

CABINET AGENDA

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 10.00 am in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for absence
2	Minutes (Pages 3 - 10) Cabinet is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 July 2023. Key Decision
3	0-19 Public Health Nursing Service - Future Commissioning Arrangements (Pages 11 - 22) Report of the Director of Public Health Recommendation to Council
4	Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2022/23 (Pages 23 - 32) Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital Non Key Decisions
5	Heat Network Efficiency Scheme Grant Funding for East Street Flats (Pages 33 - 38) Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities.
6	Proposed Demolition of former Bowls Pavilion at Birtley Welfare Park, Birtley (Pages 39 - 44) Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities
7	Future Use of St Mary's Heritage Centre (Pages 45 - 52) Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

8 Decisions taken under Delegated Powers during Summer Recess 2023
(Pages 53 - 56)

Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

9 Nominations of Local Authority School Governors (Pages 57 - 60)

Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

10 Petitions Schedule (Pages 61 - 64)

Report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

11 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Cabinet may wish to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) on the grounds indicated:

Item	Paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
12	1
13	3
14	3

Key Decision

12 Supporting Independent Living and Adaptations Review (Pages 65 - 134)

Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

Recommendation to Council

13 Specialist and Supported Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy (Pages 135 - 272)

Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

Non Key Decision

14 Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 2 (Pages 273 - 286)

Report of the Strategic Director, Housing Environment and Healthy Communities

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon

Councillors: C Donovan, J Adams, M Brain, A Douglas,
L Green, J McElroy, M McNestry and B Oliphant
(Cabinet member Cllr Haley joined the meeting as an
observer via MSTeams)

Also in attendance: Councillors C Buckley, K Dodds, J Eagle
and L Kirton

C30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence has been received from Councillor G Haley.

C31 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C32 TYNE BRIDGE RESTORATION

Consideration has been given to progress with plans for the Tyne Bridge restoration and major maintenance scheme and the submission of a full business case to government for the requisite funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the submission of the Full Business Case by Newcastle City Council as Highways Authority for the Bridge, to the Department for Transport (DfT) be noted.
 - (ii) That the allocation of the Council's proportion of local funding contribution to the Tyne Bridge element required above the capped DfT amount, from the existing Highways Maintenance Block funding allocation from the DfT during 2023/24 and then from subsequent maintenance funding allocations be noted.
 - (iii) That the commencement of the preliminary works in September 2023, prior to approval of the Full Business Case by DfT be noted.

The above decisions have been made to carry out works that are essential to maintain the Tyne Bridge so it is safe to use and fit for purpose and secure the long-term availability of the Tyne Bridge for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles without the need to impose weight or lane restrictions.

C33

GATESHEAD BETTER CARE FUND SUBMISSION 2023 - 2025

Consideration has been given to the Better Care Fund submission for 2023-25.

RESOLVED - That the 2023-25 Better Care Fund submission for Gateshead as set out in appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To enable the Council, working with local partners to take forward the 2023-25 Better Care Fund plan for Gateshead to support integrated health and care for the benefit of local people.
- (B) To help ensure that the health and care economy is sustainable for the future and is in a position to respond to demographic and funding pressures across the system.

C34

ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2024

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2023-2024.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2023-2024 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to allow the Youth Justice Service to fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities.

C35

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the HRA 30-year Business Plan 2023-2053.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the HRA 30-year Business Plan 2023-2053 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the medium to long term sustainability of the Housing Revenue Account.
- (B) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy to maintain and enhance Council Housing provision in Gateshead.
- (C) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone

Thrives.

C36 TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the Treasury Annual Report for 2022-23.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Annual Report as set out in appendices 2 to 4 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that the Council fully complies with the requirements of Financial Regulations and good practice as recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

C37 REVENUE BUDGET - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW 2023/24

Consideration has been given to the latest monitoring position on the 2023/24 revenue budget at the end of the first quarter and to recommending the Council to approve budget adjustments.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the first quarter, as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve:
 - a) an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2023/24 from £289,902,826 to £281,884,964;
 - b) the removal of pandemic budget and the equivalent reserve funding as presented in appendix 2 to the report; and
 - c) a £2.4m increase in the 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget to reflect the increase in the depreciation charge funded from the HRA reserve.
 - (iii) That the budget virement as set out in the report be noted.

The above decisions have been made to contribute to sound financial management and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

C38 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2023/24 - FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration has been given to the latest position on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2023.

RESOLVED - (i) That the Council be recommended to approve all variations to

the 2023/24 Capital Programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report.

- (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve the financing of the revised programme set out in the report.
- (iii) That it be confirmed to Council that capital expenditure and financing requirements have been revised in line with the amended budget and none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2023/24 have been breached.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2023/24.
- (B) To accommodate changes to the Council's in-year capital expenditure plans.
- (C) To ensure performance has been assessed against the approved Prudential Limits.

C39

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK - YEAR END REPORT 2022-23

Consideration has been given to the year-end 2022/23 assessment of performance against the Council's Performance Management and Improvement Framework (PMIF) along with the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Committees for improvement.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the 2022/23 year-end performance report as set out in appendix 2 be approved.
 - (ii) That the key discussions from the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in paragraph 8 of appendix 1 and in the minutes at appendix 3 be noted.
 - (iii) That the ongoing development work being undertaken on the Framework as set out in paragraphs 9-11 of appendix 1 be noted.

The above decisions have been made to ensure performance supports the delivery and achievements of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

C40

INTEGRATED ADULTS AND SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY 2023-2028 AND ACTION PLAN 2023-2025

Consideration has been given to the Integrated Adults and Social Care Services Strategy and Action Plan.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Integrated Adults and Social Care Services Strategy

and Action Plan be approved.

- (ii) That it be noted performance in relation to the action plan will be reported via the Performance Management and Improvement Information Framework.

The above decisions have been made to support the strategic transformation of Adult Social Care and Commissioning.

C41

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING: FINAL REPORT

Consideration has been given to the findings and recommendations of a review by Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in relation to Community Wealth Building.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the findings from the evidence gathering sessions undertaken by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the 10 recommendations agreed by the Committee on 17 April 2023 as set out in the OSC's report at appendix 2 be noted.
 - (ii) That the 10 recommendations from the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review, as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the Council continues to develop its approach to Community Wealth Building.
- (B) To ensure the Council can meet its Thrive pledges, in particular to put people and families at the heart of everything we do, tackle inequality so people have a fair chance and support our communities to support themselves and each other.

C42

APPROVAL OF SCHEMES, ESTIMATES, TENDERS AND CONSENTS DURING THE SUMMER RECESS 2023

Consideration has been given to the Strategic Directors, Economy, Innovation and Growth and Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities and Service Leads, Energy, Major Projects and Development, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Resources and Digital and Corporate Services and Governance, to be authorised to approve schemes and estimates, and to invite and accept tenders over certain thresholds, during the summer recess following the Cabinet meeting on 18 July 2023 up to the date when Cabinet next meets (currently scheduled for 19 September 2023).

- RESOLVED -
- That the Strategic Directors, Economy, Innovation and Growth and Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities and Service Leads, Energy, Major Projects and Development, following

consultation with the Strategic Directors, Resources and Digital and Corporate Services and Governance, be authorised to approve the letting of any contracts relating to the approved 2023/2024 Capital Programme, which exceed £250,000 in value. Such approval is to be in the form of either:

- a) an authorisation to invite or negotiate tenders in accordance with Rule 6 of the Contract Procedure Rules (“the Rules”) or to conduct some other procurement process in accordance with the Rules and to award the contract to the economic operator submitting the most economically advantageous tender as determined by the Service Director Corporate Commissioning and Procurement in accordance with the stated terms of the tender or other process and, where applicable, the Regulations; or
- b) an authorisation subsequent to the conduct of a tendering process or other procurement process in accordance with the Rules to award the contract.

The above decision has been made to enable projects to progress and to avoid delay in delivery of the capital programme and its related expenditure.

C43 NOMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Consideration has been given to the nomination of Local Authority Governors to schools seeking to retain their Local Authority governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

RESOLVED - That the nominations set out below be approved for a period of four years in accordance with the Schools’ Instrument of Government:

School	Nomination	Date from
Emmaville Primary	Councillor Kathryn Henderson	Autumn 2023
Falla Park Community Primary	Councillor George Kasfikis	Autumn 2023

The above decision has been made to ensure the School Governing Bodies have full membership.

C44 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

HILLGATE QUAY – FUTURE LEASE PROPOSAL

Consideration has been given to progressing a future lease proposal for Hillgate Quay.

The alternative options to that being recommended, but which have been discounted, included not extending the current lease and seeking alternative arrangements for the site.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the proposal to negotiate with the existing tenant on Hillgate Quay for a long-term lease on the basis set out in the report be approved.
 - (ii) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet following this negotiation, with the intention of a long-term lease demonstrating that conditions are met and providing a due diligence framework.

The above decisions have been made to enable the delivery of the Council's Economic Development Strategy, to increase the visitor economy and enhance Gateshead Quays development.

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

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

Publication date: 19 July 2023

Chair.....

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TITLE OF REPORT: **0-19 Public Health Nursing Service – Future
Commissioning Arrangements**

REPORT OF: **Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health**

Purpose of the Report

1. The 0-19 Public Health Nursing contract is due to end on 30th June 2024. Arrangements need to be made to enable the continued delivery of the service from 1st July 2024 to ensure that the Council's statutory public health responsibilities are met.
2. This report sets out details of the commissioning options for the 0-19 service delivery post 30th June 2024 and seeks approval from Cabinet to proceed with the recommended commissioning option. Approval is also sought to undertake a statutory consultation based upon the approved commissioning option.

Background

3. On [21st March 2023](#) Cabinet considered a report asking for permission to develop an options appraisal for the future commissioning arrangements of the Council's 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (up to 25 for those with a special educational need or disability).
4. The following options for the future commissioning arrangements have been carefully considered: (a) do nothing, (b) in house delivery, (c) establishment of a Section 75 partnership agreement, and (d) a competitive procurement. The detail for each option considered is outlined in Appendix 1 paragraph 17.

Proposal

5. The proposal is that the public health team develop and establish a formal partnership arrangement (known as a Section 75 agreement) with the current service provider, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and other key partners for the provision of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service in a manner that is likely to lead to an improvement of the delivery of the 0-19 function. It is proposed that the public health team also undertake a public consultation engagement exercise for a period of 4 weeks regarding the establishment of a partnership arrangement.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) approves the recommended option to develop and enter into a Section 75 Partnership agreement with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust for the delivery of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service:
- (ii) approves the Public Health Team undertaking a public consultation engagement exercise on the use of a partnership arrangement; and
- (iii) agrees to receive a further report by April 2024 to update on the consultation engagement exercise and the development of the Section 75 agreement to include the new 0-19 service delivery model, proposed outcomes and performance framework, length of agreement and financial costings.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure the improved delivery of the Council's public health related functions.
- (ii) To enable the further development of an integrated prevention and early help offer to improve outcomes for children and families in line with the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, and the Gateshead Partnership Early Help Strategy.
- (iii) To contribute towards the Councils strategic vision "Thrive" and the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- (iv) To further develop collaborative working recognising the strengths, opportunities and challenges faced by local government and the wider health system.
- (v) To ensure the Council meets its statutory responsibilities to carry out a joint consultation with such persons as appear to be affected by such arrangements.

CONTACT: Louise Sweeney extension: 2909
Moira Richardson extension: 3034

Policy Context

1. Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives sets the strategic direction for the Council, redressing the imbalance of inequality, championing fairness and social justice. This approach has shaped development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Gateshead.
2. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been adopted as the corporate plan of the Council and is the delivery mechanism for Thrive. Its evidence based strategic priority areas aim to address the wider determinants of health through a place-based approach. They include:
 - Give every child the best start in life, with a focus on conception to age two
 - 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
 - Create and develop sustainable places and communities
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
3. Early help in Gateshead is a partnership system as outlined in our [Early Help Strategy 2023-2026](#). In Gateshead early help is not a service but a way of thinking across a varied system of support comprising universal, targeted and specialist services, along with families' own informal and peer networks.
4. The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme's vision is to provide families with the integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years and into the start of adulthood. This is to enable parents to establish a firm foundation for their children, from which to meet their full potential in life.

Background

5. Local authorities inherited responsibility for commissioning the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 (school nursing) in April 2013 and subsequently 0-5 years (health visiting and family nurse partnership) in October 2015. The funding associated with these services is contained within the ringfenced Public Health Grant.
6. The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is currently delivered by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT NHS) under a services contract with the Council. The Service is an evidence based universal Healthy Child

Programme with targeted interventions for children, young people, and their families in accordance with need.

7. [The Healthy Child Programme](#) (HCP), launched 11 years ago, is still the national evidence based universal programme for children aged 0-19. The programme provides the bedrock for health improvement, public health and supporting families.
8. The HCP offers every family an evidence-based programme of interventions and remains universal in reach, setting out a range of public health interventions to build healthy communities for families and children, reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities. It includes a schedule of interventions which range from universal services for all, through to intensive support. The HCP model was updated in 2021 but continues to emphasise the health visiting, school nursing and family nurse's role as leaders of the programme whilst acknowledging the important contribution of a range of delivery partners.
9. In line with statutory public health responsibilities, Local Authorities are required to secure the delivery of five mandated early years (health visitor) contacts, as well as the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), within the overall 0-19 service specification.

Service Delivery (Harrogate and District NHS FT)

10. Performance across the 5 national mandated reviews is excellent, with high standards for population coverage as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1 Mandated Reviews

	18/19*	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23**
Antenatal	75.6%	90.6%	95.6%	91.3%	94.1%
Newborn	91.4%	96.2%	96.9%	97.4%	98.1%
6 to 8 weeks	89.4%	95.5%	94.9%	96.1%	96.3%
12 months	83.5%	94.9%	96.9%	94.7%	95.5%
2 to 2 ½ years	86.5%	95.8%	97.3%	95.8%	95%

*The Provider was only responsible for 9 months coverage in 2018/2019 and on transfer of contract all paper-based records had to be transferred into their electronic case recording system.

**Final figures for 22/23 have not yet been validated.

11. We have seen an increase in the 6 to 8 week breastfeeding rate to 41.2% in 2021/2022. Prior to 2018 the rate had been around 36% for several years. The provider also achieved the full UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation in March 2023. The Baby Friendly Initiative works with public

services to better support families with feeding and developing close, loving relationships in order to ensure that all babies get the best possible start in life. The award is given to services after an assessment by a UNICEF UK team has shown that recognised best practice standards are in place.

12. The service employs Emotional Health and Resilience Nurses whose role is to engage children/young people and offer them level one interventions to support their emotional wellbeing needs. They provide support and information to children/young people, to facilitate them to be able to adopt healthy coping strategies to manage factors that affect their emotional wellbeing. An additional nurse is now in post which demonstrates that the service is constantly reviewing and evaluating provision based on need/demand.
13. Coverage for NCMP measurements in schools in Gateshead is excellent. In 2022/23 for reception children this is 98.1% and for year 6 children this is 97.8% (note this data has been submitted nationally but not yet verified).
14. Due to the high volume of referrals for toileting support and interventions the service recently developed a toileting presentation that gives all up to date and accredited health information around bowel and bladder concerns, including frequently asked questions. Sessions on the presentation started in June and are being offered within 6 of the Family Hubs.
15. The recent SEND inspection (published 24 July 2023) highlighted that “the 0 to 4 health visiting service implements the Healthy Child Programme well in Gateshead. This results in robust assessments and subsequent referrals at appropriate times. The SEND nursing team within the 0 to 19 service works to mitigate delays in services such as occupational therapy and the bladder and bowel service”.
16. The provider has well-established systems for monitoring and managing performance through a Quality and Performance Framework, which includes:
 - Quality and performance management tools (e.g. Clinical audit tools)
 - Key Performance Indicator (KPI) tracking, across qualitative and quantitative reports, shared with commissioners, ahead of contract management meetings
 - Audits and reports
 - Outcome measures designed to demonstrate quality and impact
 - Supervision, training, and upskilling
 - Performance monitoring at Directorate-level, where cross-contract learning is consistently shared
 - Service User Experience

Commissioning Options for the 0-19 Service from 1st July 2024

17. The following commissioning arrangement options for the 0-19 service have been carefully considered: (a) do nothing, (b) in house delivery, (c) establishment of a Section 75 partnership agreement, and (d) a competitive procurement. Detail for each option is outlined in bullet points (a) to (d) below:

(a) Do nothing

The existing contract will end on 30th June 2024 and as no further contract extension options exist, service provision would cease. The Council would fail to meet its statutory public health responsibilities and families and their children would not be able to access the range of public health interventions as part of the Healthy Child Programme.

As the Council must meet statutory public health responsibilities this is not considered to be a suitable option.

(b) In-house Delivery

The Council would be required to register with the Care Quality Commission for provision of this service and would need to establish clinical and information governance arrangements, as well as the management of safeguarding for the service. There would be a requirement to transfer (“TUPE”) staff from the NHS to the Council and the Council would inherit the liability for NHS pensions, NHS agenda for change payment uplifts and any redundancy costs which may arise in the future e.g. if the public health grant were to be reduced which could result in a reduced budget for the service. The Council would be required to invest in digital systems to ensure continued access of service user records and in the continued professional development of nursing staff.

Transfer of NHS staff to a non NHS body historically carries with it the risk of recruitment and retention difficulties. Staff may not wish to move to a non-NHS provider and may have the option to move to other 0-19 public health nursing services currently provided by Harrogate and District NHS FT (HDFT) across the North East.

The timeline for contract mobilisation would however be affected. There is insufficient time for the Council to establish CQC registration, invest in systems and establish the required governance by 1st July 2024 and therefore we would likely need to extend the current contract with HDFT to allow for slippage. This work would likely lead to the quality of service and our ambition and vision for the family hubs and start for life programme being affected, at a critical time in our family hubs journey.

Substantial resource across the public health and other directorates would be required to implement this option. Due to the investment required to establish an in-house service this would be the least cost effective option.

Due to the combination of the various factors noted above it is felt that this is not considered a preferred option at the current time.

(c) Establishment of a Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

Powers provided to Local Authorities and NHS bodies under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 and associated regulations enable local authorities and NHS bodies to delegate certain functions to the other, provided that the resultant arrangements are likely to lead to an improvement in the way those functions are exercised.

During the term of the current contract HDFT has established good working relationships with key delivery partners, including but not limited to the Council's Early Help Service. Developing and entering into a partnership agreement would further improve integration of the 0-19 service via collaborative working, co-production and partnership ownership of the new model for service delivery, as part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and a joint strategic approach to governance and policy.

Functions of the 0-19 service under this option would further align with wider early help services to reduce fragmentation and duplication with the aim of further improving outcomes for families in Gateshead. The parties would also have greater flexibility to shape the service in line with:

- The Councils strategic vision (Thrive)
- The priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The priorities and vision of Gateshead Partnerships Early Help Strategy
- The requirements of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

It is believed that a formalised strategic partnership with HDFT, one of the Council's trusted partners, offers better prospects for achieving the priorities and vision of the points bulleted above.

This option could be facilitated by way of negotiated partnership agreement with HDFT, under which the Council's 0-19 service functions would be delegated to HDFT for delivery for a value that represents approximate current contract value.

This option is the recommended option.

(d) Open tender process

The Public Contract Regulations 2015 require contracting authorities to ensure that public procurement is open and competitive and that suppliers are treated equally and fairly. An open tender gives the Council the opportunity to test the market for other NHS and non NHS organisations regarding best value and quality.

As with any procurement process, a significant amount of time and resource to conduct the process is involved. In addition, as with any procurement process, as there is a potential likelihood of resultant change of provider, the need to implement a contract mobilisation plan and mobilisation period would be required. Establishing ways of working with a new provider would take time, potentially delaying the development of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme and the further development of integrated working. There is also the potential that recruitment and retention of staff may be affected as outlined in bullet point (b) “in house option” above.

Whilst testing the market by way of procurement process is beneficial in terms of best value and quality of service, the Council is confident that it achieves best value and quality of service presently. The contract value mainly covers staffing costs, these are NHS staff and their staffing costs are nationally dictated. Although a potential change in provider may achieve efficiencies in the longer term, this is likely to be achieved by cuts to service provision or staff migration to non-NHS terms in some instances, but this could arguably be offset by the budget required to mobilise to a new provider (digital systems, transfer of data, premises costs etc). The Council is confident that the service currently delivered under contract by HDFT is extremely good and as outlined in paragraphs 10 to 16 (note this is a snapshot of service delivery and does not cover all of the elements that the service currently delivers).

Due to the combination of the various factors noted above it is felt that this is not considered as the recommended option at this current time.

Recommended Future Commissioning Arrangement for 0-19 Services

18. From July 2024 it is recommended that the 0-19 service functions are delegated to and delivered by HDFT NHS under an established Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the Council.
19. Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 permits Local Authorities and NHS bodies to delegate certain functions to the other, provided that the resultant arrangements are likely to lead to an improvement in the way those functions are exercised.
20. The Council believes by delegating the 0-19 functions to HDFT this would lead to improved function delivery via advanced service integration with key Council services, embedded collaborative working and co-production and

ownership of the new model for service delivery as part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and a joint strategic approach to governance and policy.

21. It should be noted that the development of a Section 75 Partnership Agreement does not constitute a delegation of statutory responsibilities for a Service. Should the Council seek to enter into a partnership agreement with HDFT for the delegation of 0-19 functions and the delivery of the service, the Council would remain responsible for ensuring its statutory responsibilities are met and for providing assurance around the use of the ring-fenced Public Health Grant.
22. Advice on the use of the recommended option was sought from Legal and it has been confirmed that the Council can rely upon Section 75 NHS Act 2006 to delegate the 0-19 function and the resultant partnership agreement can include delivery of the services by HDFT.
23. Regulation 4(2) of the Partnership Regulations 2000 stipulates that the partners may not enter into any partnership arrangements unless they have consulted jointly with such persons as appear to them to be affected by such arrangements.
24. A consultation on the use of a partnership arrangement is proposed during October 2023. The focus of the consultation would not be on the individual service but on the Section 75 partnership arrangement itself. It is proposed to be open to anyone who wishes to comment on the proposed arrangements, including people who live and work in Gateshead, people who use the services, carers and family members, professionals, partner agencies, providers and any other stakeholders.

Further detail and work required to underpin the Section 75 agreement

25. A governance structure is required to oversee the overall management of the section 75 agreement. It is proposed that the newly formed Early Help System and Prevention Board, whose first meeting is on 27th September 2023, will oversee and manage the governance of the agreement. The 0-19 service is a member of the Board.
26. The Board is responsible for the strategic and operational delivery of effective, targeted and co-ordinated preventative and early help support to children, young people and families across the local area by bringing together all strategic partners responsible for delivering on this vision. The Board will support the work of the partnership to work collaboratively at the earliest opportunity to maximise impact and reduce duplication in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families and prevent the need for and increased demand for high-cost services.

27. The Early Help and Prevention Board will report into the Children's System Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
28. A number of key documents will need to be developed including, but not limited to, the service specification, performance and outcome framework, formal consultation questionnaire and the Section 75 Agreement. Performance and outcome monitoring will continue to be undertaken by the public health team who will report into the Early Help System and Prevention Board on a regular basis.

Consultation

29. Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Health and Wellbeing.

Alternative Options

30. The Council is required to meet statutory obligations in relation to the 5 mandated early years (health visitor) contacts as well as NCMP. Alternative options to the recommended option were outlined in the Report and not recommended for the reasons stated.

Implications of Recommended Option

31. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital confirms that Public Health Nursing Services are funded from the ring-fenced Public Health grant and the cost of the proposed option would be in line with the current cost plus any pay rise. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report for any other budgets within the Council.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no direct human resource implications for the Council arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - The 0-19 public health nursing service currently occupy office space within the Civic Centre and Tyne View family hub, and the Council would retain the rental from the service remaining in the building under the agreement.

32. Risk Management Implication -

As with all matters of contracting, there is an element of risk of challenge to the contracting process. Advice has been sought from legal as to use of the Section 75 NHS Act 2006 power and risk of challenge appears minimal.

33. Equality and Diversity Implications –

Public Health aims to reduce inequalities by ensuring that every child has the best staff in life through the universal reach of the 0-19 public health nursing service.

An Integrated impact assessment will be developed after the consultation to assess equality impact as part of the service delivery model development process.

34. Crime and Disorder Implications –

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

35. Health Implications –

Public Health aims to improve health outcomes by ensuring that every child has the best staff in life through the universal reach of the 0-19 public health nursing service.

36. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications -

There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.

37. Human Rights Implications -

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

38. Ward Implications -

There are no ward implications arising from this report.

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

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

Purpose of the Report

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

Background

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

Proposal

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

Recommendation

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

For the following reason:

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

Policy Context

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

Background

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

Contents of the Report

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

Consultation

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

Alternative Options

8. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

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

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

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

Internal Audit planning, performance and activity

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

Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity

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

Counter Fraud Updates

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

Annual Governance Statement Assurance Framework

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

The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence

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

Cabinet Members

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

Senior Managers

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

Internal Audit

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

Risk Management

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

Counter Fraud

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

Performance Management and Data Quality

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

Views of the External Auditor and other External Inspectors

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

The Legal and Regulatory Framework

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

Financial Controls

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

Partnership Arrangements & Governance

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

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

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

Other Reports

Achievement of Going Concern Status 2021/22

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

Audit Completion Report and Council's Statement of Accounts

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

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

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

Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and Six-Monthly Update

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

Local Code of Governance Update

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

Review of Internal Audit Charter

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

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TITLE OF REPORT: Heat Network Efficiency Scheme Grant Funding for East Street Flats

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of an urgent decision taken to bid for £0.75m of funding from the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES) to refurbish the heating system of East Street Flats.
2. To inform Cabinet of an urgent decision taken to accept £0.75m of funding from HNES following a successful outcome of the funding bid over the summer recess.

Background

3. The Council developed and submitted a speculative bid to the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES) to support heating system improvement works at East Street Flats, Bridges Ward (120 properties)
4. The bidding window was too short to allow full consultation and submission of cabinet report at the time, and chances of success were unknown. The Council was informed of a successful bid on 11th August 2023, and was required to accept the funding by 4 Sept 2023.

Proposal

5. Its reported to Cabinet that officers took urgent decisions to both submit the bid initially and to accept the grant.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) notes the urgent decision taken to bid for £0.75m of HNES funding to support the refurbishment of the heating systems at East Street Flats; and
 - (ii) notes the urgent decision taken to accept £0.75m of HNES funding to support the refurbishment of the heating systems at East Street Flats

For the following reasons:

- (i) The refurbishment works are required with or without the funding and this will help to reduce the financial cost for the council

- (ii) These works will benefit the residents of the flats, with more efficient heating for their homes and resulting in reduced heating bills
- (iii) These works will reduce the energy use and carbon emissions of the blocks, support the Climate Change Strategy

CONTACT: Jim Gillon, Energy Services Lead extension 3923:

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. The project is to take place in line with the priorities detailed in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Asset Management Strategy. The proposal has been developed to support funding to undertake improvement works at East Street Flats (Park, Peareth & Priory Courts). This will contribute to the Council's Thrive Agenda, by reducing heating bills for 120 Council tenants, and improving housing condition. It will also support the Climate Change Strategy, by saving energy and reducing carbon emissions.

Background

2. In line with the priorities detailed in the HRA Asset Management Strategy a scheme is being developed to undertake improvement works at East Street Flats (Park, Peareth & Priory Courts). Work has been undertaken to survey and inspect the blocks to facilitate the development of a package of works that will deliver improvements, linked to the Decent Homes Standard, the Building Safety Agenda and Climate Change Strategy.
3. The blocks were built with a communal heat network, which is now 50 years old, and has never been upgraded. In 2018, the blocks were connected to Gateshead's District Energy Network, to provide low cost, lower carbon source of heat for the blocks, but no additional works were possible at that time to the communal network and heating systems within flats.
4. The East Street flats heating network has high heat losses leading to poor efficiency, and heating controls for residents are minimal. There is no heat metering to allow residents just to pay for what they use, and the system is at risk of failure. As a result, customer heating bills are high, and equally shared by residents, regardless of how much heat they use. Heating costs have increased significantly over the past 5 years – initially, as the Council increased the charges to ensure full cost recovery of heating bills for the blocks, and recently due to the energy crisis.
5. The project will address these issues by completely replacing all of the heating pipes supplying heat to the blocks and into homes. In addition, residents will receive new radiators, heating controls and smart heat metering, so they pay for what they use. Hot water tanks will be removed and replaced with instantaneous hot water supply from the heat network. Heat losses are estimated to be reduced by 40%, customer demand by 15% and customer bills will drop by 20%.
6. This funding is specific to upgrading the heating network of the blocks but will form part of a wider package of works under development, which will include wall insulation for the blocks, new double-glazed windows, and other necessary safety and condition works.

Proposal

7. The Government's Heat Network Efficiency Scheme HNES is a core element of the government's Heat Network Transformation Programme, aiming to improve efficiency of heat networks, and in particular support heat networks where customers are at a detriment financially, due to inefficient, old systems.
8. The most recent bidding window for HNES opened in mid April 2023, with a deadline to submit a funding bid by mid May 2023. The bid was developed by the Energy Services Teams, within Energy, Major Projects and Development Service. Due to the short bidding window, the bid was submitted as an urgent decision, approved by the budget holder for the HRA, the Deputy Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities. This was the Council's first bid to this funding scheme, and chances of success were unknown.
9. The Council was notified of the successful outcome of the funding bid on Friday 11th August 2023. There was a requirement to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to accept the grant funding, by 4 Sept 2023, or the Council risked losing the funding. Another urgent decision was taken by the Deputy Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities to accept the funding, with the MoU signed by the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

Next Steps

10. Funding for the heating elements is provided in financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 and must be spent within this period. Energy, Major Projects and Development Service has been appointed to manage the design and construction of the wider East Street Flats refurbishment scheme for the HRA. The target is to complete the heating works by end March 2025, with other works continuing into 2025/26.
11. Work is ongoing to determine a procurement route and to develop detailed design and construction budgets, which will be brought to cabinet in October 2023 at the earliest to seek approval to commence the procurement and delivery of the detailed design stage. Following design, and further cabinet report confirming construction costs and scope is expected around March 2024.
12. It's noted that the construction sector still is experiencing considerable inflation, and only after the design stage will the Council determine the final scope and budget for the scheme. It's possible that all of the improvements required in the wider refurbishment scheme may not be affordable, and Cabinet will be provided with what is affordable at that stage.

Consultation

13. Housing and Economy Portfolio has been informed of the grant acceptance, as well as Ward Members via a briefing note only, due to the late nature of the report.

Alternative Options

14. *Defer bidding to allow time to consult cabinet on bid submission.* Later rounds of funding were available however this would have not left sufficient time to deliver works by March 2025.
15. *Not accept the funding agreement.* The Council would have lost the £0.75m grant funding, severely impacting the scope of works that could be funded by the HRA at East Street Flats.

Implications of Recommended Option

16. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the programme of works this funding will support was planned within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme and therefore will have a positive impact on the funding available within the HRA.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – the funding will support project administration costs within Energy, Major Projects and Development, as part of income targets to cover service staffing costs.
- c) **Property Implications** – The funding for this project will deliver energy and fabric improvements for East Street Flats, providing improved homes for council tenants and securing the sustainable future for these blocks

17. Risk Management Implication – There is a risk that if they funding is not accepted, the improvement works may not be able to be funded from the overall HRA refurbishment scheme, which would impact the overall success of the project and have a detrimental impact on the residents.

18. Equality and Diversity Implications - None

19. Crime and Disorder Implications – None

20. Health Implications – The grant will support the improvement works to help residents of the flats to have safer and warmer homes, reducing the potential of them living in fuel poverty. By providing residents with more energy efficient homes that are cheaper to heat, to project is supporting them to live in a healthier home.

21. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications - The improvement works will provide more efficient properties, reduce heat loss and support the longevity of the properties to continue their use and ensure their sustainability.

22. Human Rights Implications - None

23. Ward Implications - The properties are within the Bridges ward.

24. Background Information - N/A

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TITLE OF REPORT: Proposed Demolition of the former Bowls Pavilion, Birtley Welfare Park, Birtley

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, Strategic Director Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to the demolition of the former Bowls Pavilion, Birtley Welfare Park, Birtley

Background

2. The property, which is shown edged black on the plan provided, is held by the Council as trustee. The property is no longer required by the Council for service delivery, for the reasons set out in the Appendix, and the Council has to act in the best interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries.
3. Over the last few months the building has been subject to significant vandalism and most recently an arson attack, which has led to the need for the property to be demolished as soon as possible.
4. As the building has been vacant since about 2018 and there has been a lack of interest from any groups wishing to take lease of the property, due in part to its location within the park, which makes it relatively difficult to access, rebuilding the facility is considered inappropriate and not in the interests of the Trust and its beneficiaries.
5. As the property is held in trust the consent of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) is also required, but given the poor condition of the building and the need to demolish it as soon as possible, is it intended to seek approval to the demolition from the CISWO while the work is being carried out.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that the property be demolished and the land incorporated within the surrounding open space within the park, as this is considered to be in the best interests of the Trust, and seek approval from CISWO while the work is being carried out.

Recommendations

7. Cabinet in its capacity as Trustee is asked to approve that the property be demolished and the land incorporated within the surrounding open space within the park.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To manage the Trust's assets in line with the objects of the Trust and in line with the Councils Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (ii) To mitigate any potential future costs incurred through further acts of vandalism and realise savings for the Trust.

CONTACT: Zoe Sharratt

extension: 3503

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the overall objectives of the Trust and the Councils Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan. The proposal also helps to deliver the Council's Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular the policy objective to create and develop healthy and sustainable places.

Background

2. Following Cabinet's decision on 19th December 2016 to develop partnerships and asset transfer arrangements with sustainable, development minded clubs to manage their own sites and/ or facilities as part of the Gateshead Playing Pitch Strategy (Minute No. C141), the bowling club that used the pavilion and adjacent bowling greens was encouraged to take on a lease but eventually decided to move to alternative facilities nearby where clubs had decided to take on a lease of their property.
3. As a result, the building has been vacant since about 2018 and although some interest was shown in using the accommodation by the nearby Community Centre to develop their youth provision, no other interest has been received, which is considered to be partly due to the pavilion's location within the park, as it is situated centrally within the park at the top of steep steps, which makes it relatively difficult to access, even if being used in conjunction with the adjacent bowling greens which are at the bottom of the steps..
4. Over the last few months the building has been subject to significant vandalism and most recently an arson attack, which has led to the need for the property to be demolished.
5. In view of the above circumstances, rebuilding the facility is considered inappropriate. Therefore, the demolition specification has been adjusted to take account of the fact the building will not be reinstated – the steps will be removed, the adjacent palisade fence will be straightened across the site and the ground left so that levels and finish correspond to the surrounding land.
6. The building shown edged black on the plan provided and the surrounding land is all held by the Council as trustee and demolition and incorporation of the land within the surrounding open space of the park is considered the most appropriate course of action, and in the best interests of the Trust and its beneficiaries. The demolition is subject to the consent of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) as the building is held in trust and given the urgency of the work, approval to the demolition will be sought from the CISWO while the work is progressing.
7. The cost of demolition, including removal of the steps, realignment of the palisade fence and incorporation within the surrounding open space is estimated to be £40,357 and suitable provision exists within the Councils Insurance budget.

Consultation

8. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and the Portfolio holder for Culture, Sport and Leisure. The Ward Councillors for Birtley have also been consulted.

Alternative Options

9. The option of rebuilding the pavilion has been discounted as this is not considered to be in the Trust's best interest.

Implications of Recommended Option

10. **Resources:**

a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the cost of demolition will be met from the Insurance budget.

b) **Human Resources Implications** - There are no direct staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

c) **Property Implications** – The future demolition of the pavilion will result in a reduction in the Council's overall property portfolio thus reducing operational costs.

11. **Risk Management Implication** - The future demolition of the pavilion will remove opportunities for vandalism to vulnerable properties.

12. **Equality and Diversity** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.

13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - The future demolition of the pavilion will remove opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft.

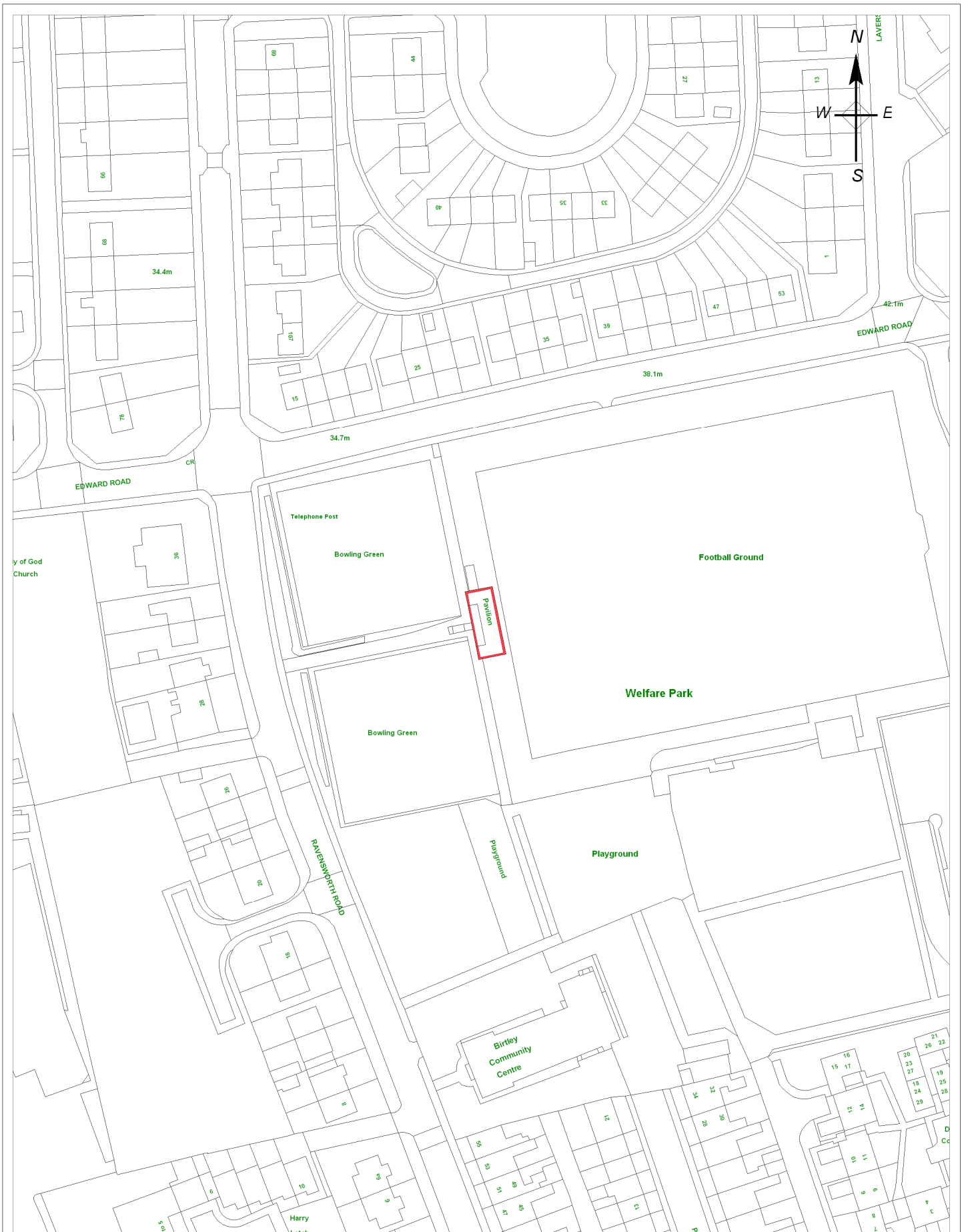
14. **Health Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.

15. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - The future demolition of the pavilion will reduce the level of the Trusts costs, such as repairs and maintenance, and will result in a reduction in the boroughs carbon footprint.

16. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.

17. **Ward Implications** – Birtley.

18. **Background Information** – None



Title Birtley Welfare Park Pavilion Ravenworth Road, Birtley		<small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Gateshead Council (U.S. licence no. 100019132) 2010</small>		
Scale 1:1250	Date Created 13th August 2010	Drawn By Gillian Hall	Drawing Number Asset ID 000131	Rev 00
		Date Printed 13th August 2010	O/S NUMBER NZ2656SE	Corporate Asset Strategy Team Legal and Corporate Services Gateshead Council

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TITLE OF REPORT: Future Use of St Mary's Heritage Centre

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To obtain Cabinet approval to the grant of a long lease of St Mary's Heritage Centre to Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust to ensure the future sustainability and maintenance of this heritage asset.

Background

2. St Mary's Heritage Centre, a former church is a Grade 1 listed building. The Churchyard, walls, gates, railings and Mausoleum to the east of the building are Grade 2 listed. The property shown edged red on the attached plan sits in the Bridges Conservation area.
3. The site has been run as a heritage centre and event venue by the Council and since 2014 there has been an emphasis on private hires (such as weddings) to generate income. Given the costs of running these services and maintaining the building, there has been an annual shortfall of c£50,000 per annum, despite attempts to offset this via income generation. Therefore, it has been concluded that the Council could no longer sustain its services from this building.
4. To protect this Grade 1 Listed building and give it a sustainable future, it was vital to identify a trustworthy and experienced custodian for the building. The Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust's (TWBPT) business model is to take heritage buildings at risk (condition or vacancy) and bring them in to good repair and use. Following an approach by the Council, the TWBPT expressed an interest in taking a lease on the building.
5. TWBPT, in partnership with the Council and National Trust has secured a full condition survey by a conservation accredited architect and commissioned a full business plan for the heritage centre to identify the opportunities for the building. This is funded through the Derwent Tyne Way UK SPF project. The Friends of St Mary's group are working with TWBPT to ensure continuity and develop further volunteering opportunities.
6. The external graveyard areas at St Mary's Heritage Centre will form part of TWBPT's demise. These areas will continue to be maintained by the Council and costs recharged to TWBPT.

7. This proposal does not impact on conditions or covenants arising from previous grant funding or ownership of the building and it ensures that the Grade 1 building is not at risk due to it being vacant.
8. The building will remain open to the public as a visitor centre, and, over time, will establish a new events programme including past events and introducing new ones. The business case which has been commissioned will examine all uses to inform the mix of events and activities.
9. The entering into a lease of the building reduces the annual costs of holding the property in the region of £50,000

Proposal

10. It is proposed to grant a long lease of St Mary's Heritage Centre to TWBPT from 1 December 2023. This will enable the Trust to ensure the future of the site as a heritage and visitors venue.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that Cabinet approve
 - (i) The grant of a long lease of St Marys Heritage Centre to Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust
 - (ii) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Economy Innovation & Growth in consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, to negotiate the detailed terms of the lease.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To secure the building's future as an important heritage asset for Gateshead.
- (ii) To complement regeneration plans at the Quays and the Town Centre
- (iii) To provide financial savings to the Council

Policy Context

1. The proposals support the pledges within Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives and the Council's ambition to invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth.

Background

2. St Mary's Heritage Centre (St Mary's) is a Grade 1 listed building and the graveyard, walls, gates, railings and Mausoleum to the east of the building are Grade 2 listed. The building sits in the Bridges Conservation area.
3. The Council's Libraries Service provides a programme of activities at St Mary's with regular talks, tours and concerts being held. Since 2014 there has been an emphasis on private hires (such as weddings) to generate income.
4. Given the costs of running these services, and maintaining the building, there has been an annual shortfall of c£50,000 per annum, despite attempts to offset this via income generation. In addition, following a wider review of Library Services, employees operating the services at St. Marys are required back in the Libraries.
5. It was identified that this high profile and visible property could, following the Libraries Service vacation, become the target of anti-social behaviour and potential arson attacks, which would detract from the Gateshead Quays development. It was therefore considered to be a priority to find an alternative use for the building, and a tenant with a strong track record and experience of working in heritage assets.
6. The Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust (TWBPT) were requested to evaluate their interest in St Mary's and have subsequently expressed an interest in taking a long lease of St Mary's, which the Trust will require to secure investment they would wish to make in the property.
7. TWBPT has subsequently commissioned a full condition survey of the building by a conservation accredited architect, and a full business case evaluation to identify the opportunities for the building and that they have already discussed joint working with the existing Friends group to ensure continuity. Their use of the building will be conducive to grant conditions which limit the use of the property as a heritage centre and for civic, public and educational purposes and as a venue for occasional public and private functions.
8. As St Mary's occupies a key location at the cross section of Riverside Park/Derwent Tyne Way, the Town Centre and the International Conference Centre and Arena site, it has been incorporated into the developing vision for the Derwent Tyne Way.
9. The Derwent Tyne Way is an existing cycle and walking route that connects the urban centre of Gateshead on the River Tyne to the nature-rich Derwent Valley, following the River Derwent, linking up to Gibside. It is an accessible and sustainable travel route for local communities from an urban to more rural setting with key nature and heritage along the route with significant tourism potential.

10. As a result, TWBPT will be one of the key partners that will become involved in supporting a range of activities to stimulate economic growth in Gateshead. These activities will focus on relationships with key partners involved in the Gateshead Quays project and developing cultural links to promote our Blue Green corridor, the Derwent Tyne Way.
11. The building will remain open to the public as a visitor centre, and, over time, will establish a new events programme including past events and introducing new ones. The business case which has been commissioned will examine all uses to inform the mix of events and activities.

Consultation

12. As part of the decision to relocate staff from St Mary's and the proposal to grant a long lease to TWBPT the following consultation has taken place.

Public Consultation – Budget February 2023
The Friends of St Mary's
Gateshead Library staff
Gateshead Building Cleaning Service
Culture Sport and Leisure Portfolio
Environment and Transport Portfolio
Communities and Volunteering Portfolio
Environment and Transport Portfolio
Bridges Ward Councillors
Leader and Deputy Leader
Unions

Alternative Options

13. The option to place the property on the open market has been discounted as it is not considered to be in the Council's best interest. Given its listed status, location, and other restrictions there would be limited demand for the property on the open market. As this approach would also lead to a high risk of the building being targeted for anti-social behaviour and arson attacks when it is vacated. There is also a risk of grant clawback.

Implications of Recommended Option

14. The Council will reduce its annual liabilities for the building of approximately £50,000 per year.
15. It is envisaged that TWBPT will have a greater resource to provide appropriate heritage and cultural activities in the centre, working with current and new partners.

16. Resources

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the Council's acquisition and restoration of the building was funded using grants. Most of the grants have expired but the following are still subject to clawbacks: -

- i. ERDF (2003) -£209,000 for purchase of building –clawback 25% of proceeds of any sale
- ii. National Heritage Memorial Fund (2003) –£500,000 for acquisition – clawback is % of sale proceeds

The Council will achieve annual savings of c£50,000 relating to the maintenance of the building.

Advice received from external consultants indicate that due to restrictions of title, use and operational liability going forward, there isn't a market which would yield a capital receipt.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no direct staffing issues arising from the recommendation as all existing staff located at St Mary's are retained in the Library Services
- c) **Property Implications** - The grant of along lease will result in a reduction in the Council's operational property portfolio and reduce operational costs.


17. **Risk Management Implication** - The grant of a long lease will reduce opportunities for vandalism to this Grade I building.
18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the recommendation.
19. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The grant of a long term lease will remove opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft, associated with a vacant building
20. **Health Implications** - There are no direct health implications arising from the recommendation.
21. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – The grant of a long lease TWBPT should enable the Trust to access funding to secure the future sustainability and maintenance of this Grade 1 listed heritage asset
22. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendation
23. **Ward Implications** - Bridges Ward, Bridges Conservation Area,

Background Information

Church Commission
National Heritage Memorial Fund Grant 2003

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Title Gateshead Heritage Centre @ St Marys Church Street, Gateshead		<small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Gateshead Council (D. S. Licence no. 100019132) 2010</small>			
Scale 1:1250	Date Created 19th October 2010	Drawn By Gillian Hall	Drawing Number Asset ID 000678	Rev 00	Corporate Asset Strategy Legal and Corporate Services Gateshead Council
Date Printed 19th October 2010		O/S NUMBER NZ2563NW	Page 51		

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TITLE OF REPORT: **Decisions taken under Delegated Powers during Summer Recess 2023**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report requests Cabinet to note the decisions made under delegated powers during the summer recess 2023.

Background

2. Cabinet on 18 July 2023 (minute no C42) gave authorisation to:
 - a) The Strategic Directors, Economy, Innovation and Growth and Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities and Service Leads, Major Projects and Corporate Property, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Resources and Digital and Corporate Services and Governance, to be authorised to jointly approve schemes and estimates, and to invite and accept tenders over certain thresholds, during the summer recess following the Cabinet meeting on 18 July 2023 up to the date when Cabinet next meets on 19 September 2023.

Decision Taken

3. Under the delegations agreed above the relevant officers have authorised the transactions contained in the attached schedule at Appendix 2.

Proposal

4. Cabinet is requested to note the decision(s) made under delegated powers.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Cabinet notes the decision(s) made under delegated powers as set out in this report:

Policy Context

1. The proposal is consistent with the overall vision for Gateshead as set out in the Thrive Agenda. In particular, invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth. The delivery of the capital programme is a fundamental element in the achievement of the Council's policy objectives.

Background

2. Cabinet on 18 July 2023 (minute no C42) gave authorisation to:
 - a. The Strategic Directors, Economy, Innovation and Growth and Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities and Service Leads, Energy, Major Projects and Development, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Digital and Corporate Services and Governance, to be authorised to jointly approve schemes and estimates, and to invite and accept tenders over certain thresholds, during the summer recess following the Cabinet meeting on 18 July 2023 up to the date when Cabinet next meets on 19 September 2023.
4. The above decision has been made to enable projects to progress and to avoid delay in delivery of the capital programme and its related expenditure.
5. Under the delegations agreed above the relevant officers have authorised the transactions contained in the attached schedule at Appendix 2.

Proposal

6. Cabinet is requested to note the decisions made under delegated powers.

Consultation

7. In preparing this report, consultations have taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Alternative Options

8. There are no alternatives proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the costs associated with the contracts where the decision has been made under delegated powers form part of approved schemes within the Council's capital programme.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** – There are no property implications arising directly from this report.
10. **Risk Management Implication** – there are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.
 11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – there are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
 12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – there are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
 13. **Health Implications** – there are no health implications arising from this report.
 14. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – there are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.
 15. **Human Rights Implications** – there are no human rights implications arising from this report.
 16. **Ward Implications** - none
 17. **Background Information**

Report to Cabinet - 18 July 2023 (minute no.C42).

APPENDIX 2

Delegations relating to acceptance of tenders, placing orders for works, supplies and services up to a value equivalent to the tendering thresholds specified in the European Procurement Directives during the summer recess in accordance with Cabinet's recommendation:

Contractor	Date Signed	Value (£)	Scope	Start Date	End Date	Ref. (GC Legal)
Global HSE Solutions Ltd	15/08/23	£1,208,798.79p	<p>General Scope To remove and replace inappropriate fire cavity barriers to all EWS affected areas with the approved type specifically for the façade configuration taking into consideration of the building height and occupancy profile.</p> <p>Detailed Scope Carefully remove existing rock panels. Remove all combustible insulation, and breather membrane, stripping down to the existing sheathing board. Leaving Timber Battens in place. Ensure weathertightness and waterproofing of existing sheathing board. Installation of non-combustible insulation behind and between existing timber battens. Installation of correct cavity barriers positioned at Compartment lines (Horizontal and Vertical). Installation of barriers at every return. Reinstatement of Rock Panels.</p>	22/08/23	20/02/24	

TITLE OF REPORT: Nomination of a Local Authority School Governor

REPORT OF: Helen Fergusson, Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to nominate a Local Authority Governor to a school seeking to retain their Local Authority governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

Background

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

Proposal

3. It is proposed that Cabinet approves the nomination as shown in appendix 1.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) Approves the nomination for reappointment of a Local Authority Governor as set out in appendix 1.
 - (ii) Notes the Term of office as determined by the schools' Instrument of Government.

For the following reason:

To ensure the School Governing Body has full membership.

CONTACT: John Finch

extension: **8626** (Johnfinch@gateshead.gov.uk)

Policy Context

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

Background

2. As above.

Consultation

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

Alternative Options

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

Implications of Recommended Option

5. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – None
 - c) **Property Implications** - None
6. **Risk Management Implication** - None
7. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - None
8. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – None
9. **Health Implications** - None
10. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - None
11. **Human Rights Implications** - None
12. **Ward Implications** - None

Background Information

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

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

School	Nomination	Date from
Swalwell Primary School	Cllr Dorothy Burnett	11 th December 2023

Notes

- Cllr Burnett is a reappointment that is supported by the Chair and Headteacher

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TITLE OF REPORT: Petitions Schedule

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on petitions submitted to the Council and the action taken on them.

Background

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

Proposal

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

Recommendations

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

For the following reason:

To inform the Cabinet of the progress of the petitions.

CONTACT: Kate Lowes extension: 2088

Policy Context

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

Background

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

Consultation

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

Alternative Options

4. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. Resources:

a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.

b) **Human Resources Implications** – Nil

c) **Property Implications** - Nil

6. **Risk Management Implication** - Nil

7. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Nil

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

9. **Health Implications** - Nil

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

11. **Human Rights Implications** - Nil

12. **Ward Implications** - Borough wide

Background Information

13. Petitions schedule attached.

APPENDIX 2

PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE RECEIVED	REF	FROM	ISSUE	FORWARDED TO	ACTION TO DATE
19-Jul-22 Submitted to the Council Meeting	Mar-22	Residents of Birtley	Petition requesting the speed limit on Vigo Lane from Barley Mow Public House to the A1 bridge be reduced.	Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities	Vigo Lane is predominantly in Durham County Council and as the highway authority they will be dealing with this in the first instance. Durham CC will need to consult with Gateshead Council in relation to any proposed amendments.
Page 63 Jul-23 Submitted via post		Colin Dixon	Traffic Management in Crawcrook	Team Leader, Engineering Services	27.07.23 - The petition has been sent to Andrew Ford-Hutchinson Principal Transport Planner. 27.07.23 - Andrew has sent to Trevor Wagget. 05.09.23 Asked Trevor for an update.
Sep-23 Submitted online		Martin Swinburn	Peitition for residential permits to be introduced on Alverstone Avenue	Team Leader, Engineering Services	05.09.23 - The petition has been sent to Neil Frier (Team leader) for Engineering services. 05.09.23 - Neil has sent to Daniel Fraser.

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