Council’s consultation portal. Comments on the proposals were also received by email through a Budget Consultation inbox. The consultation was advertised via Facebook. In total there were 2,012 respondents to the online consultation portal survey.

Council Tax increase for the Adult Social Care Precept

38% of respondents agree that the Council should apply a 1% increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept which will contribute towards the cost of services for older and vulnerable residents. 61% disagree and 2% don’t know.

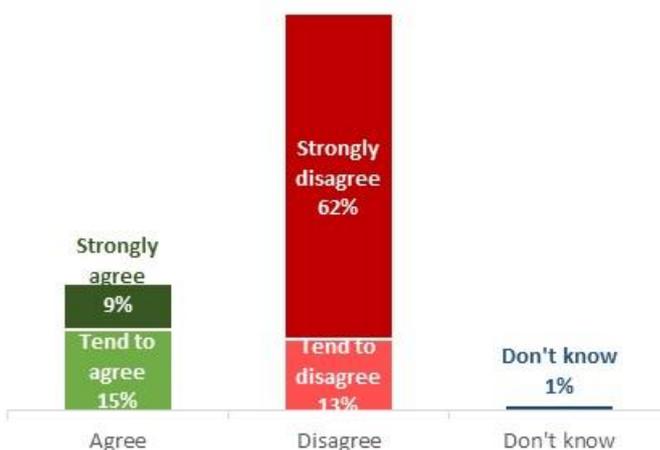
1% increase for the adult social care precept Base = 1,952



Council Tax increase for the Essential Local Services

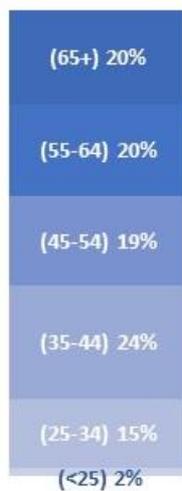
24% of respondents agree that the Council should apply a 1.99% increase to Council Tax to fund essential local services. 75% disagree and 1% don’t know.

1.99% increase for essential local services Base = 1,958



Demographics of respondents

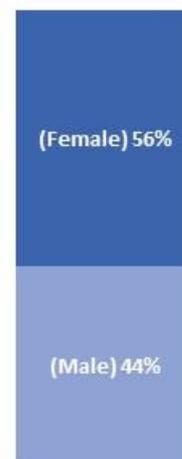
Age of respondents *Base = 1,813*



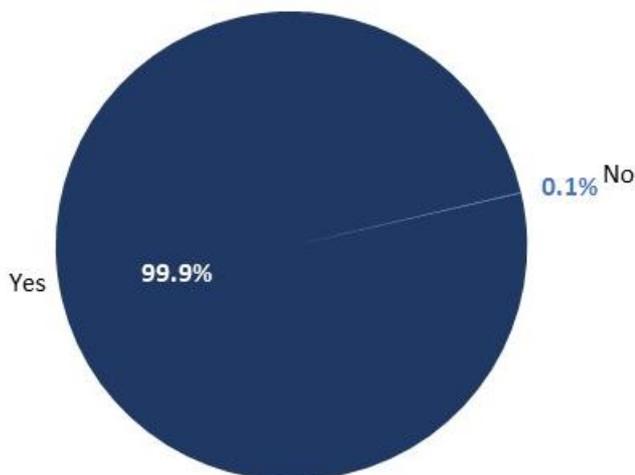
Respondents limited because of a physical or mental health condition *Base = 1,747*



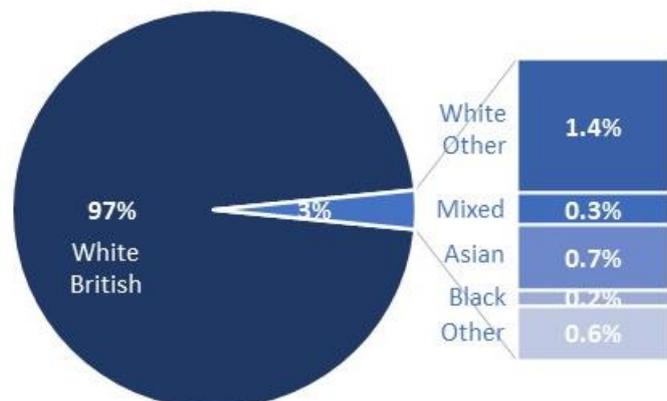
Sex of respondents *Base = 1,772*



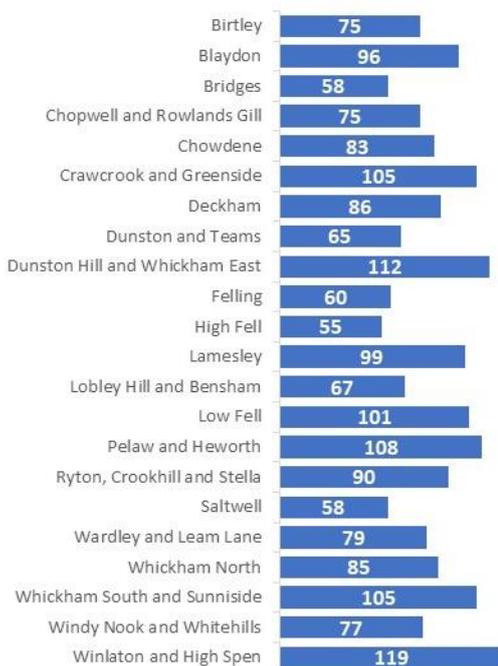
Gender identity is the same as sex *Base = 1,793*



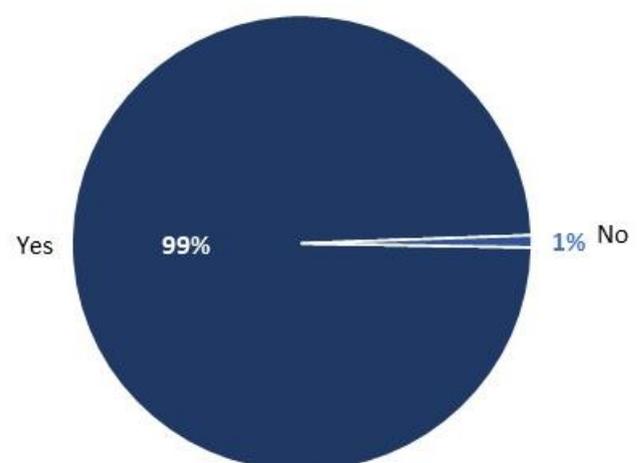
Ethnic group of respondents *Base = 1,781*



Number of responses by ward *Base = 1,858*



Respondents are Gateshead residents *Base = 2,012*



ESTIMATED COMMITMENT OF RESERVES

	ACTUAL		ESTIMATED COMMITMENTS						
	Balance	Movement	Balance	Movement	Balance	Movement	Balance	Movement	Balance
	Oct-21 £000s	2021-22 £000s	Mar-22 £000s	2022-23 £000s	Mar-23 £000s	2023-24 £000s	Mar-24 £000s	2024-25 £000s	Mar-25 £000s
General Fund									
General Reserve	(8,067)	0	(8,067)	0	(8,067)	0	(8,067)	0	(8,067)
LMS Budget Share Reserve*	(8,912)	2,610	(6,302)	1,000	(5,302)	1,000	(4,302)	1,000	(3,302)
Total General Fund Reserve	(16,980)	2,610	(14,370)	1,000	(13,370)	1,000	(12,370)	1,000	(11,370)
Earmarked Reserves									
Strategic Reserves									
Financial Risk and Resilience	(9,929)	860	(9,069)	257	(8,812)	247	(8,565)	0	(8,565)
Insurance Reserve	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)
Commercial Risk Reserve	(1,500)	0	(1,500)	0	(1,500)	0	(1,500)	0	(1,500)
Grant Clawback Reserve	(3,000)	0	(3,000)	0	(3,000)	0	(3,000)	0	(3,000)
Budget Flexibility Reserve	(400)	473	73	0	73	0	73	0	73
Workforce Development Reserve	(3,029)	388	(2,641)	257	(2,384)	247	(2,137)	0	(2,137)
Budget Sustainability	(20,015)	0	(20,015)	5,818	(14,197)	10,000	(4,197)	4,000	(197)
Thrive	(10,000)	1,981	(8,019)	1,493	(6,526)	1,449	(5,077)	0	(5,077)
Unearmarked Reserves	(4,169)	191	(3,978)	591	(3,387)	255	(3,132)	0	(3,132)
Economic Growth, Culture and Place Shaping Reserve	(5,000)	1,509	(3,491)	616	(2,875)	893	(1,982)	0	(1,982)
Voluntary Sector Reserve	(337)	0	(337)	0	(337)	0	(337)	0	(337)
Anti Poverty Reserve	(58)	191	133	135	268	150	418	0	418
Discretionary Social Fund Reserve	(436)	90	(346)	151	(195)	151	(44)	0	(44)
Pandemic Services Impact Reserve	(17,991)	0	(17,991)	8,996	(8,995)	8,995	0	0	0
Pandemic Impact Collection Fund Reserve	(28,239)	15,564	(12,675)	12,675	0	0	0	0	0
Ring Fenced Reserves									
Developers' Contributions*	(2,131)	134	(1,997)	75	(1,922)	266	(1,656)	266	(1,389)
DSG Reserve*	(2,240)	(174)	(2,414)	500	(1,914)	500	(1,414)	500	(914)
Unapplied revenue grants*	(1,311)	552	(759)	422	(338)	252	(86)	45	(41)
Public Health Reserve*	(1,872)	(1,244)	(3,116)	321	(2,795)	321	(2,474)	2,474	0
Total Earmarked Reserves	(93,729)	17,673	(76,055)	30,556	(45,499)	22,030	(23,469)	7,286	(16,183)
Total Reserves	(110,708)	20,283	(90,425)	31,556	(58,868)	23,030	(35,838)	8,286	(27,553)
Total Ring fenced*	(16,467)	1,878	(14,589)	2,317	(12,271)	2,339	(9,932)	4,286	(5,647)
Non Ring-fenced	(94,241)	18,405	(75,836)	29,239	(46,597)	20,691	(25,906)	4,000	(21,906)
	(110,708)	20,283	(90,425)	31,556	(58,868)	23,030	(35,838)	8,286	(27,553)

* Ring fenced – not available to support the revenue budget and council tax requirement

Review of Reserves

1. A review of reserves is undertaken twice a year and covers:

- The purpose for which the reserve is held,
- An assessment of the appropriate level of the reserve to meet potential future liabilities, in line with the Council's reserves policy and aligned to the risk management framework,
- Procedures for the reserve's management and control,
- A process and timescale for future reviews to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

The balances as at 31 March 2022 remain subject to external audit. As part of the MTFS refresh, a review of reserves was undertaken, and reserves were realigned to supplement the Budget Sustainability Reserve creating £20m in funds to support a planned approach to achieve a balanced financial position over the next three years.

2. A breakdown of each useable reserve following review and the reason it is needed is outlined below;

Reserve	Why is the reserve required?	Available to support council budget	Estimated Balance as at 31 March 2022
Council General Reserve	This is a statutory fund that acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen costs. If the council overspends in a year this fund will meet that liability. The minimum balance on the reserve is 3% of the net revenue budget.	Yes <i>(subject to minimum levels being maintained)</i>	£8.067m
General Fund Schools Balances	Use of this reserve is ring-fenced to schools and there is a duty to report planned use to Schools Forum. The balance is for schools collectively, but this includes both surplus and deficit balances of individual schools.	No <i>(ringfenced to schools)</i>	£6.302m

The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has reviewed the level of the general reserve and it is considered that a 3% minimum level should be retained given the current level of risk and uncertainty.

Reserve	Why is the reserve required?	Available to support council budget	Estimated Balance as at 31 March 2022
Financial Risk and Resilience	This reserve was created to set aside funds in respect of key financial risks identified through the risk management process and the savings required as part of the Council MTFS. Risks have been assessed and realigned as part of the review and now include insurance, grant clawback, workforce development costs, commercial risk and budget flexibility.	Yes	£9.069m
Thrive	This reserve was created in 2021 and replaced the two reserves to continue support to council thrive priorities of Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment and Poverty, Health and Equality Investment	Yes	£8.019m
Budget Sustainability	This reserve was created in 2021 to help support the timings of achieving significant budget savings and Thrive outcomes whilst still dealing with pandemic impacts	Yes	£20.015m
COVID			
Pandemic Services Impact	This reserve is held to mitigate the budget impacts of the pandemic across all council services for the next two years	Yes	£17.991m
Pandemic Collection Fund Impact	Specific grants provided by government to replace lost funding to council tax and business rates	Specific support only	£12.675m

It is important to note that the position above includes significant temporary funding held to mitigate pandemic impacts. The impacts are expected to continue into this year and beyond, so the Council set aside £17.991m covid grant funding within reserves to cover cost pressures and lost income over the next two years. In addition, grant funding was provided by government to specifically replace lost funding to council tax and business rates. This funding was included in financing of the 2022/23 budget to help achieve a balanced budget.

Ringfenced Reserves

Ringfenced reserves balances are shown in the table below for information.

Reserve	Why is the reserve required?	Available to support council budget	Estimated Balance as at 31 March 2022
Developer Contributions	This reserve consists of developer contributions in respect of agreed regeneration schemes following Section 38 and 106 agreements. The movement on the reserve will fluctuate depending on the use of the contributions to support regeneration schemes such as play areas in new housing developments.	No	£1.997m
Unapplied Revenue Grants	This reserve is to hold unspent grants and contributions, without grant conditions that are to be used in the following years (Accounting Practice)	No	£0.759m
Public Health Reserve	The responsibility for Public Health transferred to local authorities on the 1 April 2013. The funding is for future Public Health use.	No	£3.116m
Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	This is for schools use and cannot be used for other priorities within the Council. Use of this reserve will be agreed by Schools Forum.	No	£2.414m

Financial Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Collection rates for retained business rates and council tax are lower than anticipated and therefore shortfall of funding to the collection fund	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of bad debt provisions • Regular monitoring of the collection fund performance • Collection rates are monitored by senior management
The impact of appeals is higher than expected affecting the amount of business rate funding projected	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earmarked risk reserve • Financial monitoring framework • Modelling of potential impacts is used to inform financial planning and completion of the NNDR1 estimates.
The cost of pay awards, fee increases, and price inflation is higher than assumed leading to a budget shortfall in service	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency budget set aside for this purpose. • Monitoring of Brexit impacts by officers.
Future spending plans are underestimated leading to a budget shortfall	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service planning process identifies future budget pressures, and these inform indicative budget forecasts and planned into the MTFS.
Anticipated savings, efficiencies or income targets not achieved leading to significant overspends	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • Non-achievement of savings requires performance managed action plans and compensating reductions in planned spending within services. • Contingency sums and general reserve funds are available to cover any significant unforeseen events. • Full review of fees and charges undertaken on an annual basis
Budget monitoring not effective leading to a Council overspend position putting a strain on the general reserve	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk budgets are monitored monthly. • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • All budget managers have access to real time financial information via the council's financial system. • Action plans developed to address problem areas. Regular reports to senior management and Cabinet. Strong track record of delivering budget.
Insufficient general and earmarked reserve balances leading to insufficient funds to deal with unforeseen cost pressures	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% minimum general reserve balance of the net revenue budget. • The General Reserve is supplemented by earmarked reserves that are set aside to cover material risk or events. • Reserves are reviewed annually both in budget setting and in the Council's MTFS.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Loss of principal deposit leading to a loss of Council reserves. Reputational risk to the Council.	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy controls prioritise security of deposit over returns. • Diverse portfolio with top rated institutions and internal funding. • Investment limits in place so that only counterparties who have government backing are used • A maximum of £20m invested with any one counterparty.
Interest rates lower than expected leading to lower investment income being realised to revenue than budgeted.	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review, monitoring and reporting on interest rates. Prudent approach and consideration of scenarios to inform financial planning.
Increase in PWLB borrowing interest rates leading to the Council paying higher interest rates on borrowing than budgeted.	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of borrowing requirement to fund the capital programme and imminent loan maturities. • Forecast interest rate increases built into budget setting.
Lack of internal controls leading to rogue spend and overspend of budget	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's system of internal control is set out in the Council's Constitution. • Internal control system is continuously reviewed by the Council's Internal Audit service, which gives an overall annual assessment of the adequacy of the Council's internal control systems to inform the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) • All managers have a responsibility to install and maintain effective internal control systems demonstrated through AGS • Service Directors are required to confirm annually that they have in place effective financial planning and budgetary control procedures in place
Revenue cost of capital is higher than expected leading to a budget shortfall	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital bid framework identifies revenue implications, and these are assessed and considered in scenario planning. • Monitoring of capital projects funding is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis as part of the capital monitoring process. • Use of the Council's treasury management advisors to assist in determining the most appropriate time to undertake new borrowing and rescheduling of existing loans.
Changes to Government policy including health and social care integration and welfare reform impacting on cost of services	Likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best estimates of funding impacts related to Government policy are factored into the MTFs. Estimates are prudent and based upon consideration of finance networks experience. Any specific areas of uncertainty are identified and subject to focussed activity and review.

Significant financial impacts of UK's exit from the European Union on 31 January 2020 leading to less income or increased costs	Possible	Medium/ High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative working with treasury advisors and financial networks to assess potential budget impacts whilst the Government attempts to ensure an effective transition to a new economic relationship between the UK and the EU. New burden costs will be logged and raised with Government. Any known potential implications will be considered annually as part of the council's MTFS review.
Significant financial impacts arising from COVID-19	Likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular financial monitoring of impact on revenue and capital. • Maximising the government support and grants available to claim • Regular impact returns submitted to Government. • Lobbying through network groups such as LGA, SIGOMA etc • Specific reserve funding set aside to manage impacts over next two years.

Conclusion;

Although the financial context continues to be increasingly challenging, the Council has a strong track record of identifying and delivering significant savings and delivering the budget supported by a framework of effective financial planning. This approach will need to continue to ensure that a sustainable medium-term financial position can be maintained.

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS

1. The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2020/21 and the estimates of capital expenditure to be incurred for the current and future years that are recommended for approval are: -

	2020/21 £000 Actual	2021/22 £000 Estimate	2022/23 £000 Estimate	2023/24 £000 Estimate	2024/25 £000 Estimate	2025/26 £000 Estimate	2026/27 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	50,055	82,046	124,432	96,262	62,837	22,262	32,975
HRA	20,763	25,218	22,281	37,828	30,626	28,613	33,228
Total	70,818	107,264	146,713	134,090	93,463	50,875	66,203

2. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2020/21 are: -

	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate
Non-HRA	14.69%	18.59%	17.37%	19.06%	20.27%	21.61%	22.42%
HRA	39.92%	42.39%	34.24%	49.90%	38.89%	36.38%	40.40%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in this budget report.

3. The actual Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March 2021 and estimates of the end of year Capital Financing Requirement (excluding PFI and finance leases) for the Council for the current and future years are: -

	31/03/21 £000 Actual	31/03/22 £000 Estimate	31/03/23 £000 Estimate	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate	31/03/27 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	361,898	402,258	481,100	547,021	589,181	593,951	597,658
HRA	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505
Total	707,403	747,763	826,605	892,526	934,686	939,456	943,163

4. The Capital Financing Requirement measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In accordance with best professional practice, the Council does not associate borrowing with particular items or types of expenditure. The Council has an integrated treasury management strategy and has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Council has, at any point in time, a number of cash flows both positive and negative, and manages its treasury position in terms of its borrowing and investments in accordance with its approved treasury management strategy and practices. In day to day cash management, no distinction can be made between revenue cash and capital cash. External borrowing arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the Council and not simply those arising from capital spending. In contrast, the Capital Financing Requirement reflects the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

5. CIPFA’s Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities includes the following as a key indicator of prudence: -

“In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Financing Requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional Capital Financing Requirement for the current and next two financial years.”

The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources reports that the Council had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2020/21, nor are any difficulties envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this budget report.

The following table shows the actual external debt against the underlying capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), highlighting any over or under borrowing.

	31/03/21 £000 Actual	31/03/22 £000 Estimate	31/03/23 £000 Estimate	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate	31/03/27 £000 Estimate
Actual gross debt at 31 March	658,684	696,515	780,358	853,278	895,439	905,068	908,775
Capital Financing Requirement	707,403	747,763	826,605	892,526	934,686	939,456	943,163
Under / (over) borrowing	48,719	51,248	46,247	39,248	39,247	34,388	34,388

6. In respect of its external debt, it is recommended that the Council approves the following Authorised Limits for its total external debt gross of investments for the next five financial years, and agrees the continuation of the previously agreed limit for the current year since no change to this is necessary. These limits separately identify borrowing from other long-term liabilities. The Council is asked to approve these limits and to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long-term liabilities, in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the Council. Any such changes made will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

Authorised Limit for External Debt					
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Borrowing	895,000	965,000	1,004,000	1,010,000	1,011,000

7. The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital reports that these Authorised Limits are consistent with the Council's current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in this budget report for capital expenditure and financing and with its approved treasury management policy statement and practices. The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital confirms that they are based on the estimate of most likely, prudent but not worst-case scenario, with sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for operational management, for example unusual cash movements. Risk analysis and risk management strategies have been taken into account, as have plans for capital expenditure, estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement and estimates of cash flow requirements for all purposes.
8. The Council is also asked to approve the following Operational Boundary for external debt for the same time period. The proposed Operational Boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit, but reflects directly the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst-case scenario, without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit to allow, for example, for unusual cash movements, and equates to the maximum of external debt projected by this estimate. The Operational Boundary represents a key management tool for in year monitoring by the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital. Within the Operational Boundary, figures for borrowing and other long-term liabilities are separately identified. The Council is also asked to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital within the total Operational Boundary for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed figures for borrowing and other long-term liabilities, in a similar fashion to the Authorised Limit. Any such changes will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

<i>Operational Boundary for External Debt</i>					
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Borrowing	880,000	950,000	989,000	995,000	996,000

9. The Council's actual external debt at 31 March 2021 was £658.684m comprising £658.684m borrowing and no other long-term liabilities. 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.
10. In taking its decisions on this budget report, the Council is asked to note that the Authorised Limit determined for 2022/23 (see paragraph 6 above) will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
11. The Council shall ensure that the revenue implications of capital finance, including financing costs, are properly taken into account within option appraisal processes, the capital programme and the medium-term forecast. In assessing affordability the Council will consider the council tax implications of its capital programme, borrowing and investment decisions.
12. The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (2017), which requires key Treasury Management indicators.

13. The purpose of these indicators is to contain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby reducing the risk or likelihood of an adverse movement in interest rates or borrowing decisions impacting negatively on the Council's overall financial position. However, if these indicators were set to be too restrictive, they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs.
14. It is recommended that the Council sets upper and lower limits for the maturity structure of its fixed and variable rate borrowings as follows: -

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	21%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	26%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	26%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	22%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	43%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	46%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	48%	0%
50 years and above	17%	0%

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Variable Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	25%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	20%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	20%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	20%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	20%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	20%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	20%	0%
50 years and above	20%	0%

15. It is recommended that the Council sets an upper limit on its principal sums invested for periods longer than 365 days for the next five years as follows: -

Upper Limit on amounts invested beyond 365 days					
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Investments	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT 2022/23

The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the charge made to the revenue account to reflect the repayment of borrowing where the Council has a positive Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This is the mechanism by which council tax payers fund capital expenditure that has been supported by borrowing.

In accordance with regulations and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 21 (1A) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council is required to calculate an amount of MRP each year which is considered to be prudent. The guidance includes four options with the broad aim of a prudent provision being to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with the period where the capital expenditure is expected to provide benefits.

The legislation requires the Council to prepare a statement of its policy on making MRP before the start of each financial year.

Supported Borrowing MRP

From 2017/18 MRP relating to capital expenditure financed from borrowing taken before 1 April 2008 is calculated at a fixed 4% of the opening CFR relating to capital expenditure incurred prior to 1 April 2008. This will make provision to fully repay the borrowing over a 50 year term.

Unsupported or Prudential Borrowing MRP

MRP relating to capital expenditure financed from borrowing taken after 1 April 2008 will be calculated using the Asset Life method. This makes provision over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken.

The MRP will normally commence in the financial year following the one in which the expenditure is incurred, but in accordance with the guidance an additional MRP holiday can be taken until the period in which the asset becomes operational, particularly in the case of complex major projects.

The estimated useful life is aligned to the Council's asset register where possible, however the Council does have the flexibility to assign an alternative life to capital expenditure, provided this satisfies the requirement to make a prudent provision and is considered to reasonably reflect the anticipated period of the benefits arising from the investment.

If no life can reasonably be attributed to an asset, such as freehold land, the life is taken to be a maximum of 50 years. However, in the case of freehold land on which a building or other structure is constructed, the life of the land may be treated as equal to that of the structure where this exceeds 50 years. The estimated life of the asset is determined in the year that MRP commences and is not usually subject to further revision.

Where borrowing is used to meet expenditure which is treated as capital expenditure by virtue of a capitalisation direction, the life is set at a maximum of 20 years in accordance with the statutory guidance.

For assets with an expected life of less than 25 years, MRP is calculated using the Equal Instalment method. This makes a fixed provision each year over the life of the asset.

For assets with an expected life in excess of 25 years, primarily major projects and construction works to significant value assets, MRP is calculated using the Annuity method. This approach is used where the flow of benefits from an asset is expected to increase over time, as the MRP is lower in earlier years and increases over the lifetime of the asset. The MRP is the principal element for the year of the annuity required to repay the capital investment in the asset that has been funded using borrowing.

Housing Revenue Account MRP

In managing the HRA debt and considering the HRA business plan there is no mandatory requirement to make provision in the HRA for annual MRP payments. The provision to repay debt within the HRA is balanced with the need for investment in the stock and any voluntary provision to repay debt will be determined when closing the HRA subject to affordability considerations.

PFI Assets and Right of use Assets

For assets accounted for as on-balance sheet relating to PFI contracts and leases, where a right-of-use asset is identified, the MRP charge is based upon the annual principal payment which will be subject to reassessment if there are any changes in length of contract or change in payment resulting from the application of an indexation. No additional charges are included above those within the contract. Where a lease (or part of a lease) or PFI contract is brought onto the balance sheet, having previously been accounted for off-balance sheet, the MRP requirement would be regarded as having been met by the inclusion in the charge for the year in which the restatement occurs, of an amount equal to the write-down for that year.

Long-Term Capital Loans

The Council has provided capital loans within the Capital Programme to facilitate additional development within Gateshead, particularly relating to affordable housing. The annual repayments of the principal amounts are treated as capital receipts and set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow, rather than making a revenue MRP charge.

Voluntary Provision

In accordance with the guidance, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has the discretion to make additional voluntary provision, subject to affordability considerations, which can result in reductions to the MRP charge for future years.

Projected MRP Charge

An analysis of the projected MRP Charge for 2022/23 over the different calculation methodologies and components is set out in the table below:

Projected MRP Charge 2022/23		£m
Capital Programme	Investment funded by Supported Borrowing and Prudential Borrowing prior to 1 April 2008	2.547
	Asset Life Method – Equal Instalment	3.869
	Asset Life Method – Annuity Method	8.167
PFI	Annuity Method	2.939
Leases	Annuity Method	0.151
Voluntary Provision	General Fund	0
	Housing Revenue Account	0
Total Projected MRP Charge		17.673



COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2022

EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS BEYOND 1 APRIL 2023

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to approve opting into the national sector-led arrangement for the appointment of external auditors with effect from 1 April 2023.
2. The Council needs to make a decision about its external audit arrangements from 2023/24 onwards. The Council's Audit and Standards Committee considered this approach on 31 January 2022 and supported the proposed approach.
3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that Council approves the proposal to opt-in to the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

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TITLE OF REPORT:	External Auditor Appointments Beyond 1 April 2023
REPORT OF:	Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the optional arrangements for the appointment of external auditors for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2023 and seek Cabinet agreement to recommend to Council to opt into the national sector-led arrangement for the appointment of external auditors with effect from 1 April 2023.

Background

2. Under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (“the Act”), the Council is required to appoint an auditor to audit its accounts for each financial year. The Council has three options:
 1. To appoint its own auditor, which requires it to follow the procedure set out in the Act;
 2. To act jointly with other authorities to procure an auditor following the procedures in the Act; or
 3. To opt into the national auditor appointment scheme administered by the Secretary of State as the ‘appointing person’. The body currently designated for this role is Public Sector Auditor Appointments (PSAA).
3. In March 2017, the Council agreed to opt into the ‘appointing person’ national auditor appointing arrangements, established by PSAA for the period covering the accounts for 2018/19 to 2022/23.
4. The current auditor appointment arrangement covers the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, after which they expire.
5. PSAA is currently undertaking a procurement for the next appointing period, covering audits for five financial years from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
6. The Council needs to make a decision about its external audit arrangements from 2023/24 onwards.

7. To once again opt into the national scheme, the Council must make a decision at a meeting of the Full Council.
8. The Council's Audit and Standards Committee considered this issue on 31 January 2022. The Committee supported the proposed approach recommended within this Cabinet report. The minute of the Committee meeting is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Proposals

9. The report identifies the options available to the Council to appoint an external auditor for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2023, with a proposed option to accept the PSAA invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

Recommendation

10. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council the proposal to opt-in to the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure the Council can make the necessary arrangements for the appointment of external auditors for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023 in compliance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and
- (ii) The optimum arrangement for the achievement of value for money and deliverability.

Contact name: Craig Oakes Ext. - 3711

Policy Context

1. This report ensures compliance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. It is also consistent with the Council's objectives of making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives by assisting in ensuring effective financial stewardship and value for money.

Background

2. Under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), the Council is required to appoint an auditor to audit its accounts for each financial year. The Council has three options:
 1. To appoint its own auditor, which requires it to follow the procedure set out in the Act;
 2. To act jointly with other authorities to procure an auditor following the procedures in the Act; or
 3. To opt into the national auditor appointment scheme administered by the Secretary of State as the 'appointing person'. The body currently designated for this role is PSAA.
3. In March 2017, the Council agreed to opt into the 'appointing person' national auditor appointing arrangements, established by PSAA for the period covering the accounts for 2018/19 to 2022/23.
4. The current auditor appointment arrangement covers the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, after which they expire
5. PSAA is currently undertaking a procurement for the next appointing period, covering audits for five financial years from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
6. The Council needs to make a decision about its external audit arrangements from 2023/24 onwards.
7. To once again opt into the national scheme, the Council must make a decision at a meeting of the Full Council.

The Appointed Auditor

8. The auditor appointed at the end of the procurement process will undertake the statutory audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts (including any associated specific grant returns) and Best Value assessment of the Council in each financial year, in accordance with all relevant codes of practice and guidance. The appointed auditor is also responsible for investigating questions raised by electors and has powers and responsibilities in relation to Public Interest Reports and statutory recommendations.

9. The auditor must act independently of the Council and the main purpose of the procurement legislation is to ensure that the appointed auditor is sufficiently qualified and independent.
10. The auditor must be registered to undertake local audits by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) who employ authorised Key Audit Partners to oversee the work. There is currently a shortage of registered firms and Key Audit Partners.
11. Auditors are regulated by the FRC, which will be replaced during the course of the next audit contract by a new body with wider powers, the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA).
12. Councils therefore have very limited influence over the nature of the audit services they are procuring, the nature and quality of which are determined or overseen by third parties.

Options for the Council to appoint itself or via a joint arrangement

13. Should the Council wish to appoint its own external auditor under the Act, it would need to:
 - a. establish an independent auditor panel to make a stand-alone appointment. The auditor panel would need to be set up by the Council itself, and the members of the panel would have to be wholly, or a majority of independent members as defined by the Act. Independent members for this purpose are independent appointees, excluding current and former elected members (or officers) and their close families and friends. This means that elected members would not have a majority input to assessing bids and choosing to which audit firm to award a contract for the Council's external audit.
 - b. manage the contract for its duration, overseen by the auditor panel.
14. Alternatively, the Act enables the Council to join with other authorities to establish a joint auditor panel. Again, this will need to be constituted of wholly or a majority of independent appointees. Further legal advice would be required on the exact constitution of such a panel having regard to the obligations of each authority under the Act and the Council would need to liaise with other local authorities to assess the appetite for such an arrangement.
15. These two options would be more resource-intensive and without the bulk buying power of the sector-led procurement service, would likely result in a more costly process for the Council to implement. It would also be more difficult to manage quality and independence requirements through a local appointment process. The Council would not be able to influence the scope of the audit and the regulatory regime would inhibit the Council's ability to affect quality.

16. The Council and its auditor panel would need to maintain ongoing oversight of the contract. Local contract management cannot, however, influence the scope or delivery of an audit.

The National Auditor Appointment Scheme

17. PSAA is specified as the 'appointing person' for principal local government under the provisions of the Act and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. PSAA let five-year audit services contracts in 2017 for the first appointing period, covering audits of the accounts from 2018/19 to 2022/23. It is now undertaking the work needed to invite eligible bodies to opt in for the next appointing period, from the 2023/24 audit onwards, and to complete a procurement for audit services.
18. The benefits of opting into the national scheme are as follows:
- a. the appointment of a suitably qualified audit firm to conduct audits for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023;
 - b. appointing the same auditor to other opted-in bodies that are involved in formal collaboration or joint working initiatives to the extent this is possible with other constraints;
 - c. managing the procurement process to ensure both quality and price criteria are satisfied. PSAA has sought views from the sector to help inform its detailed procurement strategy;
 - d. ensuring suitable independence of the auditors from the bodies they audit and managing any potential conflicts as they arise during the appointment period;
 - e. minimising the scheme management costs and returning any surpluses to scheme members;
 - f. consulting with authorities on auditor appointments, giving the Council the opportunity to influence which auditor is appointed;
 - g. consulting with authorities on the scale of audit fees and ensuring these reflect scale, complexity, and audit risk; and
 - h. ongoing contract and performance management of the contracts once these have been let.
19. The national offer provides the appointment of an independent auditor with limited administrative cost to the Council. By joining the scheme, the Council would be acting with other councils to optimise the opportunity to influence the market that a national procurement provides.

Current Pressures in the Local Audit Market and Delays in Issuing Opinions

20. Much has changed in the local audit market since audit contracts were last awarded in 2017. At that time the audit market was relatively stable, there had been few changes in audit requirements and local audit fees had been reducing over a long period. 98% of bodies who were eligible opted into the national scheme and attracted competitive bids from audit firms. The resulting audit contracts took effect from 1 April 2018
21. During 2018, a series of financial crises and failures in the private sector led to questioning about the role of auditors and the focus and value of their work, following which four independent reviews were commissioned by Government:
 - a. Sir John Kingman's review of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), the audit regulator;
 - b. the Competition and Markets Authority review of the audit market;
 - c. Sir Donald Brydon's review of the quality and effectiveness of audit; and
 - d. Sir Tony Redmond's review of local authority financial reporting and external audit.
22. The recommendations are now under consideration by Government, with the clear implication that significant reforms will follow. A new audit regulator (ARGA) is to be established, and arrangements for system leadership in local audit are to be introduced. Further change will follow as other recommendations are implemented.
23. The Kingman review has led to an urgent drive for the FRC to deliver rapid, measurable improvements in audit quality. This has created a major pressure for audit firms to ensure full compliance with regulatory requirements and expectations in every audit they undertake. By the time firms were conducting 2018/19 local audits during 2019, the measures they were putting in place to respond to a more focused regulator were clearly visible.
24. To deliver the necessary improvements in audit quality, firms were requiring their audit teams to undertake additional work to gain deeper levels of assurance. However, additional work requires more time, posing a threat to the firms' ability to complete all their audits by the target date for publication of audited accounts. Delayed opinions are not the only consequence of the FRC's drive to improve audit quality. Additional audit work must also be paid for. As a result, many more fee variation claims have been needed than in prior years.
25. This situation has been exacerbated by growing auditor recruitment and retention challenges, the complexity of local government financial

statements and increasing levels of technical challenges as bodies explore innovative ways of developing new or enhanced income streams to help fund services for local people. These challenges have increased in subsequent audit years, with COVID19 creating further significant pressure for finance and audit teams.

26. None of these problems are unique to local government audit. Similar challenges have played out in other sectors, where increased fees and disappointing responses to tender invitations have been experienced during the last two years.
27. It should be noted that despite the wider problems outlined above, the experiences of the Council under this arrangement have been positive, benefitting from an effective working relationship with our appointed auditor.

The Next Audit Procurement

28. The prices submitted by bidders through the procurement exercise will be the key determinant of the value of audit fees paid by opted-in bodies. PSAA will:
 - a. seek to encourage realistic fee levels and benefit from the economies of scale associated with procuring on behalf of a significant number of bodies;
 - b. continue to pool scheme costs and charge fees to opted-in bodies in accordance with the published fee scale as amended following consultations with scheme members and other interested parties. Pooling means that everyone within the scheme will benefit from the prices secured via a competitive procurement process - a key tenet of the national collective scheme; and
 - c. continue to minimise its own costs, around 4% of scheme costs, and as a not-for-profit company will return any surplus funds to scheme members. (In 2019 it returned a total £3.5 million to relevant bodies and returned a further £5.6 million in 2021).
29. PSAA will seek to encourage market sustainability in its procurement. Firms will be able to bid for a variety of differently sized contracts so that they can match their available resources and risk appetite to the contract for which they bid. They will be required to meet appropriate quality standards and reflect realistic market prices in their tenders, informed by the scale fees and the supporting information provided about each audit. Where regulatory changes are in train which affect the amount of audit work suppliers must undertake, firms will be informed as to which developments should be priced into their bids.
30. The scope of a local audit is fixed. It is determined by the Code of Audit Practice (currently published by the National Audit Office), the format of the financial statements (specified by CIPFA/ LASAAC) and the

application of auditing standards regulated by the FRC. These factors apply to all local audits irrespective of whether an eligible body decides to opt into PSAA's national scheme or chooses to make its own separate arrangements. The requirements are mandatory; they shape the work auditors undertake and have a bearing on the actual fees required.

31. There are currently nine audit providers eligible to audit local authorities and other relevant bodies under local audit legislation. This means that a local procurement exercise would seek tenders from the same firms as the national procurement exercise, subject to the need to manage any local independence issues. Local firms cannot be invited to bid. Local procurements must deliver the same audit scope and requirements as a national procurement, reflecting the auditor's statutory responsibilities.

Next Steps

32. Regulation 19 of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 requires that a decision to opt in must be made by a meeting of Full Council (meeting as a whole), except where the authority is a corporation sole (e.g. Police and Crime Commissioner) in which case this decision can be taken by the holder of that office.
33. Therefore, if Cabinet are in agreement, it is intended that this report will be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 24 February 2022, where it will be recommended that Council agree to become an opted-in authority.
34. The closing date to provide formal acceptance of the invitation to PSAA is 11 March 2022.
35. PSAA will commence the formal procurement process in early February 2022. It expects to award contracts in August 2022, then consult with authorities on the appointment of auditors in order to make appointments by the statutory deadline of 31 December 2022.

Consultation

36. The Council's Audit and Standards Committee has been consulted on this report at their meeting of 31 January 2022 and was supportive of the proposed option.

Alternative Options

37. The alternative options are set out in the report.

Implications of Recommended Option

38. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the financial implications are set out in this

report. There are no additional financial implications associated with the report itself.

b) Human Resources Implications – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

c) Property Implications – There are no property implications arising from this report.

39. **Risk Management Implications** – External Audit activity provides the Council and residents with an independent opinion on the Council's financial statements and performance.

40. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

41. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

42. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this report.

43. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.

44. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

45. **Ward Implications** – There are no ward implications arising from this report.

46. **Background Information** – The following document has been used in the preparation of this report:

- Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

**Minute from Audit and Standards Committee Meeting Monday, 31
January 2022**

ASC 366 External Auditor Appointments Beyond 1 April 2023

The Committee were advised that Regulation 19 of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 requires that a decision to opt in must be made by a meeting of Full Council (meeting as a whole), except where the authority is a corporation sole (e.g. Police and Crime Commissioner) in which case this decision can be taken by the holder of that office.

It is therefore intended that this report will be presented to Cabinet on 22 February 2022 followed by Full Council at its meeting on 24 February 2022, where it will be recommended that Members agree to become an opted-in authority.

The closing date to provide formal acceptance of the invitation to PSAA is 11 March 2022.

PSAA will commence the formal procurement process in early February 2022.

It expects to award contracts in August 2022, then consult with authorities on the appointment of auditors in order to make appointments by the statutory deadline of 31 December 2022.

RESOLVED

- i) That the information be noted.
- ii) That the Committee agreed to accept the PSAA invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023 and submit any comments to Cabinet.