



CABINET AGENDA

Tuesday, 20 February 2024 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 5 - 10) Cabinet is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 January 2024. Key Decisions
3	Section 256 Health Inequalities Funding Options Appraisal and Use of Funds (Pages 11 - 22) Report of the Director of Public Health
4	2024/25 Energy Tariffs for Gateshead HEIGHTs (Pages 23 - 28) Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
5	Kingsmeadow School – Basic Needs Scheme (Pages 29 - 34) Report of the Strategic Directors, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities and Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning Recommendations to Council
6	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Housing Capital Programme (Pages 35 - 60) Report of the Strategic Directors, Resources & Digital and Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities
7	Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 (Pages 61 - 82) Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital
8	Fees and Charges 2024/25 (Pages 83 - 156) Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

- 9 Budget and Council Tax Level 2024/25** (Pages 157 - 248)
- Report of the Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Resources & Digital and Corporate Management Team
- Non Key Decisions**
- 10 Proposal to Consult on an Options Review of Colegate Community Primary School** (Pages 249 - 258)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning
- 11 Framework for Considering Applications from Independent Schools Applying to Move into the Maintained Sector** (Pages 259 - 286)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning
- 12 Highway Asset Management Plan - Annual Update** (Pages 287 - 296)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
- 13 North East Screen Industries Partnership** (Pages 297 - 302)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
- 14 MetroGreen Area Action Plan - Draft Plan for Public Consultation** (Pages 303 - 310)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
- 15 Registration as a Responsible Body for the use of Conservation Covenants** (Pages 311 - 316)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth
- 16 Community Asset Transfer - Former Bowls Pavilion, Chopwell Welfare Park, Chopwell** (Pages 317 - 322)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities
- 17 Surplus Declarations – Disposal and Community Asset Transfers** (Pages 323 - 340)
- Report of the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities

18 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
19	3
20	3

Key Decision

19 East Street Flats Energy Improvement Works (Pages 341 - 348)

Report of the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth

Non Key Decision

20 Gateshead Council Trading Companies Annual Update (Pages 349 - 362)

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Contact: Kevin Ingledew, Tel: 0191 433 2142, Email: keviningledew@gateshead.gov.uk,
Date: Monday, 12 February 2024

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 23 January 2024

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon (Chair)

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

Also in attendance: Councillors: R Beadle, C Buckley, K Dodds, L
Kirton and R Mullen

C93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M McNestry.

C94 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C95 COUNCIL STRUCTURE - GROUP/SERVICE REVIEW

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve proposed revisions to the Council's senior management structure which will reflect a more effective way of working across Council services to deliver the Corporate Plan 2023-28.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the organisation structure and associated changes as set out in appendix 1 for implementation from 25th January 2024.

The above decision has been made to enable continued improvement in the co-ordination of Council functions, the organisation of its employees, and to enable Council services to focus on delivery of the Thrive agenda and the Council Plan in a more efficient and effective way.

C96 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2024/25.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the calendar of meetings for 2024/25;

- (ii) Agree that, so far as possible, meetings should not be held during school holidays or on dates where the holding of religious festivals may preclude attendance and involvement at meetings; and
- (iii) Authorise the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, following consultation with the appropriate Chairs, to make any necessary amendments to the calendar of meetings.

The above decisions have been made to assist in the preparation of the Cabinet's schedule of decisions and to allow councillors, officers and partner organisations to plan commitments in their diaries.

C97 **ALLOCATIONS POLICY CHANGES**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve amendments to the Allocations Policy.

RESOLVED -

That the Council be recommended to approve:

- (i) The minor amendments to the Allocations Policy as set out in appendix 2 of the report; and
- (ii) The substantive amendments to the Allocations Policy as set out in paragraph 10 and appendix 1 of the report covering the following policy areas:
 - Armed forces
 - Joint Tenants
 - Financial Eligibility
 - Exclusion criteria
 - Unborn children
 - Local Connection

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the Council has a clear and robust Allocations Policy.
- (B) To ensure the Council has effective governance of the Allocations Policy.
- (C) To ensure best use of the housing register.

C98 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2023/24 – THIRD QUARTER REVIEW**

Consideration has been given to the latest position on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the third quarter to 31 December 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 this 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.

C99

REVENUE BUDGET THIRD QUARTER REVIEW 2023/24

Consideration has been given to the latest monitoring position on the 2023/24 revenue budget at the end of the third quarter to 31 December 2023.

- RESOLVED -
- That the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the third quarter, as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

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

C100

COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES FORECAST 2024/25

Consideration has been given to the council tax base for 2024/25 for the Parish of Lamesley and the whole of the Borough of Gateshead and also to the proposed Business Rate forecast for 2024/25.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Gateshead Council as its council tax base for the year 2024/25 shall be 54,041.1.
 - (ii) That pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2012 the

amount calculated as being the Parish Council of Lamesley's council tax base for the year 2024/25 shall be 1,227.7.

- (iii) That the business rates forecast for 2024/25 be approved as £41.284 million.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (i) To assist the Council in its financial planning and budget setting.
- (ii) To set a council tax base and a business rates forecast for 2024/25 in accordance with statutory requirements.

C101

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24

Consideration has been given to the six-month 2023/24 assessment of performance against the Council's Performance Management and Improvement Framework (PMIF) along with the comments made by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the 2023/24 six-month performance report at appendix 2 to the report be approved.
 - (ii) That the key discussions from the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out at paragraph 8 of appendix 1 and in the minutes at appendix 3 to the report be noted.
 - (iii) That the ongoing development work being undertaken as set out at paragraphs 9-11 of appendix 1 to the report be noted.

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

C102

CORPORATE COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS PROCEDURE - ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Consideration has been given to an analysis of the compliments and Chief Executive Review complaints recorded by the Council and complaints against the Council considered by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman in 2022/23.

- RESOLVED -
- That the Corporate Complaints and Compliments Procedure Annual Report for 2022/23 be approved.

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

C103

PRIMARY COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS AND CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR 2025/26

Consideration has been given to:

- proposed Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools Admission Policies, 2025
- proposed Co-ordinated admission schemes for Infant, Junior, Primary Schools, and Secondary Schools 2025
- proposed Planned Admission Numbers (PAN's) for Community Schools for 2025/26.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Admissions Policies as set out in appendix 2 to the report be adopted for September 2025.
 - (ii) That the approved admissions policies for September 2024 be used as a basis of consultation, if necessary, with schools and others for formulating the relevant admissions policies from September 2025/26 onwards.
 - (iii) That the approved two co-ordinated admission schemes for Secondary, Infant Junior and Primary Schools as set out in appendix 3 to the report be adopted for September 2025.
 - (iv) That the Planned Admissions Numbers (PAN's) as set out in appendix 3 to the report, for all community Primary Schools to be adopted by the governing bodies of each school be noted subject to a correction to the PAN for Winlaton West Primary, which should read 45 as opposed to 60 as shown in the report.

The above decisions have been made to enable the Council to comply with statutory legislation as it relates to school admissions policies, admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission arrangements.

C104

NOMINATIONS 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 from the date shown, in accordance with the Schools' Instrument of Government:

School	Nomination	Date from
Brandling Primary	Cllr W Dick	9 June 2024
Barley Mow Primary	Cllr H Weatherley	16 June 2024
Colegate Primary	Mr B Turnbull	16 June 2024

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

C105

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE POLICY AND CONDITIONS

Consideration has been given to the proposal to undertake a public consultation on proposed policy and conditions, relating to the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

RESOLVED - That the proposal for the draft policy and conditions, as set out in the report, to be consulted upon during spring 2024, including a Members Seminar and for a Policy Advisory Group to be asked to consider the results of that consultation and give their comments to Cabinet, so that a final version of the policy and conditions can be recommended to Council in summer 2024, be approved.

The above decision has been made so that the policy and conditions relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences can be updated to take into account changes to national, regional and local priorities and guidance and technological changes in vehicles and booking systems.

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: 25 January 2024

Chair.....

TITLE OF REPORT: **Section 256 Health Inequalities Funding Options Appraisal and Use of Funds**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to Cabinet on the options appraisal for use of Health Inequalities funding.
2. To seek Cabinet decision to allocate funding to Citizen's Advice Gateshead, as one of the selected options to help tackle health inequalities.

Background

3. At the end of the financial year 2021/22, the then Newcastle and Gateshead CCG identified funds of £1.174m that it felt would be better used by the Council to secure more health gain and specifically to tackle health inequalities, through public health. This was reported to Cabinet on the 11th October 2022, with agreement for officers in Public Health and Wellbeing to develop an evidence-based options appraisal to use the funds to tackle health inequalities through actions aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
4. To date, the total remainder of the fund combined with previous funding from the CCG to Public Health and Wellbeing for consideration in the options appraisal is £1.251m. The funding was provided through Section 256 agreements between the CCG and the Council.
5. The allocation of these funds has been considered within an evidence-based options appraisal summarised below. This has been developed to support action on health inequalities and aligned with the Health and Wellbeing strategy. Consideration has been given to learning from the Director of Public Health Behind the Mask Annual Report, to ensure it addresses the inequalities created or exacerbated due to the pandemic.

The Options Developed

6. The range of options considered are in response to the identified health inequities within Gateshead. They aim to take an asset-based approach, building on strengths in the borough and avoiding duplication. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis for each option was completed and considered the feasibility and sustainability of the options.

7. Key themes considered within the options appraisal include:
 - Interventions to tackle poverty.
 - Prevention and intervention to support children, young people and families recover from the pandemic.
 - Implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy including training and development; communications, engagement, and collaboration; research and learning
8. Following appraisal of the options and consideration by senior leads within public health, the recommended evidence-based options for implementation are:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Strategy implementation - £262,962
 - b. Citizens Advice Gateshead (CAG) Welfare Advice - £760,000
 - c. Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grant projects - £150,000
 - d. Physical Activity opportunities targeting women and girls - £30,000
 - e. Better targeting of smoking cessation support - £48,850
9. **Health and Wellbeing Strategy implementation - £262,962:** Building health in policies across the wider system through implementation of the Health and Wellbeing strategy. This will be used to underpin action set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation plan, such as communications, and resources to support adoption, training, and skills development, needs assessment, and developing methods for co-production. It is anticipated that most of this funding will be used to build and embed methods of co-production within the Council and in collaboration with VCS partners as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Approach and Plan. This may include funding for staff costs in addition to VCS funding, plans for this are still in discussion.
10. **Citizens Advice Gateshead (CAG) Welfare Advice - £760,000:** Through the pandemic, funding was provided to CAG through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to enable access to services for those most in need by providing financial, housing and energy advice and supporting locality working in the community. The importance of this work has increased through the cost-of-living crisis, and COMF funding comes to an end in March 2024. This funding would enable continuation of this work for a further year and aims to improve the wider determinants of health for families and households in need. (See further details at paras 15 - 20, Appendix 1.)
11. **Harnessing the power of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS): grant projects - £150,000:** Funding provision for VCS projects that look to reduce inequalities, focusing on children, young people and families. The grants would be aligned to support the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, approach and plan, through the voluntary and community sector, building community resilience and increasing capacity in relation to place based needs.
12. **Physical Activity opportunities targeting women and girls - £30,000:** Supporting the Community Physical Activity team at Gateshead Council to provide targeted physical activity opportunities to underserved groups. This option aims to reduce inequalities and improve physical and mental health and a sense of belonging within the community.

13. **Better targeting of smoking cessation support - £48,850:** Health inequalities will be reduced through measures that have a greater effect on smokers in higher prevalence groups. In practice, this means both prioritising population-level interventions which disadvantaged smokers are more sensitive to and targeting interventions on these smokers. This option specifically focuses on better targeting for groups that are most in need of smoking cessation support through a communications approach.

Proposal

14. Officers within public health and wellbeing will continue to progress with the range of options set out, providing updates on this work to portfolio holders and the ICB.
15. A grant agreement will be developed to provide funding to Citizens Advice Gateshead across key areas currently funded through COMF: Locality work in the community; local telephone and digital helpline; and housing advice. Subject to the application of revised statutory guidance for the UK Subsidy Control regime, an appropriate grant agreement will be drawn up and the grant awarded for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommendations

16. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Endorses the options developed to support implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to reduce inequalities in Gateshead.
- (ii) Approves in principle the award of a grant of £760,000 to Citizens Advice Gateshead, to enable continuation of services currently funded through COMF, and authorises the Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance to determine appropriate terms of a grant funding agreement between the Council and Citizens Advice Gateshead for this purpose.

For the following reasons:

- (i) The Section 256 Agreement specified that the funding transferred will be used specifically to address health inequalities and Public Health have developed an options appraisal, in line with identified health needs and the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- (ii) To enable the award of funding through provision of a grant agreement to Citizens Advice Gateshead.

Policy Context

1. Gateshead Council has committed to making Gateshead a place where everyone Thrives. To do this, five pledges guide the Council's decision-making processes, This Proposal supports delivery of the Council's Thrive pledges in the following ways:

1. Put people and families at the heart of everything we do;	<p>The options appraisal considered the impact of the pandemic and cost of living crisis on children, young people and families. Specific options seek to improve health outcomes for these groups, and reduce inequalities. The option to harness the power of the VCS through the provision of small grants will have a primary focus on the health of children, young people and families.</p>
2. Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance;	<p>The funding allocated to public health was specified for action on health inequalities. The options appraisal considered current trends, need and evidence in addition to lessons learned from the Director of Public Health Annual Report, <i>Behind the Masks</i>, to ensure allocation of funds where they will have most impact.</p>
3. Support our communities to support themselves and each other;	<p>This pledge is supported through a number of options set out. Funding to support implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will include developing methods of co-production to build community participation and voice into our work. The option to fund Citizens Advice Gateshead for a further year, will further help support individuals to maximise their incomes and gain more control over their lives and health. The option to work with Local VCS organisations through small grants will help organisations and groups embedded within communities to take actions based on their need and priorities they identify to help address inequalities and improve health outcomes.</p>
4. Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough;	<p>The options developed will support money to flow back in to communities within Gateshead, particularly through the funding to support Citizens Advice Services locally, and the provision of small grants to the voluntary and community sector.</p>
5. Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead.	<p>The implementation approach and plan for the Health and Wellbeing strategy is based on partnership and collaboration, which is set out through it's place based approach (the population intervention triangle). Funding allocated to this work, will seek to resource and embed methods that will practically support how we work together with residents and communities to design, develop and evaluation our interventions and services.</p>

Through these options we also seek to resource our local voluntary and community sector to enable them to help support delivery of the Health and Wellbeing strategy.

2. This work also supports the priorities of the corporate plan, particularly:
 - People Gateshead - offering opportunities for all residents to live healthy and fulfilled lives and achieve their ambitions.
 - Fair Gateshead - tackling inequalities, so people have a fair chance.
 - Communities Gateshead - supporting our communities to support themselves and each other.
3. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy supports the delivery of Thrive. Its evidence based strategic priority areas aim to address the wider determinants of health through a place-based approach. They include:
 1. Give every child the best start in life, with a focus on conception to age two
 2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
 3. Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all
 4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
 5. Create and develop sustainable places and communities
 6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
4. Over the last year, an approach and plan for implementation of the Health and Wellbeing strategy has been developed. The Approach and Plan was agreed as a live and iterative document at Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2023. As the Strategy sets out address complex, multi-factorial issues that cut across organisations and systems, developing an approach to implementation, and how we collaborate and work together is important. Therefore, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Approach and Plan is set out in three parts:

1: How we embed this work in practice



2: Delivery of the Policy Objectives



3: Action identified to support the policy objectives

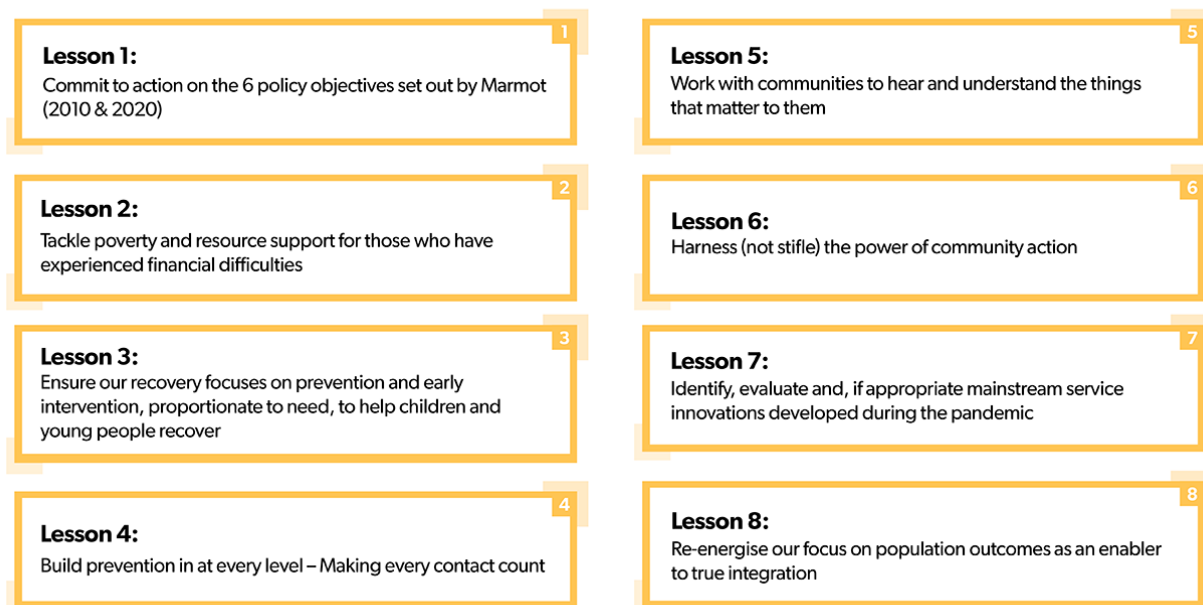


5. The Health and Wellbeing strategy sets out to address complex policy areas, that will change and evolve to achieve long-term ambitions. These are the areas that have the greatest impact on health across lifetime and tackling them requires commitment, perseverance, shared vision, partnership, collaboration, learning and evaluation. The purpose of the Health and Wellbeing strategy is to reduce health inequalities, improve health outcomes and to support people in Gateshead to Thrive. Therefore, it forms the key strategic document on which this proposal is based.

Background

6. Health Inequalities had already widened over the last decade, and the COVID-19 Pandemic, and current cost-of-living crisis, add to already very challenging and concerning picture. Mortality rates have been significantly higher among those in living in the most deprived areas since the start of the Pandemic. Coming through the Pandemic, incomes have failed to keep pace within rising inflation, pushing more families in to poverty.
7. The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020/21 reviewed the impact of the pandemic on the population, the distribution of these impacts across the population, and the collective response in Gateshead.
8. Key lessons were drawn from this, providing a focus for recovery from the pandemic, including the need to commit to action on the six policy objectives set out by Marmot, and included within Gateshead's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Our teacher called covid



9. During this time, the CCG identified funds it felt would be better used by Public Health to maximise health gain and tackle health inequalities through use of a Section 256 Agreement. This was reported to Cabinet in October 2022, and it was agreed that officers in Public Health and Wellbeing would develop an evidence-based options appraisal to use the funds to tackle health inequalities through actions aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

10. Of funds transferred to Public Health and Wellbeing, £1.251m was available for action to address health inequalities. The options considered within the scope of the options appraisal are shown in the table below, with the recommended options highlighted. These options have been developed in response to the identified health inequities within Gateshead and aim to support strategic priorities identified through the Health and Wellbeing strategy. They focus on interventions to alleviate poverty, with a focus on children and young people. This is due to the impact of the pandemic on children and young people, and the importance of early intervention among this age group to support improved health outcomes across the life-course.

The Options Appraisal

11. Health inequalities grant options included within the appraisal:

<u>Option</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Implementation Process</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Recommended option</u>
1. Health & Wellbeing strategy implementation	262,962	-Communications, training and development of methods for co-production by increasing capacity.	April 2023-2026	✓
2. Food pantry model	128,000-153,000	-Establishing a community venue and volunteers -Link with neighbourhood food schemes -Member registrations and volunteer mobilisation -Communications through VCS to advertise	March/April 2023 ongoing	
3. CYP Social Prescribing	65,000 (2 years) 97,500 (3 years)	-Recruitment post within 0-19 service	Summer 2023-Summer 2025/26	
4. Harnessing the power of the VCS: grant projects	150,000	-Establish an application and review process within the council -Fund selected projects and monitor/evaluate	Projects start dates from May/June 2023-2025/26	✓
5. Developing spaces for young people; Grow your own youth worker workforce development	55,000	-Provide training for youth workers/volunteers within Gateshead -Build on 'warm spaces' initiative to establish a pilot youth club with youth work provision	Pilot start date – Summer 2023	
6. Physical activity (PA) opportunities targeting women and girls	30,000	-Targeted intervention of community development through leisure services -Engagement with young girls to shape the design	Spring-Summer 2023-2025/26	✓

		and implementation of opportunities for PA		
7. Health Literacy; supporting accessible communications and information to reduce health inequalities	95,000	-Recruitment post within the council	Summer 2023-Summer 2025	
8. School meal uptake	200,000	- Review data to identify schools to involve -Meet headteachers and develop bespoke interventions	September 2023-July 2025	
9.CAG Welfare advice	760,000	-Continuity funding of CAG services supporting work funded through COMF for further year	Continuity funding-from April 2024-March 2025	✓
10. Better targeting smoking cessation support	48,850	- Develop an engagement and communications approach that targets groups most in need of smoking cessation support	April 2023-March 2026	✓

12. The recommended options include upstream interventions that build health into policies across the wider system through the implementation of the health and wellbeing strategy. They also aim to reduce health inequalities by increasing access to services for those in most need, who are known to be less likely to access services, through CAG welfare advice and targeting of smoking cessation support.
13. The Harnessing the power of the VCS Option focuses on supporting young people, an identified area of need in Gateshead. These interventions also support partnership working with the VCS through an asset-based approach that looks to develop community cohesion and resilience.
14. Recommended options for use of the health inequalities funding:

Option	Reason for prioritisation	Cost	Cumulative cost
Health and wellbeing strategy implementation	-Important for momentum and may increase capacity for this work -Upstream approach embedding health in strategies that impacts across the whole system	262,962	262,962
Welfare Advice CAG (1 year)	-Continuation funding of an important service in the context of the 'cost-of-living crisis'	760,000	1,022,962

Harnessing the power of the VCS: grant projects	-Developing partner relationships -Value for money -Strategic framework: H&WB strategy and THRIVE	150,000	1,172,962
Physical activity opportunities targeting for women and girls	-Reducing gender inequality in physical activity -Support for young people an identified need in Gateshead	30,000	1,202,962
Better targeting of smoking cessation support	-Increased levels of engagement with identified target groups to prompt action on quitting -Reducing smoking related inequity	48,850	1,251,812

Proposal to fund Citizens Advice

15. Population health needs are significant in relation to poverty and inequality. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Around 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas. There is a social gradient in health, those living in more deprived areas generally live shorter lives in poorer health. This gradient can be seen across a range of health outcomes.
16. The 'cost-of-living crisis' is an important public health issue. During 2022, there was a rapid rise in the cost of essentials: energy, housing, fuel and food. Difficulties affording these essentials has a wide-ranging impact on both physical and mental health. Financial struggles can increase worry and stress which directly impacts health, can influence health behaviours, and makes it more difficult to access the things we need to be happy and healthy. This option looks at continuing services that support those who are most in need to access appropriate support across a range of issues, that supports the wider determinants of health.
17. The proposal considers the areas to continue and build upon following the investment that was made through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2022/23 and 2023/24. This funding enabled Citizens Advice to support people in Gateshead across a range of issues. A full evaluation of COMF funded activity will be available in April 2024, however, in the six-month period from April to September 2023 the following was achieved:
 - 1472 clients supported, with an average monetary gain of £864 per client through Locality work in the community.
 - 36 clients supported with housing advice, with an average gain of £3390 per client.
 - 246 clients supported with energy advice, with an average gain of £15 per client (NB. This includes only follow-up appointments and support for clients who have already been supported by CAG energy advice team on a separate funding stream that only allows for one-off appointments).
 - 615 clients supported through Council contact centre with an average outcome of £366 per client.
 - In total, the gains made for Gateshead residents from April-September 2023 were £1,622,633.

18. The full report for this work is available on the Citizens Advice Gateshead website: <https://citizensadvicegateshead.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Public-Health.pdf>
19. The key areas of focus in this proposal are:
1. **Locality Work in the community;** with embedded advisers as an essential part of each community. Activity can include anything from light touch conversations, mobilising knowledge at a coffee morning, through to in-depth casework over an extended period of time. Anticipated outcomes from this work include:
 - 5,000 client related activities over 12 months.
 - 15,000 issues covering welfare benefits, employment problems, money worries and financial wellbeing, and crisis support.
 - A minimum £750,000 in income gains.
 - Health impacts including improvements in mental and physical wellbeing and improved outcomes for children.
 2. **Local telephone and digital helpline;** A direct route for Gateshead residents to access support, information, advice and guidance through telephone advisors. Anticipated outcomes include:
 - 5,000 client related activities over 12 months.
 - 30,000 issues covering welfare benefits, employment problems, money worries and financial wellbeing, crisis support.
 - A minimum £500,000 in income gains.
 - Reduced demand on Council services as less time spent by council staff trying to find the right answer.
 - Holistic, efficient and joined up support for residents getting the answer they need without having to ring somewhere new or approach a new organisation.
 3. **Housing advice;** for issues which sit outside the limited scope of Government funded legal aid. This includes queries about disrepair in the home which is not considered a serious risk to health, neighbour issues, mortgage repossession and housing options advice where the client is not legally homeless.
 - 100 direct client activities
 - 250 indirect client activities
 - 6 in-house courses for 50 participants
 - 1,000 issues specifically concerning housing problems
 - £200,000 in financial gains and savings to the Gateshead system
20. Monitoring arrangements for use of the funding will be set out through the grant agreement. Through this, officers in public health will seek to monitor the impact on health outcomes and inequalities using validated measures, in agreement with Citizens Advice.

Consultation

21. The Portfolio Holders for Health and Wellbeing, Children, Young People and Families, Adult Social Care, Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Communities and Volunteering, have been consulted on this work.

22. The Director of Place, Gateshead ICB, has also been consulted on this report.

Alternative Options

23. Alternative options were set out in the options appraisal for use of this fund, however they were not proposed following consideration of the SWOT analysis.

Implications of Recommended Option

24. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no direct financial implications resulting from this report and use of the funds through the Section 256 agreement with the ICB provides greater resources for action on Health Inequalities.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no Human Resource implications arising directly from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising directly from this report.
25. **Risk Management Implication** - The proposal will reduce the risk of the Council not delivering committed actions through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by providing additional resources for action on health inequalities.
26. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Receipt of this funding will enable action on health inequalities, this includes those groups with protected characteristics who may experience health inequalities.
27. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Action to tackle health inequalities may have a positive benefit on factors contributing to crime and disorder.
28. **Health Implications** – Use of this funding will have a positive impact on population health. It will specifically be used for action on health inequalities, and improved health outcomes will drive the development of its proposed uses.
29. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate change implications arising from this report, however, Healthy and Sustainable communities are an objective of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
30. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.
31. **Ward Implications** - Health Equity work funded through the grant will be Borough wide. However, consideration will be given to allocation of resources in line proportionate to need through the grants awarded to support the voluntary and community sector, as set out as an action within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

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TITLE OF REPORT: 2024-25 Energy Tariffs for Gateshead HEIGHTs**REPORT OF: Peter Udall – Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth**

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the following energy tariffs for HEIGHTs project residents for 2024/25:
 - Heat tariffs for all HEIGHTs residents
 - Electricity tariffs for HEIGHTs residents at Barford and Stretford Court

Background

2. The Gateshead HEIGHTs (High Rise Energy Infrastructure for Gateshead Housing Tenants) energy scheme supplies heating via district heating systems to seven High Rise Housing blocks in the Town Centre and Harlow Green (Regent Court, Ripley and Willerby Court, Acomb and Bedale Court, Barford and Stretford Court). It also supplies two of these seven blocks with electricity (Barford and Stretford Court).
3. Under heat and electricity supply agreements with residents, the Council is required to revise tariffs annually from 1st April, in line with changes to the wider domestic energy market. Since February 2023, approval has been given by Cabinet to revise tariffs quarterly if required.

Proposal

4. To address ongoing cost pressures from inflation and higher energy prices to operate the scheme, heat tariffs will be held at current rates into 2024-25, to work towards full cost recovery by 2025-26.
5. The proposed heat tariffs (including VAT) from 1 April 2024 are
 - 9.89p/kWh for Regent Court residents (no reduction)
 - 11.08p/kWh for Harlow Green residents (no reduction).
6. The proposed power tariffs (including VAT) from 1 April 2024 for Barford/Stretford Court will be as follows:
 - Standing charge: 55.10p/day (9% increase)
 - Unit rate: 22.89p/kWh (16% reduction)
7. The impact that this will have on the average resident's bill is as follows:
 - No change to heat bills
 - Power bills reduced by £70, which is an average weekly reduction of £1.35.
8. We continue to use delegations to revise tariffs in line with this every quarter, with consultation through relevant Portfolios.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that approval is given to the heat and electricity tariffs proposed, to communicate these to HEIGHTs residents, and to apply these for the period 1st April 2024 – 31 March 2025, with reviews each quarter.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To comply with heat and electricity supply agreements in place with customers.
- (ii) To ensure the HEIGHTs scheme recovers its operating and construction costs over its lifetime.
- (iii) To ensure HEIGHTs customers continue to pay fair and market reflective prices for their heating and electricity, and as soon as possible, after changes to the energy price cap.

CONTACT: Belinda Humphrey, Energy Services Manager

Policy Context

1. The HEIGHTs project continues to contribute to the delivery of many targets within the Council's Corporate Plan, Thrive Agenda, the Council's Climate Change and Net Zero Strategy and other Council strategies and commitments, specifically:
 - Helping to alleviate fuel poverty for residents, by providing low-cost heat and electricity
 - Reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions of homes and public buildings in the borough and
 - Improving the quality and comfort of heating systems by replacing aged, inefficient systems such as night storage heaters.

Background to Gateshead HEIGHTs

2. The Gateshead HEIGHTs project installed low-carbon heat and electricity generation plant in 7 high rise blocks in Gateshead, serving 620 homes, to reduce the carbon emissions and energy costs of these homes:
 - Regent Court – heat only, supplied direct to residents from town centre district energy scheme.
 - Ripley, Willerby, Acomb, Bedale, Angel courts – heat only, supplied from Ground Source Heat pumps.
 - Stretford, Barford – heat and electricity, supplied from combined heat and electricity generation plant.
3. Since April 2022, the energy crisis has massively increased energy tariffs across the UK. The Council was able to delay increases to tariff during 2022, protecting residents from price rises. From October 2022, tariffs have been set in line with Ofgem's Energy Price Cap, which is the maximum amount that energy companies can charge for each unit of energy if you're on a standard variable tariff.
4. In April 2023, the Council further revised tariff setting, to allow quarterly revisions to tariff, in line with quarterly updates to the Ofgem price cap.
5. The target remains for the schemes to charge tariffs in line with benchmarks to keep resident bills as low as possible, ensuring the Council covers its full operating and management costs for the scheme, and delivering carbon savings for residents and the Council.

Proposed 2024-25 tariffs

6. Operating costs and energy markets have changed considerably since 2018 – the scheme faces the extra challenge of a volatile energy market, as well as increases to operating costs and standing charges from inflation. Also, for price certainty, the Council purchases a proportion of the energy needed to operate these schemes in advance.
7. As a result, the Council needs to hold heat tariffs at their current heat tariffs into 2024-25. While this delays passing through reductions in energy tariffs to customers, it is consistent with the Council's approach at the start of the energy crisis where the Council delayed passing through increases. Averaged over the period, customers will still have received energy at or below the market rate.
8. It's noted that the Council only seeks to achieve full cost recovery and will still review the tariffs on a quarterly basis, to reduce these further whenever possible.

9. Despite not being able to reduce heat tariffs into 2024-25, residents are still benefiting from the scheme as follows:
- No standing charges are levied on the heat supply
 - Residents still see approximately a 15% saving compared to before the scheme, when:
 - they used night storage heater and Economy 7 electricity, prior to the scheme (Harlow Green)
 - Or when they had inefficient gas boilers, and a gas standing charge (Regent Court)

Tariffs and charges

10. The proposed heat tariffs from 1 April 2024 are
- 9.89p/kWh for Regent Court residents (no reduction)
 - 11.08p/kWh for Harlow Green residents (no reduction).
11. For Barford and Stretford electricity customers, the electricity tariffs will be as follows:
- Standing charge: 55.10p/day (9% increase)
 - Unit rate: 22.89p/kWh (16% reduction)
12. The estimates of annual costs to residents (for an average heat/power consumption) compared to last year are as follows:

Annual cost of energy	Harlow Green - Heat	Regent Court - Heat	Barford / Stretford - power
Current	£321	£380	£ 729
From Apr-24	£321	£380	£ 659

13. It is also proposed that tariffs continue to be reviewed and revised quarterly, as previously agreed by Cabinet in February 2023.

Financial implications

14. The Council's target is for the schemes to fully recover their costs. With the proposed tariffs, we are still forecasting a £25k overspend in 2024-25, but will meet full cost recovery by 2025-26
15. We have not sought to achieve full cost recovery in 2024-25, as that would have required tariff increases to customers. The Council is still locked into high energy tariffs, due to purchasing 50% of its 24-25 energy needs at higher tariffs last year. Conversely, the Energy Price Cap continues to fall, reducing resident tariffs. This should correct itself in 2025-26, when the scheme is forecast to be at full cost recovery.
16. If the Council did not hold the tariffs into 2024-25, the overspend would be £62k in 2024-25, and full cost recovery would not be met by 2025-26.

Alternative Options

17. **Set higher tariffs:** The Council could have sought to pass full costs to residents, but this would have seen annual bills increase by £50/yr, or 15%. The tariff changes proposed ensure customers bills stay broadly the same as last year.
18. **Set lower tariffs:** The Council would not recover all running costs of the scheme and the current net operating costs would increase further, which is not affordable.

Consultation

19. The Housing and Economy portfolio has been consulted on these proposals and support the recommendation to Cabinet.

Implications of Recommended Option

20. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the proposed tariffs for 2024/25 will result in a £0.25m forecast overspend over all the schemes, working toward full cost recovery by 2025/26. Noting the schemes will be moved from the General Fund to the HRA.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Scheme administration will be provided by existing staff within Energy and Design Services.
- c) **Property Implications** - The scheme continues to provide a modernised, lower carbon heating and electricity system for the HEIGHTs tower blocks including new wet distribution systems, radiators and heat meters within resident's flats.

21. **Risk Management Implication** – The Council continues to bear the ongoing risk that energy price forecasts could change and mean that operating costs are not fully recovered.

22. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - None

23. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – None

24. **Health Implications** - ensuring residents have a competitive tariff for their heat and power can encourage them to continue to use their heating as normal, potentially averting cold home related health problems.

25. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - This report sets tariffs to ensure the ongoing operation of these low carbon heat network remains financially viable for the benefit of the residents.

26. **Human Rights Implications** - None

27. **Ward Implications** - the scheme is in Chowdene and Bridges Ward.

Background Information

28. HEIGHTS Energy Tariffs 2023-24, Cabinet, February 2023

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TITLE OF REPORT: Kingsmeadow School – Basic Need Scheme

REPORT OF: **Colin Huntington, Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities**
 Helen Ferguson, Strategic Director, Children’s Social Care and Lifelong Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks Cabinet to approve the scheme and estimate to create additional school places at Kingsmeadow School.
2. To enable the Service Director, Property and Assets to enter into a contract with Pinnacle Schools for the build project.

Background

3. Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to ensure there are enough school places available in their area. The Department for Education provides Basic Need capital grant funding to local authorities to support them to meet that statutory responsibility. In 2023/24, Gateshead received a capital allocation of £13.078 m.
4. In December 2022, included as part of the basic need proposals across the borough, Cabinet approved the allocations of Basic Need grant to the scheme at Kingsmeadow School to deliver an additional 75 school places across year groups 7-11.
5. In June 2020, following consultation, the Council extended the school age range to create post-16 provision.
6. Kingsmeadow School is one of Gateshead’s seven PFI schools in a consortium led by Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Limited who are responsible for maintaining the sites for 25 years before handing control to the local authority on 8 August 2033.
7. Planning consent has been given to a scheme to create 75 additional 7-11 places and 100 sixth form places on the Kingsmeadow site.

Proposal

8. The proposal is to approve a contract with Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Ltd for a build project which will expand Kingsmeadow School on its existing site off Market Lane from a planned admission number of 180 to 195 to accommodate growing pupil numbers.

9. This project will also deliver an extra 100 sixth form places.
10. The scheme cost is £3.4m - £1.8m for the sixth form to be funded by Kingsmeadow School, and £1.6m from Basic Need Grant allocation to create the additional places for year groups 7-11.
11. The contractual relationship under the PFI Service Agreement is between the Council and Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Ltd. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Council to enter into the contract for this project.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the scheme and estimate of £3.4m and authorises the Service Director, Property and Assets to enter into a contract with Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Ltd to provide additional spaces at Kingsmeadow School, £1.8m for the sixth form to be funded by Kingsmeadow School, and £1.6m from Basic Need Grant allocation to create the additional places for year groups 7-11.

For the following reasons:

- i) To ensure best value for money for the Council.
- ii) To enable the Council to meet its statutory requirement to provide sufficient school places.

CONTACT: **Sandra Watson** extension: 3384

Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with statutory duties of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places and with the council's vision for children and young people in Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives,

Background

2. Every year the Department for Education (DfE) asks local authorities to provide a variety of data to enable Government to predict funding requirements in future years. The Local Authority returns an annual report on the capacity of maintained schools and academies in Gateshead along with the numbers of any surplus places in those schools.
3. Since 2019, following the closure of Thomas Hepburn Community Academy, all secondary schools in Gateshead have been allocating places to an enhanced PAN, to enable the Council to continue to meet its statutory obligations.
4. The review of pupil projections along with local planning knowledge of future housing developments has highlighted that there is a requirement for secondary school additional places in the short or medium term.
5. The Department for Education provides Basic Need capital grant funding to local authorities to support them to meet that statutory responsibility. In 2023/24, Gateshead received a capital allocation of £13.078 m.
6. In December 2022 Cabinet approved an allocation of Basic Need grant to the scheme at Kingsmeadow School to deliver additional secondary school places across year groups 7-11 in the Inner West.
7. Kingsmeadow is one of Gateshead's seven PFI schools in a consortium led by Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Limited who are responsible for maintaining the sites for 25 years before handing control to the local authority on 8 August 2033. The contractual relationship under the PFI Service Agreement is between the Council and Pinnacle Schools (Gateshead) Ltd. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Council to enter into the Contract for this build project.
8. Kingmeadow's PAN is 180 but they have taken up to 190 in the past two years and are oversubscribed again for 2022/23.
9. In June 2020, the Council consulted on the extension of the school age range to create post-16 provision.
10. There is a total project budget of £3.4m which is made up of £1.8m funding from Kingsmeadow School and £1.6m from Basic Need Grant. Planning permission has now been granted for a build project within the school site.

Consultation

11. All secondary schools have been consulted on proposals to increase the capacity in secondary school places across the borough.
12. Consultation has taken place on increasing the age range at the school to create post 16 provision.
13. As part of the planning consent, a formal consultation period was undertaken involving neighbouring residents.
14. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and ward councillors have been consulted.

Alternative Options

15. There are no alternative options in order for the Council to continue to fulfil its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places in the Inner West of the borough.

Implications of Recommended Option

16. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms the funding allocations from the Department for Education and the funding contribution available from the school confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report. There will need to be a back-to-back funding agreement with the school to secure the £1.8m contribution to the scheme before entering into contract. The school will have to seek a variation in their funding agreement with the DfE.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** – There are no direct property implications arising from this report.

17. **Risk Management Implication** – Planning permission has now been obtained. There is a need to increase secondary school places for September 2023, which has been accommodated with temporary units.

18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The Equality Act 2010 consolidates the law prohibiting discrimination, harassment and victimisation. All schools must have due regard to their obligations under the act and an admission authority must not discriminate on grounds of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation as to who is offered admission as a pupil. All schools must have due regard to their obligations under the Act and review their policies and practices to make sure these meet the requirements of the Act, even if they believe that they are already operating in a non-discriminatory way.

- 19. Crime and Disorder Implications –** There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report
- 20. Health Implications –** There are no health implications arising from this report.
- 21. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications -** The sustainability implications are considered as part of developing and implementing individual capital projects.
- 22. Human Rights Implications -** It is a convention right that no person should be denied the right to education, expanding secondary schools is the only way to ensure this and continue to provide both choice and diversity for parents.
- 23. Ward Implications -** Dunston & Teams

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

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council;
 - The proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2024/25.
 - the proposed rent changes from 1 April 2024, in line with the Government's policy on rent setting.
 - the detailed proposals for the 2024/25 HRA fees and charges.
 - the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2024/25 and the indicative programme for the period 2025/26 – 2028/29.

Background

2. On 20 July 2023 Council approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Business Plan. Overall, the HRA Business Plan as presented was fully costed and did not breach the minimum £3 million balance during the life of the plan (30 years).
3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) states that the Council has a duty to prevent a debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account.
4. Historically the Council has followed Government formula and guidelines to set the rent level for social and affordable properties. In addition, Gateshead has followed best practice in relation to setting clear and transparent service charges.
5. Government policy on rents for social housing applies to all registered providers i.e. to both local authority registered providers and private registered providers. The rent standard enables rents to be increased by up to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September plus an additional 1%.
6. The Rent Standard also requests registered providers to endeavour to limit service charge increases to within the same formula but allows flexibility to cover the recovery of the service cost.
7. A review of Gateshead's fees and charges is carried out each year to ensure the HRA recovers only the full costs associated with providing services to tenants, this

includes passing on any savings made to tenants through cost cutting efficiencies implemented by the council.

8. Where an inflationary increase is appropriate the September 2023 CPI rate of 6.7% has been applied. Those charges which relate to General Fund Services, such as Care Call, are subject of the Fees and Charges report (agenda item 8).
9. The Housing Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme reviewed annually. The programme is supported from resources available within the HRA and therefore considering the HRA and the Housing Capital Programme together allows the Council to consider the choices necessary to maintain and enhance housing stock in the future. The financial implications of the programme are incorporated into the HRA Business Plan. The Housing Capital Programme is also incorporated into the Council's overall Capital Programme (agenda item 5).
10. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply the Housing Capital Programme includes the delivery of 365 units over the next 8 years.

Proposal

11. The proposed Housing Revenue Account budget 2024/25 will deliver a surplus budget of £0.316m. This is set out in Appendix 2 together with indicative budgets for the subsequent four-year period 2025/26 – 2028/29.
12. An increase in rents of 7.7% in line with the rent standard. A summary of average rents is provided at Appendix 3.
13. As social rent properties become vacant they continue to be re-let at the formula rent for that property.
14. A summary of the recommended changes to the service charges for the HRA 2024/25 is presented in Appendix 4.
15. During 2023/24 a fundamental review of service charges has been undertaken but as this has not been fully concluded further reports will be brought forward with any recommendations being implemented from 2025/26.
16. The proposed Housing Capital Programme over the next five years 2024/25 to 2028/29, Appendix 5 provides for investment of £202.637m. In 2024/25 the proposed Capital Programme totals £26.837m of which £19.114m will be met from the HRA. The Programme will be kept under regular review by Cabinet to ensure that investment plans remain affordable.

Recommendations

17. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - (i) The Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2.
 - (ii) The 7.7% rent increase from 1 April 2024 as detailed at Appendix 3.
 - (iii) The HRA service charges as detailed in Appendix 4.

- (iv) The Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix 5.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To set a Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 that is not in debit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI).
- (ii) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy to maintain and enhance Council Housing provision in Gateshead.
- (ii) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone Thrives.

CONTACT:

Kristina Robson
Kevin Scarlett

Ext 3943
Ext 5303

Policy Context

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

Background

4. On 20 July 2023 Council agreed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Business Plan. Overall, the HRA Business Plan is fully costed and does not breach the minimum £3 million balance during the life of the plan (30 years). However, over the long term, to incorporate all the cost pressures and anticipated capital investment, including new social housing stock, borrowing will need rise significantly above the current levels.
5. The rules governing the HRA were established pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and require the Council to:
 - a. Formulate proposals in respect of HRA income and expenditure for the financial year which, on the best assumptions and estimates that the Council can make at the time, ensure the HRA does not show a debit balance.
 - b. Determine a strategy that is designed to ensure the HRA is in balance taking one year with another.
 - c. Ensure, that as a ring-fenced account, the costs of managing and maintaining its homes, including debt charges and administration costs, are met from HRA income.
6. Historically the Council has followed Government formula and guidelines to set the rent level for social and affordable properties. In addition, Gateshead has followed best practice in relation to setting clear and transparent service charges.

7. Government policy on rents for social housing applies to all registered providers i.e. to both local authority registered providers and private registered providers. The rent standard enables rents to be increased by up to Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September plus an additional 1%.
8. In the November Autumn Statement central government confirmed the potential for registered providers (local authorities and housing associations) to set rents for 2024/25 at CPI+1% using the September CPI rate. This would result in a maximum rent increase of 7.7%.
9. The Rent Standard also requests registered providers to endeavour to limit service charge increases to within the same formula but allows flexibility to cover the recovery of the service cost.
10. The Rent Standard for social rent housing states:
 - 11.1 Registered providers may set the initial rent on properties to be let at social rent at a level that is no higher than formula rent, subject to the rent flexibility level.
 - 11.2 "Rent flexibility level" means either 105% of formula rent or if the accommodation is supported housing 110% of formula rent.
 - 11.3 The weekly rent of an existing tenant may not be increased by more than either (a) CPI (as at September in the previous year) + 1% in any year or (b) if the tenant's rent exceeds the rent flexibility level, CPI in any year.
 - 11.4 Registered providers must not allow rents to rise above the rent cap level for the size of property concerned. Rent caps will be increased annually by CPI + 1.5%.
11. Affordable rent housing follows the same principles as above with additional guidance covering:
 - 12.1 The maximum gross rent for a tenant under a new tenancy is 80% of the market rent for the tenant's accommodation.
 - 12.2 If the formula rent is higher than 80% of the weekly market rent for the tenant's accommodation, the maximum weekly rent (exclusive of service charges) is formula rent.
 - 12.3 Affordable rent includes all relevant service charges.

HRA Business Plan

12. The HRA Business Plan sets the Council's long-term investment strategy to maintain the quality of its housing stock. The plan is reviewed, at least, annually and uses current levels of income and expenditure information and projects this for the next 30 years applying several key assumptions in relation to the anticipated stock changes arising from right to buy sales, acquisitions and new build and

regeneration plans, the number of void properties, the policy on rent and service charge increases, repairs and maintenance and property management costs, capital investment requirements based on stock condition information and forecast borrowing costs.

13. A significant number of challenges have been placed on the HRA Business Plan because of:
- Legislative change such as the impact of the Housing and Planning, and Welfare Reform Acts.
 - The imposition of a social rent cut of 1% per year, for 4 successive years commencing April 2016.
 - Increased buildings compliance and regulatory requirements, particularly post-Grenfell and including new targets for carbon neutrality.
 - Increased Right to Buy sales resulting from the increased discounts
 - The impact of Brexit / Covid on inflation in general and particularly in the cost of construction / repairs in terms of materials and labour.
 - Ukraine situation and global gas/electricity prices.
 - Changes to regulatory standards.
 - Increasing numbers of repairs required to maintain an ageing stock.
14. In addition, there is a need to:
- a. Address uneconomic and poor performing housing stock in Gateshead. Stock condition and demand information confirms that the required expenditure on some schemes over the short and longer term significantly exceeds any income from those schemes due to poor or no demand, coupled with the need for high value investment works. There is an outstanding need to appraise all available options for these schemes over the coming months.
 - b. Identify operational efficiencies and more effective ways of working to ensure they are providing value for money and maximising HRA performance, particularly in relation to voids, income collection and day to day maintenance.
 - c. Continue to invest in the existing stock and bring forward new affordable housing.

Projected Outturn 2023/24

15. The current projected 2023/24 HRA overspend of £5.1m will be incorporated into the HRA budget to reflect the estimated reserve balance at 31 March 2024. The overspend is being driven by several factors:
- continued inflationary pressures.
 - a significant increase in repair volumes, particularly damp and mould related repair requests.
 - an increase in disrepair claims
 - a change in repairs processes that supports a 'right first time' culture.
 - high contractor costs and dependency.

- Void rent loss.
- an ageing housing stock.

Budget Proposal 2024/25

16. The budget proposal for 2024/25 has been prepared considering known changes to housing stock numbers, ongoing management and maintenance requirements, proposed investment needs and assumptions around pay and inflationary increases.
17. The budget proposal takes account of the continuing detrimental impact of Welfare reform on rent collection and tenancy sustainability. As at 15 January 2024, 6,999 (40%) of council tenants were in receipt of UC payments, this will continue to increase as new claims or change of circumstances are submitted. Rent collection rates for UC claimants is 97.76% compared to 99.84% for other tenants.
18. To help people sustain their tenancies the Rent and Income Service take proactive steps to engage with residents to help them manage their rental payments, they will put in place sustainable payment arrangements and identify any barriers to tenancy sustainment, then making appropriate referrals for further specialised support. This consists of advice and support to maximise income including offering help with benefit claims and grant applications and debt advice to help people manage their debts.
19. The Housing Improvement Programme identifies priority areas for review. The scope of the programme is wide ranging and will focus on delivering services differently to manage demand and to ensure the Council's housing functions and responsibilities are 'fit for purpose', fully compliant with legislation and regulation, are offering better value for money and can achieve improved customer satisfaction.
20. Void loss and tenancy turnover remain a challenge and the resultant loss of income for the HRA. A major review of the end-to-end voids process is underway together with a review of the associated lettings and allocations systems and practices. The outcome of this work will be to identify the necessary measures to reduce void loss, reduce the high levels of void work costs, and remove the dependence on costly external contractors. Additional investment is included in the proposed budget 2024/25 to enable voids to be reduced to a manageable level and embed the outcomes of the review.
21. The proposed budget also includes additional investment in the repairs service to meet increasing demand and support the new processes including 'getting it right first time' for tenants, making sure repairs are completed during a single visit to the home regardless of whether a repair had been reported previously or not. There is also specific investment to meet the increased demand in damp and mould repair requests.

22. A contingency has been included within the HRA Business Plan for the next and subsequent 4 financial years to cover any future liabilities and unforeseen pay and price increases.
23. The proposed HRA budget 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2 will deliver a surplus budget of £0.316m.

Proposed Rent Changes

24. The maximum rent increase allowable is 7.7%. Applying that to Gateshead's HRA stock gives average rent values of:

50 Weeks Rent	Affordable Rent	Social Rent
Average Rent 2024/25	£137.52	£97.33
Average Rent 2023/24	£127.69	£90.37
Movement	£9.83	£6.96
% Increase	7.70%	7.70%
Average Rent 2024/25 51 Weeks	£137.41	£97.26

¹ The 2023/24 average rent may be different to that outlined in the rent and service charges report in February 2023 due to changes in stock from Right to Buy sales, decommissioning of units and build and purchase of new units.

25. In 2024/25 there are 53 Mondays and therefore an additional rent week. In Gateshead this equates to 51 weeks due to the two rent free weeks. Due to this the actual rent follows a slightly different calculation and therefore the comparative rent values demonstrating the 7.7% increase is shown together with the average proposed rent using the revised calculation which shows a slight difference overall.
26. Not applying the maximum rent increase of 7.7% is an option but this would have a significant impact on viability of the HRA as any increase below this level would reduce the base rent figure upon which all future rent increases would be calculated. For example, a 1% change would reduce an indicative rent revenue in 2024/25 alone by an estimated £0.820m.
27. 72% of council tenants are in receipt of either housing benefit or universal credit welfare support.
28. A summary of the average social rent charges is shown in appendix 3. A similar breakdown is not provided for affordable rent properties as this applies to 85 properties only varying from flats acquired above shops to new build assisted living schemes.
29. As agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget report properties becoming vacant will be re-let at the formula rent which is the true rent for a property following a specifically defined formula and utilising the property value at 1999 the resulting calculation is then uplifted as per the limit rent guidance to give a current formula rent.
30. There are 1,449 properties now let at formula rent and the average variance between formula rent and the proposed rent for current tenants is £5.35.

Service Charges

31. There are both mandatory and discretionary service charges in the HRA. Mandatory charges include energy costs and services, sheltered scheme officers, caretaking, cleaning and concierge. Discretionary include leased furniture packages, gardening and garages. Out of the 18,193 live dwellings 5,061 tenants are liable for mandatory service charges (27.8%) and 3,133 tenants take up discretionary services (17.2%). The Council raises £5.3m from charges to tenants of which £1.2m relates to general fund services and are included in the wider Council Revenue Budget.
32. Some charges for services are eligible for benefit; these are primarily services associated with buildings and cover charges such as cleaning, concierge, caretaking and part of the Sheltered Scheme Wardens.
33. Guidance from Central Government is that fees and charges should cost recover in full where applicable. This is to protect other tenants from essentially contributing to costs that they are not responsible for. Where possible the proposed increases recover the full cost of services.
34. The council must produce a transparent process to ensure that actual revenue-only costs are identifiable and reasonable. It is assumed that all properties are charged equally, no allowance can be made for any void properties held unless they are already declared surplus and earmarked for demolition. Where applicable any savings from efficiencies or changes to working practices are passed onto the service users.
35. A full listing of all fees and charges for 2024/25 is presented at Appendix 4. As part of the process of setting the proposed service charges an Integrated Impact Assessment is undertaken on the levels of rent and service charge increases (Appendix 6).
36. As with rent, service charges are also chargeable over 53 weeks and collected over 51 weeks in Gateshead due two rent free weeks and therefore charges are shown as there 50 week equivalent for comparative purposes together with the revised actual proposed charge.
37. The charges for furnishings and laundry and maintenance of communal areas within Angel Court and maintenance of the fire safety system in Regent Court are proposed to be reduced to reflect actual charges/projected costs of providing the services.
38. There is no proposed change to repairs and maintenance charges for communal areas, concessionary TV licence, the admin charge for the furniture scheme, garages and communal TV licence.
39. Inflationary increases of CPI of 6.7% are proposed to be applied to the Gardening Scheme, outside use of communal lounges, use of guest rooms at sheltered accommodation, mortgage and rent references.
40. Charges for the Winlaton Assisted Living Scheme and the new development at Whitley Court are included as part of the affordable rent for the scheme and are therefore subject to a 7.7% increase in line with the affordable rent formula.

41. Charges related to electricity, gas and heat are reflective of the current and anticipated cost reduction which should be experienced by all tenants not just those who are charged via a service charge. The charge in 2023/24 was increased significantly as this took account of the increased costs in the industry during 2022/23 and continuing into 2023/24.
42. All other charges are proposed to increase in line with actual/projected cost of providing the service which for some charges will result in an increase above inflation.
43. Charges for care call are Council General Fund services and as such the level of charges are considered in the fees and charges report at agenda item 8 on the agenda.

Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29

44. Capital investment in the HRA is funded from the Major Repairs Reserve through a combination of the depreciation charged each year to the HRA and using additional voluntary HRA revenue contributions where possible to maximise the level of planned investment in the stock.
45. There are significant capital investment requirements over at least the next 5 years if the Council is to achieve its requirements and ambitions in the key areas of maintaining regulatory and buildings compliance such as decent homes and in maintaining the safety of high rise blocks; in achieving carbon reduction targets; securing catch-up investment in wider HRA assets and responsibilities such as environmental and 'street scene' requirements, garages, open spaces and communal areas; and in continuing to maintain / or increase social housing stock provision in Gateshead. Investment is also identified to digitally transform how blocks are managed, by improving security and supporting the review of high rise living.
46. The proposed Housing Capital Programme for the period from 2024/25 to 2028/29 is set out in Appendix 5. It is estimated that £115.178m of the £202.637m funding requirement will be met from within the Major Repairs Reserve and Revenue Contributions to Capital to support capital investment within the HRA over the next five years which will be supplemented using external funding and HRA capital receipts.
47. The capital programme is aligned to the HRA Asset Management Strategy and includes the following investment over the next 5 years:
 - £70.1m investment in undertaking estate based major works in accordance with the Decent Homes standard, including the replacement of kitchens, bathrooms and electrical improvements, a £13m heating improvements programme (including the installation of some new Green-Energy systems) and £2.8m to continue the window & door replacement programme. £3m to for the delivery of a scheme supported by the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
 - £20.1m investment in general stock improvements, including essential works to upgrade communal services and communal areas, CCTV and door entry systems upgrades as well as the continuing provision of major and minor adaptation works to homes.
 - £4m investment in garages, outhouses and wider estate improvements.

- £3.9m investment in building safety improvements to ensure continued compliance with legislation.
 - £85.5m investment in new housing, estate regeneration and delivery of the stock options appraisals.
 - £0.1m for renewable energy and Net Zero technology pilot work with tenants
 - £0.2m for IT hardware and software replacements.
48. The Capital Programme will continue to be reviewed regularly to reflect the progress on committed projects and the availability of resources within the HRA to support capital investment.
49. Recognising the importance of new affordable housing supply in Gateshead, and the challenges facing the HRA in making a significant contribution to this supply, the Housing Development Strategy confirms priority actions to be undertaken over the next five years to maximise housing supply on existing and new sites. This strategy also aligns with the Council's medium-term position and investment plan. This proposed programme includes a planned HRA funded new build programme over a rolling 3-year period, to be reviewed annually as part of the annual refresh of the HRA Business Plan.

Consultation

50. Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members for Housing and with The Strategic Housing Board.

Alternative Options

51. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

52. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the financial implications are reflected in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The proposed 2024/25 HRA budget (Appendix 2) will deliver a £0.316m surplus budget. As at 31 March 2024 the HRA reserve is projected to be £13.519m. The 30-year HRA Business plan is sustainable with a minimum balance of £3m of reserves maintained per annum.

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

- b. **Human Resources Implications** – Nil.
- c. **Property Implications** – Capital investment in HRA assets helps to improve the overall sustainability of the HRA and supports the delivery of corporate

priorities under the Thrive agenda. The property implications of individual schemes will be considered and reported separately.

- 53. **Risk Management Implications** – The added risks arising from self-financing and welfare reform mean that the Council must continue to manage and maintain its housing stock from the rents collected. The 30-year HRA business plan is sustainable, based on current assumptions, but this will continue to be monitored to ensure that decisions are made, where appropriate, to enable the housing stock to be maintained in the future.
- 53. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – An integrated impact assessment has been carried out to identify potential implications and impacts related to protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010.
- 54. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Nil
- 55. **Health Implications** – Nil
- 56. **Sustainability and Climate Emergency Implications** – The report contains a number of measures, which will help deliver a more Sustainable Gateshead and support the HRA Asset Strategy which includes carbon neutrality targets for the Council's housing stock.
- 57. **Human Rights Implications** – Nil
- 58. **Ward Implications** – All wards will be affected by the proposals in this report.

Background Information

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Rent Standard April 2020

Policy Statement on rents for social housing

The Housing Revenue Account Self Financing Determinations February 2012

Welfare Reform Act 2016

HRA Budget 2024/25 to 2028/29

	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Projected 2023/24 £'000	Variance 2023/24 £'000		Budget 2024/25 £'000	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Budget 2026/27 £'000	Budget 2027/28 £'000	Budget 2028/29 £'000
Dwelling rents (gross)	(80,604)	(79,091)	1,513	Voids/Decommissioned Units	(87,033)	(86,774)	(88,499)	(90,450)	(92,163)
Non-dwelling rents (gross)	(1,297)	(1,248)	49		(1,297)	(1,297)	(1,297)	(1,297)	(1,297)
Charges for services and facilities	(5,279)	(5,125)	154		(5,485)	(5,467)	(5,502)	(5,605)	(5,659)
Water & Other Income	(1,094)	(1,144)	(50)		(1,246)	(1,283)	(1,322)	(1,361)	(1,402)
Total Income	(88,274)	(86,608)	1,666		(95,061)	(94,821)	(96,620)	(98,713)	(100,521)
Supervision and Management	30,011	28,698	(1,313)	Under use of contingency, Insurance offset by income reduction	30,695	30,316	30,783	31,316	32,088
Repairs and Maintenance	26,869	31,589	4,720	Voids and Repairs	31,569	31,144	31,023	30,906	30,831
Interest on borrowing	12,231	12,216	(15)		12,403	12,552	12,973	13,482	14,127
Capital Programme Funding	19,264	19,264	0		19,114	23,669	27,892	22,028	22,475
Increased provision for bad debt	805	805	0		881	871	881	893	910
Debt management expenses	78	78	0		83	85	87	88	90
Total Expenditure	89,258	92,650	3,392		94,745	98,637	103,639	98,713	100,521
Net Operating Cost/(Surplus)	984	6,042	5,058		(316)	3,816	7,019	0	0
HRA Reserves									
Opening Balance	19,561	19,561			13,519	13,835	10,019	3,000	3,000
Net Operating Cost for the year	984	6,042	5,058		(316)	3,816	7,019	0	0
Closing Balance	18,577	13,519	(5,058)		13,835	10,019	3,000	3,000	3,000

Proposed Social Rent 2024/25

Property Type	Number	Average Increase £	Average of 2023-24 Basic Rent 50 weeks £	Average of 2024-25 New Rent 50 weeks £	Average of 2024-25 New Rent 51 weeks £
BUN	3,086	£6.96	£90.38	£97.34	£97.27
0BED	16	£6.18	£80.20	£86.38	£86.31
1BED	1,747	£6.66	£86.48	£93.14	£93.07
2BED	1,257	£7.33	£95.22	£102.56	£102.48
3BED	66	£8.01	£104.09	£112.10	£112.02
FLA	4,291	£6.31	£81.98	£88.29	£88.23
0BED	115	£5.26	£68.37	£73.64	£73.58
1BED	1,721	£5.94	£77.18	£83.12	£83.06
2BED	2,283	£6.58	£85.50	£92.09	£92.02
3BED	170	£7.11	£92.28	£99.38	£99.31
4BED	2	£8.00	£103.92	£111.92	£111.84
HOU	10,351	£7.24	£94.02	£101.26	£101.19
1BED	109	£5.91	£76.77	£82.68	£82.62
2BED	4,643	£6.95	£90.21	£97.16	£97.09
3BED	5,277	£7.48	£97.19	£104.67	£104.59
4BED	316	£7.90	£102.66	£110.56	£110.48
5BED	3	£8.38	£108.80	£117.18	£117.09
8BED	1	£9.72	£126.21	£135.93	£135.83
6BED	1	£9.83	£127.67	£137.50	£137.40
7BED	1	£10.37	£134.74	£145.11	£145.01
MAI	161	£6.90	£89.58	£96.48	£96.41
2BED	63	£6.58	£85.51	£92.10	£92.03
3BED	98	£7.10	£92.20	£99.30	£99.22
SHB	8	£6.51	£84.56	£91.07	£91.00
1BED	4	£6.18	£80.29	£86.47	£86.41
2BED	4	£6.84	£88.83	£95.67	£95.60
SHF	211	£6.36	£82.65	£89.01	£88.95
1BED	141	£6.15	£79.81	£85.96	£85.89
2BED	70	£6.80	£88.37	£95.17	£95.10
Total Average	18,108	£6.96	£90.37	£97.33	£97.26

Proposed Service Charges 2024/25

Ref	SERVICE S	CURRENT CHARGE 50 WEEKS 2023/24	PROPOSED CHARGE 50 WEEKS 2024/25	Movement	Movement	PROPOSED CHARGE 51 WEEKS 2024/25
		£ per Week	£ per Week	£ per Week	%	£ per Week
	WARWICK COURT MULTI STOREY					
1	Gas Heating	7.26	4.03	-3.23	-44.5%	3.95
2	Bed-sit	10.73	5.95	-4.78	-44.5%	5.83
	Repairs & Maintenance of Communal Areas					
3&4	Bed-sit & One Bed Flat	3.99	3.99	0.00	0.0%	3.99
	EAST ST FLATS					
	Gas Heating & Hot Water					
5	Bed-sit	12.01	6.66	-5.35	-44.5%	6.53
6	One Bed Flat	18.41	10.21	-8.20	-44.5%	10.01
7	Two Bed Flat	23.21	12.87	-10.34	-44.5%	12.62
8	Three Bed Flat	28.81	15.98	-12.83	-44.5%	15.66
	ANGEL COURT EXTRA CARE SCHEME					
9	Gas & Electric	38.08	30.00	-8.08	-21.2%	29.41
	Communal Facilities					
10	Maintenance of Communal Areas - Flats	8.55	5.56	-2.99	-35.0%	5.46
11	Maintenance of Communal Areas - Bungalows	1.35	0.88	-0.47	-34.8%	0.86
12	Furnishings and laundry - Flats	0.98	0.89	-0.09	-9.2%	0.88
13	Furnishings and laundry - Bungalows	0.21	0.19	-0.02	-9.5%	0.19
14	Scheme manager	14.14	15.57	1.43	10.1%	15.56
15	Cleaning of corridors and windows	9.93	11.07	1.14	11.5%	10.86
16	Provision of domestic home support	9.11	10.12	1.01	11.1%	9.92
	SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION					
	Gas Heating					
18	Flat one bed	24.77	17.20	-7.57	-30.6%	16.86
18A	Flat two bed	27.52	19.11	-8.41	-30.6%	18.74
19	Sheltered Scheme Officer Properties	30.27	21.02	-9.25	-30.6%	20.61
20	Communal Areas	1.39	0.83	-0.56	-40.3%	0.81
	Electricity					
21	Flat	11.17	11.16	-0.01	-0.1%	10.94
22	Sheltered Scheme Officer Properties	14.65	14.64	-0.01	-0.1%	14.35
23	Communal Areas	10.36	10.35	-0.01	-0.1%	10.15
	Repairs & Maintenance of Communal Areas (contained units only)					
24		2.31	2.31	0.00	0.0%	2.31
	Cleaning					
	Cleaning (communal areas for contained units only)	7.50	7.80	0.30	4.0%	7.80
	Cleaning (communal lounge for separate units only)	0.60	0.63	0.03	5.0%	0.62
	Sheltered Scheme Officers					
27/28	Sheltered Scheme Officer	15.26	16.81	1.55	10.2%	16.80
29	Mobile Sheltered Scheme Officer	8.61	9.49	0.88	10.2%	9.48
30	Concessionary TV Licence	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.0%	0.15
	LOW RISE BLOCKS					
31	Communal Areas - Cleaning	2.82	2.96	0.14	5.0%	2.91
	MID RISE BLOCKS					
32	Communal Areas - Cleaning	3.83	3.92	0.09	2.3%	3.85
	MULTI STOREY FLATS					
33	Concierge & cleaning	11.91	12.10	0.19	1.6%	11.86
34	Caretaking & cleaning	11.12	12.22	1.10	9.9%	11.98
	REGENT COURT					
35	Maintenance of fire safety system	1.66	1.25	-0.41	-24.7%	1.23

	DISPERSED HOMELESS UNITS					
	<u>Heat & light</u>					
36	Sharing Bed-sit (each)					
37	Two Bed Flat					
38	Three Bed Flat					
	<u>Furnishings</u>					
39	Sharing Bed-sit (each)					
40	Two Bed Flat					
41	Three Bed Flat					
42	Warden					
43	Laundry					
44	Cleaning					
	OUTSIDE USE OF COMMUNAL LOUNGES					
45	Up to 1 hour	8.74	9.33	0.59	6.7%	9.33
46	Up to 2 hours	16.06	17.14	1.08	6.7%	17.14
47	1 Session (2 - 4 hours)	24.76	26.42	1.66	6.7%	26.42
48	2 Sessions	45.50	48.55	3.05	6.7%	48.55
49	3 Sessions	63.10	67.33	4.23	6.7%	67.33
	USE OF GUEST ROOMS AT SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION					
	<u>No en-suite amenities</u>					
50	Single (charge per night)	8.93	9.53	0.60	6.7%	9.53
51	Couple (charge per night)	10.17	10.85	0.68	6.7%	10.85
	<u>Partial en-suite</u>					
52	Single (charge per night)	11.08	11.82	0.74	6.7%	11.82
53	Couple (charge per night)	11.71	12.49	0.78	6.7%	12.49
	<u>Full en-suite</u>					
54	Single (charge per night)	12.62	13.47	0.85	6.7%	13.47
55	Couple (charge per night)	13.91	14.84	0.93	6.7%	14.84
	KITCHEN APPLIANCES					
56	Portobello	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.0%	0.41
57	Cranesville	2.71	2.71	0.00	0.0%	2.71
58	Millbrook	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.0%	1.70
59	Norfolk Place	2.71	2.71	0.00	0.0%	2.71
60	Hallgarth	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.0%	1.70
	FURNITURE PACKAGES					
65	Mini Package	12.23	13.17	0.94	7.7%	13.16
66	Package Option 1	22.33	24.06	1.73	7.8%	24.04
67	Package Option 2	31.83	34.29	2.46	7.7%	34.26
68	Package Option 3	41.18	44.36	3.18	7.7%	44.32
69	Package Option 4	50.52	54.41	3.89	7.7%	54.37
70	Admin Charge	2.14	2.14	0.00	0.0%	2.14
	GARAGES					
71	Brick Garages (Council)	5.54	5.54	0.00	0.0%	5.54
72	Brick Garages (Private)	9.34	9.34	0.00	0.0%	9.34
73	Commercial Use	12.21	12.21	0.00	0.0%	12.21
74	Commercial Storage	20.42	20.42	0.00	0.0%	20.42
75	Parking Bays	21.81	21.81	0.00	0.0%	21.81
76	DIGITAL AERIAL PROVISION	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.0%	0.22
	CARE ALARMS, LIFE LINE S / DISPERSED ALARMS					
77A	Sheltered Scheme	4.70	5.01	0.31	6.6%	5.01
77B	Bronze	7.56	8.06	0.50	6.6%	8.05
77C	Silver	8.35	8.92	0.57	6.8%	8.91
77D	Gold	11.91	12.71	0.80	6.7%	12.70
77F	Platinum - New Charge	18.21	19.43	1.22	6.7%	19.42
77E	Smoke Alarm Monitoring	0.85	0.91	0.06	6.7%	0.91
78	Mortgage questionnaire	96.59	103.06	6.47	6.7%	103.06
79	Rent reference	48.32	51.56	3.24	6.7%	51.56

80	GARDENING SCHEME	6.66	7.11	0.45	6.7%	7.10
81	COMMUNAL TV LICENCE	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.0%	0.09
	WINLATON ASSISTED LIVING SCHEME					
82	White Goods Provision Charge	1.57	1.70	0.12	7.7%	1.69
83	Furnishings, Curtains and Carpets					
	Derwent View Close	2.67	2.88	0.21	7.7%	2.88
	Ramsey Street	3.16	3.40	0.24	7.7%	3.40
	Half Fields Road	10.67	11.49	0.82	7.7%	11.48
84	Concierge/Night Security staff	124.39	133.96	9.58	7.7%	133.86
85	Phone line to office/internet	2.01	2.16	0.15	7.7%	2.16
86	Cleaning Costs - Communal	0.55	0.60	0.04	7.7%	0.60
87	External & Communal Window Cleaning					
	Derwent View Close	0.71	0.76	0.05	7.7%	0.76
	Ramsey Street	0.71	0.76	0.05	7.7%	0.76
	Half Fields Road	0.51	0.55	0.04	7.7%	0.55
88	Electrical Testing (PAT)	0.27	0.29	0.02	7.7%	0.29
89	Tunstall Equipment		-			
	Derwent View Close	4.90	5.28	0.38	7.7%	5.27
	Ramsey Street	2.44	2.63	0.19	7.7%	2.63
	Half Fields Road	10.02	10.80	0.77	7.7%	10.79
90	Communal Electricity	1.66	1.79	0.13	7.7%	1.79
91	Communal Gas	0.77	0.83	0.06	7.7%	0.83
92	Communal Water	0.70	0.75	0.05	7.7%	0.75
93	Cyclical- Internal Communal/Staff Areas					
	Derwent View Close	0.55	0.60	0.04	7.7%	0.60
	Ramsey Street	0.55	0.60	0.04	7.7%	0.60
	Half Fields Road	1.11	1.19	0.09	7.7%	1.19
94	Administration Cost	22.16	23.86	1.71	7.7%	23.84
	WHITLEY COURT (New Scheme) - Apartments and Bungalows					
95	Furnishings, Curtains and Carpets					
	Apartments	1.95	2.10	0.15	7.7%	2.10
	Bungalow No. 6&7	10.63	11.44	0.82	7.7%	11.43
	Bungalow No. 5&8	12.54	13.51	0.97	7.7%	13.50
96	Concierge/Night Security staff	163.73	176.34	12.61	7.7%	176.21
97	Phone line to office/internet	0.65	0.70	0.05	7.7%	0.70
98	Cleaning Costs - Communal	1.01	1.08	0.08	7.7%	1.08
99	Communal Electricity	3.20	3.45	0.25	7.7%	3.44
100	Communal Gas	3.66	3.94	0.28	7.7%	3.94
101	Communal Landscaping	4.17	4.49	0.32	7.7%	4.49
102	Alarms and Door Entry	0.44	0.47	0.03	7.7%	0.47

Charges are 50-week charge unless otherwise stated

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

Tenants with disabilities VAT is zero-rated

Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

Housing Capital	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Improvement Works							
Aids & Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,750	8,400
Communal Mechanical & Electrical works	Essential works to upgrade communal services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	559	545	819	570	352	2,845
Digital Transformation	Transformational upgrade work to block building management services such as CCTV and door entry services	1,138	2,550	220	53	98	4,059
Environmental & Estate Improvement	Improvements to the public realm in and round estates	103	100	758	955	740	2,656
Garage Improvement Programme	Essential works to improve sustainable garage blocks, demolish unviable stock and investigation conversion & change of use where practicable	200	220	340	309	191	1,260
Block communal improvements	Improvements to the communal areas and spaces in blocks	660	673	1,188	714	1,522	4,757
Building Safety							
Building safety improvements	Essential work to meet building safety and compliance obligations	1,084	1,027	458	419	322	3,310
Safety & Security	Work to install and renew smoke and CO detection.	64	65	89	91	108	417
HRA Commercial Property Improvements	Targeted interventions in the HRA commercial portfolio to meet landlord obligations	50	50	50	10	32	192
Major Future Works							
Energy & Carbon Net Zero	Delivery of work packages to improve insulation, install green technology and energy solutions that will support achieving Net Zero.	2,000	2,000	4,088	4,211	4,460	16,759
Major Investment Scheme	Targeted Transformation investment work	1,430	-	-	2,228	2,267	5,925
Domestic Heating Improvements	Replacement of failed and obsolete heating systems, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	2,395	2,450	2,832	2,565	2,799	13,041

Door & Window replacements	Continuation of the window replacement door replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	961	762	335	343	351	2,752
Decent Homes	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	5,736	5,854	6,415	7,935	10,481	36,421
Contractual Obligations	Preliminary costs associated with schemes	2,134	2,177	2,220	2,265	2,310	11,106
Fixed Budget Fees	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	587	599	611	623	635	3,055
Expectational Works							
Regeneration and Demolition	Delivery of option appraisal outcomes - acquisition / conversion / demolition of unsustainable HRA assets.	3,583	6,329	12,500	640	-	23,052
Housing Developments							
New Build/Acquisition - Various	Investment to create new Council homes.	2,340	10,080	19,980	18,981	11,031	62,412
Other Capital							
ICT Refrsh	Replacement of IT Hardware & Software licences	163	55	-	-	-	218
Total Housing Capital Budget		26,837	37,186	54,553	44,612	39,449	202,637
Funded By							
Major Repairs Reserve Contributions		(19,114)	(18,859)	(18,690)	(18,536)	(18,394)	(93,593)
Revenue Contribution to Capital		-	(4,811)	(9,202)	(3,492)	(4,080)	(21,585)
HRA Capital Receipts		(6,964)	(13,131)	(10,760)	(5,346)	(4,357)	(40,558)
Grant Funding		(759)	(385)	(3,885)	(3,691)	(2,145)	(10,865)
HRA Borrowing		-	-	(12,016)	(13,547)	(10,473)	(36,036)
Total Funding		(26,837)	(37,186)	(54,553)	(44,612)	(39,449)	(202,637)

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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Title of proposal: Housing Revenue Account Rent and Service Charges 2024/25	Age	Race	Sex	Gender reassignment	Disability	Religion or Belief	Pregnancy and Maternity	Sexual Orientation	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Description of potential mitigation
<p>Equality impact: (✓ all that apply. The assessment should also consider impact on council employees and carers where applicable)</p> <p>Annually the Council reviews it's rent and service charges to take account of inflation and other factors impacting the charges to tenants.</p> <p>Rental increases will be applied to all 18,193 properties and therefore will not disproportionately impact a particular group or persons.</p> <p>The equality impact therefore relates to the increases proposed in relation to service charges. However, consideration is given to the cumulative impact of both the rent and service charges.</p>	✓				✓					<p>Increases in rent and service charges are subject to Government policy (The Rent Standard). The maximum increase for 2024/25 is 7.7% and this is the proposed level of increase.</p> <p>The Rent Standard also requests registered providers to endeavour to limit service charge increases to within the same formula but allows flexibility to cover the recovery of the service cost.</p> <p>In Gateshead 72.2% of tenants are in receipt of welfare benefit either Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. The proposed increases in rent are in line with Government Policy and should therefore be met by housing benefit.</p>



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<p>The Council does not know the full protected characteristics of all its tenants. We do know that a number of our tenants are older/younger and have disabilities so have identified these as being the most relevant to this impact assessment.</p>											<p>In addition to this there are services available to assist tenants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and Support Team - helping people to maximise their income. • Debt Advice Team – helping people manage their debts. • Rent and Income Team – helping people sustain their tenancies.
<p>Age: There are 1,365 properties within sheltered accommodation which predominately has a minimum age of 60 (85 Void at time of preparation) that are likely to be disproportionately impacted due to the additional service charges associated with this type of accommodation. There were 330 tenants who are not in receipt of welfare benefits.</p> <p>The table inserted at the end of the assessment demonstrates most tenants (97.5%) will see overall increases in rent and service charges of below £9 per week. In sheltered accommodation 99.1%.</p>	<p>Any reduction in the cost of a service is passed onto the tenant.</p> <p>As most of the proposed increase relates to the rent this is something that will impact all tenants equally and therefore specific mitigation is not considered appropriate.</p>										
<p>Disability: Demand for adaptations in council homes remains high, with a large proportion of residents defining themselves as having a disability.</p> <p>In the last two years the Council has brought forward housing to specifically support people with disabilities and this has been enhanced by a further number of units in 2022/23.</p> <p>These properties have benefited from Homes England investment and as such are let on affordable rents with the service charges incorporated into the rent and will therefore be subject to an inflationary increase of 7.7%</p>	<p>The charges in these schemes are welfare benefit eligible and therefore given increases are in line with the Government policy they should be met by benefits where tenants are eligible.</p>										



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

<p>Health impact: (eg physical, mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse)</p> <p>The income raised through increasing rents and service charges to cover costs associated with their provision and the increasing cost of delivering HRA services will continue to ensure the sustainability of the HRA and will enable continued investment in the housing stock including the development of new social housing to continue to meet the needs of Gateshead residents.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies clear outcomes to support the delivery of “Gateshead Thrive”. Housing is identified as one of the wider determinants of health and can play a vital role in the long-term health and wellbeing of an individual.</p> <p>The Asset Management Strategy underpinned by the HRA business plan outlines the priorities for investment in the stock which includes not only maintaining standards required by legislation but also additional investment in ensuring there is adequate resources to adapt and build new housing to meet the needs of those with disabilities and ensure older persons housing is for this purpose.</p> <p>The Council’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 aims to eradicate rough sleeping in Gateshead, make homelessness a rare and one-off occurrence, and achieve positive outcomes for anyone who is homeless. The HRA will help to support delivery of this strategy through the provision of much needed new affordable homes, and in contributing to the delivery of services to support and realise sustainable tenancy solutions for vulnerable people.</p>	<p>Any council tenants experiencing a negative impact on their health or wellbeing due to financial difficulties with increased rent and service charges, can access support from the specialist housing teams (advice and support, debt advice and rent and income) or from referrals to other partners as appropriate.</p>
<p>Socio Economic impact: (eg neighbourhood, ward, area of deprivation, household group, income, wealth)</p> <p>The rental increase proposed applies to all tenancies regardless of their socio-economic status or location.</p> <p>Some service charges are discretionary and therefore subject to individual decisions whilst others are mandatory and part of the tenancy agreement.</p>	<p>See above regarding welfare support.</p>



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<p>Analysis of tenant impact has indicated that it is those tenants not in receipt of benefits who will experience the increase in rent and service charges the most, as the proposed increases for 2024/25 will not be offset by the benefits system but will need to be paid for from their household income.</p>	
<p>Environmental impact: (does the proposal impact on climate change and the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030? Is the proposal in line with the Council's Environmental Policy? Does the proposal increase natural resource use? Does the proposal increase waste? Does the proposal increase pollution? Does the proposal impact on wildlife? Does the proposal increase car use? Does the proposal increase energy use?)</p> <p>The proposed increase enables the HRA to continue to be sustainable. Increases in inflation impact the costs associated with the delivery of the Housing services including net zero carbon targets.</p>	
<p>Cumulative impact: (consider impact based on successive budgetary decisions relating to the proposal or is the proposal part of wider budgetary considerations that may collectively have an impact on service users, and is potentially at odds with the Thrive agenda)</p> <p>Some tenants are also Care Call recipients and the inflation on the charges will impact tenants in receipt of this service. The proposed impact of this has been built into this tenant impact assessment to ensure the cumulative impact is understood. The HRA rent and service charge proposals do not however include the request to approve these charges as they are general fund charges and part of the wider budget process.</p> <p>The Council collects water rates on behalf of Northumbrian Water. No assumption has been made in the tenant impact assessment regarding increases in water charges as this is not determined by the Council.</p>	<p>Clients who are assessed for the provision of care call equipment will undergo a financial assessment to determine their ability to pay, and nobody will be asked to pay more than they are able to afford.</p> <p>A separate IIA has not been developed for the Care Call service charges proposals as this is an inflationary increase only.</p>
<p>Summary of consultation/data/research undertaken to inform the assessment: (eg feedback and engagement with service users, trade unions, employees, partners, public, benchmarking, case studies)</p>	



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A report to the Strategic Housing Board outlined the following:

- Rental increases and the potential to vary the amount of the increase together with the impact of that on the business plan and the income to the HRA.
- Key principles applied in calculating the service charges increases including a full listing of the charges.

Discussions took place with officers in the Council's Energy Team regarding the potential changes arising from wholesale prices and NEPO forecasts together with changes in the district heating tariffs.



Signed: (completing officer) Kristina Robson – Corporate Finance Manager

Date: 30/01/2024

Service Director: (approved) John Shiel



Date 12/02/2024



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INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

All Tenants Impact

Summary of Movement	Service Charges only	Rent only	Overall charge		Service Charges only	Rent only	Overall charge
No change/reduction	11,303	-	189		62.1%	0.0%	1.0%
Increase up to £2.99	6,783	-	171		37.3%	0.0%	0.9%
Increase between £3.00 & £4.99	80	14	18		0.4%	0.1%	0.1%
Increase between £5.00 & £6.99	1	8,918	5,018		0.0%	49.0%	27.6%
Increase between £7.00 & £8.99	-	9,198	12,345		0.0%	50.6%	67.9%
Increase between £9.00 & £10.99	3	43	396		0.0%	0.2%	2.2%
Increase Over £11.00	23	20	56		0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Total Tenants	18,193	18,193	18,193		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sheltered Schemes

Summary of Movement	Warden Charge	Other Service Charges	Rent	Overall Charge		Warden Charge	Other Service Charges	Rent	Overall Charge
No change	20	1,086	-	65		1%	78%	0%	5%
Increase up to £2.99	1,375	308	-	136		99%	22%	0%	10%
Increase between £3.00 & £4.99	-	1	-	-		0%	0%	0%	0%
Increase between £5.00 & £6.99	-	-	999	81		0%	0%	72%	6%
Increase between £7.00 & £8.99	-	-	396	1,032		0%	0%	28%	74%
Increase between £9.00 & £10.99	-	-	-	79		0%	0%	0%	6%
Increase Over £11.00	-	-	-	2		0%	0%	0%	0%
Scheme Tenants	1,395	1,395	1,395	1,395		100%	100%	100%	100%

REPORT TO CABINET

20 February 2024

TITLE OF REPORT: Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

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

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to recommend Council approve the proposed Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29. This will provide significant investment within the borough to support the Council's strategic approach to make Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

Background

2. The Capital Programme has been prepared to cover the period 2024/25 to 2028/29; all financial implications have been incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which aligns resources to support the Council's priorities.
3. Local Authorities are free to invest in capital schemes so long as their spending plans are affordable, proportionate, prudent, and sustainable.
4. This report should be considered alongside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme, which as part of self-financing, must be supported from the resources available within the HRA. Where schemes are brought forward and require additional HRA borrowing, these will be considered against the agreed HRA prudential indicators and business model.

Proposal

5. The Capital Programme for 2024/25 totals £113.9m, comprising £87.1m General Fund and £26.8m HRA investments. Over the next five years to 2028/29, the level of Capital investment is estimated to be £506.4m, of which £303.8m relates to the General Fund and £202.6m relates to the HRA.
6. Capital investment has a positive impact on the local economy, creating jobs, housing and can also reduce carbon emissions. This five-year Capital Programme is estimated to create an additional 1200 jobs, 500 new homes, reduce carbon emissions and generate revenue savings.
7. The programme includes projects that will enable improvements to service delivery and projects that are of a strategic nature to assist with the delivery of the Council's priorities and help to make Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives namely:
 - Projects that support climate change.
 - Projects that promote health and wellbeing.
 - Projects that promote or stimulate housing development.

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

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that:
 - (i) Cabinet recommends Council to approve the Capital Programme for 2024/25.
 - (ii) Cabinet recommends Council to approve the provisional programmes for 2025/26 to 2028/29.
 - (iii) Cabinet notes the provisional capital financing required for the programme as set out in Appendix 3 and delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital to enter into prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

For the following reasons:

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

APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

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

Background

2. Details of potential future capital schemes for the 2024/25 to 2028/29 Capital Programme were considered alongside the schemes within the existing programme. The capital and revenue implications of each proposed scheme were considered to ensure that they were affordable and could be accommodated within the level of revenue support available within the MTFS and HRA.
3. The basic principle of the prudential system is that local authorities are free to borrow so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, proportional, prudent, and sustainable. Councils are prohibited to borrow to fund commercial investment. There is, therefore, an explicit link with the Council's revenue spending plans which have been considered as part of the MTFS process and setting the 2024/25 revenue budget.

Proposed Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

4. The basis for considering the programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 prioritised those schemes which:
 - Were consistent with the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.
 - Supported the Council's main strategies, namely.
 - Corporate Plan
 - Asset Strategy
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Economy Strategy
 - Climate Strategy
 - Transport Strategy
 - Digital Strategy.
5. The proposed capital programme is shown in Appendix 2 and the proposed financing of programme is detailed in Appendix 3.
6. The Council continues to maximise the use of external funding where possible, including the utilisation of the following grants:
 - £20.4m Department for Transport Grant to improve transport infrastructure in accordance with the principals set out in the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan;

- £23.1m Department for Education Grant to address the condition and capacity issues of Schools.
 - £2.9m Public Sector Decarbonisation funding to address climate change within the Borough.
7. The Council has the ability to fund schemes through prudential borrowing. This allows the Council more flexibility to fund capital projects, however in practice this is limited by pressures on revenue budgets and the need to generate budget savings. An allowance has been made in the revenue budget for the costs associated with the level of prudential borrowing required to support the capital programme set out in Appendix 3.
 8. The Council has a five-year rolling programme of disposals which is used to identify the level of receipts available. For 2024/25 capital receipts totalling £0.75m have been included within the capital financing projections, however this will be monitored in year and may be subject to change.
 9. Additional schemes may be added to the capital programme following the completion of a detailed business case provided that the projects generate sufficient revenue savings to satisfy the prudential framework, or utilise available external funding, and do not add additional pressure on the revenue budget.
 10. Housing Development is one of the key Council Priorities. Work is ongoing to revise the Housing Development Strategy and to create a Housing Development Fund. The future capital programme may be revised to amalgamate the currently identified housing projects such as Dunston Hill Strategic Infrastructure Works into a Housing Development Fund. This fund will provide flexibility for use on any housing project as it progresses and demonstrates affordability.
 11. In December 2022, the summary of the North East devolution deal between the Government and the seven North East local authorities was published. The deal included the following capital funding allocations to the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NE MCA):
 - an investment fund of £14m per year for 30 years,
 - up to £563m for city region sustainable transport,
 - £20m for place based economic generation,
 - £17.4m to support housing on brownfield land and
 - £73.8m for Bus service improvements.

The future capital programme will be revised, particularly in relation to above areas, once the operations of the NE MCA become clear.

Consultation

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

Alternative Options

13. No alternative options were considered.

Implications of Recommended Option

14. Resources:

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

15. **Risk Management Implication** - There is a risk that resources identified to fund the proposed programme are not realised. The impact of this will be managed through the monitoring process and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

16. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The framework for the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Council's spending plans is based on legislative and policy priorities of the Council which include:

- The Equality Act 2010; and
- The Local Government Improvement and Development Equalities Framework.

The Equality and Diversity implications will be considered for each individual scheme within the capital programme

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

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

19. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - Capital investment can help to reduce carbon emissions and improve sustainability by using more energy efficient materials and practices in the refurbishment or construction of assets. Projects will follow strict Council Sustainable Construction guidelines and where applicable the impact of a project on the climate emergency will be reported separately.

- 20. Human Rights Implications** - There may be interference or disturbance to tenants and residents while works are carried out. However, such interference or disturbance will be kept to a minimum and the works will result in benefits to tenants and residents.
- 21. Ward Implications** - The proposals will have implications for all areas and wards in Gateshead.

Background Information

- 22.** The following background papers have been used in the preparation of this report:
- (i) Report for Cabinet, 20 February 2024 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme
 - (ii) Report for Cabinet, 23 January 2024 – Capital Programme 2023/24 – Third Quarter Review.
 - (iii) Report for Cabinet, 21 November 2023 – Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29
 - (iv) Report for Cabinet, 24 October 2023 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29
 - (v) Report for Cabinet, 21 February 2023 – Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28

Appendix 2

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Climate Change									
Flood Alleviation Investment	Strategic investment to create sustainable surface water management schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in Gateshead using Environment Agency funding.	5,037	0	0	0	0	5,037	68	4,969
Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council Depots	Installation of electric vehicle charging points at key operational depots across the borough to enable the electrification of the Council fleet by 2030.	0	1,058	0	0	0	1,058	1,058	0
Salix Energy Efficiency Works	Investment in energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings, delivering revenue savings.	150	0	0	0	0	150	150	0
Gateshead District Energy Scheme - Old Fold/Nest House extension	Connect 550 homes, 2 primary schools and a private care home to the District Energy Network to provide zero carbon heating	4,556	5,212	0	0	0	9,768	6,912	2,856
Corporate Assets									
Follingsby Salt Store	To provide a covered facility for the storage of the Council's main stock of salt on the existing site at Follingsby.	0	0	0	878	0	878	878	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Health & Safety	Programme of works to address health and safety related issues in the Council's property assets.	919	830	540	550	550	3,389	3,389	0
Refurbishment of Metrology Lab	Refurbishment and modernisation of the Metrology Lab	500	0	0	0	0	500	500	0
Upgrade of Occupational Health rooms and equipment	Purchase of new equipment used to carry out health surveillance, including a new Keystone vision screener, two audiometers and two spirometers and sinks fitted in all occupational therapy rooms.	50	0	0	0	0	50	50	0
School Basic Need Funding	Externally funded investment programme to address demand within the Council's Schools.	8,078	4,767	0	0	0	12,845	0	12,845
School Condition Fund	Externally funded investment programme to address condition issues within the Council's Schools.	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	9,000	0	9,000
Schools Devolved Formula Funding	External funding awarded directly to Schools to purchase equipment or contribute to larger capital schemes.	250	250	250	250	250	1,250	0	1,250
Strategic Maintenance	Programme of preventative maintenance works to address condition issues within the Council's operational buildings.	1,450	1,460	1,480	1,490	1,490	7,370	7,370	0
Prince Consort Road	Redevelopment of Prince Consort Road site	1,600	0	0	0	0	1,600	1,600	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Economic Prosperity									
Baltic Quarter Remediation	Determination of infrastructure and remediation works to attract private sector investment.	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	3,000	3,000	0
Riverside Park	Creation of new flexible buildings and trail for Riverside Park	1,147	0	0	0	0	1,147	1,147	0
Greensfield Business Centre	Refurbish the Greensfield Business Centre, to modernise it and make it fit for purpose.	100	0	0	0	0	100	100	0
Unveiling the Angel	Working in partnership with National Highways improve the landscaping surrounding the Angel.	585	550	0	0	0	1,135	570	565
Gateshead Quays	Investment within the Council's Accelerated Development Zone to provide infrastructure to facilitate the Gateshead Quays development, helping to generate significant economic growth.	20,000	53,782	23,935	0	0	97,717	94,717	3,000
Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park	Provision of a vehicle management system and ticketing machines for the operation of the Multi Storey Car Park.	0	364	0	0	0	364	364	0
Major Projects - Project Management	Co-ordination of the delivery of major strategic capital projects.	290	290	290	290	290	1,450	1,450	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Various projects funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund to including projects related to culture, economic development, and health & wellbeing	1,888	0	0	0	0	1,888	0	1,888
Baltic Quarter Extension	Expand the Quays and Baltic projects to incorporate Church St site and the Baltic Quarter site. Land assembly of sites to further development opportunities.	1,588	250	0	0	0	1,838	1,838	0
MetroCentre Transport Link	Transport link required as part of the Planning permission for investment at the MetroCentre	495	605	0	0	0	1,100	0	1,100
Health and Wellbeing									
Community Hubs	To support residents experiencing financial difficulties and to provide access to food, support with housing, employment, and benefits issues.	39	0	0	0	0	39	39	0
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	Grants to private individuals to facilitate adaptations to their homes to ensure people can continue to live independently, typically helping over 350 residents per annum.	2,378	2,378	2,378	2,378	2,378	11,890	835	11,055

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Extensions and adaptations to the homes of foster carers	Funding to enable foster carers or special guardians to enlarge their homes to accommodate looked after children and provide additional capacity to secure permanence for sibling groups.	160	150	150	150	150	760	760	0
Extra Care Scheme	To support the development of extra care sites	690	775	775	750	750	3,740	3,740	0
Fixed Play Facility Renewals	Programme of renewal and replacement of fixed play equipment throughout the Borough.	580	360	360	360	360	2,020	2,020	0
Replacement Bins	Annual procurement of refuse and recycling bins for new developments & existing homes	140	150	160	170	180	800	800	0
Sister Winifred Laver Promoting Independence Centre	Completion of the 60-bed purpose built care facility to consolidate the provision of intermediate care to enable recovery, rehabilitation and reablement.	413	0	0	0	0	413	413	0
Social Care System	Development of a social care system for Early Help, Children's and Adults to integrate with the finance system.	340	0	0	0	0	340	340	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Specialist IT Equipment for children and young people (Portage)	Providing specialist equipment ensuring children and young people with special educational needs can access learning, communicate effectively.	30	30	30	30	30	150	150	0
Specialist IT equipment for Children and Young People with low incidence needs	To provide specialist equipment to ensure children and young people with special educational needs can access learning and communicate effectively	30	30	30	30	30	150	150	0
Specialist Therapeutic Children's Home	Development of a residential children's home designed to meet therapeutic needs.	0	550	0	0	0	550	550	0
Step up Provision for children and young people with Complex Needs	To create a unit of accommodation to provide support and work with complex children and young people	0	0	700	0	0	700	700	0
Children's Three Bed Residential Assessment Service	Provision of a residential children's home.	0	750	0	0	0	750	750	0
Technology Enabled Care	Develop Technology Enabled care as a preventative service	100	100	100	100	100	500	500	0
Telecare	Provision of telecare equipment to residents over 75, helping to preserve their independence.	75	75	75	75	75	375	375	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Saltwell Cemetery Extension	Development of up to 4.15 acres of land giving approximately 2,075 additional graves.	251	1,711	338	0	0	2,300	2,300	0
Housing									
Housing Development	Development of housing in the Dunston & Teams ward.	2,625	2,000	0	0	0	4,625	1,000	3,625
Development Site Preparation Works	Works to facilitate future housing developments within Gateshead	850	850	800	800	800	4,100	4,100	0
Dunston Hill Infrastructure Works	Infrastructure works at Dunston Hill to facilitate housing development.	0	0	0	2,921	0	2,921	2,921	0
High Street South	Assembly of a housing development area through the purchase and demolition of private properties.	500	1,059	3,127	3,656	14,860	23,202	12,792	10,410
Metrogreen	Development of delivery strategy and action plan for Metrogreen to help progress future development.	70	0	0	0	0	70	70	0
West Askew Road	Introduction of a signalised all movements junction to facilitate residential development on Council owned land to the north side of Askew Road.	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Transport									
Bensham Road Corridor	To facilitate the delivery of stage 2 of the Benham Road Corridor study and enable recommendations from the study to be implemented.	322	595	0	0	0	917	917	0
Flagged Footways	Structural work to footways throughout the borough.	350	0	0	0	0	350	350	0
Local Transport Plan - Integrated Transport	Externally funded investment in improving sustainable transport infrastructure, traffic management and road safety.	1,892	1,233	1,233	1,233	1,233	6,824	0	6,824
Traffic Sign Replacement	Programme of traffic sign replacement and improvements throughout the borough.	150	150	150	149	100	699	699	0
Local Transport Plan - Planned Maintenance	Externally funded investment in undertaking planned maintenance to improve highways infrastructure.	4,194	3,288	3,288	3,288	3,288	17,346	3,750	13,596
Quays fixed and Vehicle Management System signage	New signage linked to the development of the Quays	600	0	0	0	0	600	600	0
Quays traffic signal upgrades	A post event signals plan to manage large volumes of traffic moving around and leaving the area during a short space of time.	451	0	0	0	0	451	451	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Replacement of Fleet and Horticultural Equipment	Rolling improvement programme to replace the Council's fleet, primarily high value Refuse Collection Vehicles.	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	8,125	8,125	0
Street Lighting Column Replacement	Rolling investment programme to replace street lighting columns throughout the Borough.	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	8,490	7,865	625
Traffic signal replacement	Programme of investment in replacing traffic signals throughout the borough.	322	322	322	322	322	1,610	1,610	0
Transforming Cities (Tranche 2)	External funding to support the delivery of major, strategic transport improvement schemes, improving public transport and encouraging sustainable travel.	7,298	0	0	0	0	7,298	1,482	5,816
Unclassified Road Resurfacing	Unclassified road micro asphalt resurfacing throughout the borough.	500	300	0	0	0	800	800	0
Digital Systems									
Broadband Delivery	Ongoing investment relating to the provision of broadband infrastructure to rural areas of the Borough as part of the Broadband Delivery UK Project.	95	86	0	0	0	181	181	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Customer Experience	To develop the system capabilities to enable e-billing for Council Tax. Continue the development of the GOSS platform to enable customers to interact with the Council through digital means and deliver more services directly.	110	112	115	0	0	337	337	0
Digital Gateshead	To develop the system capabilities to enable e-billing for Council Tax. Continue the development of the GOSS platform to enable customers to interact with the Council through digital means and deliver more services directly.	725	682	668	700	700	3,475	3,475	0
IT Strategic Plan	Investment in capital improvements and service transformation as part of the implementation of the IT strategic plan.	300	300	300	300	300	1,500	1,500	0
Technology Plan Infrastructure	Ongoing investment in IT infrastructure to ensure the effective delivery of Council services and the provision of a reliable, robust and secure network.	3,239	3,329	3,142	4,675	3,000	17,385	17,385	0

Project Title	Brief Project Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000	Council Funded £000	Externally Funded £000
Technology Plan Transformation Through Technology & New Ways of Working	Additional investment in mobile devices and technology improvements to ensure effective service delivery.	335	234	198	254	254	1,275	1,275	0
Business Improvement Systems	To develop delivery systems, research, intelligence and procurement systems to assist business improvement, transformation and savings across the Council	100	0	0	0	0	100	100	0
		87,060	96,140	51,557	32,422	36,613	303,792	214,368	89,424

HRA Capital	Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000
Improvement Works							
Aids & Adaptations	To carry out identified adaptations to Council Dwellings to enable people to live safely and independently within their home.	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,750	8,400
Communal Mechanical & Electrical works	Essential works to upgrade communal services in accordance with stock condition, building safety & compliance needs.	559	545	819	570	352	2,845
Digital Transformation	Transformational upgrade work to block building management services such as CCTV and door entry services	1,138	2,550	220	53	98	4,059
Environmental & Estate Improvement	Improvements to the public realm in and round estates	103	100	758	955	740	2,656
Garage Improvement Programme	Essential works to improve sustainable garage blocks, demolish unviable stock and investigation conversion & change of use where practicable	200	220	340	309	191	1,260
Block communal improvements	Improvements to the communal areas and spaces in blocks	660	673	1,188	714	1,522	4,757
Building Safety							
Building safety improvements	Essential work to meet building safety and compliance obligations	1,084	1,027	458	419	322	3,310
Safety & Security	Work to install and renew smoke and CO detection.	64	65	89	91	108	417
HRA Commercial Property Improvements	Targeted interventions in the HRA commercial portfolio to meet landlord obligations	50	50	50	10	32	192
Major Future Works							
Energy & Carbon Net Zero	Delivery of work packages to improve insulation, install green technology and energy solutions that will support achieving Net Zero.	2,000	2,000	4,088	4,211	4,460	16,759

	Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total Budget £000
Major Investment Scheme	Targeted Transformation investment work	1,430	0	0	2,228	2,267	5,925
Domestic Heating Improvements	Replacement of failed and obsolete heating systems, upgrading them with more efficient solutions to help address fuel poverty issues.	2,395	2,450	2,832	2,565	2,799	13,041
Door & Window replacements	Continuation of the window replacement door replacement programme. Focused on medium rise blocks, but also picking up 'one off' whole house replacements	961	762	335	343	351	2,752
Decent Homes	Continuation of planned estate-based improvement work to the Council's housing stock in accordance with decent homes and building safety principles, prioritised using stock condition data.	5,736	5,854	6,415	7,935	10,481	36,421
Contractual Obligations	Preliminary costs associated with schemes	2,134	2,177	2,220	2,265	2,310	11,106
Fixed Budget Fees	Continuation of the rolling programme of condition surveys to enable effective asset management, options appraisals and the development of future investment schemes.	587	599	611	623	635	3,055
Expectational Works							
Regeneration and Demolition	Delivery of option appraisal outcomes - acquisition / conversion / demolition of unsustainable HRA assets.	3,583	6,329	12,500	640	0	23,052
Housing Developments							
New Build/Acquisition	Investment to create new Council homes.	2,340	10,080	19,980	18,981	11,031	62,412
Other Capital							
ICT Refresh	Replacement of IT Hardware & Software licences	163	55	0	0	0	218
Total Housing Capital Budget		26,837	37,186	54,553	44,612	39,449	202,637

Appendix 3

PROJECTED CAPITAL FUNDING	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Council Resources					
Prudential Borrowing	46,571	80,586	42,650	23,515	17,296
Capital Receipts	750	750	750	750	750
Capital Grant Funding					
Department for Transport Local Transport Plan	5,461	3,896	3,896	3,896	3,896
Department for Education School Capital Grant Funding	10,128	6,817	2,050	2,050	2,050
Environment Agency Funding	4,969		0	0	0
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	2,856	0	0	0	0
Better Care Fund	2,211	2,211	2,211	2,211	2,211
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	1,388	0	0	0	0
Highways England	290	275	0	0	0
Transforming Cities Tranche 2	5,816	0	0	0	0
North East Mayoral Combined Authority	6,620	1,605			
Anticipated External Funding					
External Funds	0	0	0	0	10,410
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL FUNDING	87,060	96,140	51,557	32,422	36,613
Housing Revenue Account Resources					
Major Repairs Reserve Contribution (HRA)	19,114	18,859	18,690	18,536	18,394
Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO)	0	4,811	9,202	3,492	4,080
Grant Funding	759	385	3,885	3,691	2,145
HRA Capital Receipts	6,964	13,131	10,760	5,346	4,357
Borrowing	0	0	12,016	13,547	10,473
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL FUNDING	26,837	37,186	54,553	44,612	39,449
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING	113,897	133,326	106,110	77,034	76,062

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REPORT TO CABINET

20 February 2024

TITLE OF REPORT: Fees and Charges 2024/25

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

Purpose of the report

1. The review of fees and charges is an integral part of the annual budget process. The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet to agree to recommend to Council the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2024/25.

Background

2. The Council reviews its fees and charges annually with revised and new charges implemented from 1 April each year. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered. The review of fees and charges has been undertaken in the context of guidance indicating a general uplift where appropriate of 6.7% to reflect the inflationary increase for the year (12-month CPI 'Consumer Price Index' rate was 6.7% in September 2023).
3. In the Council's Constitution under delegations to individual managers, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has delegated authority to:
 - Amend statutory fees and charges and those tied to service level agreements or charged annually;
 - Approve commercially sensitive traded fees and charges in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council;
 - Amend fees and charges during the financial year for any changes in legislation, changes to statutory fees or any changes to the rate of VAT.
4. There are fees and charges for Adult Social Services that are to be confirmed as they are aligned to commissioned rates paid to providers which are still subject to negotiation with care providers. Delegation is requested to agree these charges in consultation with the Strategic Director, Integrated Adults and Social Care Services, and Adult Social Care Portfolio Holder.
5. The projected outturn from Fees and Charges for 2023/24 is £27.936m (£0.563m less than the £28.499m budget).

Proposal

6. A summary of the recommended changes to fees and charges for Gateshead Council in 2024/25 is presented in Appendix 1 and the full listing is presented in Appendix 2.

7. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases is currently to increase income base budgets by £0.257m in 2024/25.

Recommendations

8. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:

- (i) The fees and charges as set out for 2024/25 in Appendix 2.
- (ii) Authorisation for the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.
- (ii) Fees and charges for Adult Social Services are subject to provider fee uplifts being agreed. Delegation is requested for the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to set these revised charges in consultation with the Strategic Director, Integrated Adults and Social Care Services and the Adult Social Care Portfolio Holder.

For the following reasons:

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

CONTACT: Alastair Jobe

Extension: 3573

Policy Context

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

Background

4. A review of fees and charges has taken place and the outcome of this review has informed the changes to fees and charges for 2024/25.
5. As part of the annual review, all fees and charges have been considered.
6. Proposals have been made to increase 36% of charges by 6.7%, to increase 2% of charges at a rate lower than 6.7% and a further 21% by above this level. In doing so it's judged that demand and delivery of Council objectives will not be adversely affected.
7. 26% of charges remain unchanged, 5% are new charges, 1% are proposed to decrease and 9% are to be removed as the Council no longer offer the service, changes to service delivery are proposed or charges have been consolidated.

Changes to Fees and Charges

8. The main changes to proposed fees and charges are listed below and the full listing of all fees and charges for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 2.

Increases by Inflation

It is proposed that 38% of charges will increase by inflation or below. Proposals are:

- a. **Adult Social Services:** The proposal is to increase the majority of charges by September 2023 CPI of 6.7%. The Supporting Independence Service hourly rate

proposed increase is slightly lower than CPI at 5.6%, rising to £18.85 (this includes all staffs pay awards).

- b. **Business Centres:** Below CPI inflation (below 2%) increases in prices are proposed to be applied for the occupancy per square foot at Gateshead International Business Centre, Northern Design Centre, Baltimore House and PROTO, in order to maintain 90% occupancy levels and the amount being charged being similar to the market rate. Below CPI inflation price increases for occupiers to contribute to overheads of 3.23% is proposed. The day rate to hire PROTO Dedicated Desk will increase by CPI inflation. Some rates to hire meeting rooms at Gateshead International Business Centre, Northern Design Centre and Blaydon Business Centre are proposed to increase by CPI inflation and others below CPI inflation, based on market conditions and the aim of maximising occupancy levels.
- c. **Car Parking:** CPI inflation is proposed to be applied to the majority of car parks with some rises slightly above the CPI rate due to the rounding of prices. CPI inflation increases are proposed to be applied for different seasonal permits at Regent Court car park ranging from 5.1% to 6.08% (the range is due to roundings).
- d. **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** The pricing for the majority of services is proposed to be increased by 6.7% (subject to price roundings) in line with neighbouring authorities.
- e. **Children's Services:** Below CPI inflation price increases are proposed to be applied for the Early Years Childcare Training Service, instead of using CPI, Grade H staff pay award inflation of 5.7% is to be applied.
- f. **Corporate Services:** Charges for funeral and protection of property arrangements, charges for appointeeship cases, identity cards and electoral services (street index and conformation of entry on electoral register) are to remain frozen. Enhanced and Standard DBS checks charges are proposed to be increased by below CPI inflation at 1.61% and 2.67% respectively, the amount charged is made up of statutory charges advised by Government which are to be frozen, and the administration fee included in the charges for these checks. The administration fee included in these overall below CPI inflation increases have actually increased by 6.89% (by CPI inflation when adjusted for roundings).
- g. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** Apart from the majority of charges which are statutory and have remained unchanged, all other charges are proposed to increase in line with CPI inflation, except for hackney carriage and private hire licences where prices are to remain as 2023/24 until a cost recovery exercise and consultation is completed.
- h. **Highways and Transport:** Most prices are proposed to be increased by CPI inflation.
- i. **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** It is proposed to apply the recommended inflationary increase to the charges relating to the Baltic Road Gypsy and Travellers' site, Housing Act 2004 Actions, Mandatory and Renewal of Mandatory HMO Licencing, Immigration Inspections, caution charges for housing or anti-social behaviour related offences and requesting a paper copy of the

public register. In respect of the Baltic Road and Travellers' site, this could potentially close before April 2024, if this is the case it will be removed from the 2024/25 Agreed Fees and Charges Booklet.

- j. **Property and Land:** All charges for property transactions, copying charges for all legal documents, copy extract of covenants, drafting and negotiating Section 106 and 278 agreements are proposed to be increased by inflation.
- k. **Recreation:** All charges except the rental of allotments (allotment prices are reviewed every three years, the next review will be for the three years 2025/26 to 2027/28) are proposed to have the recommended inflationary increase applied.
- l. **Registrars:** The proposed charges to hire the Ravensworth and Tyne Suites are to increase by CPI inflation (subject to rounding's to keep the price in multiples of £10). The intended price increase to attend an approved premise for a Civil marriage and Civil Partnership are below CPI inflation on Monday to Thursday (1.01%) and Friday and Saturday (4.42%) due to market conditions with a similar to CPI inflation increase of 7.09% on Sunday, Bank Holidays, Christmas and New Years Eve.

CPI inflation increases are proposed for re-affirmation of vows and child naming ceremonies at Ravensworth Suite, with both CPI inflation and below inflation increases being proposed at an Outside Venue (rates depend on days, prices and rounded to the nearest £5 or £10).

- m. **Planning:** Charges for pre-planning advice are proposed to increase in line with CPI inflation (subject to roundings), the same applies to planning history searches. S106 monitoring charges are to increase in line with September 2023 CPI inflation.
- n. **Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance:** The charge for bagged rock salt and rodent control is proposed to be increased by CPI inflation.

Increases Above inflation:

21% of charges are proposed to increase by more than inflation. Proposals are:

- a. **Business Centres:** Some above CPI inflation price increases are proposed for certain rooms and periods at Gateshead International Business Centre, Northern Design Centre, Greensfield Business Centre, Blaydon Business Centre and Baltimore House, this is in addition to some rooms and time periods at these centres proposing price increases below inflation based on market conditions. The price to photocopy and print in black and white in A3 is proposed to be increased by 40% as currently in 2023/24 the price for A3 and A4 printing and photocopying charged is the same despite there being higher costs for printing on A3.
- b. **Car Parking:** The daily suspension of a car park or bay is proposed to increase slightly above inflation by an increase of £10 to the flat fee resulting in a flat fee of £120, in addition to a per bay per day charge. Charges for parking at Coach Park are proposed to be increased above CPI inflation (ranging from 7.14% to 13.33%). Proposed charges for different periods of parking at Cross Keys Lane are to increase between 16.67% and 25% (prices haven't increased since 2019),

similarly the rates for Lowrey's Lane are to increase by 25% (again prices haven't increased since 2019).

The six-month seasonal permit at Pipewellgate Car Park is proposed to increase by 13.9%, all permit types at Quarryfield Road Car Park are intended to increase between 7.47% and 7.87%. The six month and twelve months permit at Whickham Shopping Centre is proposed to rise in price by 25% and 16.67% to £100 and £175 respectively. This is the first price increase since 2019 for the twelve-month permit.

Per hour and daily rates for parking in Whickham Shopping Centre are proposed to be increased by 25% (10p an hour and 50p a day) as prices were last increased in 2019.

The on-street parking hourly rate at Mulgrave Terrace is proposed to increase by 20% (10 pence), there was no price rise in 2023/24. The price for the first annual permit in a residential zone is proposed to increase by £5 (20%), there was no price rise in 2023/24.

Charging for replacement permits are proposed to be increased by 10% (£5), there was no price rise in 2023/24.

The pricing for the administration fee for refunds on all types of parking permits is proposed to increase by 36.36% (£4) for BACS payments and 13.64% (£3) for cheque payments as previous years charges did not reflect the cost to the Council.

- c. **Children's Services:** The charge for the replacement of lost bus passes for children is proposed to increase by 7.43% (Grade F staff pay increase) to £7.95.
- d. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** To act as a greater deterrent and to increase the probability of debt recovery, the charge for the removal of unlawful advertising is proposed to increase by 725% from £30.30 to £250 per item. The cost of storing unlawful advertising will rise from £6.10 to £10 per day (64%).
- e. **Building Control:** Increase in charges above inflation are proposed for over 139 lines within the Fees and Charges booklet. A large number of increases are between 10% and 12% in relation to services such as planning, inspection and regularisation charges for new build houses and also extensions, alterations or conversions to buildings.
- f. **Hire of Facilities:** Charges for the hire of a room at Caedmon Hall Library are proposed to increase by 12% for a half day. The hourly rate to hire the Wailes Room at the Central Library is proposed to increase by 25% from £20 to £25.
- g. **Highways and Transport:** Site visits for temporary traffic signals are to increase by 9.09% to £120 for the first hour and 8.33% to £60 for each subsequent hour. The cost of charging Electric Vehicles at charging posts is to increase by 116.67% from 30 pence per kWh for the car user to 65 pence per kWh, this is to cover the increased costs of electricity usage.
- h. **Planning:** Charges for outline planning applications for site areas over 0.5 hectares will increase by 35%, a maximum charge of £202,500 will apply, this was previously £150,000. The statutory charge for a full planning application for the erection or creation of a dwelling is to increase by 25.11% (for up to 10 dwellings created) and 35% for the creation of over 50 dwellings in a building. A

new charge is to be created for between 10 and 50 dwellings being created in a building (previously there was a charge per dwelling for 50 or fewer dwellings). A maximum charge of £405,000 applies per building, this was previously £300,000. Above average (between 25.21% and 35.06% depending on floor space area) inflation is proposed to be applied for full application charges for the erection of a non-dwelling building development, again a maximum charge of £405,000 applies (previously £300,000). The same maximum charge of £405,000 also applies to the erection of buildings to be used for agricultural purposes and the erection, alteration or replacement of Plant and Machinery, again the previous maximum charge allowed was £300,000. Charges for the erection of buildings to be used for agricultural land are to increase by 25% to 35.06% and 25.11% to 35% for the erection, alteration or replacement of Plant and Machinery. Statutory planning application charges for the erection of glass houses on agricultural land will increase by 25% to 35% (depends on the gross floor space area). Many statutory charges set by the government are to increase by amounts greater than CPI inflation.

- i. **Property and Land:** Fees and charges for property searches have not increased for four years due to market competition. However, to ensure cost recovery, all search fees are proposed to be increased by 10%.
- j. **Registrars:** The charge for copies of a marriage certificate (collection within 15 working days) are proposed to be increased by £1 (9.09%) to £12 (including VAT), in order that the price remains a whole pound amount, there was no price increase in 2023/24. The charge for changing the time or date of a wedding is proposed to increase by 9.09% from £22 to £24 (including VAT).

Slightly above CPI inflation increases are proposed for the re-affirmation of vows and child naming ceremony at the Tyne Suite of 8% to 10.53% with there being different prices depending on day and time.

The proposed charge for a personal private individual British citizenship ceremony at the Civic Centre is to increase by 17.65% (£170 to £200), the increase is in part compensated by the removal of a booking fee for a Citizenship ceremony.

No Change

26% of charges are proposed not to change. Proposals are:

- a. **Business Centres:** The following charges are proposed to be frozen based on pricing being comparable with the local market and to maintain occupancy levels:
 - Charges for occupancy per square foot at Blaydon Business Centre and Greenesfield Business Centre.
 - The hourly rate to hire the twelve and also the six-person meeting room at Baltimore House.
 - The charge for Business Support Services (Business Development Consultancy and Business Planning Support).

Prices are also proposed to remain frozen for the Virtual Office Service and Dedicated Desk (NDC).

The price to have sponsorship of boardrooms at Business Centres is proposed to remain frozen at £3,500, based on market conditions.

The charge for photocopying and printing in black and white in A4 is proposed to remain frozen, based on market conditions and the fact that the income currently covers costs, similar reasons support the proposed freeze in price for replacement keys and fobs.

- b. **Children's Services:** It is proposed not to increase most of the charges to ensure the Council continues to balance affordability with cost recovery.
- c. **Car Parking:** The minimum and maximum on and off-street penalty charges are statutory amounts set and remain frozen, including Bus Lane enforcement. Charges at some car parks are to remain frozen to stimulate demand (back of Regent Terrace and Walker Street Car Park and Gateshead High Street (where charges were increased by 14.29% in 2023/24)). Charges for over 4 hours parking and seasonal permits at Church Street are also to remain frozen. The Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday fixed daily charge is proposed to remain frozen at Civic Centre Car Park A due to it being underused on these days. Council annual staff parking permits at various locations are to remain frozen as a review of permits is pending.

The Sunday fixed daily charge at Felling and Heworth South Metro Car Parks, Swinburne Street and Town Hall Car Park's are proposed to remain frozen due to them currently being underused.

On street parking charges at Peterborough Close are to remain frozen as the price was increased by 16.67% in 2023/24.

Due to underusage, on-street parking charges on Bensham Road are proposed to be frozen.

Second and third resident zone annual permit charges are to remain frozen due to the first permit charge increasing by 20% and there being low demand for more than two permits.

- d. **Corporate Services:** Statutory charges relating to Electoral Services and copies of the marked register are frozen.
- e. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** Many charges are not proposed to change and they are set by statute, including application fees. The majority of charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences are proposed to remain at 2023/24 prices until a cost recovery exercise and consultation is completed.
- f. **Highways and Transport:** Charges for temporary traffic regulation orders are proposed to be frozen at 2023/24 rates as they will be reviewed next year after the move to an online process in 2024/25.
- g. **Hire of Facilities:** There are no proposed increases in the daily rate to hire Caedmon Hall library, however the half day rate is proposed to be increased by 12%. The hourly rate to hire the Dodds Room at the Central Library is proposed to be frozen at £20.

- h. **Housing Related Charges and Licensing:** No proposed change to the Selective Landlord Licensing fees. The charge for Licence Variations is proposed to remain unchanged. The majority of charges such as for phased payment plans are to remain frozen. Penalty charges for Redress schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management are proposed to remain frozen.
- i. **Libraries:** No change is proposed for most Library charges, this includes charges for photocopying to ensure the Council remains competitive. Similarly with the Fax Service, increasing charges would result in a further decline in income for this service. The charge for the hire of DVDs is proposed to be frozen at the 2023/24 rate due to low demand.
- j. **Recreation:** Allotments prices are set every three years. 2024/25 is the third year of the three-year cycle so prices are to remain unchanged.
- k. **Registrars:** The majority of Statutory charges will remain the same as they have been for the previous two years. It's proposed to keep the price to hire the Angel Room on Monday to Thursday at the same rate of £80, this will be reviewed in 2025/26, this room hire only became available in 2023/24. The proposed charge for the registration of premises for marriage and civil partnership and also the three-year renewal of registration of premises for marriage and civil partnerships is proposed to be frozen so that the Council can remain competitive with other local authorities and also to support local businesses.
- l. **Sport and Leisure:** The administration fee for an annual membership is proposed to remain frozen. To encourage health and wellbeing and to increase income from charging for various activities, the prices for different ranges of Gateshead GO cards are proposed to remain frozen at 2023/24 levels.
- m. **Waste Services and Ground Maintenance:** Most MOT test fees are not changing as they are currently set at the maximum statutory level which has not changed, except for those relating to hackney carriages which are non-statutory, a cost recovery exercise and consultation will be completed for this area in March 2024 which will be subject to a separate report on the outcome. The charge for supply and delivery of replacement and new bins is proposed to be frozen, along with bulky waste disposal to help residents cost of living. Also, to help with the cost of living, special collection charges for bulky waste disposal are to remain frozen.

Reduced Charges

1% of charges are proposed to be reduced in 2024/25. Proposals are:

- a. **Hire of Facilities:** There are cancellation fees if room bookings are not cancelled within a certain notice period. In 2023/24, if bookings for rooms at the Central Library were cancelled between two and four weeks prior to the room booking, the fee was 50% of the hire charge, it's proposed this is reduced to 25% of the hire charge. For 2024/25 it is proposed that customers must give more than four weeks' notice to avoid cancellation fees, they will be required to give eight weeks' notice.
- b. **Libraries:** There is very limited demand for CDs, the cost of hiring them is proposed to be reduced by 50% to 50p.

- c. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** The standard process and petroleum vapour recovery part of annual subsistence charges have changed from non-statutory to statutory charges where the price to charge is set by the government, these charges have reduced by between 15.04% and 17.52%. Charges for vehicle refinishers have also changed from non-statutory to statutory, the pricing has reduced from between 15.51% and 16.18% (different prices for different risk levels). The statutory charge for low-risk mobile screening and crushing is proposed to reduce by 3.1% as advised by DEFRA.

New Charges

The following charges are to be included in 2024/25:

- a. **Adult Social Services:** New charges for assisted independent supported living are proposed (including different rates depending on complexity). Shared Lives charges have been added to the booklet, this is a care service matching people aged 16 and above with an approved Shared Lives carer to assist them to live independently in their community. The value of these proposed charges are to be confirmed as they aligned to commissioned rates paid to providers which are still subject to negotiation with care providers. There is also a proposed charge for the Shared Lives client contribution.
- b. **Building Control:** New charges are proposed to be introduced for plan, inspection, building notice and regularisation charges for both single storey and two storey floor extensions exceeding 40m² but not greater than 100m² and 200m² respectively.
- c. **Business Centres:** The option to print and photocopy in colour is to be introduced in 2024/25 and is therefore to be included in the fees and charges booklet. Previously Telephone Headset Rental was priced at POA (price on application), this has now been changed to £13.80. New hourly rates to hire the Collaboration Room and Bleachers Room are proposed, previously only half day and daily rates were available.
- d. **Car Parking:** Currently, there is only an annual staff permit at Hilda House Car Park. As this car park is underused a new seasonal permit for the general public is to be introduced. New time periods to book for e.g., up to 20 minutes are now available at Ely Street and Worcester Green access road.
- e. **Cemeteries and Crematoria:** a new surcharge is proposed to be introduced for non-residents for direct cremations.
- f. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** a new late payment fee of £52 is proposed. A transfer and surrender statutory charge of £78 for a 'new operator at low risk' reduced fee activity extra one-off subsistence charge is proposed to be introduced. New Environmental Health Enforcement Advice charges for 'Safer Food Better Business' packs and diary packs are proposed. A new Pavement Licensing (Business and Planning Act 2020) statutory charge replacing the non-statutory charge is to be introduced. A new storage administration fee of £72 is to be introduced for the removal of unlawfully parked advertising trailers, Large A

Boards, this is in addition to the already existing charges for the removal of the items and the daily storage fee.

- g. **Hire of Facilities:** At the Central Library, a new hourly rate for the Headworks Room is proposed.
- h. **Planning:** A new statutory charge for outline applications for sites less than or equal to 0.5 hectares in size is to be introduced at £578 for each 0.1 hectares. Previously, there was a charge for each 0.1 hectares for the initial 2.5 hectares, this is now to be replaced with 0.5 to 2.5 hectares after the addition of the up to 0.5 hectares charge. There will be new statutory outline application charges for the erection of non-dwelling buildings. The previous charge per dwelling for a full building planning application for 0 to 50 dwellings will be replaced with different rates for 0 to 10 dwellings and 10 to 50 dwellings.

There will also be new statutory planning application charges for different area sized buildings to be erected for agricultural purposes and also for glass houses to be erected on agricultural land, as well as for the erection, alteration or replacement of Plant and Machinery. In previous years, there was a one-off charge (£462 in 2023/24) to change the use of a building or land. This has now been replaced with new charges for each dwelling in a building that is applying for a change of use. There will be a separate standalone charge for any other change of use of a building or land.

Thirteen new statutory charges are to be added for prior approval planning applications.

Previously, planning application charges for the erection of glass houses on agricultural land were split depending on the floor space area between those that are less than 465 square metres and those that exceeded 465 square metres. This has now changed to three different bands, 1) less than 465 square metres which was also a previous band and two new bands 2) between 465 and 1,000 square metres and 3) over 1,000 square metres.

Removals

The following charges are proposed to be removed from the 2024/25 brochure:

- a. **Business Centres:** Currently the charge for A4 single and double-sided printing and photocopying is the same, it's proposed the separate charge for double sided printing and photocopying is removed.
- b. **Car Parking:** new parking pricing periods are to be introduced at Ely Street and Worcester Green access road, with up to 15, 30, 45, 75, 90 and 105 minute offerings to be removed and replaced with different periods for on-street parking.
- c. **Compliance and Regulatory Services:** Charges to weigh vehicles are to be removed from the fees and charges booklet as it's the Tyne and Wear Metrology Lab that determines pricing rather than Gateshead Council. The statutory additional charge if subsistence payments are made by quarterly instalments is to

be removed for 'Reduced fee activities' and 'Local Authority Integrated Pollution, Prevention and Control'. Charges for hoarding on Highways is to be removed. Reduced charges for extra sites for Crane Oversailing are to be removed. Permit Licensing (Business and Planning Act 2020) non-statutory charge is to be removed and replaced with a statutory charge.

- d. **Hire of Facilities:** St Mary's Heritage Centre closed in 2023/24 so hire of this centre will be removed from the fees and charges booklet. The hire of the Training room and Saltwell Towers (evening 7pm until midnight) at Saltwell Park is no longer available so will also be removed from the published charges. The hire of Bewicks A and B rooms at the Civic Centre is now no longer available for hire. The hire of Dryden Centre is no longer available as it has now closed, staff have transferred to other locations.
- e. **Libraries:** In prior years there was a charge to adults for books that were on loan or on order, this service is now free, along with reservations for books on shelves to encourage adult reading. There is no longer a requirement for the Fax Service, therefore all Fax service charges will be removed. Due to limited Central Library space and also a lack of demand there will no longer be an Exhibition Services so charges for this will be removed.
- f. **Registrars:** The charge of a non-refundable booking fee for a citizenship ceremony is to be removed.
- g. **Sport and Leisure:** The ability to hire courts to play squash is no longer available. GO Bears Den and Clip n Climb are also no longer available, this along with the closure of the Flow Rider has resulted in the removal of the offer of a GO Kids 0-7 years GO Unlimited Membership (12-month contract). Birtley Swimming Centre is no longer operated by Gateshead Council.

Consultation

- 9. Council services have engaged with portfolio holders on proposed changes as part of the budget setting process. Where there is a change to existing fees and charges these will be communicated to services users.

Alternative Options

- 10. There are no alternative options proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources

a. Financial Implications – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that the financial implications are detailed in the attached appendices and that the full financial implications of this report are included in Council's Budget and Council Tax Level 2024/25 report presented elsewhere on the agenda. The overall impact of additional income generated as a result of proposed fees and charges increases is currently to increase income base budgets by £0.257m in 2024/25.

b. Human Resources Implications – There are no direct human resource implications as a consequence of this report.

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

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Gateshead Council

Proposed Fees and Charges

2024/25

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ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Residential Accommodation for Older People		
Minimum (per week)	£139.20	£148.53
Maximum - Gateshead residents (per week)	£1,125.30	£1,200.70
Short Term Residential Accommodation for all Adults		
All Establishments (per week)	£139.20	£148.53
Transport to Day Centre (per journey)	£3.70	£3.95
Home Care Service* (per hour)	£19.12	TBC
Extra Care (per hour)	£17.12	TBC
Independent Supported Living* Non-Complex (per hour)		TBC
Independent Supported Living* Complex (per hour)		TBC
Independent Supported Living* Sleep In (per night)		TBC
Independent Supported Living* Waking Night (per hour)		TBC
Day Services* (per day)	£29.85	TBC
Day Services* (per half day)	£14.95	TBC
* Excluding referrals under S117 of Mental Health Act 1983		
Shared Lives* Long Term Carers Fee (per week)		TBC
Shared Lives* Long Term Carers Fee Enhancement (per week)		TBC
Shared Lives* Short Break Overnight Fee (per night)		TBC
Shared Lives* Our Lives Flexible Hour Rate (per hour)		TBC
Service users will be financially assessed to determine their contribution to the cost of their care and takes account the Department of Health tariff income for savings and capital (currently between £14,250 and £23,250)		
Shared Lives Client Contribution		
Shared Lives Client Contribution (per week)		£54.25
Provision of Meals		
Day Centres (per meal)	£5.00	£5.34
Care Call Fees Model		
Sheltered Schemes	£5.42	£5.78
Bronze - Monitoring, response and annual visit	£8.72	£9.30
Silver - Monitoring, response, annual visit and 1 additional item of assistive technology	£9.64	£10.29
Gold - Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit and unlimited assistive technology	£13.74	£14.66
Platinum Monitoring, response, welfare call, annual visit, unlimited assistive technology and activity monitoring service	£21.01	£22.42
Smoke Alarm Monitoring	£0.98	£1.05
Installation charge	£27.70	£29.56
Shopping Service	£6.60	£7.04
Weekly Home Visit 20 Mins	£8.44	£9.01
Weekly Home Visit 30 Mins	£12.66	£13.51
Weekly Home Visit 40 Mins	£16.88	£18.01
Weekly Home Visit 60 Mins	£25.32	£27.02
Weekly Call (Addition to Bronze/Silver Care Call Packages) 5 Mins	£2.11	£2.25
Weekly Call (Addition to Bronze/Silver Care Call Packages) 10 Mins	£4.22	£4.50
Weekly Call (Addition to Bronze/Silver Care Call Packages) 15 Mins	£6.33	£6.75
Weekly Call (Addition to Bronze/Silver Care Call Packages) 20 Mins	£8.44	£9.01
Weekly Call (Addition to Bronze/Silver Care Call Packages) 30 Mins	£12.66	£13.51
Supporting Independence Service (per hour)	£17.85	£18.85
Sporting Clubs for People with Disabilities (Per session)	£6.10	£6.51
MATP (per person per session)	£6.10	£6.51
Rebound Therapy (per person per session)	£30.30	£32.33
iMuse (Per person per session)	£18.40	£19.63
Wheelchair Dance (per person per session)	£12.10	£12.91
Guidepost	£3.60	£3.84
S* where installation of the alarm is requested by tenant VAT is standard rated. If alarm is already built into the property and part of the rent or is part of care package VAT is outside the scope. Tenants with disabilities VAT is zero-rated.		

CHILDREN'S SERVICES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Replacement of lost Bus Passes	£7.40	£7.95
Equipment Hire		
Electric Breast Pump (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£25.50	£25.50
TENS machine (with a returnable £5.00 deposit)	£11.50	£11.50
Equipment Purchase		
Manual Breast Pump	£17.00	£17.00
Toy Library		
Parent Membership:		
6 months	£5.50	£5.50
1 year	£10.00	£10.00
Small organisation membership	£15.00	£15.00
Large organisation membership - 1 year	£55.00	£55.00
Equipment loans - per item dependent upon item and will range between	£1 - £50	£1 - £50
Elgin Centre		
Community Play Provision (per session)	£1.00	£1.00
Sensory Room Per child	£1.00	£1.00
Sensory Room Exclusive Booking	£16.00	£16.00
Early Years Childcare Training Service		
Single Setting Child Protection Training	£364.70	£385.50
Single Setting Designated Persons Training	£364.70	£385.50
Children's Centres		
Activities (per session)	£1.00	£1.00

BUILDING CONTROL	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Standard Charges for New Build Houses		
1 Dwelling		
Plan Charge	£240.00	£265.00
Inspection Charge	£720.00	£795.00
Building Notice Charge	£960.00	£1,060.00
Regularisation charge	£1,200.00	£1,320.00
2 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£360.00	£395.00
Inspection Charge	£950.00	£1,045.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,310.00	£1,440.00
Regularisation charge	£1,637.50	£1,820.00
3 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£480.00	£530.00
Inspection Charge	£1,150.00	£1,265.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,630.00	£1,765.00
Regularisation charge	£2,037.50	£2,205.00
4 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£600.00	£660.00
Inspection Charge	£1,310.00	£1,440.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,910.00	£2,100.00
Regularisation charge	£2,387.50	£2,625.00
5 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£715.00	£785.00
Inspection Charge	£1,490.00	£1,640.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,205.00	£2,425.00
Regularisation charge	£2,756.25	£3,030.00
6 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£760.00	£840.00
Inspection Charge	£1,760.00	£1,940.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,520.00	£2,780.00
Regularisation charge	£3,150.00	£3,475.00
7 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£810.00	£890.00
Inspection Charge	£2,040.00	£2,245.00
Building Notice Charge	£2,850.00	£3,135.00
Regularisation charge	£3,562.50	£3,920.00
8 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£860.00	£950.00
Inspection Charge	£2,310.00	£2,540.00
Building Notice Charge	£3,170.00	£3,490.00
Regularisation charge	£3,962.50	£4,362.00
9 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£910.00	£1,000.00
Inspection Charge	£2,580.00	£2,840.00
Building Notice Charge	£3,490.00	£3,840.00
Regularisation charge	£4,362.50	£4,800.00
10 Dwellings		
Plan Charge	£950.00	£1,045.00
Inspection Charge	£2,850.00	£3,135.00
Building Notice Charge	£3,800.00	£4,180.00
Regularisation charge	£4,750.00	£5,225.00
For applications with number of dwellings in excess of 10 – please contact the Building Control team to discuss the relevant charge.		
Email D&E Building Control		
An additional charge becomes payable when electrical work is not carried out by a Part P Registered Electrician and is set to recover additional Local Authority costs – currently set at £530 + VAT per unit.		
A Part P Registered Electrician is a qualified electrician who also has the necessary Building Regulations knowledge to enable his accreditation body to certify his work.		
Domestic Extensions to a Single Building		
Single storey extension floor area not exceeding 10m²		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£290.00	£320.00
Building Notice Charge	£520.00	£575.00
Regularisation Charge	£650.00	£720.00
Single storey extension floor exceeding 10m² but not exceeding 40m²		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£500.00	£550.00
Building Notice Charge	£730.00	£805.00
Regularisation Charge	£912.50	£1,000.00
Single storey extension floor exceeding 40m² but not exceeding 100m²		
Plan Charge		£255.00
Inspection Charge		£860.00
Building Notice Charge		£1,115.00
Regularisation Charge		£1,393.00

Two storey extension not exceeding 40m²		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£750.00	£825.00
Building Notice Charge	£980.00	£1,080.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,225.00	£1,350.00
Two storey extension exceeding 40m² but not exceeding 200m²		
Plan Charge		£255.00
Inspection Charge		£950.00
Building Notice Charge		£1,205.00
Regularisation Charge		£1,506.00
Loft conversion		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£615.00	£680.00
Building Notice Charge	£845.00	£935.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,056.25	£1,170.00
Erection or extension of a non exempt attached or detached single storey domestic garage or carport up to 100m²		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£225.00	£250.00
Building Notice Charge	£455.00	£505.00
Regularisation Charge	£568.75	£630.00
Conversion of a garage to a dwelling to a habitable room(s)		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£250.00	£275.00
Building Notice Charge	£480.00	£530.00
Regularisation Charge	£600.00	£660.00
Alterations to extend or create a basement up to 100m²		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£615.00	£675.00
Building Notice Charge	£845.00	£930.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,056.25	£1,165.00
* An additional charge is for work when the relevant building work, or part thereof, has not been carried out by a person referred to in regulation 7(5) (g) or (h) of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 applies. It is additional to the inspection charge, building notice charge or regularisation charge		
Domestic Alterations to a Single Building		
Underpinning		
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price		
Plan Charge	£230.00	£255.00
Inspection Charge	£270.00	£295.00
Building Notice Charge	£500.00	£550.00
Regularisation Charge	£625.00	£690.00
Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling		
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price		
Plan Charge	£170.00	£190.00
Inspection Charge	£130.00	£145.00
Building Notice Charge	£300.00	£335.00
Regularisation Charge	£375.00	£415.00
Guardian Roof		
Basis of Charge - Fixed Price		
Plan Charge	£120.00	£135.00
Inspection Charge	£240.00	£265.00
Building Notice Charge	£360.00	£400.00
Regularisation Charge	£450.00	£500.00
Internal alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or, structural alterations (If ancillary to the building of the extension no additional charge)		
Basis of Charge		
Fixed Price Based on Estimated Cost Bands		
Estimated cost less than £5,000		
Plan Charge	£170.00	£190.00
Inspection Charge	£130.00	£145.00
Building Notice Charge	£300.00	£335.00
Regularisation Charge	£375.00	£415.00
Estimated cost exceeding £5,000 up to £25,000		
Plan Charge	£170.00	£190.00
Inspection Charge	£400.00	£440.00
Building Notice Charge	£570.00	£630.00
Regularisation Charge	£712.50	£780.00
Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 up to £50,000		
Plan Charge	£170.00	£190.00
Inspection Charge	£690.00	£760.00
Building Notice Charge	£860.00	£950.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,075.00	£1,190.00
Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 up to £75,000		
Plan Charge	£170.00	£190.00
Inspection Charge	£1,100.00	£1,210.00
Building Notice Charge	£1,270.00	£1,400.00
Regularisation Charge	£1,587.50	£1,750.00

Window replacement (non competent persons scheme)		
Basis of Charge - Fixed price grouped by numbers of windows:		
Per installation up to 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£130.00	£145.00
Regularisation Charge	£162.50	£180.00
Per installation over 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£320.00	£350.00
Regularisation Charge	£400.00	£440.00
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.		
Other, Non-Domestic Work - Extensions and New Build		
Floor area not exceeding 40m²		
Other Residential (Institution and Other)		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£600.00	£660.00
Regularisation charge	£1,162.50	£1,280.00
Non residential buildings		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£540.00	£595.00
Regularisation charge	£1,087.50	£1,200.00
Floor area exceeding 40m² but not exceeding 100m²		
Other Residential (Institution and Other)		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£990.00	£1,090.00
Regularisation charge	£1,650.00	£1,820.00
Non residential buildings		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£990.00	£1,090.00
Regularisation charge	£1,650.00	£1,820.00
The amount of time to carry out the building regulation functions varies, dependent on the different use categories of buildings.		
All Non-Domestic Buildings, Domestic Alterations and Extensions		
Estimated Cost of Work £0-£5,000		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£120.00	£135.00
Building Notice Charge	£450.00	£500.00
Regularisation charge	£562.50	£625.00
Estimated Cost of Work £5,001 - £10,000		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£145.00	£160.00
Building Notice Charge	£475.00	£525.00
Regularisation charge	£593.75	£655.00
Estimated Cost of Work £10,001-£15,000		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£300.00	£330.00
Building Notice Charge	£630.00	£695.00
Regularisation charge	£787.50	£870.00
Estimated Cost of Work £15,001-£20,000		
Plan Charge	£330.00	£365.00
Inspection Charge	£360.00	£400.00
Building Notice Charge	£690.00	£765.00
Regularisation charge	£862.50	£955.00
Estimated Cost of Work £20,001-£100,000		
Plan Charge for each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Inspection Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Building Notice Charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Regularisation charge or each £1,000 (or part thereof) over £20,001-£100,000	POA	POA
Demolition Charge		
	£240.00	£265.00
Window Replacement up to 20 windows		
Building Notice Charge	£130.00	£145.00
Regularisation charge	£162.50	£180.00
Schemes over £100,000 estimate of cost to be individually determined – please contact the Building Control team – the charge will be confirmed in writing.		
Scaffold Registration Fee	£85.00	£95.00
Skips *		
Annual Permit Scheme Membership	£60.00	£65.00
Standard Permit (Permit Scheme Member)	£25.00	£27.00
Standard Permit (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£30.00	£35.00
Same Day (Permit Scheme Member)	£55.00	£60.00
Retrospective	£110.00	£120.00
Renewal (Permit Scheme Member)	£15.00	£16.00
Renewal (Non Permit Scheme Member)	£20.00	£22.00
* The skip provider/supplier is responsible for payment. Copy of waste carrier licence and public liability insurance must be provided.		
General		
Copies of Approvals and Certificates	£30.00	£32.00
Safety Advice - per hour		
	£90.00	£96.00

Scaffold and hoardings		
12 weeks permit	£150.00	£160.00
12 weeks permit (competent contractor with appropriate, current qualifications)	£95.00	£100.00
If a site visit is required	£60.00	£65.00
For up to 28 days extension	£30.00	£32.00
Re-inspection fee	£60.00	£64.00

CAR PARKING	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
CAR PARKS - OFF STREET		
Off-Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge)*		
Minimum	£50.00	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00	£70.00
*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment		
Back Regent Terrace / Back Walker Terrace Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.10	£1.10
Up to 2 hours	£2.20	£2.20
Up to 3 hours	£3.30	£3.30
Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£924.00	£924.00
Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,386.00	£1,386.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£528.00	£528.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£739.00	£739.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£281.00	£281.00
3 months Seasonal Permit (All days)	£393.00	£393.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days (per day))	£185.00	£185.00
	£110 flat fee + £5.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £5.00 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or bay		
Charles Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.60	£1.70
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	£3.20	£3.40
Up to 3 hours	£4.80	£5.10
	£110 flat fee + £10.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £10.00 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park (per day)		
Church Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday all times, max stay 3 days)		
Up to 2 hours	£3.20	£3.40
Up to 4 hours	£4.90	£5.20
Up to 12 hours	£6.60	£6.60
Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 72 hours)	£8.80	£8.80
12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£1,109.00	£1,109.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1,663.00	£1,663.00
6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£634.00	£634.00
6 month Seasonal Permit(All days)	£887.00	£887.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£337.00	£337.00
3 month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£471.00	£471.00
12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£222.00	£222.00
	£110 flat fee + £8.80 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £8.80 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or bay		
Civic Centre Car Park A (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm)		
First 20 minutes (ticket from machine required)	Free	Free
Up to 1 hour	£1.40	£1.50
Up to 2 hours	£2.80	£3.00
Up to 3 hours	£4.20	£4.50
Up to 4 hours	£5.60	£6.00
All day	£7.40	£7.90
Saturday, Sunday & BH fixed daily charge	£2.20	£2.20
Annual staff permit	£425.04	£425.04
	£110 flat fee + £7.40 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £7.90 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or Bay		
Coach Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 9.00pm)		
Up to 1 hour	£2.50	£2.70
Up to 2 hours	£3.50	£3.90
Up to 3 hours	£4.50	£5.10
Over 3 hours/All Day	£7.00	£7.50
	£110 flat fee + £14.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £15.00 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or Bay		
Bay reservation fee (inclusive of full day's parking fee)	£14.00 per day	£15.00 per day

Cross Keys Lane Car Park (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) (per hour)	£0.40	£0.50
	£2.00	£2.50
All Day	£80.00	£100.00
6 month Seasonal Permits (All days)	£150.00	£175.00
12 month Seasonal Permits (All days)	£110 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £2.50 per bay per day
Suspension of Car Park or Bay		
Felling Metro Car Park (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.30	£1.40
Up to 2 hours	£2.20	£2.40
All day	£3.90	£4.20
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£2.20	£2.20
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £3.90 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £4.20 per bay per day
Garden Street Car Park (Oakwellgate) (Monday - Friday 4.00pm - 9.00pm. Permit holders only 8.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri)		
Up to 3 hours	£2.20	£2.40
Over 3 hours/All Day	£3.90	£4.20
(Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 8.00am-9.00pm)		
Up to 3 hours	£2.20	£2.40
Over 3 hours/All Day	£3.90	£4.20
(Permit holders - all days, all times)		
6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£374.00	£403.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£524.00	£564.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £3.90 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £4.20 per bay per day
Gateshead Leisure Centre Car Park Loading Bay Permit (per vehicle per day)		
	£11.00	£12.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £1.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £1.20 per bay per day
Heworth North Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Sunday all times, max stay 7 days)		
Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.20
Up to 12 hours	£2.80	£3.00
Up to 24 hours (and each subsequent 24 hour period or part thereof, up to 168 hours)	£3.90	£4.20
12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£470.00	£504.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£706.00	£756.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£269.00	£288.00
6 Month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£376.00	£403.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£143.00	£153.00
3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days)	£200.00	£214.00
12 Month Seasonal Permit (specified days)	£94.00	£101.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £3.90 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £4.20 per bay per day
Heworth South Car Park (Metro station) (Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 8.00pm 4hr max stay)		
Up to 2 hours	£2.20	£2.40
Up to 4 hours	£3.90	£4.20
Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£2.20	£2.20
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £6.00 per bay per day
Hilda House Car Park Seasonal permit (new) Annual staff permit		
	NEW	£353.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£260.04	£260.04
	£110 flat fee + £1.60 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £1.60 per bay per day
Lowrey's Lane Car Park (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm)		
First 20 minutes	Free	Free
Per hour	£0.40	£0.50
All day	£2.00	£2.50
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £2.50 per bay per day

Pipewellgate Car Park All days 8.00am - 6.00pm. Permit holders only Mon - Fri 8.00am - 4.00pm Monday-Friday 4.00pm-6.00pm - up to 2 hours Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays - All Day 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday)	£1.70	£1.80
	£3.30	£3.50
	£295.00	£336.00
Suspension of Car Park or Bay	£110 flat fee + £3.30 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £3.50 per bay per day
Quarryfield Road Car Park (Monday to Sunday all times, maximum stay 3 days) Up to 2 hours Up to 4 hours Up to 12 hours Up to 24 hours Up to 48 hours Up to 72 hours 12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 month Seasonal Permit (All days) 3 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 3 month Seasonal Permit (All days) 12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£2.40	£2.60
	£3.60	£3.90
	£5.30	£5.70
	£7.50	£8.00
	£15.00	£16.00
	£22.50	£24.00
	£890.00	£958.00
	£1,336.00	£1,436.00
	£509.00	£547.00
	£712.00	£766.00
	£270.00	£291.00
	£378.00	£407.00
	£178.00	£192.00
	£110 flat fee + £7.50 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £8.00 per bay per day
Regent Court Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 8.00pm) Up to 2 hours Up to 3 hours Up to 4 hours All day Sunday (Fixed daily charge) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 Month Seasonal Permit (All days) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 6 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 3 Month Seasonal Permit (All Days) 12 month Seasonal Permit (specified days) (per day)	£2.50	£2.80
	£3.40	£3.70
	£4.40	£4.70
	£5.40	£5.70
	£2.20	£2.20
	£907.00	£958.00
	£1,246.00	£1,310.00
	£518.00	£547.00
	£664.00	£699.00
	£275.00	£291.00
	£353.00	£371.00
	£181.00	£192.00
	£110 flat fee + £5.40 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £5.70 per bay per day
Sunderland Road (Tynegate) Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm) All day Annual Staff Permit 12 month Seasonal Permit (Monday - Friday) 12 month Seasonal Permit (All days)	£1.30	£1.40
	£260.04	£260.04
	£218.00	£235.00
	£328.00	£353.00
	£110 flat fee + £1.30 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £1.40 per bay per day
Swinburne Street Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm) Up to 2 hours All Day Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£2.20	£2.40
	£4.40	£4.80
	£2.20	£2.20
	£110 flat fee + £4.40 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £4.80 per bay per day
Town Hall Car Park (Monday - Sunday 8.00am - 6.00pm) Up to 2 hours All day Sunday (Fixed daily charge)	£2.20	£2.40
	£4.40	£4.80
	£2.20	£2.20
	£110 flat fee + £4.40 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £4.80 per bay per day
Suspension of car park or bay		

Whickham Shopping Centre (East) Car Park (short stay) (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm 4hr max stay) Per hour	£0.40	£0.50
Suspension of car park or bay	£110.00 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £2.50 per bay per day
Whickham Shopping Centre (West) Car Park (long stay) (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm) Per hour	£0.40	£0.50
All Day	£2.00	£2.50
6 months Season Permit (All days)	£80.00	£100.00
12 months Seasonal Permit (All days)	£150.00	£175.00
Suspension of car park or bay	£110.00 flat fee + £2.00 per bay per day	£120 flat fee + £2.50 per bay per day
Other car parks where no parking charge is payable		
Suspension of car park or bay	£110 flat fee + £1.10 per bay per day £50.00	£120 flat fee + £1.10 per bay per day £55.00
Replacement permit fee (all car parks, all circumstances)		
ON STREET PARKING		
On Street Penalty Charge (Statutory Charge) *		
Minimum	£50.00	£50.00
Maximum	£70.00	£70.00
*Charge is dependent on seriousness of contravention and set by Government. Discounted by 50% for prompt payment		
Church Street (Nos 1-3) Gateshead (All days 8.30am - 5.30pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£2.00	£2.20
Up to 2 hours	£3.60	£3.90
Up to 3 hours	£5.30	£5.70
Ely Street, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 20 mins (new)	NEW	£0.40
Up to 40 mins (new)	NEW	£0.80
Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.20
Up to 1 hour 20 mins (new)	NEW	£1.60
Up to 1 hour 40 mins (new)	NEW	£2.00
Up to 2 hours	£1.80	£2.40
Half Moon Lane/Hudson Street/Wellington St, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£0.90	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£1.40	£1.50
Up to 3 hours	£1.90	£2.00
High Street, Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 20 mins	£0.80	£0.80
Up to 40 mins	£1.60	£1.60
Up to 1 hour	£2.40	£2.40
Up to 1 hour 20 mins	£3.20	£3.20
Up to 1 hr 40 mins	£4.00	£4.00
Up to 2 hours	£4.80	£4.80
Hopper Street, Gateshead (Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£1.10	£1.20
Up to 2 hours	£2.20	£2.40
Mulgrave Terrace, Gateshead (Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5.30pm) Per hour	£0.50	£0.60
Peterborough Close, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm) Per Hour	£0.70	£0.70
Queen Elizabeth Avenue (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 3hr max stay)		
Up to 1 hour	£0.90	£1.00
Up to 2 hours	£1.80	£1.90
Up to 3 hours	£2.70	£2.80

Bensham Rd (Walker Terrace), Gateshead (All days 8.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay) Up to 20 mins Up to 40 mins Up to 1 hour Up to 1 hr 20 mins Up to 1 hr 40 mins Up to 2 hours	£0.80 £1.60 £2.40 £3.20 £4.00 £4.80	£0.80 £1.60 £2.40 £3.20 £4.00 £4.80
Warwick Street, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay) Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours	£1.10 £2.20	£1.20 £2.40
Worcester Green access road, Gateshead (Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm 2hr max stay) Up to 20 mins (new) Up to 40 mins (new) Up to 1 hour Up to 1 hour 20 mins (new) Up to 1 hour 40 mins (new) Up to 2 hours	NEW NEW £1.00 NEW NEW £1.80	£0.40 £0.80 £1.20 £1.60 £2.00 £2.40
BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT (subject to Council and Secretary of State approval)		
Penalty Charge Notices under S144 Transport Act 2000 for being in a bus lane	£70.00 (discounted by 50% if paid within a statutory period)	£70.00 (discounted by 50% if paid within a statutory period)
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents (per permit) First Permit Second permit (if applicable) Third permit (if applicable)	£25.00 £50.00 £75.00	£30.00 £50.00 £75.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Residents' Visitor Book (10 vouchers) (3hr max stay) OAP/Blue Badge Residents (3hr max stay) permit valid for 3 years	£5.00 £15.00	£5.50 £16.00
Resident Zone Annual Permit - Businesses (charge per permit) Blue Badge (Statutory Charge) Replacement permit charge Change of vehicle charge Health Professionals' permit Landlord Permit	£150.00 £10.00 £20.00 £10.00 £100.00 £50.00	£160.00 £10.00 £20.00 £10.00 £110.00 £50.00
Trade permit (maximum 2 weeks)	£5.00 flat fee plus £2.00 per day	£10.00 flat fee plus £2.00 per day
West Street Loading Bay Suspension, Dispensation and Site visits	£150.00	£160.00
Parking Dispensation Notice	£110.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.50 for each 6 metres or part thereof	£120.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.50 per bay/space per day
Suspension Notice (Parking Bays)	£110.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.50 per bay/space per day	£120.00 non-refundable fee plus £5.50 per bay/space per day
Site visit charge (per visit)	£100 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof	£110 (for up to 1 hour) + £50.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof
Refunds for all parking permits (car parks and residents') Admin fee for refunds made by BACS Admin fee for refunds made by cheque (no other mode of refund is available)	£11.00 £22.00	£15.00 £25.00

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Interments		
For the interment in a grave taken in rotation of an adult 18 years of age or over. (This does not include the Exclusive Rights of Burial)	£959.00	£1,023.00
Additional cost of a grave taken out of rotation	£83.00	£89.00
For the interment of cremated remains in a grave taken in rotation	£276.00	£295.00
Interment fee Mon - Thurs 2pm - 4pm, Fri 1.45pm - 4pm	£1,205.00	£1,286.00
Interment Saturday up to 3pm (by prior arrangement only)	£1,916.00	£2,044.00
For any interment taking place more than 15 minutes before or after the appointment time, an additional fee for every further 15 minutes or fractional part thereof	£62.50	£67.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in full graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£825.00	£880.00
For period of 60 years	£990.00	£1,056.00
For period of 70 years	£1,155.00	£1,232.00
For period of 80 years	£1,318.00	£1,406.00
For period of 90 years	£1,485.00	£1,585.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in cremated remains graves. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in in rotation in any part of the burial ground. NOTE - All new graves must be purchased Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£482.00	£514.00
For period of 60 years	£577.00	£616.00
For period of 70 years	£674.00	£719.00
For period of 80 years	£771.00	£823.00
For period of 90 years	£866.00	£924.00
Exclusive Rights of Burial in childs grave. For the exclusive right of burial in a grave space taken in rotation in any part of the burial ground. Total term must not exceed 90 years. Fee for the following duration:		
For period of 50 years	£482.00	£514.00
For period of 60 years	£577.00	£616.00
For period of 70 years	£674.00	£719.00
For period of 80 years	£771.00	£823.00
For period of 90 years	£866.00	£924.00
Note- The fees indicated include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof. On the expiry of original term referred to above, an option may be exercised to extend the period of Exclusive Right of Burial for a further period (total term must not exceed 90 years).		
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of burial on expiry of initial lease (Must not extend beyond 90 years in total)		
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of Burial - Full Grave		
20 years	£330.00	£352.00
30 years	£496.00	£529.00
40 years	£660.00	£704.00
Extension to existing to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Cremated Remains Grave		
20 years	£193.00	£206.00
30 years	£289.00	£308.00
40 years	£386.00	£412.00
Extension to existing Exclusive Rights of burial - Childrens Grave		
20 years	£193.00	£206.00
30 years	£289.00	£308.00
40 years	£386.00	£412.00
Note - In some instances double fees may apply for non - residents. Please check with Bereavement Office.		
Gravestones, Tablets and Monumental Inscriptions		
For the right to erect or place a grave or vault in respect of which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted:		
A memorial stone 450mm up to 915mm in height and 450mm to 915mm in width (vertical)	£323.50	£345.00
NB All stones over 915mm in height or width will be priced on application	POA	POA
Additional inscription on a headstone	£67.00	£72.00
Half kerbstones - lawned section width of stone 600mm in front (full burials only)	£207.00	£221.00
Kerbstones or border stones enclosing a space not exceeding the measurements specified in the Regulations.	£413.00	£441.00
Horizontal Plaque to be placed between kerb stones not exceeding 750mm x 750mm.	£78.00	£83.00
A Memorial Seat		
Memorial seat without the need for a base to be constructed	£1,490.50	£1,590.00
Memorial Seat with the need for a base to be constructed	£2,294.00	£2,448.00
Memorial cast iron plaque on existing seat in Saltwell Park for 10 years	£627.00	£669.00
Additional or replacement plaque on an existing seat	£228.50	£244.00
Renewal of 10 year lease for plaque	£397.50	£424.00

Miscellaneous Charges		
Exhumation fees (excluding charges for re-interring)	POA	POA
Free standing vase, tablet, or flower stand (right to place) up to 450mm x 300mm	£33.50	£36.00
Coffin Cover	£732.00	£781.00
Register transfer of ownership of grave or vault	£44.50	£47.00
Use of cemetery chapel for services (only if available) fee is in addition to interment fee.	£115.00	£123.00
Replacement memorial stone	£78.00	£83.00
Replacement kerbstone (Half Kerbs)	£104.00	£111.00
Replacement kerbstone (Full Kerbs)	£204.50	£218.00
Renovation - regilding, cleaning etc	£47.50	£51.00
Service cancellation (less than 72 hours notice)	£197.50	£211.00
Cremation		
Of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 18 years	£748.00	£798.00
Environmental Surcharge	£54.00	£58.00
Non-Resident Surcharge	£40.00	£43.00
Additional service time of 20 mins at Saltwell Crematorium for 12 noon & 3 pm services only	£74.50	£80.00
Note - These fees apply where a cremation takes place between the hours of 9.00am and 3.30pm on weekdays, in any other cases, the fee will be increased by 100%. The cremation fee includes: Use of Chapel, waiting room, etc, and all attendance after coffin placed on catafalque by undertaker The fees include the disposal of cremated remains in the garden of remembrance and a polycontainer for cremated remains.		
Direct Cremation - No Service Available		
Direct Cremation - Resident	£472.00	£504.00
Direct Cremation - Non Resident Surcharge	£40.00	£43.00
Entries in Book of Remembrance including touch screen visual display of entry accessible throughout the year		
Each line of entry (entries must consist of either 2, 5 or 8 lines)	£40.00	£43.00
For Emblem or Service Badge	£132.50	£141.00
Family Crest or Coat of Arms	£157.00	£168.00
Token Entry charged at actual cost plus:		
Admin fee	£39.00	£42.00
Miscellaneous Charges		
Medical Referee	£45.50	£49.00
Witness Scattering of Cremated Remains if Cremation was carried out within Gateshead	£49.00	£52.00
Witness Scattering of Cremated Remains if Cremation was carried out elsewhere	£65.00	£69.00
Disposal in Garden of Remembrance of a person cremated elsewhere	£65.00	£69.00
Family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free). Charge applicable for all other searches. Charge is for one name, at one location.	£40.00	£43.00
Memorial Wall Plaque for 10 years	£524.50	£560.00
Extension of memorial wall plaque or memorial kerb plaque for period of 10 years (on expiry of lease)	£295.50	£315.00
Memorial Kerb Tablet including plaque, inscription & vase (for a period of 10 years)	£913.50	£975.00
Memorial Wall / Kerb Tablet - replacement plaque (for remainder of 10 year lease)	£230.50	£246.00
Appointment with staff to be shown grave location for family search (searches for children, siblings, parents, grandparents are free)	£43.50	£47.00
Dignified disposal of body parts - charged at 50% of the appropriate charge for an interment or a cremation.	POA	POA
Webcasting Service	£56.50	£60.00

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY SERVICES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Trading Standards Fees for the purpose of any work carried out under the provisions of Weights and Measures Act 1985 and for any other metrological activity. For the testing of any equipment, the fee will be determined by the hourly rate of the Weights and Measures Inspector and will include a fee for time for preparation and travelling to the place of verification or testing. Where the nature of the equipment requires the presence of support staff, an additional fee will be charged to include an hourly rate for the member of staff and will include travelling to the place of verification or testing. An additional charge will be made to cover the cost of hiring any additional equipment required for the test.		
Hourly rate for an Inspector of Weights and Measures	£99.10	£106.00
Hourly rate for a member of support staff	£43.70	£46.50
General Trading Standards Advice - per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Authorisations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 / Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 Local Authority Pollution Control		
Application Fee - All charges are Statutory		
Standard Process	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00
PVR 1 & dry cleaners	£155.00	£155.00
PVR 1 & 2 combined	£257.00	£257.00
Vehicle refinishers & other reduced fee activities	£362.00	£362.00
Reduced fee activities*: Additional fee for operating without a permit	£99.00	£71.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
For the third to seventh applications	£985.00	£985.00
For the eighth and subsequent applications	£498.00	£498.00
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application, an extra charge is added to the above amounts	£308.00	£308.00
Annual Subsistence Charge		
Standard Process - Low Risk	£919.00	£772.00
Standard Process - Low Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£124.00	£104.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk	£1,380.00	£1,161.00
Standard Process - Medium Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£187.00	£156.00
Standard Process - High Risk	£2,080.00	£1,747.00
Standard Process - High Risk additional amount which must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation	£244.00	£207.00
Reduced fee activities - Low Risk - Statutory Charge	£79.00	£79.00
Reduced fee activities - Medium Risk - Statutory Charge	£158.00	£158.00
Reduced fee activities - High Risk - Statutory Charge	£237.00	£237.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Low Risk	£137.00	£113.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - Medium Risk	£266.00	£226.00
Petroleum Vapour Recovery stage I and II - High Risk	£406.00	£341.00
* Reduced fee activities are service stations, vehicle refinishers, dry cleaners		
Vehicle refinishers, Low Risk**	£272.00	£228.00
Vehicle refinishers, Medium Risk**	£432.00	£365.00
Vehicle refinishers, High Risk**	£653.00	£548.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£646.00	£626.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant, High Risk - Statutory charge	£1,506.00	£1,551.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£385.00	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£617.00	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£924.00	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Low Risk - Statutory charge	£198.00	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Medium Risk - Statutory charge	£316.00	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, High Risk - Statutory charge	£473.00	£473.00
Late Payment Fee		£52.00
**Where part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation, an extra £104.00 must be added to the above amounts.		
Transfer and surrender - All charges are Statutory		
Standard process transfer	£169.00	£169.00
Standard process partial transfer	£497.00	£497.00
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity (extra one-off subsistence charge - see article 15(2) of charging scheme)		£78.00
Surrender: all Part B activities	n/a	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: transfer	n/a	n/a
Reduced fee activities***: partial transfer	£47.00	£47.00
(2010/11) New Operator at low risk reduced fee activity	£78.00	£78.00
Temporary Transfers for Mobiles - All charges are Statutory		
First Transfer	£53.00	£53.00
Repeat following enforcement or warning	£53.00	£53.00

Substantial Changes (Sections 10 and 11 of the Act) - All charges are Statutory		
Standard Process	£1,050.00	£1,050.00
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
Reduced fee activities***	£102.00	£102.00
***All above charges include the extra £98 for reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation		
Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control - All charges are Statutory		
Application	£3,363.00	£3,363.00
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00
Annual Subsistence - Low	£1,446.00	£1,446.00
Annual Subsistence - Medium	£1,610.00	£1,610.00
Annual Subsistence - High	£2,333.00	£2,333.00
Late Payment Fee	£52.00	£52.00
Substantial Variation	£1,368.00	£1,368.00
Transfer	£235.00	£235.00
Partial Transfer	£698.00	£698.00
Surrender	£698.00	£698.00
LAPC and LAPP mobile plant charges (Application/ Subsistence) - All charges are Statutory		
1 authorisation, Application fee	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00	£646.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
1 authorisation, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00	£1,506.00
2 authorisations, Application fee	£1,650.00	£1,650.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£646.00	£646.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£1,034.00	£1,034.00
2 authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£1,506.00	£1,506.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Application fee	£985.00	£985.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£385.00	£385.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£617.00	£617.00
For the third to seventh authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£924.00	£924.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Application fee	£498.00	£498.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Low risk	£198.00	£198.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence Medium risk	£316.00	£316.00
For the eighth and subsequent authorisations, Subsistence High risk	£473.00	£473.00
Land Contamination queries		
General Queries	£174.80	£186.50
Large or Complex Queries - actual cost using hourly charge out rates	POA	POA
Environmental Enforcement		
Littering	£85.50	£91.00
Dog control offences	£85.50	£91.00
Graffiti	£85.50	£91.00
Fly-posting	£85.50	£91.00
Animal Welfare (Licencing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018		
Pet Shop Licence*	£315.20	£336.30
Pet Shop Renewal*	£247.50	£264.10
Animal Boarding Establishment - Licence*	£320.00	£341.45
Animal Boarding Establishment - Renewal	£226.00	£241.15
Host Licence	£86.90	£92.75
Host Licence Renewal	£86.90	£92.75
Dog Breeders - Licence*	£315.20	£336.35
Dog Breeding Renewal	£226.00	£241.15
Dangerous Wild Animals - Licence	£172.50	£184.05
Riding Establishment - Licence*	£315.20	£336.35
Riding Establishment - Renewal*	£271.30	£289.50
Performing Animals Registration	£291.50	£311.05
Performing Animals Renewal	£247.50	£264.10
Performing Animals - Amendment to a current listed above	£17.80	£19.00
Performing Animals - Copies of licence	£17.80	£19.00
Zoo Licensing *	£356.80	£380.70
Any additional work for variations of the above will be charged at the hourly rate of £36		
* Plus cost of veterinary inspection		
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013		
New Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£424.70	£453.15
New Application (3yrs) - Collector Licence	£174.70	£186.40
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Site Licence	£314.30	£335.35
Renewal Application (3yrs) - Collectors Licence	£94.70	£101.05
Variation Application - Site Licence	£83.80	£89.40
Variation Application - Collector Licence	£46.80	£49.95
Variations (address/ vehicles/ contact details)	£12.70	£13.55
Replacement Licence or Badge	£11.10	£11.85
Provision of scrap metal licensing advice , per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Practice of acupuncture or the business of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis		
Person (one off charge)	£148.70	£158.65
Premises (one off charge)	£291.50	£311.00

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licences		
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£180.30	£180.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£180.30	£180.30
A full refund (less a variable administration fee) on any licence fee will only be made following a written request made within 28 days of the licence having been processed. After 28 days, the value of the refund will equal the vehicle plate deposit, plus (if the 6 month test has not been taken) the vehicle test fee.		
Private Hire Operators Licence	£157.00	£157.00
Operators Annual Fee (Years 2-5)	£105.00	£105.00
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90	£51.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90	£86.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90	£121.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£51.90	£51.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£86.90	£86.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£121.90	£121.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£84.00	£84.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£119.00	£119.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£154.00	£154.00
Upgrade to dual driver licence from hackney carriage or private hire driver	£32.10	£34.25
Replacement of Licence or Badge	£12.10	£12.90
Vehicle Plate Deposit	£16.40	£17.50
Locality Test Fee	£16.40	£17.50
Transfer of vehicle proprietor of change of vehicle	£27.00	£28.80
Replacement door crest (each)	£5.80	£6.20
Copy of CSE course attendance certificate - Hackney, Private, or Dual driver	£12.30	£13.15
Expedited Applications (48 hour response)		
Vehicle Licence - Hackney Carriage	£230.30	£230.30
Vehicle Licence - Private Hire	£230.30	£230.30
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90	£101.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90	£136.90
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90	£171.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (1 year)	£101.90	£101.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (2 years)	£136.90	£136.90
Private Hire Drivers Licence (3 years)	£171.90	£171.90
Dual Driver Licence (1 year)	£134.00	£134.00
Dual Driver Licence (2 years)	£169.00	£169.00
Dual Driver Licence (3 years)	£204.00	£204.00
Provision of hackney carriage and or private hire licensing advice, per hour	£90.90	£90.90
Pleasure Craft Licences		
Vessel (Annual)	£86.00	£91.75
Person (Annual)	£26.50	£28.30
	£26.50	£100.08
Sex Establishments		
Sex Shop	£2,330.00	£2,486.00
Sex Cinema	£2,330.00	£2,486.00
Sexual Entertainment Venue	£2,330.00	£2,486.00
Sex Establishment Variation/ Transfer Fee	£1,050.00	£1,120.00
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice		
Environmental Health Enforcement Advice - per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Food Safety export certificates	£92.40 plus £92.40 per hour	£98 plus £98 per hour
Food Hygiene Rerating	£196.00	£209.20
Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) Pack		£6.00
Safer Food Better Business Diary Pack		£6.00
General Licensing Advice - per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Initial purchase fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges		
Rateable Value		
£0 - £4,300	£100.00	£100.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£190.00	£190.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£315.00	£315.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£450.00	£450.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£900.00	£900.00
£125,001 & Over	£635.00	£635.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,905.00	£1,905.00
Annual renewal fee for a Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence - Statutory Charges		
Rateable Value		
£0 - £4,300	£70.00	£70.00
£4,301 - £33,000	£180.00	£180.00
£33,001 - £87,000	£295.00	£295.00
£87,001 - £125,000	£320.00	£320.00
£87,001 - £125,000 (primarily selling alcohol)	£640.00	£640.00
£125,001 & Over	£350.00	£350.00
£125,001 & Over (primarily selling alcohol)	£1,050.00	£1,050.00

Other Statutory Charges		
Minor Variation of Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate	£89.00	£89.00
Theft/Loss of Club Premises Certificate, Premises Licence or Summary	£10.50	£10.50
Change to Name or Address	£10.50	£10.50
Change of Club Name or Alteration to Rules	£10.50	£10.50
Change of Registered Address of Club	£10.50	£10.50
Additional fees for Premises (Large Scale Venues) Contact Licensing Section on 0191 433 4741 or licensing@gateshead.gov.uk		
Variation of DPS on Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Application to Transfer Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Interim Authority for Premises Licence	£23.00	£23.00
Disapplication of a Mandatory Alcohol Condition	£23.00	£23.00
Interest in Premises (Right of Freeholder to be Notified)	£21.00	£21.00
Temporary Event Notice	£21.00	£21.00
Theft/Loss of Temporary Event Notice	£10.50	£10.50
Provisional Statement	£315.00	£315.00
Theft/Loss of Provisional Statement	£10.50	£10.50
Personal Licence (Grant or Renewal)	£37.00	£37.00
Change to Name or Address	£10.50	£10.50
Theft/Loss of Personal Licence	£10.50	£10.50
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£300.00	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Prize Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£300.00	£300.00
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Club Gaming Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£200.00	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Club Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£200.00	£200.00
Grant (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00
Renewal (Club Premises Certificate Holder)	£100.00	£100.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits - Statutory Charges		
Application Fee	£150.00	£150.00
Existing Operator Grant	£100.00	£100.00
Variation	£100.00	£100.00
Transfer	£25.00	£25.00
Annual Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Change of Name	£25.00	£25.00
Copy of Permit	£15.00	£15.00
Licensed Premises Automatic Notification Process - Statutory charge		
Notification	£50.00	£50.00
Small Lottery Registration - Statutory Charges		
Grant	£40.00	£40.00
Annual Fee	£20.00	£20.00
Street Trading Consent		
1 Day (1 to 6 days)	£30.30	£32.35
1 Week	£121.30	£129.45
Summer Season (1 May to 31 October)	£515.80	£550.40
Winter Season (1 November to 30 April)	£515.80	£550.40
12 Months	£910.20	£971.20
Variations to above Consents:		
Change in Location	£85.90	£91.70
Change of individual's name/address	£39.60	£42.25
Transfer of ownership	£39.60	£42.25
Change of Vehicle	£39.60	£42.25

Consent for Markets with Multiple Traders (per stall)		
Daily (1-6 market days)	£30.30	£32.35
1 Week	£121.30	£129.45
Summer Season	£515.80	£550.40
Winter Season	£515.80	£550.40
12 Months	£910.20	£971.20
Market		
Daily per stall per day (1-6 market days)	£30.30	£32.35
Up to monthly per stall (7-12 market days)	£121.30	£129.45
Up to weekly per stall (13-52 market days)	£515.80	£550.40
Block Consent Annual Fee	£1,965.00	£2,096.70
Provision of street trading and Market advice	£90.90	£97.00
Gambling Act Fees		
Bingo Club		
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,300.00	£2,454.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,750)	£1,750.00	£1,750.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,500)	£2,300.00	£2,454.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Betting Premises		
New Application (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,850.00	£1,974.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £600)	£600.00	£600.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,500)	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £3,000)	£1,830.00	£1,952.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Track betting		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,300.00	£2,454.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,250)	£1,250.00	£1,250.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,500)	£2,300.00	£2,454.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Adult Gaming Centres		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,630.00	£1,740.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,600.00	£1,710.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £1,200)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Family Entertainment		
New Application (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,630.00	£1,740.00
Annual Fee (maximum prescribed £750)	£750.00	£750.00
Application to Vary (maximum prescribed £1,000)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Application to Transfer (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Application for Re-instatement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £2,000)	£1,630.00	£1,740.00
New with Provisional Statement (maximum prescribed £950)	£950.00	£950.00
Copy Licence (maximum prescribed £25)	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of Change (maximum prescribed £50)	£50.00	£50.00
Provision of advice about gambling Act applications, per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Planning, highways and environmental enforcement		
Provision of enforcement services	£330.00 per day	£352.00 Per Day
Provision of enforcement advice, per hour	£90.90	£97.00
Highway Licensing		
Planting Trees, Shrubs in the Highway		
New Licence Application (subject to additionally)	£310.00	£331.00
Annual Inspection and monitoring fee (this is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted)	£92.30	£98.50
Licence transfer	£30.30	£32.35

Portable Cabins (including storage containers)		
Up to 28 days	£68.30	£73.00
Up to 28 days extension	£30.30	£32.35
Where cabins or containers are required for considerably longer than 56 days, contact should be made directly with Officers.		
Building Materials, Rubbish, etc.		
Up to 10 days	£37.50	£40.00
Up to 10 days extension	£30.30	£32.35
Building materials will not be permitted in the highway for longer than 20 days.		
Buildings and structural projections from buildings on or over the highway		
0 -5 years	£1,540.00	£1,643.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£770.00	£822.00
Annual inspection fee	£154.00	£164.50
To transfer the licence	£30.30	£32.35
The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.		
Bridges over the Highway*		
0 - 5 years	£1,540.00	£1,643.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£770.00	£822.00
Annual Inspection fee	£154.00	£164.50
To Transfer the Licence	£30.30	£32.35
Beams, Cables, Wires and Pipes along over or across the highway*		
0 - 5 years	£400.00	£427.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£200.00	£213.50
Annual Inspection fee	£92.00	£98.00
To transfer the licence	£30.30	£32.35
Cellars and Vaults under the Highway*		
0 - 5 years	£1,540.00	£1,643.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£770.00	£822.00
Annual Inspection fee	£150.00	£160.00
To transfer the licence	£30.30	£32.35
Openings into Cellars and Vaults under the streets*		
Additional fees may be incurred where there are multiple openings.		
0 - 5 years	£310.00	£331.00
For every 5 years thereafter	£150.00	£160.00
Annual Inspection fee	£92.00	£98.00
To transfer the licence	£30.30	£32.35
*The annual inspection fee is due on every anniversary of the licence being granted.		
Crane Oversailing (fixed i.e. tower cranes)		
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.		
0 - 6 months	£795.00	£848.00
For every 3 months thereafter	£154.00	£164.50
Variation of Licence	£154.00	£164.50
Site Inspection fee	£92.30	£98.50
To transfer the Licence	£30.30	£32.35
Crane Oversailing (mobile including MEWPS, Telehandlers, Cherry pickers)		
Site inspections will be required in the case of complex applications.		
Per day	£186.00	£198.50
Part Day (4 hours)	£121.00	£129.00
Variation of the Licence	£61.90	£66.05
A Boards (annual licence fee)		
Variation Fee	£43.60	£46.50
	£30.30	£32.35
Removal of unlawful advertising		
Per Item	£30.30	£100.00
Storage per Day	£6.10	£10.00
Removal of unlawfully parked advertising trailers, large A Boards		
Per Item	£30.30	£250.00
Storage per Day (subject to maximum of 14 days)	£6.10	£10.00
Storage Administration Fee	£0.00	£72.00
Pavement Displays (annual licence fee)		
	£43.60	£46.50
Pavement licensing (Business and Planning Act 2020)		
		£100.00
Projecting signs, canopies and projections from buildings Licence Fee		
For 5 Years	£364.00	£389.00
For every five years thereafter	£152.00	£162.00
Annual inspection fee	£91.00	£97.00
To transfer the licence	£30.30	£32.35

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Road Opening Notice		
Section 171 Licence (Road Opening Notice)	£325.00	£346.80
Amendments to Section 171 Licence	£83.00	£88.60
Permission to maintain apparatus in Public Highways		
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (new apparatus)	£655.00	£698.90
Section 50 Licence - New Roads & Street Works Act (existing apparatus)	£325.00	£346.80
Amendments to Section 50 Licence	£83.00	£88.60
Temporary Traffic Signals Fees (for non-statutory undertakers)		
Approval of temporary traffic management proposals	£55.00	£58.70
2 Way Signals application	£55.00	£58.70
Multi-phase signals application	£83.00	£88.60
Amendment	£28.00	£29.90
Site Visit (per visit where required, additional to other fees)	£110 (for up to 1 hour) + £55.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof	£120 (for up to 1 hour) + £60.00 for each subsequent hour or part thereof
Highways Inspection Reports		
Highways Inspection Reports (per street per year)	£58.00	£61.90
Request for Service / Complaint Records (per street per year)	£58.00	£61.90
Works Orders (per street per year)	£58.00	£61.90
Street Works Records (per street per year)	£39.00	£41.60
Plan extract of adoption records (additional/follow up) (per OS plan used)	£13.30	£14.20
Plan extract of adoption records (duplicate) (per OS plan used)	£27.40	£29.30
Standard search additional questions (per question)	£15.00	£16.00
Non-Standard search additional questions (per question)	£23.00	£24.50
NRASWA Inspection Fees (Statutory fees)		
Sample Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£50.00	£50.00
Defective Reinstatement Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£47.50	£47.50
Third Party Inspection Fee - Statutory Fee	£68.00	£68.00
NRASWA Penalty Charges (Statutory fees)		
Street Works Fixed Penalty Notices	£120.00 (£80.00 if paid within a statutory period)	£120.00 (£80.00 if paid within a statutory period)
NRASWA S74 Charges (Statutory fees)		
Overrun charges under S74	variable	variable
Road Works and Street Works Permit Scheme		
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£81.00	£86.50
Provisional Advance Authorisation (Road Category 3-4 and non-traffic sensitive)	£72.00	£76.90
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£171.00	£182.50
Major works - over 10 days or traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£115.00	£122.80
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00	£128.00
Major works - 4 to 10 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00	£80.00
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00	£69.40
Major works - up to 3 days and no traffic regulation order required (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00	£42.70
Standard works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£120.00	£128.00
Standard works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£75.00	£80.00
Minor works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£65.00	£69.40
Minor works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£40.00	£42.70
Immediate works (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive).	£49.00	£52.30
Immediate works (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive).	£36.00	£38.50
Permit Variation (Road Category 0-2 or traffic sensitive)	£45.00	£48.00
Permit Variation (Road Category 3-4 or non-traffic sensitive)	£35.00	£37.40
Traffic and Accident Data Unit Charges		
Traffic Data - 1-4 items	£214.00	£228.00
Unit - Charge for Data for each subsequent item	£53.20	£56.40
Road Traffic Collision Data - 1-4 items	£231.00	£246.00
Road Traffic Collision Data for each subsequent item	£58.60	£62.40
Annual fee for access to CIRTAS or TRADS	£1,855.00	£1,978.80

Charging of Electric Vehicles		
EV Charging Posts, per KwH (Currently applied at certain locations, other posts will be upgraded and charging will then be introduced)	£0.30	£0.65
Transport Costs Associated with Development		
Where changes to the transport network are required in order to accommodate development.		
Checking of Designs - Estimated cost of works:		
<£25,000	£1,213.40	£1,294.70
£25,000 - £75,000	£1,820.20	£1,942.20
£75,000 - £250,000	£3,640.30	£3,884.20
> £250,000	£6,067.40	£6,473.90
This does not include any charges for checking the design of highway structures, exceptional or complex works or traffic signals.		
Supervision/ Inspection of Works - A charge of £1,000 +9% of the estimated cost of the works will be levied. - (This charge may be varied by agreement in exceptional circumstances).		
Street Naming and Numbering (SNN)		
Assignment of name to a new street	£233.30	£249.00
Postal numbering for a new development on a new or existing street	£233.30 1st plot and £5.80 per additional plot	£249.00 1st plot and £6.20 per additional plot
Alteration at the request of the developer/applicant in either street name or property numbers to new development after initial SNN has been undertaken, this charge is in addition to the above charges where applicable	£233.30	£249.00
Renaming or the assignment of a name to an existing street at developer's/occupier's request	£233.30 plus £23.30 per property	£249.00 plus £24.90 per property
Changing the assigned postal numbering/street of an existing single property at the developer's/occupier's request, which does not involve the creation or renaming of a street.	£116.70	£124.50
Subdividing/merging of an existing property to create new postal addresses.	£58.32 per unit	£62.22 per unit
Allocating/altering a house name to an existing address.	£58.32 per unit	£62.22 per unit
Confirmation of postal address to property occupiers/owners/solicitors/conveyancers and other third parties	£58.32 per address	£62.22 per unit
Network Management		
Footway crossing applications	£233.30	£249.00
Temporary sign (including tourist sign applications)	£153.90	£164.20
H Bar road marking applications	£105.00	£112.00
H Bar road marking maintenance	£96.98	£103.50
Temporary traffic regulation order (by order)	£1,750.00	£1,750.00
Temporary traffic regulation order (by notice)	£1,750.00	£1,750.00
Temporary traffic regulation order (by emergency notice)	£750.00	£750.00
Temporary traffic regulation order (by the Police Clauses act)	£750.00	£750.00
ID Badge for Central Transport Unit contractors (per badge) (this is needed for contracted runs)	£11.90	£12.70
Traffic Management Supervision at Events (per hour)	£50.60	£54.00
Clearance of stopped private drains		
Normal Hours	£132.90	£141.80
Other Times	£264.60	£282.30
Installation of Vehicle Crossings - Base price will be £700 but subject to survey	POA	POA
Private Hardstands (private driveways)	POA	POA

HIRE OF FACILITIES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Multipurpose Buildings		
Room Bookings Hourly Rate		
Small room (less than 10 people)		
Weekday	£22.10	£23.58
Saturday	£29.10	£31.05
Sunday	£36.70	£39.16
Medium room (11-20 people)		
Weekday	£28.00	£29.88
Saturday	£34.20	£36.49
Sunday	£45.40	£48.44
Large Room (more than 20 people)		
Weekday	£33.10	£35.32
Saturday	£35.60	£37.99
Sunday	£45.40	£48.44
Room Bookings Daily Rate		
Small room (less than 10 people)		
Weekday	£143.10	£152.69
Saturday	£195.40	£208.49
Sunday	£250.70	£267.50
Medium room (11-20 people)		
Weekday	£184.40	£196.75
Saturday	£237.40	£253.31
Sunday	£314.20	£335.25
Large Room (more than 20 people)		
Weekday	£225.30	£240.40
Saturday	£247.30	£263.87
Sunday	£314.20	£335.25
Elgin Centre		
Meeting Room - as per small room hire shown above		
Multi Use Games Area (per hour)	£15.60	£16.65
Sports Hall (per hour)	£51.20	£54.63
Sports Hall (per day)	£357.30	£381.24
LIBRARIES		
Caedmon Hall* - day time rate		
2 Hours	£75.00	£80.00
Half Day - use of room	£125.00	£140.00
Full Day - use of room	£250.00	£250.00
*A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead based not-for-profit organisations. All evening hires incur an additional per hour cost for staffing - to be confirmed when booking. Please note that Technicians charges are additional to the room hire fees.		
Community Library Rooms - Central Library - day time rate**		
Hourly rate - Wailes Room	£20.00	£25.00
Hourly rate - Dodds Room	£20.00	£20.00
Hourly rate - Headworks Room	£0.00	£15.00
Sowerby Room - Central Library - rate per hour	£11.25	£12.00
Wailes and Dodds Rooms Combined - Half Day Rate	£100.00	£110.00
**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations.		
Community Library Rooms - Blaydon Library - day time rate**		
Hourly rate - use of room	£15.00	£16.00
**A discount of 20% is available for voluntary groups, internal hire and Gateshead not-for-profit organisations.		
Cancellation of Bookings - Central Library		
Within 48 hours of the date of the event	100% of hire charge	100% of hire charge
Within two weeks prior to date of the event	75% of hire charge	75% of hire charge
Between two and eight weeks prior to date of the event	50% of hire charge	25% of hire charge
SALTWELL PARK		
Weekdays		
Wailes Room (half day)	£189.90	£202.62
Wailes Room (full day)	£356.10	£379.96
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£890.20	£949.84
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,780.30	£1,899.58

Saturday		
Wailes Room (half day)	£189.90	£202.62
Wailes Room (full day)	£356.10	£379.96
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£890.20	£949.84
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,780.30	£1,899.58
Sunday		
Wailes Room (half day)	£189.90	£202.62
Wailes Room (full day)	£356.10	£379.96
Saltwell Towers Gallery (half day)	£1,780.30	£1,899.58
Saltwell Towers Gallery (full day)	£1,780.30	£1,899.58
** Where hire of room is for wedding facilities (ceremony, wedding breakfast or evening reception the whole charge is standard rated).		
CIVIC CENTRE		
Weekday per Half Day		
The Lamesely Room	£104.80	£111.82
The Bridges Room	£104.80	£111.82
The Whickham Room	£104.80	£111.82
The Blaydon Room	£104.80	£111.82
Saltwell Room	£104.80	£111.82
Dave Hopper Room	£71.60	£76.40
The Council Chamber	£222.30	£237.19
Weekday per Full Day		
The Lamesely Room	£208.90	£222.90
The Bridges Room	£208.90	£222.90
The Whickham Room	£208.90	£222.90
The Blaydon Room	£208.90	£222.90
Saltwell Room	£208.90	£222.90
Dave Hopper Room	£143.10	£152.69
The Council Chamber (per session)	£445.10	£474.92
PARKS AND PAVILIONS		
	*Negotiable	*Negotiable
** Where the charge is negotiable – A session is of no fixed period but is dependent upon the needs of the individual organisation.		

HOUSING RELATED CHARGES AND LICENSING	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Baltic Road Gypsy and Traveller's Site Entry Deposit Site Rental Double Pitch - per week Electricity sale tariffs to be adjusted in line with Electricity Board increases	£264.50 £59.00	£282.22 £62.95
Housing Act 2004 Action Housing Act Notices and Orders - Charge imposed when Housing Act Notices are served or orders made under Part 1 of the Act (except Hazard Awareness Notices).	£482.50	£514.83
Works in default - A charge for the administration of carrying out works in default for notices served under Town and County Planning, Housing, Public Health, Environmental Protection Prevention of Damage by Pests and Building Acts and for the administration of emergency remedial action carried out under the Housing Act 2004. £258.80 or 20% is charged whichever is the greater.	£258.80	£276.14
Mandatory HMO Licencing* HMO Licence (up to 14 bedrooms) (£585.80 payment due at the time of application / £390.50 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£976.30	£1,041.71
HMO Licence (15+ bedrooms) (£638.60 payment due at the time of application / £425 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£1,063.60	£1,134.86
Renewal of Mandatory HMO Licencing* HMO Licence Renewal (up to 14 bedrooms) (£514.20 payment due at the time of application / £343.90 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£858.10	£915.59
HMO Licence Renewal (15+ bedrooms) (£567 payment due at the time of application / £378.50 payment due immediately following Grant of Licence)	£945.50	£1,008.85
Variation of HMO Licence (at Licence Holders request)	£187.30	£199.85
Immigration Inspections - Charge imposed when EHO's inspect properties in respect of immigration and visa purposes.	£143.60	£153.22
Housing Grants Support fee on Housing Grants - A 15% support fee is charged for the administration of all private sector home repair, renovation and disabled facility grants.	15% oncost of relevant fee	15% oncost of relevant fee
Selective Licensing - Central Gateshead Ph2 and The Avenues Phase 1 Early Application Fee (complete application received prior to scheme live date, or before licensable property is purchased / managed mid scheme) Standard Fee (complete application received within 28 days of becoming licensable) Standard Fee Plus (complete application received more than 28 days of property becoming licensable and reminder sent) Late Application Fee (complete application received more than 28 days of becoming licensable and application had to be pursued on multiple occasions)	£550.00 £750.00 £850.00 £1,000.00	£586.85 £800.25 £906.95 £1,067.00
Discounts Accredited property (paid at expiry if licence) (£100 18% discount from standard fee) * Unaccredited on application - discount repaid if property accredited within agreed timescales and property meets standard for full licence duration * Accredited at time of application - £50 upfront discount for properties already accredited and £50 paid at licence expiry if standard maintained * Accredited member of a National Landlords Association (or equivalent) (£100 up front discount for current accredited members / licence holder commits to and attends foundation course / joins association. £65 additional discount at end of scheme if accredited status and association membership maintained for full licence duration. * Multiple properties (discount on the fit and proper element of a licence after the first application) (£10 per subsequent application)		
Licence Variations Change of licence to new licence holder (where proposed licence holder is not an existing licence holder) either £550 (where application is received prior to the revocation of the current one or prior to the property requiring a licence) , £750 (where application provided within 28 days of the property becoming licensable), £850 (where application provided more than 28 days later of the property becoming licensable and a reminder has been sent) or £1000 (where provided more than 28 days of the property becoming licensable and has had to be pursued for an application on multiple occasions). Change of licence to new licence holder (where property owner stays the same and proposed licence holder is an existing licence holder)	£854.30 £50.00	£911.54 £53.35
Charges Charge for provision of and receipt of a paper application (for applications received after online system becomes available) Charge for each incomplete / deficient application received Phased payment plan (per property) Charge for failing to return requested property / licence information mid scheme Caution issue (as an alternative to prosecution) in response to housing or anti-social behaviour related offence. Public register - request for paper copy	£50.30 £25 + fee £25.10 £25.10 £342.20 £57.10	£53.67 £27 + fee £26.78 £26.78 £365.13 £60.93
Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Penalty Charge - First Warning Letter Issued Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and First Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served* Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter and Second Non-Compliance Notice of Intent Served Penalty Charge - Non Compliance with Warning Letter, persistent and multiple non-compliance - Notice of Intent Served * Reduced to a penalty of £2,000 where the agent has failed to comply with the requirements under the regulations, but has ceased to operate in that capacity at the time of the issue of a Notice of Intent	£100.00 £3,000.00 £4,000.00 £5,000.00	£106.70 £3,201.00 £4,268.00 £5,335.00

SPORT AND LEISURE	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Use of coin retain locker	£0.20	£0.20
Use of showers, changing facilities	£4.70	£5.00
Group 1 - Standard Charge (no GO Card) - any customer without a GO Card. Group 2 - Adult (GO Card) - 18-65 years of age with a GO Card. Group 3 - Concession - 66+, Junior GO Card Holders (Aged 0-17) & full time Students 18+ years (16 hours per week) Group 4 - GO Access - Customers meet the criteria for GO Access.		
Activity Charges		
Table Tennis per table per hour		
Group 1	£5.90	£6.30
Group 2	£5.10	£5.45
Group 3	£3.80	£4.00
Group 4	£2.40	£2.60
Badminton per court per hour		
Group 1	£15.20	£16.20
Group 2	£12.40	£13.20
Group 3	£9.40	£10.00
Group 4	£4.70	£5.00
Major Games (4 Badminton courts per hour)		
Group 1	£66.00	£70.50
Group 2	£49.50	£52.80
Group 3 Concession* More than half of the group playing must be concessions	£41.30	£44.10
Group 4 GO Access* More than half of the group playing must hold Go access cards	£33.00	£35.20
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA	POA
Ancilliary Hall (Birtley Leisure Centre) per hour		
Standard charge (no GO Card)	£39.00	£41.60
Event Hire (Commercial)	POA	POA
Go Card	£33.00	£35.20
Hire of Equipment		
Group 1	£3.90	£4.15
Group 2	£3.30	£3.50
Group 3	£2.00	£2.15
Group 4	Free	Free
Gym		
Group 1	£7.90	£8.45
Group 2	£6.80	£7.25
Group 3	£5.20	£5.55
Group 4	£3.40	£3.65
Coaching Fees - Keep Fit classes		
Group 1	£6.90	£7.35
Group 2	£5.80	£6.20
Group 3	£4.40	£4.70
Group 4	£2.50	£2.65
Track		
Group 1	£6.70	£7.15
Group 2	£5.70	£6.10
Group 3	£4.30	£4.60
Group 4	£2.80	£3.00
Track Pass (Indoor track only) - 3 months		
Group 2	£55.70	£59.45
Group 3	£35.90	£38.30
Group 4	£27.90	£29.80
Track Pass (Outdoor track only) - 3 months		
Group 2	£55.70	£59.45
Group 3	£35.90	£38.30
Group 4	£27.90	£29.80
Track Pass (Indoor & Outdoor Track) - 3 months		
Group 2	£87.90	£93.80
Group 3	£55.70	£59.45
Group 4	£44.70	£47.70
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Gateshead International Stadium) per hour	£93.50	£99.75
Exclusive Hire of Track and Field (Blaydon Leisure Centre) per hour	£82.50	£88.00
Artificial Turf Pitches		
Lower Field (Sand based - GIS)	£38.50	£41.10
Lower Field - Event/ Commercial Rate	POA	POA

3G pitch Hire (half pitch)		
Standard	£66.00	£70.40
Charter Standard Club Hire	£44.00	£47.00
3G pitches (Full pitch)		
Standard	£110.00	£117.40
Charter Standard Club Hire	£66.00	£70.40
Event/ Commercial Rate	POA	POA
3G Pitch - Club League Future Bookings	POA	POA
Swimming**		
Group 1	£5.40	£5.75
Group 2	£4.30	£4.60
Group 3	£3.20	£3.40
Group 4	£1.90	£2.05
Children under 4 years	Free	Free
** casual swimming is free for children and adults enrolled on Council-run swimming lessons with a paying adult		
Family Swim (up to 2 adults and 2 children)		
Standard price (no GO Card)	£17.60	£18.80
GO Card	£12.10	£12.90
GO Access	£7.70	£8.25
Pool hire per hour including staff	POA	POA
Gala hire including staff	POA	POA
Swimming Lessons		
Group 2	£8.00	£8.55
Group 3	£7.50	£8.00
Group 4	£5.80	£6.20
Adult - (Monthly Go membership)		
	£5.80	£6.20
Joining Fee - Junior Lessons only	£15.50	£16.55
One-to-one swimming lesson (per half hour)		
Adult	£22.60	£24.10
Junior	£22.60	£24.10
Charged as from Sept 2024 - July 2025		
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks)	£3,700.00	£3,948.00
School Swimming Price per school class (37 weeks) less than 20 pupils	£2,300.00	£2,454.00
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 10 pupils	£34.10	£36.40
School Swimming additional bookings per class up to 20 pupils	£68.30	£72.90
Sauna per 2 hour sessions		
Group 1	£8.00	£8.55
Group 2	£6.80	£7.25
Group 3	£4.70	£5.00
Group 4	£3.30	£3.50
Grassed Pitch Hire -seasonal hire		
Adult with changing facilities	£933.60	£996.15
Junior with changing facilities	£392.20	£418.50
Additional games with changing facilities		
Adult	£123.00	£131.25
Junior	£62.50	£66.70
GO Unlimited Membership (12 month contract) - per month *		
Adult	£32.00	£34.00
Concession	£26.00	£28.00
GO Access	£19.00	£21.00
Joint	£57.00	£61.00
GO Group - Must be at least 8 people and the group can never fall below 8 or standard fees apply to all members.	£27.00	£29.00
GO Kids 8-13 years	£19.50	£20.80
* Junior is a month to month DD contract paid by someone over 18 years of age, now available from the age of 11 years.		
Annual membership pay for 12 months upfront and get 13 months membership on any category		
Admin Fee	£10.00	£10.00
Gym induction (Free with any Go unlimited membership)	£11.00	£11.75
GO Unlimited Non-contract Membership - per month CASH PAYMENT		
Adult	£49.50	£53.00
Concession	£49.50	£53.00
Junior	£49.50	£53.00
GO Access	£39.60	£42.25
Gateshead GO Card		
Adult	£10.00	£10.00
66+ & Students	£10.00	£10.00
Juniors	£1.00	£1.00
Juniors (non-resident)	£2.00	£2.00
Replacement Cards	£1.00	£1.00
Go Access Card (6 month)	£0.00	£1.00
Room/Studio Hire	POA	POA

LIBRARIES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Reservations		
Adult Books - on loan, on shelves or on order (per item)	Free	Free
Adult Books - not in stock (per item)	£1.00	£1.10
Junior Books - on loan, on shelves or on order (per item)	Free	Free
Junior Books - not in stock (per item)	£0.30	£0.30
Vocal Scores (per item)	£1.40	£1.50
Item borrowed from other library service (per item)	£5.00	£5.50
Audio / Visual Loans		
Compact Discs	£1.00	£0.50
Premium DVDs (Overnight Hire)	£1.00	£1.00
Standard DVDs (Weekly Hire)	£1.00	£1.00
DVD Box Sets (Fortnightly Hire)	£2.00	£2.00
Fines		
Books (Children)	Exempt	Exempt
Lost Library Tickets		
Replacement of tickets	£2.35	£2.50
Photocopying		
A4 B & W per sheet	£0.10	£0.10
A3 B & W per sheet	£0.20	£0.20
A4 Colour per sheet	£0.50	£0.50
A3 Colour per sheet	£0.90	£0.90
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A4)	£0.60	£0.60
Microfilm/Microfiche printouts (A3)	£1.10	£1.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) B & W per sheet	£0.10	£0.10
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A4) Colour per sheet	£0.50	£0.50
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) B & W per sheet	£0.20	£0.20
Electronic Copies / Printouts (A3) Colour per sheet	£0.90	£0.90
Book Cradle Scan(upto A3)	£0.60	£0.60
Local History Service		
Photographs - price varies depending on format, quality and size (price quoted is minimum)	from £0.60	from £0.60
Initial enquiry to Local History Service is free of charge. Each subsequent enquiry	£30.00	£32.00

WASTE SERVICES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Trade Refuse Standard Dustbins per bin per week	POA	POA
Wheel Bins 240 litres 360 litres 1100 litres	POA POA POA	POA POA POA
Supply and delivery of replacement and new property bins Refuse Wheeled Bin Recycling (Blue) Wheeled Bin Garden Waste Wheeled Bin 140L Bin decontamination charge 240L Bin decontamination charge 360L Bin decontamination charge 660L Bin decontamination charge 1100L Bin decontamination charge	£36.00 £26.00 £36.00 £6.78 £11.30 £17.41 £32.62 £53.22	£36.00 £26.00 £36.00 £7.00 £12.00 £18.50 £35.00 £57.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up before 31 Jan 2024) for 15 collections in 2024	£34.00	£34.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up after 31 Jan 2024) for collections from date of registration in 2024	£36.00	£36.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up before 31 Jan 2025 - possible to sign up from November 2024) for 15 collections in 2025	£34.00	£36.00
Green Waste Charges (sign up after 31 Jan 2025) for collections from date of registration in 2025	£36.00	£38.00
Bulky Household Waste - Special Collection Charges Large sized Items Garage Door, Bathroom Suite, Dismantled Shed, Window Frames Note - all collections subject to a minimum charge of £16,this can be made up of a mix of medium and small items listed below: Medium sized items Mattress, Carpet, Bed, Fridge/Freezer, Large Table, Wardrobe, Door, Washer, Armchair, Cabinet, Sofa Small sized items Bag of Household Waste, Bag of Garden Rubbish, Boxes, Small Table, Vacuum Cleaner, Headboard, Television Stand, Lawnmower	£43.00 £8.00 £2.00	£43.00 £8.00 £2.00
Asbestos removal	POA	POA
Graffiti Removal Removal of non offensive graffiti from private property. Removal of syringes from private property	POA POA	POA POA
Supply and delivery of bagged rock salt to e.g. hospitals, emergency services properties etc. per bag	£8.80	£9.39
Floristry service products	POA	POA
MOT Tests Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (major) Test Fee - Hackney Carriage (minor) Test Fee - Private Hire Class IV Vehicles Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats Class IV Vehicles 9 - 12 seats (with seat belt check) Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats Class V Vehicles 13 - 16 seats (with seat belt check) Class V Vehicles over 16 seats Class V Vehicles over 16 seats (with seat belt check) Class VII Vehicles	£54.85 £27.42 £54.85 £54.85 £57.30 £64.00 £59.55 £80.50 £80.65 £124.50 £58.60	£54.85 £27.42 £54.85 £54.85 £57.30 £64.00 £59.55 £80.50 £80.65 £124.50 £58.60
Duplicate Section 50 Certificate MOT (at same time as Section 50 test)	£18.30 £27.70	£18.30 £27.70
Disinfestation Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Private Houses / Allotments Standard Treatment Special Treatment	POA Actual Cost	POA Actual Cost
Rodent Control Social Landlords / Gateshead Council Houses / Business Premises / Allotments / Private Houses Standard Treatment - Rats Standard Treatment - Ants Standard Treatment - Bed Bugs Standard Treatment - Beetles Standard Treatment - Booklice Standard Treatment - Cluster Flies Standard Treatment - Cockroaches Standard Treatment - Fleas Standard Treatment - Grey Squirrels Standard Treatment - Mice Standard Treatment - Mites Standard Treatment - Pigeons Standard Treatment - Silverfish Standard Treatment - Wasps	£47.70 £62.40 £110.70 £62.40 £62.40 £62.40 £110.70 £62.40 £110.70 £47.70 £62.40 POA £62.40 £62.40	£50.90 £66.58 £118.12 £66.58 £66.58 £66.58 £118.12 £66.58 £118.12 £50.90 £66.58 POA £66.58 £66.58

Recovery of stray dog from kennels		
Statutory Fee	£25.00	£25.00
Administrative Fee	£30.80	£30.80

PLANNING	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Formal confirmation that planning application conditions have been fulfilled*	£16.00	£17.00
*An additional hourly rate is applied to the above charge (per hour)	£76.00	£80.00
Pre Planning Advice		
Householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£30.00	£32.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning application following advice that their development needs permission	£25.00	£27.00
Householder enquiry for pre planning advice	£50.00	£55.00
Non householder enquiry as to whether a development needs planning permission	£50.00	£55.00
Telecommunications enquiry for pre planning application	£230.00	£250.00
Advert pre application advice	£57.00	£60.00
Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£230.00	£250.00
Revised Minor Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£115.00	£125.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice	£1,150.00	£1,250.00
Major Development enquiry for pre planning advice within 3 months of advice (per additional request)	£575.00	£625.00
Strategic Development Enquiry (additional charges may apply)	£2,300.00	£2,500.00
Bespoke Pre app or Planning Performance Agreement	POA	POA
Invalid Application processing fee (if returned)	10% of total fee	10% of total fee
Validation requirements check	£76.00	£80.00
Planning History Search (per hour)		
Major Applications	£76.00	£80.00
Minor Applications	£52.00	£55.00
Other and householders applications	£28.00	£30.00
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FEES - STATUTORY CHARGES		
Outline Applications		
Where the site area no more than 0.5 Hectares (per 0.1 Hectare)		£578.00
Where the site area between 0.5 and 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00	£624.00
Where the site area exceeds 2.5 hectares (price for the first 2.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£11,432.00	£15,433.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £202,500 applies		
For the erection of buildings (Not Dwellinghouses)		
Where the site area no more than 1 Hectare		£578.00
where the site area between 1 hectare and 2.5 hectares		£624.00
Where the site area exceeds 2.5 hectares (price for the first 2.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:		£15,433.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 2.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)		£186.00
A maximum charge of £202500 applies		
Full Applications		
The erection or creation of a dwelling(s)		
Where the number of dwellings to be created is 10 or fewer (per dwelling)	£462.00	£578.00
Where the number of dwellings to be created between 10 and 50		£624.00
Where the number of dwellings to be created exceeds 50 (charge for the first 50 dwellings) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00	£30,860.00
For each additional dwelling in excess of 50 (per dwelling)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £405,000 applies		
The erection of buildings		
Where floor space is created or the gross floor space created does not exceed 40sq.m	£234.00	£293.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 40sq.m but does not exceed 1000sq.m (Charge per 75sq.m)	£462.00	£578.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 100sq.m but does not exceed 3,750sq.m (charge for each 75sq.m)	£462.00	£624.00
The development exceeds 3,750sq.m (charge for 3,750sq.m.) plus an additional charge below:	£22,859.00	£30,680.00
For each additional 75sq.m	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £405,000 applies		
The erection of buildings to be used for agricultural purposes on agricultural land		
Where the gross floor area does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00	£120.00
The gross floor space created exceeds 465sq.m but does not exceed 540sq.m	£462.00	£578.00
The floor area exceeds 540sq.m but does not exceed 1000sq.m plus and additional charge set out below		£578.00
for each additional 75sq.m in excess of 540sq.m		£578.00
The floor area exceeds 1000sq.m but does not exceed 4275sq.m in excess of 540 sq.m for first 1000sq.m	£462.00	£624.00
for each additional 75sq.m in excess of 100sq.m		£624.00
The gross floor area exceeds 4,215sq.m (charge for 4,215sq.m) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00	£30,860.00
For each additional 75sq.m in excess of 4,215sq.m (per 75sq.m)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £405,000 applies		
The erection of glasshouses on agricultural land		
The gross floor space does not exceed 465sq.m	£96.00	£120.00
The gross floor space between 465sq.m and 1000sq.m		£3,225.00
The gross floor space does exceed 1000sq.m	£2,580.00	£3,483.00
The erection, alteration or replacement of plant and machinery		
The site area does not exceed 1 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£462.00	£578.00
The site areas between 1 hectare and 5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)		£624.00
The site area exceeds 5 hectares (price for the first 5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£22,859.00	£30,860.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £405,000 applies		

Householder Application works to a single dwelling (including works within the boundary)	£206.00	£258.00
Alterations/extensions to 2 or more dwellings (flat rate)	£407.00	£508.00
The construction of car parks, service roads and other means of access where the development is incidental to the existing use of the land	£234.00	£293.00
Waste (Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or deposit of material remaining after extraction or storage of minerals)		
Where the site area is not more than 15 Hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00	£316.00
The site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00	£47,161.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £105,000 applies		
The carrying out of any operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas		
The site area does not exceed 7.5 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£508.00	£686.00
The site area exceeds 7.5 hectares (price for the first 7.5 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,070.00	£51,395.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 7.5 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00	£204.00
A maximum charge of £405,000 applies		
Other Operations - winning and Working of Minerals		
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£234.00	£316.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£34,934.00	£47,161.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£138.00	£186.00
A maximum charge of £105,300 applies		
Other Operations for the winning and working of Oil and Natural Gas		
Where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares (charge per 0.1 hectare)	£257.00	£347.00
Where the site area exceeds 15 hectares (price for the first 15 hectares) plus an additional charge set out below:	£38,520.00	£52,002.00
For each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares (per 0.1 hectare)	£151.00	£204.00
A maximum charge of £105,300 applies		
Other Operations (not coming within any of the above categories)	£234.00	£293.00
A maximum charge of £2,535 applies		
Change of use (to a building to use as one or more dwellinghouses)		
Number of dwelling houses not more than 10 (per dwelling)		£579.00
Number of dwelling houses between 10 and 50 dwellings (per dwelling)		£624.00
Number of dwelling houses more than 50 (price for first 50 dwellings) plus additional charge set out below		£30,860.00
for each additional dwelling in excess of 50 (per dwelling)		£186.00
subject to a maximum fee of £405000		
Other Changes of use of a building or land		£578.00
Application for a non-material change to a planning permission		
Householder applications	£34.00	£43.00
Any other applications	£234.00	£293.00
Variation of condition including renewals of temporary permissions (unless submitted within 12 months of permission - if so no fee) equalling that for a full application for entire site	£234.00	£293.00
Reserved Matters - where applicants earlier reserved matters applications have incurred total fees equalling that for a full application for entire site	£462.00	£578.00
Advertisements		
Advertisement specifically relating to the site where they are displayed or 'advance signs'	£132.00	£165.00
All other advertisements	£462.00	£578.00

Prior Approval		
Larger Homes Extensions	£96.00	£120.00
Determination of Prior Approval - Agricultural and Forestry buildings and operations or Demolition of buildings	£96.00	£120.00
Determination of Prior approval (telecommunications)	£462.00	£578.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use where there are no associated building operations	£96.00	£120.00
Notification for Prior approval for a change of use with associated building operations	£206.00	£258.00
Additional Storeys on a home		£120.00
Agricultural Forestry Buildings and Operations		£120.00
Temporary Use of Buildings or Land for the Purpose of Commercial Film-Making and the Associated Temporary Structures, Works, Plant or Machinery required in Connection with that Use		£144.00
Provision of Temporary School Buildings on Vacant Commercial Land and the use of that land as a State-funded School for up to 3 Academic Years		£120.00
Development Consisting of the Erection or Construction of a Collection Facility within the Curtilage of a Shop		£120.00
Installation, Alteration or Replacement of other Solar Photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the Roofs of Non-domestic Buildings, up to a Capacity of 1 Megawatt		£120.00
Erection, extension, or alteration of a university building		£120.00
Movable structure within the curtilage of a historic visitor attraction, or listed pub/restaurant/etc		£120.00
Erection, extension or alteration on a closed defence site by or on behalf of the Crown of single living accommodation and/or non-residential buildings		£120.00
Construction of new dwellinghouses where		
not more than 10 dwellings (per dwelling)		£418.00
between 10 and 50 dwellings (per dwelling)		£451.00
more than 50 dwellings (for the first 50 dwellings) and additional charges as set out below		£22,309.00
per additional dwelling in excess of 50		£135.00
subject to a maximum fee of £405000		
Playing fields for (non profit making sports clubs etc)	£462.00	£578.00
Lawful Development Certificates		
Existing use	Normal fee	Normal fee
existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	£234.00	£293.00
Proposed use	Half normal fee	Half normal fee
Application for Permission in Principle - for 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£402.00	£503.00
Applications by Parish etc Councils	Half normal fee	Half normal fee
Development crossing planning authority boundaries, requiring several applications. Only one fee, paid to the authority having the larger site but calculated for the whole scheme.	Based on relevant fee category	Based on relevant fee category
Alternative applications for one site. Highest of fees applicable for each alternative and a sum equal to half the rest.	Based on relevant fee category	Based on relevant fee category
Applications required only because of the removal of permitted development rights, by a condition restricting changes of use within a class, or by an Article 4 direction	No Fee	No Fee
Works to improve a disabled person's access to a public building, or to improve his/her access, safety, health or comfort at his/her dwelling house	No Fee	No Fee
One revised or fresh application by the same applicant for the same character or description with 12 months of receiving permission or refusal, or the making of the application if withdrawn where the relevant 12 month period started no later than 5th December 2023	No Fee	No Fee
Formal Discharge of Planning Conditions		
Conditions imposed on householder approvals (per request)	£34.00	£43.00
Conditions imposed on non-householder approvals (per request)	£116.00	£145.00
S106 Monitoring - ability to charge allowed in Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019		
Financial MonitoringFinancial Contribution with commencement trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£285.00	£304.00
Financial MonitoringFinancial Contribution with future trigger (per obligation and per trigger point)	£570.00	£608.00
Physical Monitoring Obligations on site during construction and post occupation e.g.		
•Employment & training Plans		
•Local workforce commitments	£570.00	£608.00
•Restriction of occupation (per obligation and per trigger point)		
Physical Monitoring		
Developer provision e.g.		
•Open Space/Play	£570.00	£608.00
•Affordable Housing		
•Highway works (per obligation and per trigger point)		
Very large or complex developments may require a longer monitoring with commensurate monitoring charges	POA	POA
Request to confirm compliance with S106 Obligations (per obligation)	£60.00	£64.00

RECREATION	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
LAND FEES		
Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session peak times	£11.90	£12.70
Commercial Fitness classes in Parks per session off peak	£8.90	£9.50
6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer)	£142.80	£152.37
6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) peak times (Spring, Summer)	£214.00	£228.34
6 month fee (1-6 sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter)	£107.00	£114.17
6 month fee (7 plus sessions per week) off peak (Autumn, Winter)	£178.50	£190.46
Daily land use fee:	POA	POA
Set up / dismantle fee 60% of daily fee charged	POA	POA
Hourly activity sessions	£11.70	£12.48
Memorial Trees	POA	POA
Filming in Parks	POA	POA
ALLOTMENTS		
Rents per annum		
Area up to 200m ²	£46.00	£46.00
201m ² - 300m ²	£62.00	£62.00
301m ² - 400m ²	£84.00	£84.00
Rents above 400m ² to be charged the 400m ² fee together with the next band fee appropriate to make up the size e.g. a 600m ² allotment will be charged at the 400m ² and 200m ² combined total		
Lettings for Fairgrounds and open space events - (charges per day)		
To set up and dismantle	£68.50	£73.09
To operate	£194.00	£207.00

BUSINESS CENTRES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Blaydon, Greenesfield and Gateshead International Business Centres, Northern Design Centre		
Occupancy Fees - per sq ft		
Blaydon Business Centre (Workshop)	£8.80	£8.80
Blaydon Business Centre (Office)	£17.60	£17.60
Greenesfield Business Centre	£28.00	£28.00
Gateshead International Business Centre	£28.00	£28.50
Northern Design Centre	£37.80	£38.40
Baltimore House	£37.80	£38.40
PROTO	£31.50	£32.00
Day Office Hire	Day Rent Rate + 20%	Day Rent Rate + 20%
Contribution to overheads (all centres)	£7.75	£8.00
Office Cleaning Service	POA	POA
Telephone Handset Rental		£13.80
Virtual Office Service (GIBC, GBC, BLBC, BH, NCET)	£90.00	£90.00
Virtual Office Service (NDC)	£120.00	£120.00
Dedicated Desk (NDC)	£198.00	£198.00
Dedicated Desk (PROTO)	£180.00	£192.00
Use of Additional Office/Unit for Temporary Storage - 50% of standard licence fee (Licence agreements for storage last for 3 months and can be renewed once. Thereafter a full licence agreement must be entered into).		
Gateshead International Business Centre		
12 people meeting room - per day	£85.00	£90.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£45.00	£50.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£14.00	£15.00
5 people meeting room - per day	£62.50	£65.00
5 people meeting room - per half day	£34.00	£35.00
5 people meeting room - per hour	£9.00	£10.00
Northern Design Centre		
Collaboration Room - per day	£180.00	£192.00
Collaboration Room - per half day	£96.00	£102.00
Collaboration Room - per hour		£30.00
Bleachers - per day	£240.00	£270.00
Bleachers - per half day	£120.00	£150.00
Bleachers - per hour		£42.00
12 people meeting room - per day	£138.00	£150.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£72.00	£78.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£20.40	£21.60
5 people meeting room - per day	£75.00	£84.00
5 people meeting room - per half day	£40.80	£48.00
5 people meeting room - per hour	£10.80	£12.00

Greenesfield Business Centre		
12 people meeting room - per day	£90.00	£100.00
12 people meeting room - per half day	£52.00	£60.00
12 people meeting room - per hour	£17.00	£20.00
Blaydon Business Centre		
Vacant Office Hire - per day	£75.00	£80.00
Vacant Office Hire - per half day	£40.00	£45.00
Vacant Office Hire - per hour	£15.00	£20.00
8 person meeting room - Occupiers	Included in rent	Included in rent
8 person meeting room - per day (non-occupiers)	£68.00	£80.00
8 person meeting room - half day (non-occupiers)	£34.00	£50.00
Baltimore House		
12 person meeting room - per day	£138.00	£150.00
12 person meeting room - half day	£72.00	£78.00
12 person meeting room - per hour	£24.00	£24.00
6 person meeting room - per day	£75.00	£84.00
6 person meeting room - half day	£40.80	£48.00
6 person meeting room - per hour	£14.40	£14.40
Sponsorship		
Sponsorship of boardrooms at Business Centres (each)	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Photocopying / Black & White Printing		
A4 Black & White	£0.30	£0.30
A3 Black & White	£0.30	£0.42
A4 Colour		£0.42
A3 Colour		£0.54
Buffet	Cost +50%	Cost +50%
Tea / Coffee - per cup	£1.80	£1.80
Biscuits - per plate	£4.20	£4.20
Replacement Key fobs	£12.00	£12.00
Replacement Keys	Cost + 10%	Cost + 10%
Business Support Services*		
Business Development Consultancy (per day)	£250 - £500	£250 - £500
Business Planning Support - subject to negotiation up to	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
*These are discretionary services to be delivered subject to availability and demand to potential and existing occupiers of business centres. It is likely that costs will be met via third party public funding.		

CORPORATE SERVICES	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Charge for Funeral and protection of property arrangements	Up to a maximum of £980	Up to a maximum of £1,050
Charge for appointeeship cases	Up to a maximum of £1,228	Up to a maximum of £1,310
Charge for administering deferred payments	Actual cost	Actual cost
Charge for arranging care packages for self funders	Actual cost	Actual cost
Deferred payment interest rate	The lower of 1.15% or the rate set by the Department of Health	The lower of 1.15% or the rate set by the Department of Health
Disclosure and Barring Service		
Enhanced Check (includes administration fee of £12.40)	£49.60	£50.40
Standard Check (includes administration fee of £12.40)	£29.60	£30.39
Identity Cards		
Charge per card	£2.80	£3.00
Charge per card (chipped)	£7.30	£7.80
Design Fee	£17.80	£19.00
Clip	£0.33	£0.35
Lanyard	£0.44	£0.47
Card Holder	£0.44	£0.47
Yo-Yo	£0.44	£0.47
Electoral Services		
Street Index	£13.90	£14.83
Confirmation of entry on Electoral Register	£18.20	£19.42
Registers - paper - Statutory Charge	£10.00 plus £5.00 per 1,000 entries	£10.00 plus £5.00 per 1,000 entries
Registers - data - Statutory Charge	£20.00 plus £1.50 per 1,000 entries	£20.00 plus £1.50 per 1,000 entries
Monthly register updates	as above	as above
Copies of marked register		
Paper Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£30 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries	£30 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries
Data Copy - Statutory Charge Restricted	£10 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries	£10 plus £1.00 per 1,000 entries

REGISTRARS	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES		
From the Registrar who registered the birth, death, marriage or civil partnership (Statutory Charges):		
Standard Certificate at the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Standard Certificate after the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate at the time	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate	£11.00	£11.00
Certificates are available from the Registrar only at the time of registration or shortly afterwards. Once a register is filled, it is passed to the Superintendent Registrar and certificates are no longer available from the Registrar.		
From the Superintendent Registrar:		
Standard Certificate in Person at Registered Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Short Birth Certificate in Person at Registrated Office (collection within 15 working days) - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Application and receipt of certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00	£35.00
Searches		
General searches at a Superintendent Registrar's Office - Statutory Charge	£18.00	£18.00
Any certificates purchased as a result of a search are subject to charges above - Statutory Charge	as shown above	as shown above
Marriages		
From the Superintendent Registrar:		
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£47.00	£47.00
For attending a marriage of a detained person to attest notice of marriage - Statutory Charge	£68.00	£68.00
For entering notice of marriage in a marriage notice book (notice to be given in each area in which party resides) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge	£84.00	£84.00
For attending a marriage of a detained person - Statutory Charge	£94.00	£94.00
Copy Marriage certificate (collection within 15 working days)	£11.00	£12.00
Copy Marriage certificate same day service (in person or next day registered post)	£35.00	£37.00
From the Registrar:		
For attending a marriage solemnized in a register office Mon-Thursday only - Statutory Charge	£46.00	£46.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound person - Statutory Charge - Reduced by the General Registry Office	£81.00	£81.00
For attending a marriage at the residence of a housebound or detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00	£88.00
Standard certificate of marriage or civil partnership at the time of registration	£11.00	£11.00
Certificate for Worship and Registration for Marriage		
From the Superintendent Registrar		
Certification of a place of meeting for religious worship - Statutory Charge	£29.00	£29.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Registered Buildings		
Registrar Attendance (church) - Statutory Charge (additional £11 for cost of certification also applies)	£86.00	£86.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couple (previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£64.00	£64.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples (not previously registered for marriage) - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of equal marriage - Statutory Charge	£123.00	£123.00
Change the time or date of wedding	£22.00	£24.00
Booking fee for all ceremonies - non refundable	£40.00	£40.00
Ravensworth - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£180.00	£190.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£250.00	£260.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£300.00	£320.00
Tyne Suite - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£125.00	£135.00
Friday and Saturday before 12	£190.00	£210.00
Friday and Saturday after 12	£240.00	£260.00
Angel Room - Premises Fee (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£80.00	£80.00

Civil Partnership		
Notice of Civil Partnership (per person) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
Formation of Civil Partnership in a register office (with or without a ceremony) Statutory Charge - Additional £11.00 for cost of certificate also applies	£46.00	£46.00
Full certification at the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Extract at time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
Full extract or certificate after the time of formation - Statutory Charge	£11.00	£11.00
On giving notice to a registration authority under the Civil Partnership Order 2005 (Certificate of No Impediment) - Statutory Charge	£35.00	£35.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for housebound person - Statutory Charge	£81.00	£81.00
Attendance of the civil partnership registrar for the purpose of signing the civil partnership schedule for detained person - Statutory Charge	£88.00	£88.00
Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships		
Attendance at an approved premises (additional £11 for cost of certificate also applies)		
Monday to Thursday	£495.00	£500.00
Friday and Saturday	£565.00	£590.00
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£635.00	£680.00
Civil Partnership Conversion to Marriage		
Administration Service Conversion Only in Superintendent Registrars Office	£45.00	£45.00
Administration Service Conversion 2 stage	£27.00	£27.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony- at the Tyne suite		
Monday to Thursday	£125.00	£135.00
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£190.00	£210.00
Friday and Saturday After 12	£240.00	£260.00
Re-Affirmation of Vows and child naming ceremony - Ravensworth suite		
Monday to Thursday	£180.00	£190.00
Friday and Saturday Before 12	£250.00	£260.00
Friday and Saturday After 12	£300.00	£320.00
Re-affirmation of Vows - at an Outside Venue		
Monday to Thursday	£495.00	£500.00
Friday and Saturday	£565.00	£590.00
Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve	£635.00	£680.00
<u>Conversion Marriage Certificates</u>		
On the day	£11.00	£11.00
Thereafter	£11.00	£11.00
Statutory priority certificate fee Same day collection or next day post (24hr Service)	£35.00	£35.00
Certification of a building as a place of worship	£29.00	£29.00
Registration of Approved Premises		
Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership	£1,785.00	£1,785.00
Renewal of Registration of Premises for Marriage and Civil Partnership - 3 years	£1,530.00	£1,530.00
Registering a building for the solemnisation of marriages		
Fee for Certification of Approved Premises	£123.00	£123.00
British Citizenship Ceremony		
Personal British Citizenship Ceremony (at Civic Centre)	£170.00	£200.00
Amendment fee for changing ceremony date or time	£22.00	£24.00
Corrections to registration entries - involvement by general register office	£90.00	£90.00
Corrections to registration entries - without involvement by general register office	£75.00	£75.00

PROPERTY AND LAND	2023/24 Charge (Incl VAT where applicable)	2024/25 PROPOSED CHARGE (Incl VAT where applicable)
Property Transactions		
Registration of assignments and mortgages on Commercial Leases	£133.80	£142.80
Dealings in respect of Commercial Property (including Wayleaves, easements and surrenders) (Hourly Rate)	£133.80	£142.80
Registration of dealings on Residential Lease (Former Council Flats) (Per Dealing)	£91.80	£98.00
Consent to assign on Commercial Leases (charge dependent on time spent) (a minimum charge applies)	£128.30	£136.90
Application for depositing landowner statements and declarations	£484.00	£516.00
For each additional parcel of land contained within a statement and declaration	£109.10	£116.40
Retrospective Consent on alteration to former Council House	£105.50	£112.60
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Consent given by letter	£71.90	£76.70
Consent to Postponement of charge on borrowing on former Council House - Lender requires formal Deed sealed	£105.50	£112.60
Redemption of Council Mortgage on residential property	£174.50	£186.20
Engrossment of Standard Council House Transfer	£43.80	£46.70
Copying Charges for all Legal Documents		
Standard retrieval fee	£78.20	£83.40
Copy charges A4	£0.24	£0.25
Copy Charges A3	£0.36	£0.38
Per Plan	£7.70	£8.20
Copy extract of Covenants		
Standard retrieval fee	£32.00	£34.00
Copy charges A4	£0.24	£0.25
Copy Charges A3	£0.36	£0.38
Per Plan	£7.70	£8.20
Draft and negotiate s.106 Agreements		
Commercial	£1,490.80	£1,590.70
Non-Commercial	£745.40	£795.30
Licence	£508.70	£542.80
Draft and negotiate s.278 s.38 Agreements	£1,932.00	£2,061.40
Emergency Road Closure	£177.50	£189.40
Temporary Traffic Orders	£295.90	£315.70
Permanent Traffic Orders	£709.00	£756.50
Stopping Up Orders	£2,246.00	£2,396.00
*If the charge relates to a commercial property for which no option to tax has been made, the charge will be exempt from VAT. If the charge relates to a commercial property for which an option to tax is in place, the charge will be subject to VAT at the standard rate. If the charge relates to a residential Council property, it will be considered to be non-business.		

Commercial Fees					
		2024/25 Charges		2023/24 Charges	
ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
Planning and Building Regulations					
1.1. Planning and building decisions and pending applications					
Which of the following relating to the property have been granted, issued or refused or (where applicable) are the subject of pending applications or agreements?	(a) - (f) This information is publicly available, 1980 - to date information is available via internet http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/ 1974 - 1980 information is available in paper registers in reception by appointment.				
(a) a planning permission		£3.22	£3.11	£2.93	£2.82
(b) a listed building consent		£2.09	£1.97	£1.90	£1.79
(c) a conservation area consent		£2.09	£1.97	£1.90	£1.79
(d) a certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
(e) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed use or development		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
(f) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for listed buildings		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
	(g) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(g) a heritage partnership agreement		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
(h) a listed building consent order		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
(i) a local listed building consent order		£1.92	£1.81	£1.74	£1.64
(j) building regulation approval		£2.58	£2.47	£2.34	£2.24
(k) a building regulation completion certificate and		£2.45	£2.33	£2.22	£2.11
(l) any building regulations certificate or notice issued in respect of work carried out under a competent person self-certification scheme?		£2.65	£2.53	£2.41	£2.30
1.2. Planning designations and proposals					
What designations of land use for the property, or the area, and what specific proposals for the property, are contained in any existing or proposed development plan?	Local Plan documents are available online including an interactive GIS-based version, and paper copies are available as follows: - the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon Tyne - £25.00 - the Unitary Development Plan UDP - £12.10 for residents and £60.70 for commercial customers (please note that a number of UDP policies have been deleted, having been superseded by more recent Local Plan Policies - a full list of current Local Plan Policies is available on the Council's website.)	£2.76	£2.65	£2.51	£2.41

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
ROADS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY					
Roads, footways and footpaths					
2.1 Which of the roads, footways and footpaths named in the application for this search (via boxes B and C) are:	(a) - (d) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(a) highways maintainable at public expense		£2.24	£2.14	£2.04	£1.94
(b) subject to adoption and supported by a bond or bond waiver		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(c) to be made up by a local authority who will reclaim the cost from the frontagers		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(d) to be adopted by a local authority without reclaiming the cost from the frontagers		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
Public rights of way					
2.2 Is any public right of way which abuts on, or crosses the property, shown on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
2.3 Are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts or crosses the property, on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
2.4 Are there any legal orders to stop up, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
2.5 If so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route.	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.24	£2.14	£2.04	£1.94
OTHER MATTERS					
Apart from matters entered on the registers of local land charges, do any of the following matters apply to the property? If so, how can copies of relevant documents be obtained?					
3.1 Land required for public purposes					
Is the property included in land required for public purposes?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.74	£1.63	£1.58	£1.49
3.2. Land to be acquired for road works					
Is the property included in land to be acquired for road works?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
3.3 Drainage matters					
(a) Is the property served by a sustainable urban drainage system ((SuDS)?	(a) - (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.24	£2.14	£2.04	£1.94
(b) Are there SuDS features within the boundary of the property? If yes, is the owner responsible for maintenance?		£2.24	£2.14	£2.04	£1.94
(c) If the property benefits from a SuDS for which there is a charge, who bills the property for the surface water drainage charge?		£2.24	£2.14	£2.04	£1.94

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
3.4 Nearby road schemes					
Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of any of the following:	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(a) the centre line of a new trunk road or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(b) the centre line of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(c) the outer limits of construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road, involving:		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(i) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), or					
(ii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(d) the outer limits of:		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(i) construction of a new road to be built by a local authority,					
(ii) an approved alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway,					
(iii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(e) the centre line of the proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(f) the outer limits of:-		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(i) construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway					
(ii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout)					
(iii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation					
3.5 Nearby railway schemes					
(a)Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of the centre line of a proposed railway, tramway, light railway or monorail?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
(b) Are there any proposals for a railway, tramway, light railway or monorail within the Local Authority's boundary?		£1.97	£1.86	£1.79	£1.69
3.6 Traffic schemes					
Has a local authority approved but not yet implemented any of the following for the roads, footways and footpaths which are named in boxes B and C and are within 200 metres of the boundaries of the property?					
(a) permanent stopping up or diversion	(a) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(b) waiting or loading restrictions		£1.96	£1.85	£1.78	£1.68
(c) one way driving		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(d) prohibition of driving		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(e) pedestrianisation		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(f) vehicle width or weight restriction		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(g) traffic calming works including road humps		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(h) residents parking controls		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(i) minor road widening or improvement		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66
(j) pedestrian crossings		£1.94	£1.84	£1.76	£1.67
(k) cycle tracks		£1.94	£1.84	£1.76	£1.67
(l) bridge building		£1.93	£1.82	£1.75	£1.66

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
3.7 Outstanding notices Do any statutory notices which relate to the following matters subsist in relation to the property other than those revealed in response to any other enquiry in this form? (a) building works (b) environment (c) health and safety (d) housing (e) highways (f) public health (g) flood and coastal erosion risk management	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.74 £1.93 £1.93 £1.93 £1.99 £1.93 £1.99	£1.63 £1.82 £1.82 £1.82 £1.88 £1.82 £1.88	£1.58 £1.75 £1.75 £1.75 £1.81 £1.75 £1.81	£1.49 £1.66 £1.66 £1.66 £1.72 £1.66 £1.72
3.8 Contravention of building regulations Has a local authority authorised in relation to the property any proceedings for the contravention of any provision contained in building regulations?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.74	£1.63	£1.58	£1.49
3.9. Notices, orders, directions and proceedings under Planning Acts Do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or has a local authority decided to issue, serve, make or commence any of the following? (a) an enforcement notice (b) a stop notice (c) a listed building enforcement notice (d) a breach of conditions notice (e) a planning contravention notice (f) another notice relating to breach of planning control (g) a listed building repairs notice (h) in the case of a listed building deliberately allowed to fall into disrepair, a compulsory purchase order with a direction for minimum compensation (i) a building preservation notice (j) a direction restricting permitted development (k) an order revoking or modifying a planning permission (l) an order requiring discontinuance of use or alteration or removal of building or works (m) a tree preservation order (n) proceedings to enforce a planning agreement or planning contribution	(a) - (n) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.86 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.96 £1.48	£1.74 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.85 £1.37	£1.69 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.78 £1.34	£1.58 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.68 £1.25
3.10 Community infrastructure levy (CIL) (a) Is there a CIL charging schedule? (b) if, yes, do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or has a local authority decided to issue, serve, make or commence any of the following: (i) a liability notice? (ii) a notice of chargeable development? (iii) a demand notice? (iv) a default liability notice? (v) an assumption of liability notice? (vi) a commencement notice? (c) Has any demand notice been suspended? (d) Has the Local Authority received full or part payment of any CIL liability? (e) Has the Local Authority received any appeal against any of the above? (f) Has a decision been taken to apply for a liability order? (g) Has a liability order been granted? (h) Have any other enforcement measures been taken?	(a) - (h) Information available by viewing or tailored report only	£1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74 £1.74	£1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63 £1.63	£1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58 £1.58	£1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49 £1.49

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Non Electronic	Electronic	Non Electronic	Electronic
3.11 Conservation areas Do the following apply in relation to the property: (a) the making of the area a conservation area before 31 August 1974 (b) an unimplemented resolution to designate the area a Conservation Area?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.58 £1.74	£2.47 £1.63	£2.34 £1.58	£2.24 £1.49
3.12 Compulsory purchase Has any enforceable order or decision been made to compulsorily purchase or acquire the property?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.10	£2.00	£1.91	£1.81
3.13 Contaminated land Do any of the following apply (including any relating to land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been identified as contaminated land because it is in such a condition that harm or pollution of controlled waters might be caused on the property)? (a) a contaminated land notice (b) in relation to a register maintained under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (i) a decision to make an entry (ii) an entry (c) consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under section 78G(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 before the service of a remediation notice	(a) - (bii) This information is publicly available Any follow up enquiries would incur a charge with regard to cost (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.84 £1.94 £1.61	£1.73 £1.87 £1.50	£1.67 £1.76 £1.46	£1.56 £1.69 £1.36
3.14 Radon gas Do records indicate that the property is in a "Radon Affected Area" as identified by Public Health England or Public Health Wales?	This information is publicly available. Action Levels have been recommended by the NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) for radon. Where there is a 1% probability or more of present or future homes being above an Action Level they are regarded as Affected Areas (such areas were identified by radiological survey evidence). The indicative map shows the borough of Gateshead as being in the 0 - 1% probability band. It is therefore NOT a radon gas Affected Area. Further information, including the indicative Atlas of Radon in England and Wales, is available from http://www.hpa.org.uk	£1.83	£1.73	£1.67	£1.56
3.15 Assets of Community Value (a) Has the property been nominated as an asset of community value? If so: (i) is it listed as an asset of community value? (ii) Was it excluded and placed on the "nominated but not listed" list? (iii) Has the listing expired? (iv) Is the Local Authority reviewing or proposing to review the listing? (v) Are there any subsisting appeals against the listing? (b) If the property is listed: (i) Has the Local Authority decided to apply to the Land Registry for an entry or cancellation of a restriction in respect of listed land affecting the property? (ii) Has the Local Authority received a notice of disposal? (iii) Has any community interest group requested to be treated as a bidder?	(a) - (b) This information is available by viewing or tailored report only.	£3.22 £3.22	£3.12 £3.12	£2.93 £2.93	£2.82 £2.82
CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total		Total	
4 ROAD PROPOSALS BY PRIVATE BODIES 4. What proposals by others have been approved, or are the subject of pending applications, the limits of construction of which are adjoining or adjacent to the property, for- (a) the construction of a new road, or (b) the alteration or improvement of an existing road, involving the construction, whether or not within existing highway limits, of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road, dual carriageway, the construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or the widening of an existing road by the construction of one or more additional traffic lanes?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26		£10.24	

<p>5 ADVERTISEMENTS</p> <p>Entries in the Register</p> <p>5.1. Please list any entries in the register of applications, directions and decisions relating to consent for the display of advertisements.</p> <p>5.2. If there are any entries, where can that register be inspected?</p> <p>Notices, proceedings and orders</p> <p>5.3. Except as shown in the official certificate of search:</p> <p>(a) Has any notice been given by the Secretary of State or served in respect of a direction or proposed direction restricting deemed consent for any class of advertisement?</p> <p>(b) has the local authority resolved to serve a notice requiring the display of any advertisement to be discontinued?</p> <p>(c) If a discontinuance notice has been served, has it been complied with to the satisfaction of the local authority?</p> <p>(d) Has the local authority resolved to serve any other notice or proceedings relating to a contravention of the control of advertisements?</p> <p>(e) has the local authority resolved to make an order for the special control of advertisements for the area?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£8.06</p>	<p>£7.33</p>
<p>COMPLETION NOTICES</p> <p>6. Which of the planning permissions in force has the local authority resolved to terminate by means of a completion notice under s.94 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£8.06</p>	<p>£7.33</p>
<p>PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE</p> <p>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>7.1. Has any order under s.82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 been made?</p> <p>National Parks</p> <p>7.2. Is the property within a National Park designated under s.7 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949?</p>	<p>Information available by tailored report only.</p>	<p>£8.06</p>	<p>£7.33</p>

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
PIPELINES 8. Has a map been deposited under s.35 of the Pipelines Act 1962, or Schedule 7 of the Gas Act 1986, showing a pipeline laid through, or within 100 feet (30.48 metres) of the property?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.00	£7.33
HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION 9. Is the property a house in multiple occupation, or is it designated or proposed to be designated for selective licensing or residential accommodation in accordance with the Housing Act 2004?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
NOISE ABATEMENT Noise Abatement Zone 10.1. Has the local authority made, or resolved to make, any noise abatement zone order under s.63 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 for the area? Entries in Register 10.2. Has any entry been recorded in the Noise Level Register kept pursuant to s.64 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974? 10.3. If there is any entry, how can copies be obtained and where can that Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREAS 11.1. Is the area an urban development area designated under Part XVI of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980? 11.2. If so, please state the name of the urban development corporation and the address of its principal office.	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
ENTERPRISE ZONES, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS & BIDS 12.1 Is the area designated as an enterprise zone? 12.2 Is the area subject to a local development order? 12.3 Is the area a business improvement district (BID)?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24
INNER URBAN IMPROVEMENT AREAS 13. Has the local authority resolved to define the area as an improvement area under s.4 of the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
SIMPLIFIED PLANNING ZONES 14.1. Is the area a simplified planning zone adopted or approved pursuant to s.83 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990? 14.2. Has the local authority approved any proposal for designating the area as a simplified planning zone?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
LAND MAINTENANCE NOTICES 15. Has the local authority authorised the service of a maintenance notice under s.215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
MINERAL CONSULTATION AND SAFEGUARDING AREAS 16. Is the area a mineral consultation area or mineral safeguarding area notified by the county planning authority under Schedule 1 para 7 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CONSENTS 17.1. Please list any entries in the Register kept pursuant to s.28 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990. 17.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the entries be obtained? (b) Where can the Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION NOTICES 18. What outstanding statutory or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or the Control of Pollution Act 1974? (This enquiry does not cover notices under Part IIA or Part III of the EPA, to which enquiries 3.7 or 3.13 apply)	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
FOOD SAFETY NOTICES 19. What outstanding statutory notices or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Food Safety Act 1990 or the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
HEDGEROW NOTICES 20.1. Please list any entries in the record maintained under regulation 10 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. 20.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the matters entered be obtained? (b) Where can the record be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
FLOOD DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE CONSENTS 21. Has any flood defence or land drainage consent relating to the property been given or refused, or (if applicable) is the subject of a pending application?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24
COMMON LAND AND TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN 22.1. Is the property, or any land which abuts the property, registered common land or town or village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006? 22.2. Is there any prescribed information about maps and statements, deposited under s.15A of the Commons Act 2006, in the register maintained under s.15B(1) of the Commons Act 2006 or under s.31A of the Highways Act 1980? 22.3. If there are any entries, how can copies of the matters registered be obtained and where can the register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24

RESIDENTIAL FEES					
ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
Planning and Building Regulations					
1.1. Planning and building decisions and pending applications					
Which of the following relating to the property have been granted, issued or refused or (where applicable) are the subject of pending applications or agreements?	(a) - (f) This information is publicly available, 1980 - to date information is available via internet http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/ or the pc terminals in Communities and Environment reception. 1974 - 1980 information is available				
(a) a planning permission		£2.80	£2.68	£2.54	£2.44
(b) a listed building consent		£1.67	£1.55	£1.51	£1.40
(c) a conservation area consent		£1.67	£1.55	£1.51	£1.40
(d) a certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
(e) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed use or development		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
(f) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for listed buildings		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
	(g) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(g) a heritage partnership agreement		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
(h) a listed building consent order		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
(i) a local listed building consent order		£1.49	£1.37	£1.36	£1.25
(j) building regulation approval		£2.16	£2.03	£1.97	£1.85
(k) a building regulation completion certificate and		£2.02	£1.90	£1.84	£1.73
(l) any building regulations certificate or notice issued in respect of work carried out under a competent person self-certification scheme?		£2.23	£2.11	£2.03	£1.92
1.2. Planning designations and proposals					
What designations of land use for the property, or the area, and what specific proposals for the property, are contained in any existing or proposed development plan?	Local Plan documents are available online including an interactive GIS-based version, and paper copies are available as follows: - the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon Tyne (March 2015) - £25.00 - the Unitary Development Plan UDP (adopted 2007) - £12.10 for residents and £60.70 for commercial customers (please note that a number of UDP policies have been deleted, having been superseded by more recent Local Plan Policies - a full list of current Local Plan Policies is available on the Council's website.	£2.34	£2.22	£2.12	£2.02
ROADS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY					
Roads, footways and footpaths					
2.1 Which of the roads, footways and footpaths named in the application for this search (via boxes B and C) are:					
(a) highways maintainable at public expense	(a) - (d) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.84	£1.70	£1.67	£1.55
(b) subject to adoption and supported by a bond or bond waiver		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(c) to be made up by a local authority who will reclaim the cost from the frontagers		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(d) to be adopted by a local authority without reclaiming the cost from the frontagers		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
Public rights of way 2.2 Is any public right of way which abuts on, or crosses the property, shown on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
2.3 Are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts or crosses the property, on a definitive map or revised definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
2.4 Are there any legal orders to stop up, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
2.5 If so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route.	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.84	£1.70	£1.67	£1.55
OTHER MATTERS					
Apart from matters entered on the registers of local land charges, do any of the following matters apply to the property? If so, how can copies of relevant documents be obtained?					
3.1 Land required for public purposes Is the property included in land required for public purposes?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
3.2. Land to be acquired for road works Is the property included in land to be acquired for road works?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
3.3 Drainage matters (a) Is the property served by a sustainable urban drainage system ((SuDS)?	(a) - (c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.84	£1.70	£1.67	£1.55
(b) Are there SuDS features within the boundary of the property? If yes, is the owner responsible for maintenance?		£1.84	£1.70	£1.67	£1.55
(c) If the property benefits from a SuDS for which there is a charge, who bills the property for the surface water drainage charge?		£1.84	£1.70	£1.67	£1.55

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.4 Nearby road schemes					
Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of any of the following:	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(a) the centre line of a new trunk road or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(b) the centre line of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(c) the outer limits of construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road, involving:		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(i) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), or					
(ii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(d) the outer limits of:		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(i) construction of a new road to be built by a local authority,					
(ii) an approved alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway,					
(iii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes					
(e) the centre line of the proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(f) the outer limits of:-		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(i) construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway					
(ii) construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout)					
(iii) widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation					
3.5 Nearby railway schemes					
(a) Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of the centre line of a proposed railway, tramway, light railway or monorail?	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
(b) Are there any proposals for a railway, tramway, light railway or monorail within the Local Authority's boundary?		£1.56	£1.43	£1.42	£1.30
3.6 Traffic schemes					
Has a local authority approved but not yet implemented any of the following for the roads, footways and footpaths which are named in boxes B and C and are within 200 metres of the boundaries of the property?	(a) - (l) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.				
(a) permanent stopping up or diversion		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(b) waiting or loading restrictions		£1.55	£1.42	£1.40	£1.28
(c) one way driving		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(d) prohibition of driving		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(e) pedestrianisation		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(f) vehicle width or weight restriction		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(g) traffic calming works including road humps		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(h) residents parking controls		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(i) minor road widening or improvement		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
(j) pedestrian crossings		£1.54	£1.40	£1.39	£1.27
(k) cycle tracks		£1.54	£1.40	£1.39	£1.27
(l) bridge building		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.7 Outstanding notices Do any statutory notices which relate to the following matters subsist in relation to the property other than those revealed in response to any other enquiry in this form? (a) building works (b) environment (c) health and safety (d) housing (e) highways (f) public health (g) flood and coastal erosion risk management	(a) - (f) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
		£1.58	£1.45	£1.44	£1.32
		£1.50	£1.39	£1.37	£1.26
		£1.58	£1.45	£1.44	£1.32
3.8 Contravention of building regulations Has a local authority authorised in relation to the property any proceedings for the contravention of any provision contained in building regulations?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
3.9. Notices, orders, directions and proceedings under Planning Acts Do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or has a local authority decided to issue, serve, make or commence any of the following? (a) an enforcement notice (b) a stop notice (c) a listed building enforcement notice (d) a breach of conditions notice (e) a planning contravention notice (f) another notice relating to breach of planning control (g) a listed building repairs notice (h) in the case of a listed building deliberately allowed to fall into disrepair, a compulsory purchase order with a direction for minimum compensation (i) a building preservation notice (j) a direction restricting permitted development (k) an order revoking or modifying a planning permission (l) an order requiring discontinuance of use or alteration or removal of building or works (m) a tree preservation order (n) proceedings to enforce a planning agreement or planning contribution	(a) - (n) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.44	£1.32	£1.31	£1.20
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
		£1.56	£1.42	£1.42	£1.28
		£1.07	£0.94	£0.97	£0.85

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.10 Community infrastructure levy (CIL)					
(a) Is there a CIL charging schedule?	(a) - (h) Information available by viewing or tailored report only	£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(b) if, yes, do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or has a local authority decided to issue, serve, make or commence any of the following:		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(i) a liability notice?					
(ii) a notice of chargeable development?					
(iii) a demand notice?					
(iv) a default liability notice?					
(v) an assumption of liability notice?					
(vi) a commencement notice?					
(c) Has any demand notice been suspended?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(d) Has the Local Authority received full or part payment of any CIL liability?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(e) Has the Local Authority received any appeal against any of the above?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(f) Has a decision been taken to apply for a liability order?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(g) Has a liability order been granted?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
(h) Have any other enforcement measures been taken?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
3.11 Conservation areas					
Do the following apply in relation to the property:					
(a) the making of the area a conservation area before 31 August 1974	(a) - (b) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.16	£2.03	£1.97	£1.85
(b) an unimplemented resolution to designate the area a Conservation Area?		£1.33	£1.20	£1.21	£1.09
3.12 Compulsory purchase					
Has any enforceable order or decision been made to compulsorily purchase or acquire the property?	Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.73	£1.60	£1.57	£1.45
3.13 Contaminated land					
Do any of the following apply (including any relating to land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been identified as contaminated land because it is in such a condition that harm or pollution of controlled waters might be caused on the property)?					
(a) a contaminated land notice	(a) - (bii) This information is publicly available	£1.42	£1.30	£1.28	£1.18
(b) in relation to a register maintained under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990	Any follow up enquiries would incur a charge with regard to cost	£1.56	£1.45	£1.42	£1.32
(i) a decision to make an entry					
(ii) an entry					
(c) consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under section 78G(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 before the service of a remediation notice	(c) Information available by viewing or tailored report only.	£1.19	£1.07	£1.08	£0.97
3.14 Radon gas					
Do records indicate that the property is in a "Radon Affected Area" as identified by Public Health England or Public Health Wales?	This information is publicly available. Action Levels have been recommended by the NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) for radon. Where there is a 1% probability or more of present or future homes being above an Action Level they are regarded as Affected Areas (such areas were identified by radiological survey evidence). The indicative map shows the borough of Gateshead as being in the 0 - 1% probability band. It is therefore NOT a radon gas Affected Area. Further information, including the indicative Atlas of Radon in England and Wales, is available from http://www.hpa.org.uk	£1.42	£1.29	£1.28	£1.18

ENQUIRY	Registers/information available	Cost of tailored report		Cost of tailored report	
		Total	Electronic Total	Non Electronic Total	Electronic Total
3.15 Assets of Community Value					
(a) Has the property been nominated as an asset of community value? If so:	(a) - (b) This information is available by viewing or tailored report only.	£2.79	£2.67	£2.54	£2.44
(i) is it listed as an asset of community value?					
(ii) Was it excluded and placed on the "nominated but not listed" list?					
(iii) Has the listing expired?					
(iv) Is the Local Authority reviewing or proposing to review the listing?					
(v) Are there any subsisting appeals against the listing?					
(b) If the property is listed:		£2.79	£2.67	£2.54	£2.44
(i) Has the Local Authority decided to apply to the Land Registry for an entry or cancellation of a restriction in respect of listed land affecting the property?					
(ii) Has the Local Authority received a notice of disposal?					
(iii) Has any community interest group requested to be treated as a bidder?					

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
4 ROAD PROPOSALS BY PRIVATE BODIES 4. What proposals by others have been approved, or are the subject of pending applications, the limits of construction of which are adjoining or adjacent to the property, for- (a) the construction of a new road, or (b) the alteration or improvement of an existing road, involving the construction, whether or not within existing highway limits, of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road, dual carriageway, the construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout) or the widening of an existing road by the construction of one or more additional traffic lanes?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24
5 ADVERTISEMENTS Entries in the Register 5.1. Please list any entries in the register of applications, directions and decisions relating to consent for the display of advertisements. 5.2. If there are any entries, where can that register be inspected? Notices, proceedings and orders 5.3. Except as shown in the official certificate of search: (a) Has any notice been given by the Secretary of State or served in respect of a direction or proposed direction restricting deemed consent for any class of advertisement? (b) has the local authority resolved to serve a notice requiring the display of any advertisement to be discontinued? (c) If a discontinuance notice has been served, has it been complied with to the satisfaction of the local authority? (d) Has the local authority resolved to serve any other notice or proceedings relating to a contravention of the control of advertisements? (e) has the local authority resolved to make an order for the special control of advertisements for the area?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
COMPLETION NOTICES 6. Which of the planning permissions in force has the local authority resolved to terminate by means of a completion notice under s.94 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 7.1. Has any order under s.82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 been made? National Parks 7.2. Is the property within a National Park designated under s.7 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
PIPELINES 8. Has a map been deposited under s.35 of the Pipelines Act 1962, or Schedule 7 of the Gas Act 1986, showing a pipeline laid through, or within 100 feet (30.48 metres) of the property?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION 9. Is the property a house in multiple occupation, or is it designated or proposed to be designated for selective licensing or residential accommodation in accordance with the Housing Act 2004?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76

CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
NOISE ABATEMENT Noise Abatement Zone 10.1. Has the local authority made, or resolved to make, any noise abatement zone order under s.63 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 for the area? Entries in Register 10.2. Has any entry been recorded in the Noise Level Register kept pursuant to s.64 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974? 10.3. If there is any entry, how can copies be obtained and where can that Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREAS 11.1. Is the area an urban development area designated under Part XVI of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980? 11.2. If so, please state the name of the urban development corporation and the address of its principal office.	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
ENTERPRISE ZONES, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS & BIDS 12.1 Is the area designated as an enterprise zone? 12.2 Is the area subject to a local development order? 12.3 Is the area a business improvement district (BID)?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24
INNER URBAN IMPROVEMENT AREAS 13. Has the local authority resolved to define the area as an improvement area under s.4 of the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
SIMPLIFIED PLANNING ZONES 14.1. Is the area a simplified planning zone adopted or approved pursuant to s.83 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990? 14.2. Has the local authority approved any proposal for designating the area as a simplified planning zone?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
LAND MAINTENANCE NOTICES 15. Has the local authority authorised the service of a maintenance notice under s.215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
MINERAL CONSULTATION AND SAFEGUARDING AREAS 16. Is the area a mineral consultation area or mineral safeguarding area notified by the county planning authority under Schedule 1 para 7 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CONSENTS 17.1. Please list any entries in the Register kept pursuant to s.28 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990. 17.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the entries be obtained? (b) Where can the Register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION NOTICES 18. What outstanding statutory or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or the Control of Pollution Act 1974? (This enquiry does not cover notices under Part IIA or Part III of the EPA, to which enquiries 3.7 or 3.13 apply)	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
FOOD SAFETY NOTICES 19. What outstanding statutory notices or informal notices have been issued by the local authority under the Food Safety Act 1990 or the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013?	Information available by tailored report only.	£7.43	£6.76
HEDGEROW NOTICES 20.1. Please list any entries in the record maintained under regulation 10 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. 20.2. If there are any entries: (a) How can copies of the matters entered be obtained? (b) Where can the record be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£8.06	£7.33
CON290 OPTIONAL ENQUIRIES	Registers/information available	Total	Total
FLOOD DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE CONSENTS 21. Has any flood defence or land drainage consent relating to the property been given or refused, or (if applicable) is the subject of a pending application?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24
COMMON LAND AND TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN 22.1. Is the property, or any land which abuts the property, registered common land or town or village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006? 22.2. Is there any prescribed information about maps and statements, deposited under s.15A of the Commons Act 2006, in the register maintained under s.15B(1) of the Commons Act 2006 or under s.31A of the Highways Act 1980? 22.3. If there are any entries, how can copies of the matters registered be obtained and where can the register be inspected?	Information available by tailored report only.	£11.26	£10.24

OFFICIAL SEARCH FEES		TOTAL	TOTAL
LLC1 - Commercial - Electronic		£24.38	£22.16
Con29R - Commercial - Electronic		£159.43	£145.03
LLC1 and Con29R - Commercial - Electronic		£183.81	£167.19
LLC1 - Commercial - Non-Electronic		£31.54	£28.67
Con29R Commercial - Non-Electronic		£168.68	£153.19
LLC1 and Con29R - Commercial - Non-Electronic		£200.22	£181.86
Additional Parcel Fee			
LLC1		£2.89	£2.63
Con29R		£15.53	£14.11
Additional Parcel Fee		£18.42	£16.74
Additional Enquiry		£37.85	£34.40
Optional Enquiries			
4		£11.26	£10.24
5		£8.06	£7.33
6		£8.06	£7.33
7		£8.06	£7.33
8		£8.06	£7.33
9		£7.43	£6.76
10		£7.43	£6.76
11		£8.06	£7.33
12		£11.26	£10.24
13		£8.06	£7.33
14		£8.06	£7.33
15		£8.06	£7.33
16		£8.06	£7.33
17		£8.06	£7.33
18		£7.43	£6.76
19		£7.43	£6.76
20		£8.06	£7.33
21		£11.26	£10.24
22		£11.26	£10.24

ITEM		TOTAL	TOTAL
LLC1 - Residential - Electronic		£24.38	£22.16
Con29R - Residential - Electronic		£122.76	£111.58
LLC1 and Con29R - Residential - Electronic		£147.14	£133.74
LLC1 - Residential - Non-Electronic		£31.54	£28.67
Con29R - Residential - Non-Electronic		£133.44	£121.41
LLC1 and Con29R - Residential- Non-Electronic		£164.98	£150.08
Additional Parcel Fee			
LLC1		£2.89	£2.63
Con29R		£15.53	£14.11
Additional Parcel Fee		£18.42	£16.74
Additional Enquiry		£37.85	£34.40
Optional Enquiries			
4		£11.26	£10.24
5		£8.06	£7.33
6		£8.06	£7.33
7		£8.06	£7.33
8		£8.06	£7.33
9		£7.43	£6.76
10		£7.43	£6.76
11		£8.06	£7.33
12		£11.26	£10.24
13		£8.06	£7.33
14		£8.06	£7.33
15		£8.06	£7.33
16		£8.06	£7.33
17		£8.06	£7.33
18		£7.43	£6.76
19		£7.43	£6.76
20		£8.06	£7.33
21		£11.26	£10.24
22		£11.26	£10.24

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TITLE OF REPORT: Budget and Council Tax Level 2024/25

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

Purpose of Report

1. To request Cabinet to recommend to Council on 22 February 2024 the Budget and Council Tax level for 2024/25. As part of the council tax setting process, Cabinet is also asked to recommend to Council the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement set out in this report. The Budget forms a key element of the Council's new Corporate Plan alongside the strategic approach to Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, and agreeing a balanced budget is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Council and is required by statute.

Background

2. On 24 October 2023 Cabinet agreed the Budget Approach 2024/25.
3. On 21 November 2023 Cabinet agreed to commence consultation on the 2024/25 Revenue Budget Proposals.
4. On 22 November 2023 the Chancellor delivered the 2023 Autumn Statement.
5. On 23 November 2023 Council agreed the Corporate Plan 2023-2028 '*The strength of Gateshead is the people of Gateshead*'.
6. On 23 November 2023 Council agreed the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29.
7. On 23 November 2023 Council agreed the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25. Adopting the scheme means that approximately 12,000 council tax payers (out of 13,400 working age claimants) will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax. This is in addition to approximately 8,500 council tax payers of pension age that benefit from national arrangements.
8. On 05 December 2023 the Government published a policy statement on the local government finance settlement 2024/25.
9. On 18 December 2023 the Government announced the provisional local government finance settlement for 2024/25, including council tax referendum principles.
10. On 15 January 2024 the Council responded to the provisional local government finance settlement 2024/25 consultation.
11. On 23 January 2024 Cabinet agreed the council tax base and business rates base forecasts for 2024/25.
12. On 24 January 2024, the Government announced additional funding for social care to be confirmed as part of the final settlement.
13. On 5 February 2024 the final local government funding settlement figures were published. Overall funding was broadly in line with the provisional settlement and the

announcement on additional funding.

14. On 5 February 2024 the Government published the Public Health allocations for 2024/25.
15. This report represents the final stage of the budget setting process in determining the Budget and Council Tax level for 2024/25.

Proposal

A Budget to Deliver Council Priorities

16. The Council's strategic approach of ***Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*** provides a framework to demonstrate how the Council makes decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is built upon the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do;
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance;
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other;
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation, and growth across the borough; and
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead.
17. On 23 November 2023, Council agreed '*The strength of Gateshead is the people of Gateshead*' as its Corporate Plan 2023-2028. The plan builds upon the strategic approach and represents the overall strategic and policy direction for the Council. The plan sets out the steps the Council will take to deliver our agenda for the borough, respond to emerging challenges, and ensure the ongoing delivery of good quality public services.
18. In the context of the MTFs gap and continuing tough financial challenges ahead, it is vital that financial sustainability is at the core of the budget approach, and all resources are targeted to achieving priority outcomes. To ensure this the Council must continue to manage competing priorities and make best use of the resources that are available.
19. On 24 October 2023 Cabinet agreed a framework for the Council's Budget Approach 2024/25 to 2028/29 including a high-level timeline that will support the delivery of a balanced budget for 2024/25.
20. This report proposes a balanced budget in 2024/25 using reserves in a planned way to move forward a priority driven approach to revenue resource allocation.
21. Government assumed in their financial settlement announcements that Councils would increase council tax by the maximum allowable of 4.99%.
22. The proposed budget will result in a council tax increase of 2.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of Gateshead Council expenditure plus an additional council tax increase of 2% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead in respect of the Government's charge for adult social care expenditure.
23. This will result in a combined council tax increase of 4.99% for residents of the Borough of Gateshead (excluding precepts from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and Lamesley Parish) resulting in £1.32 a week rise for the majority of council taxpayers in Gateshead living in the lowest value properties (Band A), or £1.99 a week for those in Band D. This report recommends a 4.99% council tax increase in the Council's council tax for 2024/25.
24. The proposed balanced base budget for 2024/25 is £306.277m including additional investment of £15.3m reflecting Social Care commitments from demand pressures and ring-fenced grant, £2m added to Contingency to maintain support to vulnerable residents in relation to the uncertainty of Household Support Funding (HSF) continuing beyond March 2024, and additional investment in the capacity fund.

25. The balanced budget includes £15.888m of proposed budget cuts and savings (note that some savings are included in financing). This includes £0.544m subject to formal consultation, £2.584m social care interventions, £7.137m options that did not require formal consultation, and £5.623m MTFS cuts which is a shortfall of £0.043m outlined in the MTFS proposals reflecting a lower level of fees and charges income.
26. Available funding for 2024/25 is £306.277m based on use of £1.834m earmarked reserves, £5m Budget Sustainability reserve, council tax increase of 4.99%, Government funding of £132.117m, Collection Fund surplus, and locally retained rates.
27. The budget will require the use of £5m from the Budget Sustainability reserve consistent with the purpose of the reserve. This represents a reduction of £6.175m in the planned use of this reserve in 2024/25.
28. This can be summarised as follows:

Proposed Net Budget 2024/25 (£m)	306.277
Funded by;	
Local Funding (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(167.326)
Government Funding	(132.117)
Strategic Earmarked Reserves	(1.834)
Budget Sustainability Reserve	(5.000)
Total Funding 2024/25	(306.277)

29. The Council recognises the impact of Council Tax increase on some of the most vulnerable in society and particularly those on fixed incomes, especially during a cost-of-living crisis. However, a combination of continued demand and cost pressures and inequitable funding has left the Council with little choice but to consider an increase to Council Tax to protect the delivery of essential Council services to the residents of Gateshead. The proposed increase is included in Government projections of local authority Core Spending Power funding. In November 2023, the Council agreed to continue to provide the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme that enables targeted support for those residents that are likely to be most affected by the increase.

Recommendations

30. Cabinet is requested to make the following recommendations to Council:

- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2024/25 is increased by 4.99% (including a 2% adult social care precept charge) to £2,173.77.
- (2) The revenue estimates of £306,277,247 for 2024/25 are approved.
- (3) The budgeted use of £6.834 million Earmarked Reserves in 2024/25 be approved (comprising of £0.299 million Financial Risk and Resilience, £1.535 million Thrive, and £5 million Budget Sustainability).
- (4) That the proposed budgets and the indicative schools funding, including the summary of budget cuts presented in Appendix 2 be agreed.
- (5) That the outcome of budget consultation outlined in Appendix 4 be noted.
- (6) To note the conclusions of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in respect of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves outlined in Appendix 5.
- (7) That the prudential and treasury indicators set out in Appendix 7 to this report be agreed.
- (8) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 8 be approved.
- (9) That it be noted that at its meeting on 23 January 2024, Cabinet agreed the following amounts for the year 2024/25 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
 - (a) **54,041.1** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year;
 - (b) **1,227.7** for Lamesley Parish being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.
- (10) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'):
 - (a) **£600,799,616** being the aggregate total of the expenditure amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Lamesley Parish Council
 - (b) **(£483,314,228)** being the aggregate total of the income amounts, which the Council estimate for the items, set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act
 - (c) **£117,485,388** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year including Lamesley Parish Council

- (d) **£2,174.0007** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (9)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
- (e) **£12,467.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (f) **£2,173.7700** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (9)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item (Lamesley Parish Council) relates
- (g) Part of the Council's area: Lamesley Parish
£2,183.9248 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (9)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (Lamesley Parish Council) relate
- h)

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6.77	1,449.18
B	7.89	1,690.71
C	9.02	1,932.24
D	10.15	2,173.77
E	12.41	2,656.83
F	14.66	3,139.89
G	16.92	3,622.95
H	20.30	4,347.54

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

- (11) That it be noted that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	121.23	63.41
B	141.43	73.97
C	161.64	84.54
D	181.84	95.11
E	222.25	116.25
F	262.66	137.38
G	303.07	158.52
H	363.68	190.22

- (12) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (10) (h) and (11) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,640.59	1,633.82
B	1,914.00	1,906.11
C	2,187.44	2,178.42
D	2,460.87	2,450.72
E	3,007.74	2,995.33
F	3,554.59	3,539.93
G	4,101.46	4,084.54
H	4,921.74	4,901.44

- (13) That under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

For the following reason:

- To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2024/25.

Policy Context

1. The strategic approach ***Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*** and the Corporate Plan; ***The strength of Gateshead is the people of Gateshead*** set the policy direction for the Council, redressing the imbalance of inequality, championing fairness and social justice. This approach determines future budget proposals and the development of business planning for the delivery of services.
2. The Council recognises there are considerable financial pressures on not just Council resources, but on those of partners, local businesses, and residents. The Council will remain resolute in its determination to make Gateshead a place where everyone thrives. This means the Council's decision-making including resource allocation through the budget will be policy and priority led and based on robust data and intelligence.
3. Full Council is responsible for approving the Council's annual budget following recommendation from Cabinet, in line with the budget and policy framework outlined within Gateshead Council's constitution.

Background

4. The Council continues to operate in the context of an unprecedented period of financial and economic uncertainty, set against the backdrop of over a decade of austerity, cuts to funding, increasing demand, continuing uncertainty over sustainable funding, and more recently high inflation. Notwithstanding this context, the Council must be proactive in its approach to planning services that support residents in the borough.
5. The Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives and Corporate Plan, '*The strength of Gateshead is the people of Gateshead*', provide a framework to demonstrate how the Council will work and make decisions that are policy and priority led. The approach is aligned to the timeframe of the Council's MTFS and is built upon on the following pledges:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do;
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance;
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other;
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation, and growth across the borough; and
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead.
6. The strategic approach sets the major policy directions for the Council within the resources available and will seek new funding sources to redress the imbalance of inequality, champion fairness and social justice.
7. Difficult decisions need to be made about both the relative priority of different services and the balance between what we can afford to deliver against the income raised through local taxation. Investment in these priorities will need to be funded by redirecting resources currently elsewhere within the organisation. The Council needs to challenge not only how services are delivered but also what is being delivered. Critically, these decisions need to be taken in the context of ensuring that they meet our strategic approach but also with a clear understanding of the statutory requirements of local government.
8. Areas of corporate service reviews will be developed to ensure the Council is focused on delivering priorities and statutory functions in the most effective way

and making the best possible use of resources. In line with the agreed budget approach the Council will take a longer-term approach to the shift in resources to achieve priority outcomes.

9. The Council's budget estimates to achieve a balanced budget for 2024/25 are attached at Appendix 2 and have been prepared in accordance with the priority approach and after consideration of the outcome of the consultation on proposed cuts and council tax which closed on 15 January 2024.

Considerations

10. In finalising the budget and council tax for 2024/25, the following issues require consideration and are set out in the body of this appendices: -
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy context;
 - Final Local Government Financial Settlement 2024/25;
 - Projected revenue outturn 2023/24;
 - Budget guidance and base budget requirements 2024/25;
 - Proposed service budgets 2024/25 (appendix 2);
 - Projected business rates 2024/25;
 - Proposed Council tax 2024/25;
 - Adequacy of reserves and robustness of budget estimates (appendix 5);
 - Proposed use of reserves 2024/25;
 - Approval of prudential indicators for 2024/25 (appendix 7); and
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) (appendix 8).

Medium Term Financial Strategy

11. The Council has adopted a longer-term approach to its strategic and financial planning. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was updated and agreed by Council on 23 November 2023 and is based on a financial forecast over a rolling five-year timeframe to 2028/29. The report outlined an estimated financial gap of £49.5m over the five-year period, with an estimated £15.8m in 2024/25. Crucially, this is after the agreed use of reserves. This sets the financial context for the Council's resource allocation process and budget setting.
12. Given the continuing uncertainty over funding reform and the heightened risk that public service funding will be restricted in real terms into the future, this may necessitate the Council to identify and deliver significant additional cuts on top of the gap identified in the MTFS. As we move forward, we will need to consider how best the Council remains financially resilient.

Local Government Financial Settlement 2024/25

13. The Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023 outlined an increase in the National Living Wage (NLW). While the Council is supportive of the NLW, the increase reflects additional costs over and above those estimated as part of the MTFS.
14. On 5 December 2023, the Government published a Policy Statement ahead of the provisional local government finance settlement 2024/25.
15. On 18 December 2023, the provisional local government finance settlement was announced. The provisional settlement was broadly in line with the grant assumptions in the MTFS. The Council responded to the consultation of the provisional settlement on 15 January 2024.
16. On 24 January 2024, the Government announced additional funding totalling

£600m, which included £500m to be allocated in the Social Care Grant as part of the final settlement. While the additional funding for adult and children's social care is welcome, it is not enough to address the significant existing pressures and does not address the need for long-term and sustainable reforms for social care funding.

17. On 5 February 2024, the final local government funding settlement was published. Overall funding was in line with expectations from the provisional settlement and the announcement on additional social care funding, confirmed as £2.361m, with only an additional £36,130 relating to release of the contingency as part of the Services Grant.
18. The Government's assessment of increases in Core Spending Power within the local government finance settlement are based on additional specific funding for social care, and assumed increases in council tax rather than overall funding from central government. Local sources of income, including council tax, business rates and sales, fees and charges have become increasingly important as a source of income to local government.
19. There remains an entrenched unfairness of local authority funding which the Government need to urgently address, alongside a longer-term solution to funding for social care. Importantly, the quantum of funding needs to be sufficient as allocating insufficient resources will not fix the problem. Only then can the regional differences in need and deprivation be addressed to enable the Council to deliver stability in its services to the residents of the borough.
20. It is vital that any future funding approach for local government is fair and provides recognition of the support required in those areas of greatest need.
21. The Council has been able to close the 2024/25 financial gap and set a balanced budget through £15.888m of budget cuts and savings (some of which are in financing – see Appendix 2) alongside the agreed approach to use the Budget Sustainability reserve to allow sufficient time to plan to maintain a sustainable financial position.

Projected Revenue Outturn 2023/24

22. The agreed net revenue budget for 2023/24 is £281.885m. This position includes £14.5m of Council funding from the Budget Sustainability Reserve to allow time for a planned schedule of budget cuts and efficiencies. On 23 January 2024, Cabinet received a report at the third quarter of 2023/24 that projected that the Council outturn for 2023/24 would be delivered within the original budget that was set. This is an improved position on quarter two which estimated a £2.8m overspend. The improved position at quarter three reflects the organisation wide drive to take action to manage the position back within budget. The projected outturn masks a number of significant financial challenges within certain areas as group portfolio budgets are projected to overspend by £3.9m. The final outturn position will be reported to Cabinet in June 2024.

Base Budget Requirement 2024/25

23. The base requirement has been kept to a minimum and pressures will be monitored. The following key assumptions have been made in development of the 2024/25 budget;

- Budget uplifts for general and contractual inflation.

- Resources have been included in relation to MTFS demand and cost pressures particularly social care, pay pressures, including the additional costs associated with the increase in the National Living Wage which will impact on external fees for provider services in social care. The pay award for 2024/25 is yet to be agreed nationally.
 - Provision has been made within the budget for the North East Combined Authority Transport, Environment Agency and Port of Tyne Levies. Council Leaders agreed for an increase to the Tyne and Wear Transport levy of 3.7% meaning an additional cost of £0.359m for Gateshead once changes in population are taken into consideration in the allocations.
 - Revenue support grant increase from £17.8m to £18.9m reflecting a September CPI increase.
 - An estimation of funding available to support the budget from retained business rates and Section 31 business rates grant based on the National Non-Domestic Rates Return (NDR1) return to Government. This funding stream is particularly volatile due to the number of Government reliefs and accurate forecasting has been exacerbated by the technical changes to the standard, and small business rate multipliers, as well as the revaluation of properties that became effective from 1 April 2023.
 - A budget of £4.312m has been included in Other Services relating to the Business Rates Growth Income (BRGI) Pooling Agreement with the North East Combined Authority in its current role as accountable body for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. This is a technical accounting adjustment and there is no impact on the Council's base budget as the funding for this is included within retained business rates financing.
 - An increase to £117.473m in the amount of council tax income receivable (excluding Lamesley) arising from growth in the tax base (£1.421m) and agreement of the proposed council tax increase (£5.579m).
 - The ringfenced Public Health allocations for 2024/25 totalling £18.146m.
24. The base budget includes contingency funding which is consistent with MTFS principles and good financial management. Growth in the Council budget has been kept to a minimum with provision being made in a general contingency of £13.8m (£16.5m 2023/24) to protect against one off in year unforeseen events, provide for budget allocations in relation to the pay award, workforce management, utilities, risk and demand pressures. In addition, contingency includes £2m to support the most vulnerable residents regarding uncertainty over the Household Support Funding continuing beyond March 2024.
25. The base budget proposed figures are presented in Appendix 2.

Budget Growth and Savings Proposals 2024/25 Onward

26. Work continues to identify the shift in resources needed to achieve priority outcomes through five-year planning. In line with the agreed budget approach planned use of reserves will allow time to identify cuts and efficiencies required over the MTFS period. A balanced budget will be agreed by Cabinet and Council and any savings identified in the approach throughout the year will be subject to further formal consultation.
27. Additional budget growth in social care is proposed which is consistent with the

MTFS agreed by Council in November 2023, and additional pressures as a result of announcements in the Autumn Statement in relation to increases in the NLW. This includes:

- £3.9m in Children's services to meet additional demand and increases in fees, including £1.9m for the increased cost of home to school transport.
 - £11.4m in Adults' social care to meet additional demand and increases in fees, including the increase in the NLW, and costs associated with ring-fenced funding.
28. Priority investment of £2m Capacity Fund to support the organisation in the delivery of Council Plan priorities and the changes required in the organisation to achieve a sustainable financial position.
29. Budget cuts totalling £15.931m were included in the Cabinet report in November 2023. The Council consulted on £0.544m of budget proposals between 21 November 2023 and 15 January 2024. In addition, £15.387m of savings and cuts were presented that did not require public consultation. Following the outcome of consultation, and a review of Fees and Charges reported elsewhere on this agenda, the final budget cuts figure included in the base budget is £15.888m, the difference being a shortfall of £0.043m in fees and charges estimated in the MTFS. The budget cuts totalling £15.888m include three areas that form part of the financing of the base budget, in particular the Council Tax long-term empty premium which was subject to consultation. Further detail is outlined in Appendix 2 and 4.

Projected Business Rates 2024/25

30. As part of the 2024/25 settlement, the Government provided a baseline figure for retained business rates of £41.283m. The National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) 2024/25 submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 31 January 2024 estimated that the Council's retained element will be £49.531m (adjusted for cost of collection). An additional estimate of £19.520m is included in the base budget funding in relation to rate reliefs and compensation for under-indexation of the multipliers which are reimbursed through a Section 31 grant.

Council Tax 2024/25

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

Council Tax Referendums

32. A council tax bill is made up of several different charges. Alongside the charge to fund council services which includes the costs Councils must pay in levies or special levies to any number of bodies, there can be precepts which consist of council tax that will be redistributed to bodies to provide specific services to the area. For Gateshead these are for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, and Lamesley Parish.
33. Each year ministers set out in advance what they deem to be an excessive tax rise. The following council tax referendums principles were announced for 2024/25:

- The relevant basic amount of council tax of a local authority is excessive if the amount of council tax for 2024/25 is 5% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care, and 3% for other expenditure), or more than 5%, greater than its relevant basic amount for 2023/24. Councils can set higher increases if they wish, subject to a local referendum. In essence, the relevant basic amount of council tax for an authority is that authority's Band D council tax, excluding precepts.
 - The relevant basic amount of council tax for fire and rescue authorities is excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 is 3%, or more than 3%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2023/24.
 - The relevant basic amount of council tax for police and crime commissioners (PCCs) is excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 is more than £13 greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2023/24.
 - Setting no council tax referendum principles for town and parish councils. This is consistent with previous years and is contingent on town and parish councils taking all available steps to mitigate the need for council tax increases and the Government seeing clear evidence of restraint.
34. The consequences of setting an increase in the relevant basic amount of council tax which is excessive would mean that the Council would have to make arrangements to hold a referendum and make "substitute calculations" of a relevant basic amount of council tax which does not exceed the excessiveness principles. The substitute calculations would automatically take effect if voters reject the Council's increase.
35. Against the backdrop of continued unfair Government funding, and spending pressures which cumulatively are having a significant impact on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities during 2024/25, this report recommends that Gateshead Council agrees a council tax increase of 4.99% (including a 2% adult social care charge). This will mean the Council will be exempt from the Government's excessiveness principles.
36. The proposed council relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

Council Tax Requirement 2024/25

37. In calculating the council tax requirement as required by the legislation, the local Parish precept and use of reserves must be considered.
38. The Parish of Lamesley agreed at the parish meeting of 12 February 2024 to issue a budget precept for 2024/25 of £12,467 which is the same as the 2023/24 precept. However, due to an increase in the council tax base level this means a band D precept decrease of 2.5% is required to result in a £12,467 precept value.
39. In arriving at the Council's council tax requirement, general grants such as Settlement Funding Assessment (revenue support grant, retained business rates and top up grant), other grants in revenue spending power and public health must be deducted.
40. Any amount transferred to or from a special provision fund and the general fund in relation to council tax must also be deducted or added. For 2024/25 this figure

has been estimated to be a £0.322m surplus (2023/24 £1.085m surplus) transfer from the general fund.

41. The 2024/25 Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley), based on an increase of 4.99% is £117,485,388, summarised as follows: -

	£
Net Budget 2024/25 Gateshead Council	306,277,247
Less - Use of Earmarked Reserves	(6,834,000)
Add - Lamesley Parish Precept	12,467
Budget Requirement 2024/25 (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	299,455,714
Less - Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)*	(90,683,633)
Public Health	(18,145,705)
Other Grants	(72,819,356)
Balance to be raised locally	117,807,020
Transfer from Collection Fund (Council Tax)	(321,632)
Council Tax Requirement (including Lamesley Parish Precept)	117,485,388

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

Council Tax Resolution

42. The council tax for Gateshead is calculated by dividing the council tax requirement by the council tax base of 54,041.1 This calculation gives a basic amount of council tax of £2,174.00. However, from this figure, the legislation requires the Parish element to be deducted (£0.23). This gives a Band D Council Tax for Gateshead of £2,173.77. Section 36 of the 1992 Act requires the council tax to be calculated by reference to Band D.
43. The amount payable for dwellings in different valuation bands is calculated using the following proportions for each valuation banding: -

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

Thus, giving the following council tax amounts for the Gateshead area, (including a 2% precept to fund adult social care but excluding other precepts)

Valuation Band	Gateshead Council £
A	1,449.18
B	1,690.71
C	1,932.24
D	2,173.77
E	2,656.83
F	3,139.89
G	3,622.95
H	4,347.54

44. The council tax for the Parish area is calculated by dividing the Parish precept by the council tax base for the Parish area. This calculation gives a Band D precept of £10.15 for Lamesley Parish area in 2024/25
45. These result in the following additional council tax amounts for the Lamesley Parish area (excluding Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire precepts):

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £
A	6.77
B	7.89
C	9.02
D	10.15
E	12.41
F	14.66
G	16.92
H	20.30

46. To these must be added the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. On 06 February 2024 the Police and Crime Panel agreed to increase the Band D charge by £13 which is permitted under the current referendum principles. On 19 February 2024, the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority agreed a precept increase of 2.99% Band D which is permitted under the current referendum principles. These are as follows;

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	121.23	63.41
B	141.43	73.97
C	161.64	84.54
D	181.84	95.11
E	222.25	116.25
F	262.66	137.38
G	303.07	158.52
H	363.68	

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

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,640.59	1,633.82
B	1,914.00	1,906.11
C	2,187.44	2,178.42
D	2,460.87	2,450.72
E	3,007.74	2,995.33
F	3,554.59	3,539.93
G	4,101.46	4,084.54
H	4,921.74	4,901.44

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

48. Council agreed the 2024/25 scheme in November 2023 which retains the minimum contribution of all working age claimants at 8.5% of their Council Tax liability.
49. The removal of the ring-fence within the Government funding calculation means that Government funding for this area has been significantly reduced. The best estimate of the overall cost of the scheme to the Council is approximately £25.28 million.
50. Adopting the scheme means that approximately 12,000 council taxpayers (out of 13,400 working age claimants) will continue to pay no more than 8.5% of their council tax (around £137 per year / £2.60 per week). This is based on current numbers of claims. There are also approximately 8,500 pension age Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) claimants, of which approximately 5,000 receive 100% reduction to their council tax liability.
51. The number of claims may change throughout the year due to benefit changes announced by Government. Any impacts of Government changes will be closely monitored. Any economic impacts in the region such as business closures and redundancies can also impact the number of claimants, as will changes to an individual's earning capacity.
52. A discretionary fund of £25,000 is available to be used to support the most vulnerable claimants in exceptional circumstances.

Household Support Fund (HSF)

53. Despite widespread lobbying of the Government, they have yet to confirm whether the Household Support Fund will continue beyond March 2024. This funding totalling £3.672m has been used to support some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough during the cost-of-living crisis, including free school meals during school holidays, food and energy vouchers, and warm spaces. To maintain support to those most in need, the proposed budget includes £2m in contingency which will need to be prioritised to ensure continued support should the Government decide not to continue this funding stream.

Schools Budget

54. The Council will receive an indicative £203.84m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is estimated to be £79.33m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Funding for under 2-year-olds is estimated at £2.45m (extended allocation starting from September 2024). 2-year old's is estimated at £5.94m and has been extended to include 2-year-olds or working parents as well as disadvantaged 2-year-olds. Funding for 3- & 4-year old's is estimated at £12.74m in 2024/25 and will be confirmed in June 2024 based on actual take up.
55. The Pupil Premium for 2024/25 will be £1,480 for primary school children and £1,050 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,750 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £340 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £9.9m, of which an estimated £4.1m will be recouped for academies.
56. Early Years Pupil Premium has been extended from just eligible 3- & 4-year olds, to include eligible 2-year-olds and under 2-year-olds. The funding is confirmed at £388 per pupil for a full financial year. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.68 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.3m.
57. The number of schools with projected deficits is increasing. There has been a minimal increased funding to mainstream schools however this funding will not cover the full cost of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 pay rises and the increased cost of utilities and services. Every mainstream school will receive at least 0.5% increase in per pupil funding. The increase in funding is expected to continue for 2025/26 at a similar level, but no detailed announcements have been made.

Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget Estimates

58. The Council keeps a level of reserves to strengthen its financial position so that it has enough reserves and balances to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen events without impacting key services and delivery outcomes. This is considered best practice and demonstrates sound financial planning. The Council's policy on reserves is outlined in the MTFS.
59. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to undertake an assessment of the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves. In assessing the robustness of the budget, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has considered the following issues:
 - The general financial standing of the Council;
 - The adequacy of the budget monitoring and financial reporting arrangements;
 - The adequacy of the Council's internal control system;
 - The future budget pressures faced by the Council, as identified in the Council's MTFS;
 - The impact of settlement income and other funding;
 - The proposed Capital Programme;

- The delivery of agreed budget cuts / income targets; and
 - The agreed five-year approach to budget.
60. In addition to the above, the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has undertaken a risk assessment of the underlying budget assumptions applied to income and expenditure estimates. This includes an assessment of the estimates for inflationary increases. Further details are shown at Appendix 6.
 61. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital has also considered the adequacy of reserves to cover any potential financial risks faced by the Council. The Council's general and earmarked reserves are maintained at a prudent level and are subject to continuous review. Appendix 5 to this report shows the opening balances as at 1 April 2023 and an estimate of reserves through to 31 March 2025 subject to the proposals in this report. The position on reserves will be further reviewed following the revenue outturn in June 2024 and as part of the review of the MTFS. The MTFS assumes that reserves will be replenished over the MTFS period.
 62. The Council maintains a general fund reserve which acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen expenditure. This currently stands at £20.2m. This figure includes £8.3m LMS Schools reserves which are ring-fenced and £11.9m General Reserve which is consistent with a minimum level of 3% of the net revenue budget in line with MTFS principles.
 63. The proposed 2024/25 base budget includes £5m use of the Budget Sustainability reserve, and £1.834m budgeted use of strategic earmarked reserves (Financial Risk and Resilience £0.299m and Thrive £1.535m) in support of council priorities.
 64. Some reserves are agreed by Council to be earmarked and held for specific strategic purposes. This may be to help achieve key priorities or held for specific purposes primarily to mitigate unforeseen events, risks or provide insurance. Other reserves are ring fenced and committed to be used for specific projects or activities, usually prescribed by Government, and cannot support the general Council budget such as school's reserves, developer contributions and the Public Health reserve.
 65. Reserves can only be used once and are therefore not a sustainable source of financing without placing the Council's financial position at risk. This is an area of interest to external audit who will look at both how the Council has planned to use and actually uses its reserves. Due to unfair and insufficient funding from Government coupled with increasing demand, the Council will be required and is intending to, find a permanent solution to the funding gap, rather than a short-term solution by using reserves, a fundamental principle of the MTFS. The MTFS includes replenishment of reserves from 2026/27.
 66. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have produced a financial resilience index in an attempt to objectively compare reserve levels with Local Authorities and measure financial risk. Comparisons available of Gateshead's reserves to nearest neighbours show a relatively low level of available reserves but a stable level. Reserve sustainability shows a medium to high risk.
 67. The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that, after taking account of these issues, the revenue estimates are considered robust and that the level of reserves is considered adequate to cover the financial risks faced by the Council in the medium term. This assessment is based on the requirement that spending will be reduced to meet the funding gap in the MTFS as any shortfall will put the Council's sustainable financial position at risk.

Workforce Management

68. There is one proposal put forward, subject to consultation, that will, if agreed, have a potential impact on the Council's workforce. The proposal affects one role and therefore a single postholder. Should the consultation process conclude that there are no alternative proposals which could mitigate the potential redundancy, then subject to consultation, the role confirmed as redundant would be removed from the establishment.
69. In accordance with the statutory redundancy process as set out under section 188, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, redundancy consultation must be undertaken. The Council approaches any proposed redundancy as a collective consultation with the Council's recognised trade unions.
70. The Council collectively consults for a period of no less than 45 days where there is a proposal, subject to consultation, to place 99 or more roles at risk of redundancy. Where there are between 20 and 99 roles proposed to be made redundant then the Council complies with the statutory collective consultation period which is no less than 30 days. The Council go above and beyond the statutory requirements, applying a 30 day collective consultation process even when there are less than 20 roles proposed to be at risk of redundancy. Both (30 and 45 day consultation periods) are inclusive of weekend days. The Council's Redundancy Policy states that where there is the potential for large-scale redundancies, the Council will endeavour to apply a 90-day consultation period. In this instance, the budget proposals would result in one role being placed at risk of redundancy. Consultation commenced on 21 November 2023, therefore a period of no less than 30 days, unless otherwise agreed by the employee and their Trade Union. This can be extended should it be necessary, in order to ensure meaningful consultation has taken place. As this budget proposal was also subject to public consultation, which ended on 15 January 2024, the final outcome cannot be determined until the public consultation has been concluded. Therefore, the role will remain at risk until the public consultation closes and the employee will be afforded the opportunity to engage and consult throughout.
71. During the consultation period, the employee and their Trade Union have been consulted and, subject to agreement of the proposals in this report, the post holder will be made redundant.

Prudential and Treasury Indicators

72. CIPFA's Prudential Code is a professional code of practice to support local authorities in taking decisions about capital investment. All local authorities are required to have regard to the Prudential Code under part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Prudential Framework for Local Authority Capital Investment was refreshed in 2021 and includes further guidance on the rules regarding non-treasury investments and commercial activities the Council may undertake.
73. The key objectives of the Codes are to ensure:
 - Capital investment and investment plans are affordable and proportionate;
 - All borrowing/other long-term activities are within prudent and sustainable levels;

- Risks associated with investment are proportionate to financial capacity;
 - Treasury management decisions are in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how these risks will be managed to levels that are acceptable to the Council; and
 - Consistency with the organisational strategy and resources and ensure that decisions are being made with enough regard to the long-term financial implications and potential risks to the Council. Effective financial planning, option appraisal, risk management and governance processes are essential in achieving a prudential approach to capital expenditure, investment and debt.
74. The Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services sets out a range of prudential and treasury indicators that need to be agreed by the Council. In setting and revising prudential and treasury indicators, the Council is required to take account of the following issues:
- affordability, including the impact on council tax;
 - prudence and sustainability;
 - value for money;
 - stewardship of assets and asset management planning;
 - service objectives; and
 - practicality.
75. Appendix 7 to this report details the prudential indicators required under the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services recommended for approval.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

76. MRP is the amount that needs to be charged to revenue to reflect the repayment of debt. The Council's annual MRP statement for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 8.

Consultation

77. Section 65 of the 1992 Act requires the Council to consult with persons or bodies subject to non-domestic business rates in Gateshead about spending proposals.
78. The Council recognises consultation as a key part of policy formulation and makes considerable effort to ensure that the views of residents, businesses and other key stakeholders are considered.
79. On 21 November 2023, Cabinet agreed to a consultation on the proposed revenue cuts and savings and Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept increases for 2024/25. Further information and responses are included at Appendix 4 of this report.
80. Cabinet retain discretion over the detail of how such cuts and savings are made. Further consultation will be held where this is considered necessary.
81. Cabinet is asked to note that in respect of statutory or common law duties to consult arising from a change in service delivery, including under the Public Sector Equality Duty and other service specific consultation obligations, that the duty to consult will arise when identifiable changes to services and spending on them are proposed.

82. The Council remains committed to continual constructive engagement with its

recognised trade unions, whose contributions are welcomed and valued. Trade unions have been engaged in our approach to the budget and have been thanked for their engagement to date and the representation they have made.

83. Councillors have been consulted on the budget approach at Corporate Advisory Groups, portfolio meetings and briefing sessions.

Alternative Options

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

Implications of Recommended Option

85. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that these are set out in the report and appendices to reflect the position to achieve a legally balanced budget for the start of 2024/25.
- b. **Human Resource Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance confirms that implications for the Council's workforce are considered within the report.
- c. **Property Implications** – The Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities confirms the implications for the Council's asset portfolio will be set out in detail in future separate reports. The Council will continue to implement its Asset Management Strategy and seek to reduce the costs associated with buildings and property through a corporate landlord model and seek to use the Council's assets to deliver the Thrive agenda and to help deliver the corporate priorities.

86. **Risk Management Implications** – Appendix 6 to this report is a financial risk assessment of the budget. This seeks to capture risks and identify mitigation where possible. Overall, the financial context faced by the Council as identified in the MTFS poses significant risks to the Council's continued ability to provide essential services to the residents of Gateshead over the medium term. This risk is mitigated to an extent by effective financial management and planning that supports delivery of council priorities identified within the strategic approach.

87. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – Appendix 4 provides an overview of the approach to using Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA's) to consider how proposals that emerge as part of the Council's budget approach may impact on protected characteristics, health, environment or socioeconomic disadvantage or cumulatively. Any IIA will be developed as part of the decision making process when proposals are taken for consideration.

88. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area". Individual proposals have been assessed as to their impact on crime and disorder and no direct impacts have been identified.

89. **Health Implications** – Appendix 4 highlights health and wellbeing impact.

90. **Climate Change and Sustainability Implications** – Any future proposals put

forward could impact on activities that support operational and financial sustainability. There is a need to balance short term budgetary requirements with the achievement of medium-term financial sustainability. Addressing Climate Change remains a priority of the Council and this is considered as part of the approach to budget setting.

91. **Human Rights Implications** – The implications of the Human Rights Act must be considered in any decision that involves a change of policy or function, or a Service change that arises from the choices. These will be identified, where necessary, in the IIA's which are available from the Council.
92. **Ward Implications** – The proposals in this report cover the whole of Gateshead.

Background Information:

- Budget Approach 2024/25 to 2028/29 – 24 October 2023
- Medium term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 – 24 October 2023
- Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 – 21 November 2023
- Revenue Budget Third Quarter review 2023/24 – 23 January 2024
- Council Tax Base and Business Rates Forecast 2024/25 – 23 January 2024

Group and Service (Net Budgets)	Base Budget, Growth and Contingency 2024/25 £000	Proposed Budget Cuts 2024/25 £000	Budgeted Reserves Use 2024/25 £000	Proposed Budget 2024/25 £000
<u>Integrated Adults' and Social Care Services</u>				
Adult Social Care	99,170	(4,971)	0	94,199
Quality Assurance and Commissioning	6,488	(100)	0	6,388
<u>Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning</u>				
Children's Social Care	49,788	(624)	0	49,164
Education, Schools and Inclusion	8,888	(19)	0	8,869
<u>Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health)</u>				
Public Health	18,146	0	0	18,146
Leisure & Libraries	4,731	(200)	0	4,531
<u>Office of the Chief Executive</u>				
Office of the Chief Executive	1,604	(123)	0	1,481
<u>Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities</u>				
Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical	368	0	0	368
Property & Assets	5,087	(100)	0	4,987
Strategic Services & Residential Growth	3,161	(196)	200	3,165
Locality Services & Housing	1,106	(218)	466	1,354
Highways and Waste	19,158	(536)	0	18,622
Environment and Fleet Management	4,842	0	0	4,842
<u>Economy, Innovation and Growth</u>				
Business, Employment and Skills	1,253	(53)	0	1,200
Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	3,230	0	835	4,065
Major Projects and Corporate Property	(576)	0	0	(576)
Economic Development & Regeneration	1,826	0	0	1,826
<u>Corporate Services and Governance</u>				
Legal and Democratic Services	4,650	(4)	0	4,646
Human Resources and Workforce Development	2,456	(23)	199	2,632
Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	636	0	0	636
Public Service Reform	363	(113)	50	300
<u>Resources and Digital</u>				
Financial Management (incl school meals and catering)	5,089	(493)	0	4,596
Customer Experience and Digital	4,732	(105)	84	4,711
Housing Benefits	200	0	0	200
IT	4,480	(53)	0	4,427
Other Services	6,094	(400)	0	5,694
General Contingency	16,786	(3,000)	0	13,786
Corporate Growth - Vol Sector Dev Fund	700	0	0	700
Corporate Growth - Capacity Fund	2,000	0	0	2,000
Capital Financing Costs	37,189	(1,800)	0	35,389
Expenditure passed outside General Fund	(1,855)	0	0	(1,855)
<u>Traded and Investment Income</u>				
Investment Income	(5,080)	(900)	0	(5,980)
Trinity Square	(375)	0	0	(375)
SCAPE	(250)	0	0	(250)
<u>Levies</u>				
Environment Agency Levy	193	0	0	193
North East Combined Authority	12,174	0	0	12,174
Port of Tyne Levy	22	0	0	22
Total Net Budget	318,474	(14,031)	1,834	306,277
<u>Financed By</u>				
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)				(90,683)
Other Grants				(72,819)
Public Health				(18,146)
Council Tax (Excluding Parish Precept)				(117,473)
Collection Fund				(322)
Earmarked Reserves				(6,834)
Total Funding	0	0	0	(306,277)

(1) Total savings £15.888m:

(2) Fees and Charges saving is already included in the base budget figures £0.257m

(3) Savings totalling £1.6m included in financing

SCHOOLS - ESTIMATES 2024/25

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Dedicated Schools Grant (Indicative)	185,980	(185,980)	0	203,841	(203,841)	0
Use of Schools Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Recoupment for Academies and commissioned Non-Maintained Special Schools	(74,755)	74,755	0	(79,327)	79,327	0
Total Retained in Council	111,225	(111,225)	0	124,514	(124,514)	0
Less: DSG funding allocated to High Needs, Early Years and other service areas	(37,977)	37,977	0	(45,789)	45,789	0
Schools Budget (Maintained)	73,248	(73,248)	0	78,725	(78,725)	0
Estimated Pupil Premium	9,476	(9,476)	0	9,915	(9,915)	0
Less: Academies Recoupment	(3,765)	3,765	0	(4,096)	4,096	0
Pupil Premium (Maintained)	5,711	(5,711)	0	5,819	(5,819)	0

The Council will receive an indicative £203.841m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), ring-fenced for the education of children. From this amount the Department for Education (DfE) will recoup the funding for academies in Gateshead and externally commissioned High Needs places, which is estimated to be £79.327m. Funding for schools and the providers of early years education is distributed on a formulaic basis in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. Funding for under 2 year olds (new from September 2024) is estimated at £2.449m, the extended offer to 2-year olds (to include children of working parents) is estimated at £5.938m, funding for 3 & 4 year old's is estimated at £12.738m in 2024/25 and will be confirmed in June 2024 based on actual take up.

For 2024/25, High Needs Block funding increased by £1.462m. The Pupil Premium for 2024/25 will be £1,480 for primary school children and £1,050 for secondary school children. This amount is paid per pupil entitled to a free school meal at any time in the last six years. Looked After Children receive Pupil Premium Plus at £2,750 per eligible child. Service Children Pupil Premium is £340 per eligible pupil. The estimated entitlement for schools in Gateshead is £9.915m, of which an estimated £4.096m will be recouped for academies.

Early Years Pupil Premium has been confirmed at £388 per pupil for a full financial year. The entitlement has been extended from just eligible 3 & 4 year olds to include, eligible 2 year olds and under 2 year olds. This will be paid on a participation basis of £0.68 per hour and the DfE have provided an estimated allocation within the DSG of £0.292m.

INTEGRATED ADULTS' AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Adult Social Care	126,654	(41,209)	85,445	140,388	(41,218)	99,170
Budget Proposals Review of provider services contracts and maximisation of grant funding Service provider reviews and maximisation of grant funding						
				(1,262)	(1,519)	(2,781)
				(1,123)	(1,067)	(2,190)
				(2,385)	(2,586)	(4,971)
Total Adult Social Care 2024/25				138,003	(43,804)	94,199

INTEGRATED ADULTS' AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND COMMISSIONING

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Quality Assurance and Commissioning	6,459	(126)	6,333	6,614	(126)	6,488
Budget Proposals Review and renegotiate a reduction in an existing block contract.				(100)	0	(100)
				(100)	0	(100)
				6,514	(126)	6,388
Total Quality Assurance and Commissioning 2024/25				6,514	(126)	6,388

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LIFELONG LEARNING - ESTIMATES 2024/25

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Children's Social Care	49,304	(2,806)	46,498	52,595	(2,807)	49,788
Budget Proposals						
Removal of the Pause programme budget				(100)	0	(100)
Reduce Staying Put budget				(100)	0	(100)
Regional Adoption Agency				(30)	0	(30)
On-going service reviews linked to reducing entries into care				(394)	0	(394)
				(624)	0	(624)
Total Children's Social Care 2024/25				51,971	(2,807)	49,164

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LIFELONG LEARNING - ESTIMATES 2024/25

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND INCLUSION

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Education, Schools and Inclusion	57,808	(51,216)	6,592	60,428	(51,540)	8,888
Budget Proposals						
Schools Sports Partnership reduction in budget				(19)	0	(19)
				(19)	0	(19)
Total Education, Schools and Inclusion 2024/25				60,409	(51,540)	8,869

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - ESTIMATES 2024/25

PUBLIC HEALTH

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Public Health	17,787	0	17,787	18,146	0	18,146
				18,146	0	18,146
Total Public Health 2024/25						

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - ESTIMATES 2024/25

LEISURE AND LIBRARIES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Leisure and Libraries	10,722	(6,093)	4,629	10,753	(6,022)	4,731
Budget Proposals						
Release of vacant posts in libraries.				(50)	0	(50)
Fees and charges increased income for Gateshead Stadium				0	(150)	(150)
				(50)	(150)	(200)
Total Leisure and Libraries 2024/25				10,703	(6,172)	4,531

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Office of the Chief Executive	1,698	(219)	1,479	1,828	(224)	1,604
Budget Proposals						
Vacant post and voluntary redundancy				(88)	0	(88)
Reduce Council News				(18)	0	(18)
Childrens Services marketing				(9)	0	(9)
Corporate hospitality				(8)	0	(8)
				(123)	0	(123)
Total Office of the Chief Executive 2024/25				1,705	(224)	1,481

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

CONSTRUCTION - BUILDING MAINTENANCE, TECHNICAL & CYCLICAL

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical	414	0	414	368	0	368
				368	0	368
Total Construction - Building Maintenance, Technical & Cyclical 2024/25						

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

PROPERTY & ASSETS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Property & Assets	12,528	(8,203)	4,325	12,804	(7,717)	5,087
Budget Proposals Embedded review of assets				(100)	0	(100)
				(100)	0	(100)
				12,704	(7,717)	4,987
Total Property & Assets 2024/25						

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

STRATEGIC SERVICES & RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Strategic Services & Residential Growth	3,896	(820)	3,076	4,606	(1,445)	3,161
Budget Proposals						
Private Sector Housing - additional grant funding and fine income.				0	(170)	(170)
Review of travellers site budget				(26)	0	(26)
Reserve Funded Budgets						
Selected Landlord Licensing				200	0	200
				174	(170)	4
Total Strategic Services & Residential Growth 2024/25				4,780	(1,615)	3,165

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

LOCALITY SERVICES & HOUSING

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Locality Services & Housing	4,593	(2,934)	1,659	4,842	(3,736)	1,106
Budget Proposals						
Maximisation of grant funding and internal restructure				(50)	(168)	(218)
Reserve Funded Budgets						
Community Advice & Crisis help				296	0	296
Volunteering & Communities				100	0	100
Fuel Poverty Action Plan				70	0	70
				416	(168)	248
Total Locality Services & Housing 2024/25				5,258	(3,904)	1,354

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

HIGHWAYS AND WASTE

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Highways and Waste	29,389	(10,990)	18,399	30,507	(11,349)	19,158
Budget Proposals						
Budget reduction to reflect current recycling levels				(200)	0	(200)
Trade Waste - increase income target				0	(50)	(50)
Waste Contract Inflation absorption				(286)	0	(286)
				(486)	(50)	(536)
Total Highways and Waste 2024/25				30,021	(11,399)	18,622

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - ESTIMATES 2024/25

ENVIRONMENT AND FLEET MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Environment and Fleet Management	6,940	(2,630)	4,310	7,544	(2,702)	4,842
				7,544	(2,702)	4,842
Total Environment and Fleet Management 2024/25						

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2024/25

BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Business, Employment and Skills	4,157	(3,111)	1,046	4,189	(2,936)	1,253
Budget Proposals						
Merging of two specialist areas (start-up and small business support)				(53)	0	(53)
				(53)	0	(53)
Total Business, Employment and Skills 2024/25				4,136	(2,936)	1,200

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2024/25

PLANNING, POLICY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport	6,828	(2,752)	4,076	5,968	(2,738)	3,230
Reserve Funded Budgets Climate Change Strategy Delivery Local Plan						
				490	0	490
				345	0	345
				835	0	835
Total Planning, Policy, Climate Change and Strategic Transport 2024/25				6,803	(2,738)	4,065

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2024/25

MAJOR PROJECTS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Major Projects	1,568	(2,283)	(715)	1,458	(2,034)	(576)
				1,458	(2,034)	(576)
Total Major Projects 2024/25						

ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH - ESTIMATES 2024/25

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Economic Development & Regeneration	1,296	(93)	1,203	1,919	(93)	1,826
				1,919	(93)	1,826
Total Economic Development & Regeneration 2024/25						

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Legal and Democratic Services	5,477	(1,040)	4,437	5,531	(881)	4,650
Budget Proposals Town Twinning				(4)	0	(4)
				(4)	0	(4)
Total Legal and Democratic Services 2024/25				5,527	(881)	4,646

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Human Resources and Workforce Development	2,764	(545)	2,219	2,796	(340)	2,456
Budget Proposals						
Vacant post				(23)	0	(23)
Reserve Funded Budgets						
Workforce Development Capacity				199	0	199
				176	0	176
Total Human Resources and Workforce Development 2024/25				2,972	(340)	2,632

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

CORPORATE COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Corporate Commissioning and Procurement	1,107	(498)	609	1,134	(498)	636
Total Corporate Commissioning and Procurement 2024/25						
				1,134	(498)	636

CORPORATE SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE - ESTIMATES 2024/25

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Public Service Reform	339	0	339	363	0	363
Budget Proposals						
Reduce PSR non staffing budget and ending of funding arrangements				(113)	0	(113)
Reserve Funded Budgets						
Public Service Reform funding				50	0	50
				(63)	0	(63)
Total Public Service Reform 2024/25				300	0	300

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2024/25

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (Includes School Meals and Catering Service)

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Financial Management	13,319	(9,188)	4,131	12,912	(7,823)	5,089
Budget Proposals						
Reduction in school meals budget with no impact on charges to schools				(400)	0	(400)
Alternative funding and increased income from partner SLA's				0	(50)	(50)
Alternative funding capital contribution for posts				(43)	0	(43)
				(443)	(50)	(493)
Total Financial Management 2024/25				12,469	(7,873)	4,596

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2024/25

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND DIGITAL

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Customer Experience and Digital	5,823	(1,404)	4,419	6,136	(1,404)	4,732
Budget Proposals						
Increase in charges for work related to appointee and deputyship cases				0	(25)	(25)
Maximisation of grant funding and Service Level Agreement (SLA) income to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)				0	(30)	(30)
Costs for appropriate recovery and enforcement action				0	(50)	(50)
Reserve Funded Budgets						
Discretionary Payments				50	0	50
Community Advice and Crisis Help				34	0	34
				84	(105)	(21)
Total Customer Experience and Digital 2024/25				6,220	(1,509)	4,711

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2024/25

HOUSING BENEFITS

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Housing Benefits	49,085	(48,885)	200	49,085	(48,885)	200
				49,085	(48,885)	200
Total Housing Benefits 2024/25				49,085	(48,885)	200

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2024/25

IT

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
IT	6,519	(2,241)	4,278	5,860	(1,380)	4,480
Budget Proposals						
Cost and contract savings relating to IT licences, software and supplies & services				(53)	0	(53)
				(53)	0	(53)
Total IT 2024/25				5,807	(1,380)	4,427

RESOURCES AND DIGITAL - ESTIMATES 2024/25

OTHER SERVICES

Section 1 - Net Cost of Current Levels of Service						
	2023/24			2024/25		
	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s	Gross Exp £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Budget £000s
Other Services	2,059	(330)	1,729	6,424	(330)	6,094
Contingencies	15,149	0	15,149	16,786	0	16,786
Priority Growth - Voluntary Sector Development Fund	700	0	700	700	0	700
Priority Growth - Capacity Fund	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Capital Financing	32,818	0	32,818	37,189	0	37,189
Expenditure passed outside General Fund	0	(1,855)	(1,855)	0	(1,855)	(1,855)
Investment & Trading Income	0	(5,865)	(5,865)	0	(5,705)	(5,705)
Levies	12,022	0	12,022	12,389	0	12,389
Total	62,749	(8,050)	54,698	75,488	(7,890)	67,598
Budget Proposals						
Other Services - Supplier Incentives				(70)	0	(70)
Other Services - Pension Control Account				(330)	0	(330)
Contingencies - volatility of energy inflation/ costs				(3,000)	0	(3,000)
Capital Financing - Slippage & MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) review				(1,800)	0	(1,800)
Investment & Trading Income - Airport Interest				0	(900)	(900)
				(5,200)	(900)	(6,100)
Total Other Services, Capital Financing, and Contingencies 2024/25				70,288	(8,790)	61,498

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED USE OF RESERVES		AMOUNT £000S
Financial Risk and Resilience Reserve		
Volunteering and Communities		100
Workforce Development Capacity		199
Total		299
Thrive Reserve		
Selected Landlord Licensing		200
Community Advice & Crisis help		296
Fuel Poverty Action Plan		70
Climate Change Strategy Delivery		490
Local Plan		345
Public Service Reform funding		50
Discretionary Payments		50
Community Advice and Crisis Help		34
Total		1,535

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CUTS	AMOUNT £000s
PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION	544
Review the purchase of respite provision	100
Review of travellers site	26
Reduce Council News	18
Council Tax - long term empty property premiums	400
PROPOSALS IDENTIFIED IN THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)	5,623
Reduction in Contingencies - volatility of energy inflation/ costs	3,000
Capital slippage	1,000
Pension Control Account additional savings	280
Absorb Waste contractual inflation	286
Additional investment interest	800
Fees and charges	257
SOCIAL CARE INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE MTFS	2,584
Service provider reviews and maximisation of grant funding	2,190
Reduce entries into care	394
BUDGET OPTIONS	7,137
Review of provider services contracts and maximisation of grant funding	2,781
Includes the maximisation of grant funding and cost / contract savings from service reviews and revised funding methods	249
Release of vacant posts in libraries	50
Fees and charges increased income for Gateshead Stadium	150
Embedded review of assets	100
Budget reduction to reflect current recycling levels	200
Trade Waste - increase income target	50
Private Sector Housing - additional grant funding and fine income	170
Maximisation of grant funding and Service Level Agreement (SLA) income	218
Merging of two specialist areas (start-up and small business support)	53
Restructure of budgets and release of vacant posts	105
Reduce Town Twinning budget	4
Reduce Public Service Reform non staffing budget and ending of funding arrangements	113
Remove vacant post	23
Reduction in school meals budget with no impact on charges to schools	400
Alternative funding and increased income from partner SLA's	50
Supplier incentives creation of income budget	70
Alternative funding and increased income	43
Increase in charges for work related to appointee and deputyship cases	25
Maximisation of grant funding and Service Level Agreement (SLA) income to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	30
Costs for appropriate recovery and enforcement action	50
Cost and contract savings relating to IT licences, software and supplies and services	53
Pension Control Account	50
Capital Financing saving - slippage and MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) review	800
Additional investment interest	100
Collection Fund - single person discount review	100
Business Rates	1,100
Total Budget Cuts	15,888
BUDGET CUTS ABOVE INCLUDED IN FINANCING	
Council Tax - long term empty property premiums	(400)
Collection Fund - single person discount review	(100)
Business Rates	(1,100)
BUDGET CUTS INCLUDED IN BASE ESTIMATES	
Fees and Charges	(257)
Total Budget Cuts	14,031
Savings per consultation	15,931
Fees and Charges Shortfall	(43)
Actual Budget Cuts in Base	15,888

Statutory Requirements: Calculation of Council Tax Requirement

1. Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set an amount of Council Tax for each financial year for each category of dwellings in its area. The council tax must be set before the 11 March in the preceding financial year. For a category of dwellings, the amount of Council Tax is the aggregate of:
 - (i) the amount of tax in relation to the year that the Authority itself has calculated, and
 - (ii) the sum of the amounts of tax in relation to the year that major precepting authorities have calculated in precepts issued to the authority by major precepting authorities.
2. Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the 1992 Act (the 1992 Act) require the Authority to calculate its own amount of tax for each category of dwellings in its area, reflecting its council tax requirement. In calculating its council tax requirement, the Authority must make the following calculations:
 - (1) In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must make the calculations required by the section 31A of the 1992 Act.
 - (2) The Authority must calculate the aggregate of:
 - (a) the expenditure which the Authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a Business Improvement District (BID) Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (b) such allowance as the Authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices;
 - (c) the financial reserves which the Authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure;
 - (d) such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the Authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for;
 - (da) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Act (the 1988 Act);
 - (e) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97 (4) of the 1988 Act;
 - (f) any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

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

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

Calculation of Basic Amount of Tax

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

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

where:

- R is the amount calculated (or last calculated) by the authority under section 31A (4) of the 1992 Act as its council tax requirement for the year;

T is the amount which is calculated by the authority as its council tax base for the year and, where one or more major precepting authorities have power to issue precepts to it, is notified by it to those authorities ("the major precepting authorities concerned") within the prescribed period.

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

Introduction

1. Following a report to Cabinet on 21 November 2023, the Council commenced consultation on a number of savings proposals for 2024/25.
2. The Council has consulted and sought views on a proposed Council Tax increase (2.99%) and Adult Social Care precept increase (2%) as part of its budget setting process.
3. There is an estimated funding gap of £49.5m anticipated over the next five years. If the proposed uplifts did not go ahead the impacts would be £17m additional loss over the period. This approach is consistent and supports the Council's Corporate Plan, strategic approach *Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*, and the budgetary framework of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
4. The Budget Consultation focused on 4 savings proposals totalling £544,000 which could have an impact on residents and the wider community. In addition, £15.387m of savings and cuts were presented that did not require public consultation.

Method

5. The Budget consultation 2024/25 ran from 21 November 2023 to 15 January 2024. The public consultation survey was made available on the Council's consultation portal. Comments on the proposals were also received by email through a Budget Consultation inbox.
6. Promotion of the consultation was carried out using social media, our e-bulletin Gateshead Now, publicised on the Council's website, showcased at our in person and online engagement events, and through internal communications channels. The Council's online consultation portal also automatically emails 2000 people who have registered to be notified when new consultations are posted.
7. A news article, explaining the Council's budget in greater detail and providing more information on Council Tax was featured within the Winter edition of Council News, which can be found here: - www.gateshead.gov.uk/councilnews
8. Discussions have been held with key stakeholders including trade unions, Voluntary and Community Sector and North-East England Chamber of Commerce.

Public Consultation

9. Overall, there has been a good response in the number of people who have engaged with the Council on its budget consultation. There are 516 responses to the survey via the consultation portal.
10. The following data has been gathered from the council website, social media, and emails:
 - Budget consultation webpage views totalled 748.
 - Gateshead Now email featured the budget consultation on two occasions, with a total of 1872 clicks.

- Six Facebook posts achieved a reach of 19,254 people, with 1,200 engagements and 54 comments.
- Eight engagement sessions have taken place both in person and virtually during the consultation period, with 322 people in attendance.
- The Budget consultation has also been promoted internally and featured in the weekly employee bulletin.

11. Below is a summary of feedback received showing the largest proportion (either combined strongly agree and tend to agree or combined strongly disagree and tend to disagree) for each proposal:

PROPOSALS:		
£100,000	Review the purchase of respite provision	53% AGREE
£26,000	Review of travellers site	72% AGREE
£18,000	Council News reduction	89% AGREE
£400,000	Review of Council Tax long term empty property premiums	86% AGREE
COUNCIL TAX:		
2%	Increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept	54% DISAGREE
2.99%	Increase to general Council Tax	54% DISAGREE

12. Further detailed breakdown of responses for each proposal and the themes of comments made along with demographics from the consultation results can be found at the end of this appendix.

13. In addition, there were a significant number of general comments made by respondents to the budget consultation. Initial analysis of these shows the greatest numbers of comments were made in relation to;

- A negative comment relating to Gateshead Council and perceived lack of management of services, funding or quality of provision
- Expressing need to protect remaining services relating to the environment and visible deterioration of place across Gateshead in recent years reducing its attractiveness for residents to live and businesses to locate
- Comments relating to governance and suggestions made to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the council by reducing the number of councillors, reducing councillor expenses or reducing senior management numbers and costs
- Council tax levels in Gateshead including current high levels of council tax charged in comparison to other local authorities.

Trade Unions

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

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

Other public consultation

16. Over the past twelve months the Council has undertaken 37 targeted or publicly accessible consultations using its online consultation portal. Many of these help to inform Council policy, including:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2023-26
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Gateshead Libraries Annual Customer Survey
- Leisure Service Consultation
- Gateshead International Stadium Stakeholder Engagement
- Sexual Health Service User Survey
- Warm Welcome Spaces
- School Catering Pupil and Parent Survey
- Gateshead Housing Standard for Ageing Well
- Home Repairs Waiting Time Survey

Integrated Impact Assessment

17. The Council's strategic approach *Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives* identifies a commitment to reduce the levels of inequality that are apparent within the borough.
18. Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Nearly 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas.
19. The population of Gateshead is ageing, it is projected that by 2041 there will be an additional 7,545 people aged 65 or older, an increase of 18%. There will also be a slight decrease in the number of children and young people aged 0-15 of around 2,793 or 8%.
20. To achieve a balanced budget in 2024/25, the Council has reviewed its base budget in line with its Medium Term Financial Strategy.
21. Integrated impact assessments (IIA) were published for those four budget savings proposals likely to have an impact on residents or the wider community, and were made available on the budget consultation webpage. However, it should be noted that publication of the IIA for the 'Review of travellers site' proposal was delayed until 29 November 2024. This IIA approach considers any impact, whether negative or positive, on people with protected characteristics alongside health, environment, socio-economic disadvantage and considers cumulative impact. The Council's role will be to consider any disproportionate impact identified in the integrated impact assessments as part of the decision-making process and wherever possible, mitigate this impact, following implementation of proposals.
22. Impact assessments are reviewed following the feedback from the public consultation process and updated as knowledge of any likely impact on employees or service users is understood following consultation and engagement activity.
23. Where respondents gave specific feedback on individual budget proposals this has been coded into themes and considered by Service Directors responsible for that service area. Full feedback charts are presented at the end of this appendix.

Voluntary and Community Sector

24. The Council places high value on the contribution of the community and voluntary sector in Gateshead, and the significant impact that is made in supporting residents across the

borough. The Council will continue to engage, support, and collaborate with the voluntary sector leaders' group to improve the lives of the borough's population.

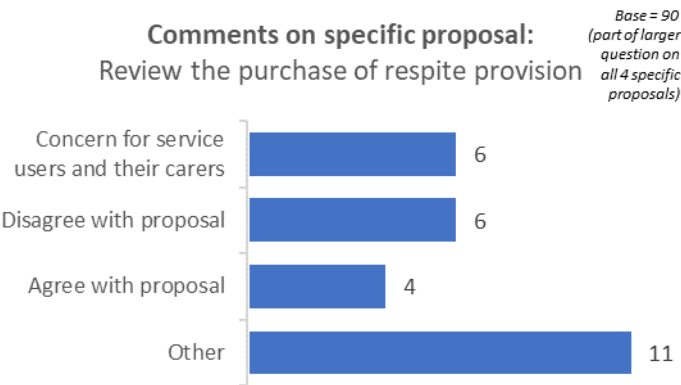
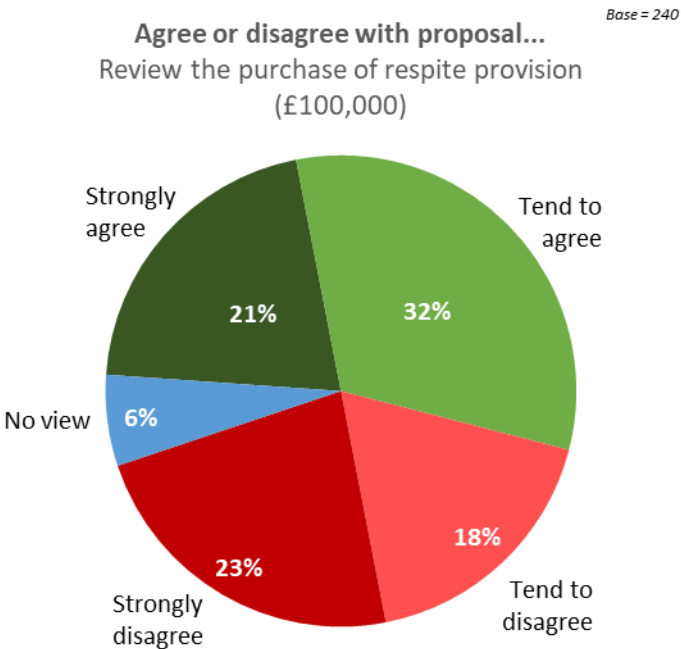
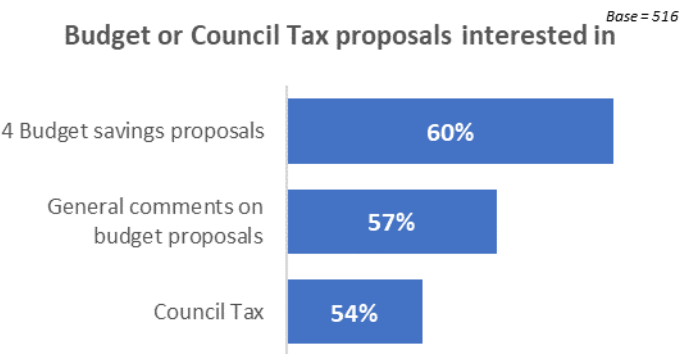
25. The Council's relationship with Connected Voice remains strong and the collective capacity building that results from this will ensure the VCSE continues to receive help and support from the Council and this key partner.

Mitigation of the budget proposals

26. The Council has considered the consultation feedback and the potential for negative impact on residents and service users. Whilst acknowledging that any reduction in budget representative a negative position, the feedback provided is sufficient to inform the likely reduction across these four proposals.

Budget Consultation 2024/25

The Budget 2024/25 consultation ran from 21 November to 15 January 2024. The consultation was made available on the Council's consultation portal. Comments on the proposals were also received by email through a Budget Consultation inbox. The consultation was advertised and promoted using different mediums as highlight at paragraphs 6 and 7. In total there were 516 responses to the survey.

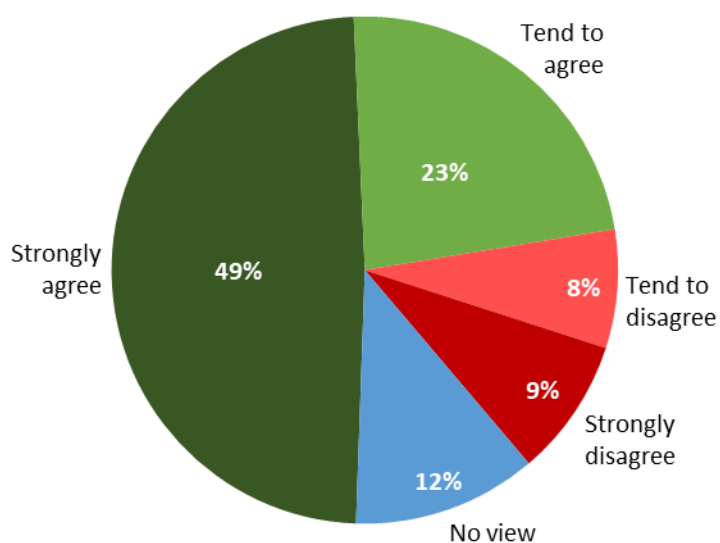


Additional free text comments shown in chart on left. 'Other' includes:

- Need to consult with service users and carers directly, review one-off purchases, use VCS for provision, maintain current service level, reduce funding more than proposed.
- Concern with reductions already made reasons for existing underspend not clear.

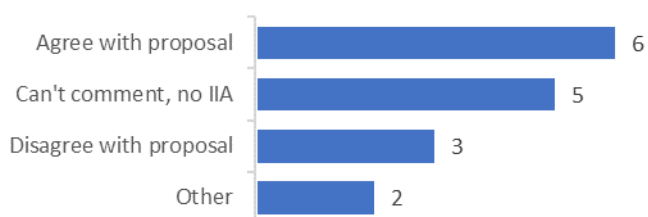
Agree or disagree with proposal...
Review of travellers site (£26,000)

Base = 238



Comments on specific proposal:
Review of travellers site

Base = 90
(part of larger question on all 4 specific proposals)



Additional free text comments shown in chart on left.

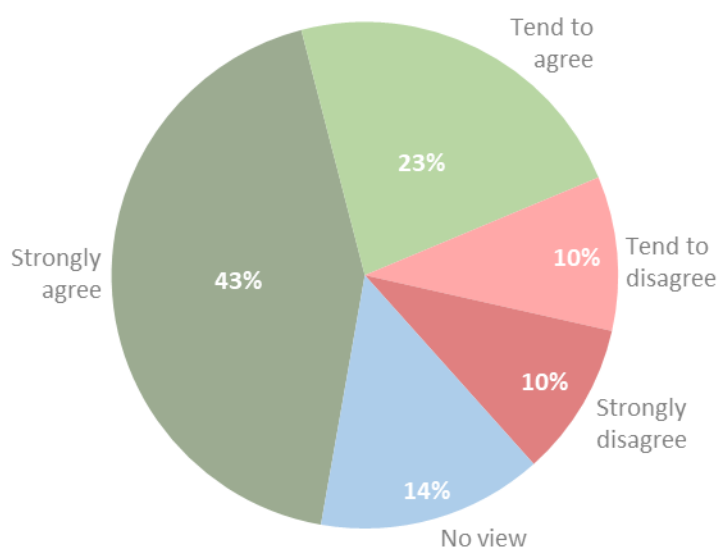
'Other' includes:

- Change to short stay site only and increase traveller's site charges.

Note: Publication of the IIA for the 'Review of travellers site' proposal was delayed until 29th November. Below are charts showing responses to that proposal pre and post publication:

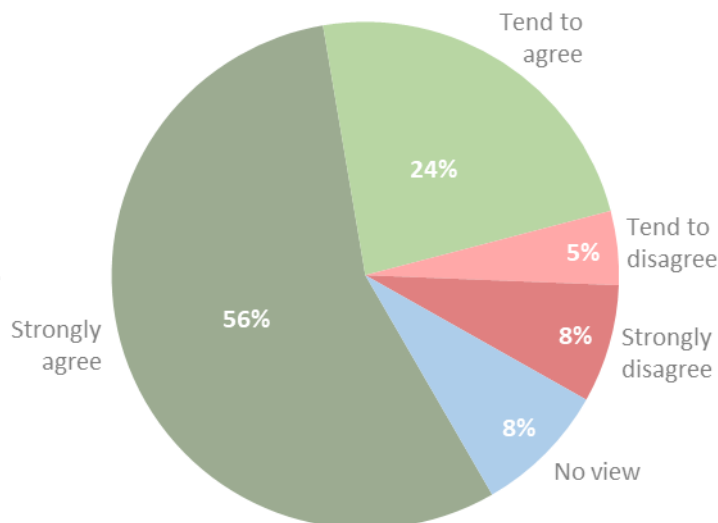
Agree or disagree with proposal...
Review of travellers site (£26,000) [pre IIA]

Base = 132



Agree or disagree with proposal...
Review of travellers site (£26,000) [post IIA]

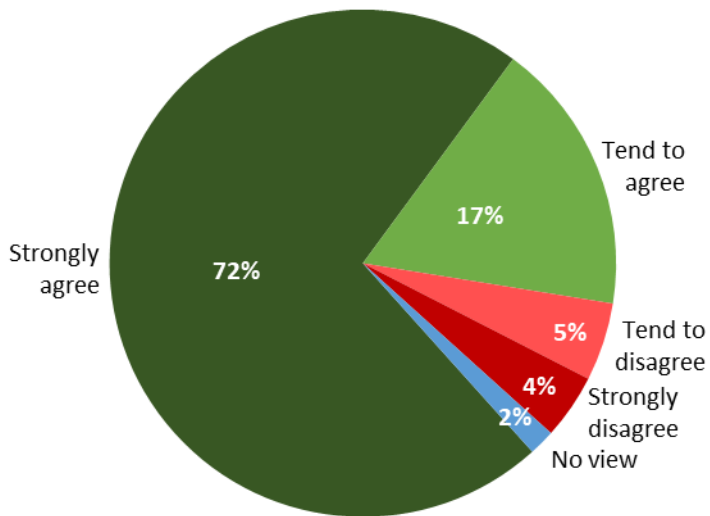
Base = 106



Base = 241

Agree or disagree with proposal...

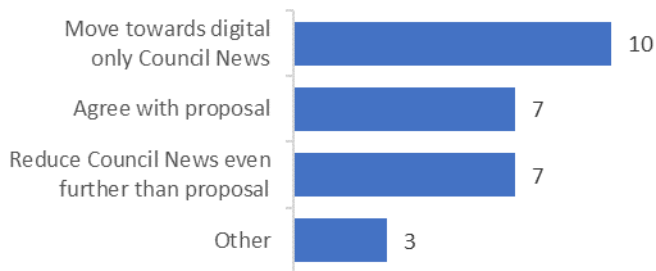
Council News (£18,000)



Comments on specific proposal:

Council News

Base = 90
(part of larger
question on
all 4 specific
proposals)



Additional free text comments shown in chart on left.

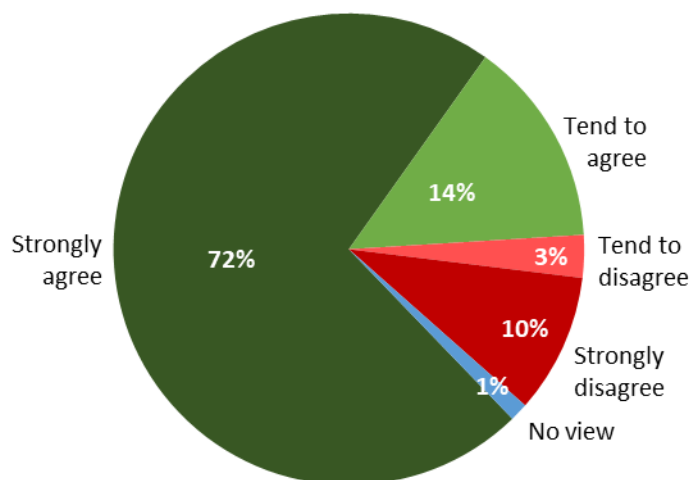
'Other' includes:

- Making Council News opt in/out and using it to generate income.

Base = 240

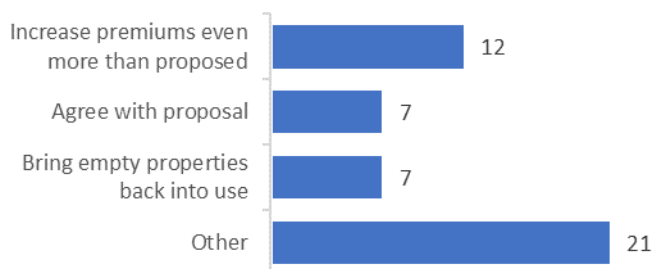
Agree or disagree with proposal...

Review of Council Tax long term empty property premiums (£400,000)



Comments on specific proposal:
Review of Council Tax long term empty property premiums

Base = 90
(part of larger question on all 4 specific proposals)

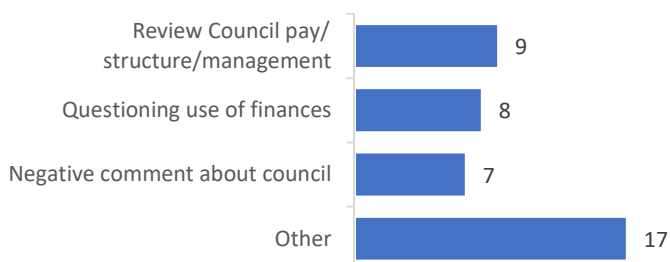


Additional free text comments shown in chart on left. 'Other' includes:

- Having specific exemptions, applying the premium to large organisations and not individuals.
- Ensuring Council houses are not long-term empty, empty properties being used for business development.
- Not forcing owners to sell or let through excessive premiums, and not applying the premium retrospectively.

Comments on specific proposal:
General comments provided

Base = 90
(part of larger question on all 4 specific proposals)

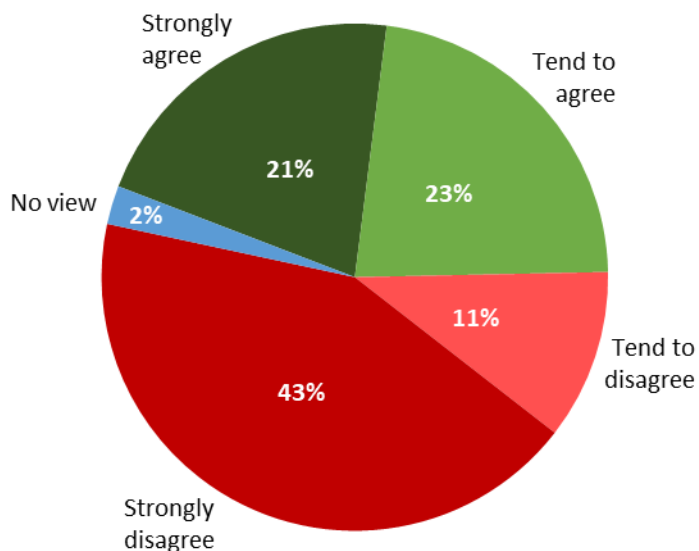


Additional free text comments shown in chart on left. 'Other' includes:

- Cut Council pension scheme and reduce procurement of external services in favour of in-house provision.
- Impact of government funding cuts on the budget and need to use reserves.
- Improvements by reducing inefficiencies, pursuing digital only options, improving street scene, building new Council housing, focussing on climate emergency.
- Increase charge for garden recycling collection.

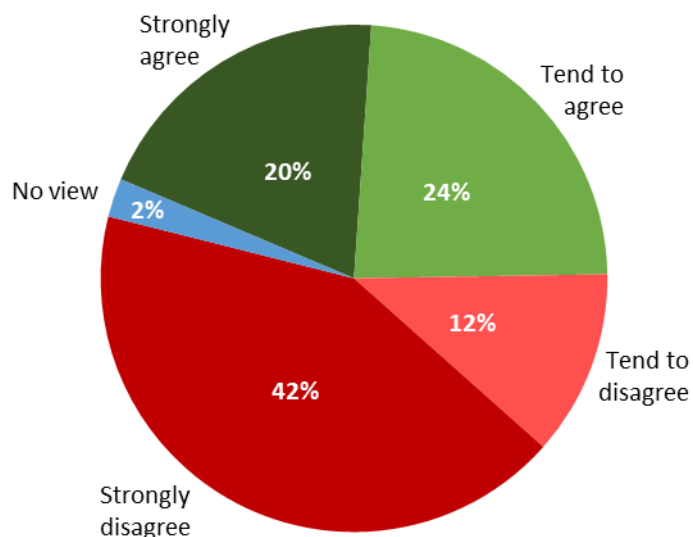
Agree or disagree with 2% increase to Council Tax for the adult social care precept

Base = 203



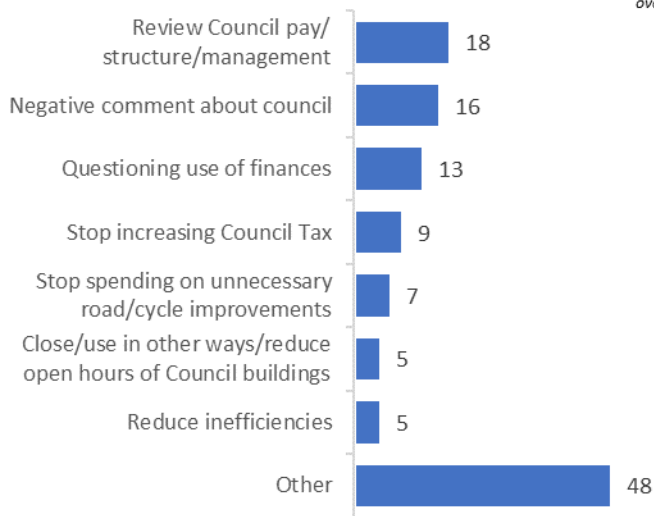
Agree or disagree with 2.99% increase to general Council Tax

Base = 203



Comments on proposals overall:
General comments provided

*Base = 100
(part of larger
question on
the budget
proposals
overall)*



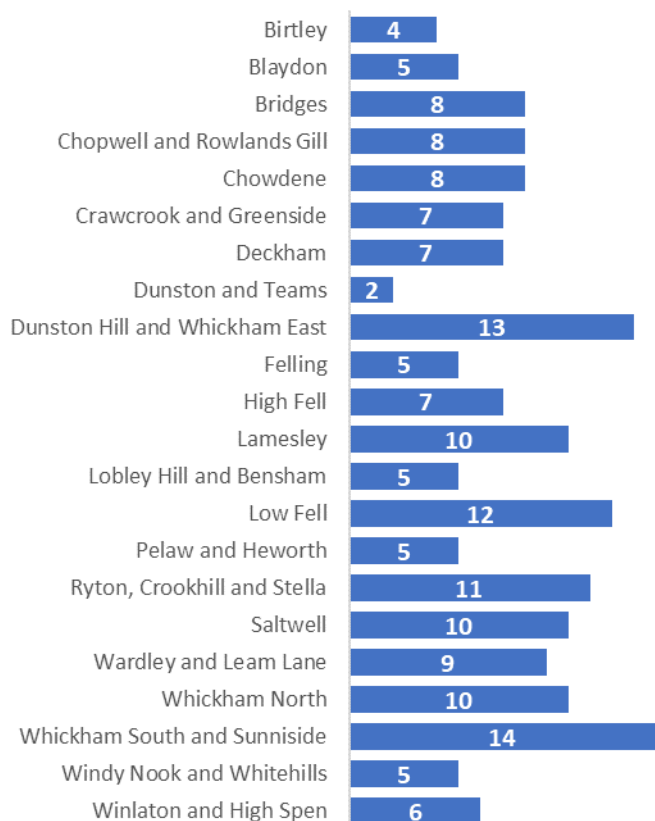
Additional free text comments shown in chart on left. 'Other' includes:

- Improvements by modernising and pursuing digital only options, regenerating areas, improving street scene, building new Council housing and bungalows, reviewing Council Tax charges for homes with new extensions, focussing on versus reducing adult social care, having an elected mayor, selling or engaging management for Gateshead stadium, and focussing on climate emergency.
- Increase budget/revenue through sponsorship opportunities, traded services and debt collection.
- Impact of government funding cuts on the budget, and impact on physical or mental health.
- Importance of vs reduction of frontline staff.
- Cut Council pension scheme, mayors car, and all non-statutory services.
- Issues with pot holes, and use of Council fleet vehicles.
- Improve budget proposal detail/layout and provide statutory vs non-statutory cost breakdown.
- Disagreement with proposal 27 reducing the school meals budget.

Demographics of respondents (optional questions)

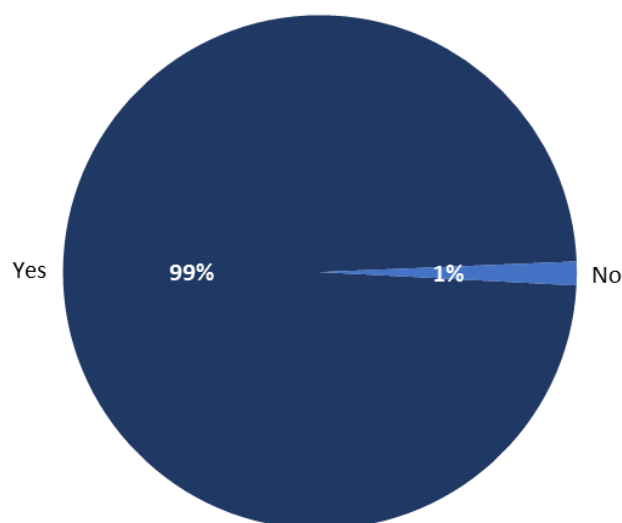
Number of responses by ward
(of those providing their full postcode)

Base = 201



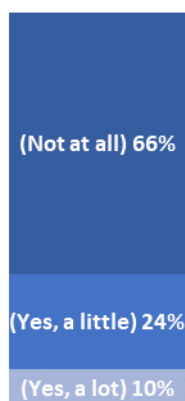
Are you a Gateshead resident?

Base = 201



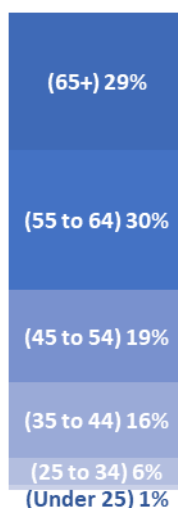
Respondents limited because of a physical or mental health condition

Base = 332



Age of respondents

Base = 325



Sex of respondents

Base = 327



Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health Statement of Assessment of Impact on Health and Wellbeing of Gateshead Council's Budget Consultation (2024/25)

Purpose of the Health Impact Statement

This statement:

- provides a brief overview of current health and wellbeing challenges in Gateshead.
- highlights the potential health impact of the Council's budget proposals on the delivery of the Thrive agenda and sets out key areas relevant for mitigation.

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

In the context of a prolonged period of austerity, which has been amplified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a cost-of-living crisis over the last two years, this health impact approach aims to:

1. Understand which proposals will result in the least negative impact at a population level.
2. Understand any negative consequences, which, if possible, may require mitigation.

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

Principles of a health impact assessment

This health impact assessment statement has been completed to help the Council to consider the impact of the budget proposals (both positive and negative) on health and wellbeing, consistent with its Thrive agenda. This includes:

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

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

This report considers the health impacts due to pressures on Local Government funding, the reduction in budget, and the potential implications of this for people living in Gateshead. Future reports could be strengthened by more detailed analysis of the health impacts of individual and specific proposals within the budget, as the Health in All Policies approach continues to be developed.

Budget Approach

On 24 October 2023, the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was reported to Cabinet outlining an estimated financial gap of £49.5m over the five-year period 2024/25 to 2028/29. The scale of the financial challenge the Council is facing should not be underestimated, and the impact of removing a further £49.5m from Council resources will have on both the health and resilience of Gateshead is recognised. This is on top of £191m of budget cuts the Council has made since 2010, equivalent to £977 less to spend per resident, which is estimated to rise to £1,229 less spend per resident by the end of the MTFS period.

Consultation this year has focused on a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, and Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%, which would raise £5.6m in support of the Council's strategic approach "Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives", and the budgetary framework of the MTFS. It has also included proposals for savings made across Council services including communications, social care, housing, environment and health communities, and through the review of Council Tax long-term empty property premiums.

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

Overview of current health and wellbeing challenges in Gateshead

We start this impact statement with the recent news that data published by the Office for National Statistics shows a decline in life expectancy in the UK. From 2020-2022, life expectancy at birth was 78.6 years for males and 82.6 years for females in the UK¹. The COVID-19 pandemic led to increased mortality, which has impacted life expectancy estimates from 2020. Improvements in life expectancy slowed over the last decade, and current estimates are now back to where they were in 2010-2012, for males they are even lower.²

Since 2020, Gateshead has had higher excess mortality than expected if there had been no pandemic, with 10% higher registered deaths than expected from March 2020 up until the end of 2023.³ Whilst through 2020-2021, COVID-19 is attributable for many excess deaths,

¹ [ONS, 2024](#)

² [ONS, 2024](#)

³ OHID, [Microsoft Power BI](#)

there are fewer mentions of it on death certificates through 2022-2023 compared to the overall number of excess deaths.⁴

Current life-expectancy estimates on a Local Authority level (2018-20) show that a baby boy born in the most deprived areas in Gateshead can expect to live an average of 71.2 years, whereas a baby boy born in the least deprived areas in Gateshead can expect to live an average of 83 years⁵. A baby girl born in the most deprived areas in Gateshead can expect to live an average of 76.4 years and a baby girl born in the most deprived areas in Gateshead expect to live an average of 86.9 years.⁶ There is a gradient in health with life expectancy reducing with increased deprivation, there is a 10.8 year gap in life expectancy for males, and 8.8 year gap in life expectancy for females in Gateshead for those living in the poorest areas.⁷

In Gateshead higher proportions of people die too soon from diseases consider preventable than national levels, including cardiovascular disease and cancer.⁸ There is a strong relationship between premature mortality and deprivation, with more deprived areas experiencing greater rates of premature death.⁹

Gateshead is the 47th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 local authorities. Around 32,700 (16%) people in Gateshead live in one of the 10% most deprived areas of England. Nearly 62,555 (31%) live in the 20% most deprived areas.

Life continues to be complex and challenging for many in our borough. Inequalities in the social determinants of health have seen people from our most deprived communities become even more vulnerable as inflation and economic instability result in a cost-of-living crisis which has continued for some time. The percentage of adults in employment in the borough has fallen since the pandemic.¹⁰ A quarter of children in the borough are estimated to live in relative low-income families, and less than half of children with free school meal status achieve a good level of development by the end of reception.¹¹

Financial struggles make it harder to buy healthier food, to pay for good quality accommodation, and to take part in activities that help us to stay happy and healthy. Just a quarter of adults in the Borough are eating enough fruit and veg in line with recommendations.¹² Furthermore, worrying about making ends meet, increases stress and anxiety. This can negatively impact both physical and mental health. Rates of emergency admission for self-harm are significantly high,¹³ and rates of suicide among men in Gateshead show an increasing trend, though this is not yet statistically significant.¹⁴ Alcohol related harm

⁴ OHID, [Microsoft Power BI](#)

⁵ [OHID, 2024](#)

⁶ [OHID, 2024](#)

⁷ [Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

⁸ [OHID, 2024](#)

⁹ [OHID, 2024](#)

¹⁰ [Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

¹¹ [Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

¹² [Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

¹³ [Mental Health and Wellbeing JSNA - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

¹⁴ [Suicide Prevention Profile - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

is a significant issue for the Borough, with Gateshead having among the among the highest levels of admission to hospital for alcohol-related conditions nationally.¹⁵

Furthermore, rising costs and inflation make it financially difficult for services, including the Council, to continue to provide the same level of support to communities. Therefore, the need to ensure services are provided to where they are needed most remains important.

Government funding

As Director of Public Health for Gateshead I am concerned that the Government funding for local authorities is under enormous pressure. Councils in areas of higher deprivation face even greater stresses because of challenges in raising funds through Council tax and the increasing need for services and support among the population. In Gateshead 90% of housing is in Council tax band A-C, compared to 65% in England, reducing the Councils ability to raise funds in comparison to more wealthy areas and putting financial pressure on those living in disadvantaged areas, as those on lower incomes will spend a greater proportion of their income on bills such as Council tax.

There is also significant concern regarding uncertainty surrounding the continuation of the Household Support Fund, which has supported people living in Gateshead through the cost-of-living crisis through initiatives such as free school meals during school holidays. The health impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and poverty are discussed later in this report. If this funding is withdrawn, people in Gateshead who have benefited from support may face additional challenges and help and support needed through Council services could increase further.

Funding reform is needed to ensure fair, equitable and sustainable funding for Local Government going forward. The requirement for funding reform is widely acknowledged, as outlined in a recent report of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee on financial distress in local authorities.¹⁶

Even prior to the pandemic funding had been constrained and in response to this the Council, like many others, has been forced into decisions to make savings in the short-term which are likely to have a detrimental impact on health and future sustainability. Whilst the Council will fulfil its responsibilities regarding duties set out in the Equality Act, I am concerned that the UK Equality Duty doesn't include a requirement to consider social disadvantage. As such, some groups may not be sufficiently protected due to the disproportionate cuts imposed on areas with high levels of deprivation. Gateshead has committed to implementing the socio-economic duty through its Health and Wellbeing Strategy and draft Corporate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and given the extent of health inequalities faced by people in the borough who are most disadvantaged, it is vital steps are taken to implement this in practice.

Building blocks for health; the economy and jobs

In previous statements, the uneven effects of the pandemic on employment, labour market outcomes and household incomes were highlighted. The duration and severity of impact

¹⁵ Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk)

¹⁶ Financial distress in local authorities (parliament.uk)

depended on the industry people worked in, their occupation, the kind of business they ran, type of employment available or demographics such as age and health. The North was disproportionately affected by these trends because a higher proportion of the labour force are employed in sectors that were acutely disrupted by pandemic restrictions in the workplace and economic inactivity levels due to ill health were already higher than national levels¹⁷

Good health is as critical for employment and the economy, as good work and income is for a person's health. Economic inactivity and ill health, in the North East region, limit many residents' participation in the labour market and capacity to access new opportunities, which is a concern. The latest economic inactivity rate for the North East is at its highest level since 2012/13 and the gap between the regional and England (excl. London) rate is the largest since comparable data started in 2004/05.¹⁸

Economic inactivity due to long-term sickness in Gateshead is particularly worrying, it peaked at 44% during 2020 and remains stubbornly high. Labour market disadvantage for Gateshead residents with disabilities or long-term health conditions is particularly acute with fewer than 50% of working age in employment, lower than the rate across England.¹⁹ Employment rates for those, in Gateshead, aged 50-64 are significantly below national levels and have not returned to pre-Covid levels. In Tyne and Wear, 17% of people aged 50-64 are economically inactive due to ill health, compared to 11% in London.²⁰ This is because a considerable proportion of older workers have left the labour market altogether, becoming economically inactive rather than unemployed. They are no longer seeking or doing paid work due to ill health or early retirement. Increasing prevalence of ill health, particularly among those over 50, may be leading to increased numbers of people not working²¹.

The financial strain many have faced during the pandemic has been compounded by the cost-of-living crisis. This is eroding disposable income, resulting in lower discretionary spending outside the home and reduced trade for local business. Those already on low incomes are disproportionately affected by changes in economic conditions and circumstances and face increasing precarity and uncertainty.

Around 14% of employees in the North East region earn below the Living Wage, while productivity lags the national average.²² In Gateshead, the median weekly earnings by place of residence are £87 less a week than the median level in England²³.

Around 4,200 people aged 16 and over in Gateshead were unemployed in the year ending June 2023. This is a rate of 4.1%. Although, this was a decrease compared with the year ending June 2022 when the unemployment rate was 5.2%, it is higher than the unemployment rate across Great Britain which stayed at a similar rate between the year ending June 2022 and the year ending June 2023, at around 3.8%²⁴.

¹⁷ [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/).

¹⁸ [Report: Economic inactivity rate - North East Evidence Hub \(northeastlep.co.uk\)](https://northeastlep.co.uk/)

¹⁹ [Report: Economic activity status, disability and health - North East Evidence Hub \(northeastlep.co.uk\)](https://northeastlep.co.uk/)

²⁰ [Resolution Foundation, 2024](#)

²¹ [Health Foundation, 2022](#)

²² [North East Evidence Hub, 2023](#)

²³ [ONS, 2024](#)

²⁴ [NOMIS, 2023](#)

Cost-of-living crisis and a healthy standard of living

Whilst a crisis suggests an acute emergency at a point in time, the cost-of-living crisis has been endured by the people of Gateshead for some time. Food and energy prices have risen markedly since 2022, particularly gas prices, partly in response to the conflict in Ukraine as well as the global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Inflation affects all households. The Consumer Prices Index rose by 4.2% in the 12 months to December 2023²⁵. This followed a rise of 10.5% in the preceding 12 months to December 2022²⁶. A slowing or falling inflation rate means that prices are rising more slowly than before; it does not mean that price levels are actually falling. Not all households are experiencing the increase in the same way, or at the same rate, and the cost-of-living crisis has worsened the situation for many who were already vulnerable due to the pandemic. For example, in the year to October 2022, the rate was 11.9% for low-income households and 10.5% for those in top 20% compared to an average of 11.1% for all households. The UK's annual inflation rate is expected to continue falling in 2024, though more gradually than in 2023, due to lower energy prices and reduced inflation in consumer goods and food.²⁷

Low-income households are most affected by rising prices. ONS data shows that households with the lowest incomes experience a higher than average inflation rate while the highest-income households experienced lower than average inflation. This disparity is due to low income households being more affected by high food and energy prices.

High interest rates have led to higher borrowing costs for households, notably mortgage interest rates which rose sharply from the very low rates seen previously. Around 1.6 million households whose fixed rate mortgages end in 2024 face higher mortgage cost.²⁸ Rental price growth has also been rising in recent years. Private rental prices paid by tenants in the North East rose by 4.6% in the 12 months to December 2023 (6.2% in the UK as a whole).²⁹ In 23/24 council housing rents in Gateshead increased by 7% in line with the rent standard.

49% of adults in Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living compared to the previous month. Around 4 in 10 adults (41%) who pay energy bills said it was very or somewhat difficult to afford them³⁰.

Financial hardship can have a long-term impact on health through chronic stress, reduced opportunities and resources that are good for wellbeing, access to healthy food, and secure, stable, quality homes.

Over the two years from December 2021 to December 2023 food prices rose by 26.2%. Food bank charities are reporting an increase in demand: the Trussell Trust reported that between April and September 2023 they provided 1.5 million emergency food parcels, a record high

²⁵ [ONS, 2023](#)

²⁶ [ONS, 2022](#)

²⁷ [House of Commons Library, 2024](#)

²⁸ [House of Commons Library, 2024](#)

²⁹ [ONS, 2023](#)

³⁰ [ONS, 2024](#)

for this period, and a 16% increase from the same period in 2022.³¹ A survey by the Food Foundation found that 17% of households experienced food insecurity, but that this increased 23.4% households with children. Food insecurity was also higher among those on universal credit, non-white ethnic groups, and house-holds with an adult limited a lot by disability.³²

Food insecurity is found more often among children living in poverty. Food insecurity impacts health directly through poor quality diet and is associated with poor mental health.³³ For children this can impact their development including maths and vocabulary skills.

The most recent child poverty data available is from 2021/22 when the number of children (under 16) in Gateshead in relative low income families was 8,335 or 24.2%. This is significantly worse than the England average of 19.9%, but better than the North East average of 25.8%. Relative poverty is households whose income is 60% below the average (median) household income before housing costs.³⁴ In recent years, the proportion of children (under 16) in absolute low-income families has increased significantly. Previous data for 2017/18 showed that 15.3% of children were in poverty, however this has increased and now stands at 19.5% in 2021/22³⁵. Absolute poverty is households with income 60% below the median income from 2010/11, to help understand changes in living standards.³⁶ The proportion of children in relative and absolute low-income households increases when housing costs are also factored in.³⁷

There are differences in poverty levels in different parts of Gateshead, with some of our most deprived areas experiencing much higher levels of child poverty.^{38,39} Growing up in poverty damages health and wellbeing and can affect a child's future health and opportunities. Child poverty is strongly related to adverse childhood experiences,⁴⁰ and is causal factor for poorer developmental, educational and health outcomes.⁴¹

In 2021, 12,157 (13.3%) households in Gateshead were estimated to be in fuel poverty. This compares with the England average of 13.1%. However, in some parts of Gateshead it is estimated that one in three households are in fuel poverty⁴². National Energy Action polling in November 2023 indicated that 6.5 million UK households would be in fuel poverty from January 2024. That's 2 million up from when the crisis began in October 2021. Living in a cold home is associated with numerous health impacts including direct effects on respiratory

³¹ [House of Commons Library, 2024](#)

³² [Food Insecurity Tracking | Food Foundation](#)

³³ [Good food in childhood Ver-7.0 web \(fph.org.uk\)](#)

³⁴ [Constituency data: Child poverty \(parliament.uk\)](#)

³⁵ [Gateshead JSNA, 2023](#)

³⁶ [Constituency data: Child poverty \(parliament.uk\)](#)

³⁷ [Households Below Average Income: an analysis of the UK income distribution: FYE 1995 to FYE 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁸ [Local Health - Office for Health Improvement and Disparities - Indicators: maps, data and charts](#)

³⁹ [Gateshead Maps - LloN23 \(Public\)](#)

⁴⁰ [The Clustering of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children: Are Gender and Poverty Important? - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁴¹ [LSE, 2017](#)

⁴² [JSNA, 2023](#)

conditions, cardiovascular disease, mental health, dementia, hypothermia, falls and increased risk of death.⁴³ It can also affect health indirectly through increased stress, loneliness, impaired child development, and reduced money for other essentials.⁴⁴

Destitution is described as experiencing the most severe forms of hardship and not being able to meet essential human needs for shelter, to stay warm, dry, clean and fed. The North East experiences high levels of destitution.⁴⁵ Welfare reform, the pandemic, and cost-of-living crisis as set out above, have created a hostile environment where the most vulnerable in our population face difficulties in accessing the essentials they need without support or services.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic-related incidents reported to Northumbria Police have increased by 5% compared to the previous year. There were 30.7 domestic-related incidents per 1,000 population reported to Northumbria police in the 12 months to end of September 2023. 30.7 domestic-related incidents per 1,000 population were reported to Northumbria police in the 12 months to end of September 2023. The Council's Domestic Abuse Service received 2,040 referrals between August 2022-July 2023 relating to 1,079 individuals which equates to 1.9 referrals per individual. There are concerns that the cost-of living crisis is having a significant impact, as lack of money makes it harder for victims to leave a perpetrator, and already stretch services struggle to meet demands alongside increased costs.⁴⁶ Domestic abuse impacts emotional and mental health, can cause physical harm as a result of violence, stress, and increased risk in behaviours related to diet, tobacco and substance misuse. Abuse also impacts children and increases the risks of a range of health conditions.

Children and Young People

In previous health impact statements, I highlighted the adverse effects children and young people experienced due to the pandemic, including lost opportunities for learning and social development, and increased exposure to stressful environments at home as families dealt with wider pressures.

Now, as Director of Public Health I am concerned that we are seeing clear indicators of need amongst our children and young people. Research has shown that the pandemic, and subsequent measures, have had significant impacts on the mental health of some children and young people. Rates of hospital admission for self-harm among 10–24-year-olds, are significantly higher in Gateshead than in England (2021-2022).⁴⁷

Children and young people from certain groups (such as those from poorer households, young carers and those with disabilities) are disproportionately affected by higher levels of mental health issues. For example, one study found that children from the 20% families on

⁴³ [read-the-report.pdf \(instituteofhealththequity.org\)](#)

⁴⁴ [read-the-report.pdf \(instituteofhealththequity.org\)](#)

⁴⁵ [Destitution in the UK 2023 | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](#)

⁴⁶ [Chancellor must put cost of living crisis and domestic abuse at the top of his agenda – lives depend on it - Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#)

⁴⁷ [Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

the lowest incomes are four times as likely to have severe mental health difficulties identified by their parents compared to families with the 20% highest incomes.⁴⁸

Although there has been a slight reduction in the number of children who need to be taken into care in last 12 months (56.9/10,000),⁴⁹ the overall rate per 10,000 remains higher than regional comparators and statistical neighbours. Emotional wellbeing is a concern for just over half of looked after children in Gateshead.⁵⁰ Care experienced people are more likely to experience health inequalities in to adulthood including poorer self-rated health, increased likelihood of premature death, including deaths by suicide, substance misuse, car accidents, and assaults.⁵¹

Exclusions from school have increased sharply with 94 Gateshead children excluded in 2022/2023, more than double than in 2019/2020.⁵² School exclusion can disproportionately affect vulnerable children already facing increased health risks,⁵³ including children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with social, emotional, and mental health needs.⁵⁴ It may also increase health risks into their future, with poorer mental health and wellbeing, poor sleep, less physical activity, and increased likelihood of smoking,⁵⁵ in addition to negative impacts on the building blocks of health; educational attainment, employment, and poverty.⁵⁶ Similarly the number of children missing school and being persistently absent from school has increased and in Gateshead, levels are similar to those seen nationally.⁵⁷ Poor attendance at school may be associated with mental health needs such as anxiety⁵⁸ and depression.⁵⁹ There may also be an association between school absence, self-harm and suicide ideation.⁶⁰

As Director of Public Health, I am concerned about the impact of living through multiple crises may have on this generation of children and young people. Since the 1990s, we have seen the impact of inequality on generation X; those born in the 70s. As this group reached their

⁴⁸ [\(PDF\) Children of the new century: mental health findings from the Millennium Cohort Study \(researchgate.net\)](#)

⁴⁹ [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 23/01/2024 10:00 \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵⁰ [Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

⁵¹ [The-lifelong-health-and-wellbeing-trajectories-of-people-who-have-been-in-care.pdf \(nuffieldfoundation.org\)](#)

⁵² [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 23/01/2024 10:00 \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵³ [Association of school absence and exclusion with recorded neurodevelopmental disorders, mental disorders, or self-harm: a nationwide, retrospective, electronic cohort study of children and young people in Wales, UK - The Lancet Psychiatry](#)

⁵⁴ [The impact of school exclusion in childhood on health and well-being outcomes in adulthood: Estimating causal effects using inverse probability of treatment weighting - Obsuth - British Journal of Educational Psychology - Wiley Online Library](#)

⁵⁵ [The impact of school exclusion in childhood on health and well-being outcomes in adulthood: Estimating causal effects using inverse probability of treatment weighting - Obsuth - British Journal of Educational Psychology - Wiley Online Library](#)

⁵⁶ [Association of school absence and exclusion with recorded neurodevelopmental disorders, mental disorders, or self-harm: a nationwide, retrospective, electronic cohort study of children and young people in Wales, UK - The Lancet Psychiatry](#)

⁵⁷ [Appendix 2 Cabinet PMIF Report 23 Jan 2024.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁵⁸ [Review: The association between anxiety and poor attendance at school - a systematic review - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁵⁹ [The association between child and adolescent depression and poor attendance at school: A systematic review and meta-analysis - ScienceDirect](#)

⁶⁰ [School absenteeism as a risk factor for self-harm and suicidal ideation in children and adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

20s, and now in their 40s and 50s, they have remained the age group with the highest rates of deaths by suicide and substance misuse.⁶¹ Children and young people born in the mid-2000s have now lived through the global financial crisis, reductions in public sector services and youth provision, the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and widening inequalities. Significant action is needed for this generation to mitigate the potential harms this may have in the long-term.

Commercial determinants of health

This year my annual report has looked at private sector activities that affect people's health, either directly or indirectly - known as the commercial determinants of health. It examines the tactics used by the tobacco industry over centuries to create an epidemic, including aggressive marketing, lobbying and casting doubt on scientific evidence of smoking-related harm. Worryingly, these methods are now being used by other industries that are profiting from products known to be harmful. In particular, the report focuses on alcohol, gambling and ultra-processed food and drink. These industries gently remind us to enjoy their products 'responsibly'. However, what they fail to acknowledge is the significant role they play in shaping our environments and ultimately influencing our choices through marketing, availability and culture. These harmful environments for health are compounded by the other challenges many people face through cost-of living and social inequalities. We must ensure that budget considerations take account of commercial determinants of health and support policies to mitigate the impact such as learning from the 'food advertising policies' in other local authority areas, and reducing exposure to harmful products high in fat, salt, and sugar on council owned sites.

A perfect storm

In combination, the impact of the pandemic, economic instability, inflation, and the cost-of-living crisis create a perfect storm, where outcomes for those most disadvantaged in Gateshead continue to get progressively worse.

Potential Impact of proposals

This statement has identified current health risks to people living in Gateshead, particularly those living in poverty and areas of deprivation, children, and young people. Therefore, impact on health inequalities should be considered throughout decision making.

Increases in Council tax will add to pressures experienced through the cost-of-living crisis for people living in Gateshead. However, increases in funding achieved through this, will mitigate greater savings needed from within public services. It is noted that any savings, and reduction to public services, have the potential to be detrimental to health and wellbeing. Therefore, our decisions on how and where to implement savings should be consistent with the five Council Pledges as part of the Thrive agenda to:

- Put people and families at the heart of everything we do;
- Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance;
- Support our communities to support themselves and each other;
- Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment,

⁶¹ [Middle-aged generation most likely to die by suicide and drug poisoning - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peopleandplaces/populationandmigration/mortality/articles/middleagedgenerationmostlikelytodiebysuicideanddrugpoisoning/2021-07-27)

- innovation and growth across the borough; and
- Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead.

The Thrive strategic approach is delivered through the Council's Corporate Plan which highlights the need to ensure a fair and inclusive culture that involves our diverse communities in decision making processes, a culture of continuous improvement, and that we co-design and collaborate with partners where we can, therefore making the most effective and efficient use of the resources available⁶².

It should also be noted that the Council has a positive Local Council Tax support scheme in place for the most vulnerable in our community (currently supporting 12,000 claimants, alongside 8,500 of pension age) which means some residents receive support bringing their Council Tax payment down which in some cases sees them pay no tax.

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

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

While the Council has no choice but to make savings to manage funding cuts from central Government alongside increasing costs and demand for services, the identification of priority areas is positive and as they are set out above these are congruent with improved public health and wellbeing as part of the Thrive agenda.

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

Mitigation

The recommendations below follow previous statements as they remain pertinent to support the consideration of health impacts in light of ongoing funding pressures. This year I also want to set out an increased focus on *best start in life* to mitigate the impact on children and young people. Going forward, as we continue to implement our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, I recommend that the Council works with its partners to follow these mitigations:

⁶² [How we will deliver our Corporate Plan - Gateshead Council](#)

1. **Best start in Life** – the early years and childhood are crucial for long-term development and health outcomes. Child poverty and adversity is associated with adverse health outcomes. Therefore, budget decisions need to consider the cumulative impact on children and young people's health and wellbeing and increase the focus of expenditure on children to support development and reduce inequalities across the life-course.
2. **Embed Health in all policies** – I consider that the Thrive pledges provide a strategic framework for the Council, and its partners, to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our community in all our decision-making processes. Implementation of a health in all policies approach will ensure that negative impacts are understood so mitigation can be implemented where possible. As we develop tools to assist this process, it is important they are adopted to enable thorough consideration of health inequalities in planning and decision making. This includes assessing health impacts when reviewing budgets across the council.
3. **Proportionate resourcing based on need** – The pledge to put people and families at the heart of everything we do and tackle inequality, so people have a fair chance underpins everything we do and should remain central to the budget decisions. In this context it is vital that the Council considers those proposals, however unpalatable, that will have the 'least worst' impact on the communities, families, and individuals most in need. This means that difficult decisions will have to be made so that resources are proportionately used based on need (e.g., those who are most in need will receive the greatest level of support). This does not mean that those who are already thriving get none but instead suggests a gradient of resource which is based on need.
4. **The Health and Wellbeing Strategy** is based on a place-based approach to help improve health and reduce inequalities. When different proposals are considered, it is important the cumulative impact that decisions across differing service areas may have on place and communities is considered, to prevent widening inequalities. It is important that programmes and plans consider how they support the actions and principles set out in the strategy to help mitigate the impact of reduced resources across the Council.
5. **Working with and for communities** – With regard to mitigating the potential negative impact, I consider that our partners and our communities will be able to design and/or offer some solutions to the challenges faced by our communities. We have observed some amazing community action during the pandemic and there are also examples where the community and VCS organisations have been able to effectively take on some of the work that was previously done by the council (e.g., asset transfers for Community Centres and responsibility for maintenance of parks and leisure spaces). A focus should be on enabling those communities that are able to do more for themselves to have greater freedom to lead work in their local community. At the same time, we must ensure support is proportionately targeted to communities which require more assistance in gaining the confidence to lead work in their community.

6. **Strengthen our partnerships** – It is vital that our focus remains on nurturing and strengthening the partnerships and relationships that we have. In view of the pledge to work together and to fight for a better future for Gateshead, we need to work together as a whole system including with local partners and communities. This will go some way to minimise the impacts of the proposed budget reductions and help to protect the people of Gateshead.
7. **Focus on the whole budget** - There is an increasing need for the Council budget to be viewed as whole. Decisions which need to be taken will need to be considered in the round so priorities can be addressed.

ESTIMATED COMMITMENT OF RESERVES

1. The following table shows the budgeted use of reserves in 2023/24 and the proposed use in 2024/25.

	Opening Balance 1/04/23 £m	Budgeted Use 2023/24 £m	Proposed Use 2024/25 £m	Balance 31/3/25 £m	Available to Support Council Budget?
Usable Reserves					
<u>General Fund balance:</u>					
General Reserve	(11.9)			(11.9)	Y
*LMS Budget Share Reserve	(8.3)			(8.3)	N
General Fund	(20.2)			(20.2)	
<u>Earmarked General Fund reserves:</u>					
Financial Risk and Resilience	(19.2)	0.7	0.3	(18.2)	Y
Thrive	(7.5)	1.7	1.5	(4.3)	Y
Budget Sustainability	(36.7)	14.5	5.0	(17.2)	Y
*Developers' contributions	(2.2)			(2.2)	N
*Unapplied revenue grants	(1.4)			(1.4)	N
*Public Health	(3.8)			(3.8)	N
*Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	(4.0)			(4.0)	N
Total Earmarked General Fund Reserves:	(74.7)	16.9	6.8	(51.0)	
Total Reserves	(94.9)			(71.2)	

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

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

Reserve	Why Needed	Available to support Council budget	Balance as at 31 March 2023
Council General Reserve	This is a statutory fund that acts as a contingency and allows the Council to meet any unforeseen costs. If the Council overspends in a year this fund will meet that liability. The minimum balance on the reserve is 3% of the net revenue budget	Yes (subject to minimum levels being maintained)	£11.9m
Schools Balances	Use of this reserve is ring-fenced to schools and there is a duty to report planned use to Schools Forum. The balance is for schools collectively, but this includes both surplus and deficit balances of individual schools	No – ringfenced for to schools	£8.3m

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

Reserve	Why Needed	Available to support Council budget	Balance as at 31 March 2023
Financial Risk and Resilience	This reserve is held in respect of key financial risks identified through the risk management process and the savings required as part of the Council MTFS. This includes Insurance (£4m), grant clawback (£3m), workforce development costs (£3.5m), commercial risk (£2.6m), Schools PFI (£3.8m), ASC Direct payments (£0.8m), Highways maintenance (0.6m), Volunteering and Community Capacity (£0.4m) and budget flexibility (£0.5m)	Yes	£19.2m
Thrive	This reserve is held support to Council thrive priorities of Economic, Housing and Environmental Investment (£3.3m) Poverty, Health and Equality Investment (£3.7m), and Discretionary Social Fund (£0.5m)	Yes	£7.5m
Budget Sustainability	This reserve was created in 2021 to help support the timings of achieving significant budget savings and Thrive outcomes whilst still dealing with pandemic impacts. As part of the 2022/23 Revenue Outturn, the Pandemic Reserve was consolidated into this reserve. £14.5m of this is committed within the 2023/24 budget with a further £22m proposed in this MTFS meaning this reserve will be fully utilised by March 2027. A plan to replenish this reserve forms part of the MTFS.	Yes	£36.7m

Ringfenced Reserves

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

Reserve	Why Needed	Available to support Council budget	Balance as at 31 March 2023
Developer Contributions	This reserve consists of developer contributions in respect of agreed regeneration schemes following Section 38 and 106 agreements. The movement on the reserve will fluctuate depending on the use of the contributions to support regeneration schemes such as play areas in new housing developments.	No	£2.2m
Unapplied Revenue Grants	This reserve was created to comply with accounting rules where unspent grants and contributions, without grant conditions are to be used in the following years.	No	£1.4m
Public Health Reserve	The responsibility for Public Health transferred to local authorities on the 1 April 2013. The funding is for future Public Health use.	No	£3.8m

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	This is for schools use and cannot be used for other priorities within the Council. Use of this reserve will be agreed by Schools Forum.	No	£4m
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The overall level of financial resources available to the council is finite and therefore the continued use of reserves above a certain level cannot be sustained in the longer term without placing the Council's financial position at risk. The MTFS recognises that the Council's financial reserves are maintained at a prudent level to protect present and future Council services.

The Council accepts that while balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves can be in certain circumstances a legitimate short-term option it is not considered good financial management to finance recurrent expenditure in this way in the medium to long term. The Council recognises that usage of reserves is one-off in nature and must be linked with expenditure and income plans to support financial sustainability in the medium term.

Financial Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Collection rates for retained business rates and council tax are lower than anticipated and therefore shortfall of funding to the collection fund	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of bad debt provisions • Regular monitoring of the collection fund performance • Collection rates are regularly monitored by senior management via the Councils performance framework
The impact of business rate appeals is higher than expected affecting the amount of business rate funding projected	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial monitoring framework in place • Modelling of potential impacts is used to inform financial planning and completion of the NNDR1 estimates. • Impact is also assessed as part of accounts closedown and completion of the NNDR3 • All assumptions and position on appeals are discussed with Section 151 officer at the time of form completion.
The cost of pay awards, fee increases, and price inflation is higher than assumed leading to a budget shortfall in service	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency budget set aside for this purpose. • Monitoring of economic forecasts by officers • Budget monitoring will highlight any budget variations.
Future spending plans are underestimated leading to a budget shortfall	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service planning process identifies future budget pressures, and these inform indicative budget forecasts and planned into the MTFS.
Anticipated savings, efficiencies or income targets not achieved leading to significant overspends	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • Non-achievement of savings requires performance managed action plans and compensating reductions in planned spending within services. • Contingency sums and general reserve funds are available to cover any significant unforeseen events. • Full review of fees and charges undertaken on an annual basis • Oversight of savings achievement by Corporate Resources OSC
Budget monitoring not effective leading to a Council overspend position putting a strain on the general reserve	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk budgets are monitored monthly. • Robust budgetary control, regular monitoring and reporting takes place • All budget managers have access to real time financial information via the council's financial system. • Action plans developed to address problem areas. Regular reports to senior management and Cabinet. Strong track record of delivering budget.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Insufficient general and earmarked reserve balances leading to insufficient funds to deal with unforeseen cost pressures	Unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% minimum General Reserve balance of the net revenue budget. • The General Reserve is supplemented by earmarked reserves that are set aside to cover material risk or events. • Reserves are reviewed annually both in budget setting and in the Council's MTFS.
Loss of principal deposit leading to a loss of Council reserves. Reputational risk to the Council.	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy controls prioritise security of deposit over returns. • Diverse portfolio with top rated institutions and internal funding. • Investment limits in place so that only counterparties who have government backing are used • A maximum of £20m invested with any one counterparty.
Interest rates lower than expected leading to lower investment income being realised to revenue than budgeted.	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review, monitoring and reporting on interest rates. Prudent approach and consideration of scenarios to inform financial planning.
Increase in PWLB borrowing interest rates leading to the Council paying higher interest rates on borrowing than budgeted.	Possible	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of borrowing requirement to fund the capital programme and imminent loan maturities. • Forecast interest rate increases built into budget setting • Use of the Council's treasury management advisors to assist in determining the most appropriate time to undertake new borrowing and rescheduling of existing loans.
Lack of internal controls leading to rogue spend and overspend of budget	Unlikely	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's system of internal control is set out in the Council's Constitution. • Internal control system is continuously reviewed by the Council's Internal Audit service, which gives an overall annual assessment of the adequacy of the Council's internal control systems to inform the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) • All managers have a responsibility to install and maintain effective internal control systems demonstrated through AGS • Service Directors are required to confirm annually that they have in place effective financial planning and budgetary control procedures in place
Revenue cost of capital is higher than expected leading to a budget shortfall	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital bid framework identifies revenue implications, and these are assessed and considered in scenario planning. • Monitoring of capital projects funding is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis as part of the capital monitoring process.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Changes to legislation and/or Government policy including health and social care integration and welfare reform impacting on cost of services	Likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best estimates of funding impacts related to Government policy are factored into the MTFS. Estimates are prudent and based upon consideration of finance networks experience. Any specific areas of uncertainty are identified and subject to focussed activity and review. • Networking discussions take place with regional treasurers to discuss potential impacts and treatment in MTFS

Conclusion;

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

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS

1. The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2022/23 and the estimates of capital expenditure to be incurred for the current and future years that are recommended for approval are: -

	2022/23 £000 Actual	2023/24 £000 Estimate	2024/25 £000 Estimate	2025/26 £000 Estimate	2026/27 £000 Estimate	2027/28 £000 Estimate	2028/29 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	56,745	52,810	87,060	96,140	51,557	32,422	36,613
HRA	20,625	25,192	26,837	37,186	54,553	44,612	39,449
Total	77,370	78,002	113,897	133,326	106,110	77,034	76,062

2. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2022/23 are: -

	2022/23 £000 Actual	2023/24 £000 Estimate	2024/25 £000 Estimate	2025/26 £000 Estimate	2026/27 £000 Estimate	2027/28 £000 Estimate	2028/29 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	10.78%	13.63%	13.37%	15.96%	17.64%	18.23%	19.02%
HRA	37.85%	32.39%	33.26%	38.30%	42.12%	35.33%	35.36%

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

3. The actual Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March 2023 and estimates of the end of year Capital Financing Requirement (excluding PFI and finance leases) for the Council for the current and future years are: -

	31/03/23 £000 Actual	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate	31/03/27 £000 Estimate	31/03/28 £000 Estimate	31/03/29 £000 Estimate
Non-HRA	415,383	425,509	483,507	551,192	549,438	550,490	565,717
HRA	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505	345,505
Total	760,888	771,014	829,012	896,697	894,943	895,995	911,222

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

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

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

The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital reports that the Council had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2022/23, nor are any difficulties envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this budget report.

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

	31/03/23 £000 Actual	31/03/24 £000 Estimate	31/03/25 £000 Estimate	31/03/26 £000 Estimate	31/03/27 £000 Estimate	31/03/28 £000 Estimate	31/03/29 £000 Estimate
Actual gross debt at 31 March	684,966	702,092	760,090	832,635	832,635	833,687	848,914
Capital Financing Requirement	760,888	771,014	829,012	896,697	894,943	895,995	911,222
Under / (over) borrowing	75,922	68,922	68,922	64,062	62,308	62,308	62,308

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

Authorised Limit for External Debt					
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Borrowing	872,000	942,000	938,000	937,000	949,000

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

<i>Operational Boundary for External Debt</i>					
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Borrowing	857,000	927,000	923,000	922,000	934,000

9. The Council's actual external debt at 31 March 2023 was £684.966m comprising £684.966m borrowing and no other long-term liabilities. It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary, since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time.
10. In taking its decisions on this budget report, the Council is asked to note that the Authorised Limit determined for 2024/25 (see paragraph 6 above) will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
11. The Council shall ensure that the revenue implications of capital finance, including financing costs, are properly taken into account within option appraisal processes, the capital programme and the medium-term forecast. In assessing affordability the Council will consider the council tax implications of its capital programme, borrowing and investment decisions.
12. The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (2017), which requires key Treasury Management indicators.

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

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	16%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	16%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	22%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	23%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	17%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	21%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	46%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	39%	0%
50 years and above	13%	0%

Upper and Lower Limits for the Maturity Structure of Variable Rate Borrowings		
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	18%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	13%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	13%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	13%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	13%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	13%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	13%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	13%	0%
50 years and above	13%	0%

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

<i>Upper Limit on amounts invested beyond 365 days</i>					
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Investments	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT 2024/25

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

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

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

Supported Borrowing MRP

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

Unsupported or Prudential Borrowing MRP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Housing Revenue Account MRP

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

PFI Assets and Right of use Assets

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

Long-Term Capital Loans

The Council has provided capital loans within the Capital Programme to facilitate additional development within Gateshead, particularly relating to affordable housing. MRP will be charged on the same basis as unsupported or Prudential borrowing. Where repayments of the principal amounts are received, they will be treated as capital receipts and either used to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow or used to offset the MRP charge in line with regulation 27(4) of the Local Government Act 2023.

Capital Receipts

Capital receipts are used to reduce the CFR of the Council particularly in relation to short life assets such as IT equipment and vehicles. The receipts are not used to directly replace, in whole or part, the prudent charge to revenue except in relation to capital loans as mentioned previously.

Voluntary Provision

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

Projected MRP Charge

An analysis of the projected MRP Charge for 2024/25 over the different calculation methodologies and components is set out in the table below along with a comparison to the projection for 2023/24:

Projected MRP Charge 2024/25		£m
Capital Programme	Investment funded by Supported Borrowing and Prudential Borrowing prior to 1 April 2008	2.547
	Asset Life Method – Equal Instalment	3.760
	Asset Life Method – Annuity Method	8.758
PFI	Annuity Method	2.884
Leases	Annuity Method	0.053
Capital Loans	Annuity Method	0.241
Voluntary Provision	General Fund	0
	Housing Revenue Account	0
Total Projected MRP Charge		18.243

Projected MRP Charge 2023/24		£m
Capital Programme	Investment funded by Supported Borrowing and Prudential Borrowing prior to 1 April 2008	2.547
	Asset Life Method – Equal Instalment	3.772
	Asset Life Method – Annuity Method	8.110
PFI	Annuity Method	2.993
Leases	Annuity Method	0
Capital Loans	Annuity Method	0.094
Voluntary Provision	General Fund	(1.031)
	Housing Revenue Account	0
Total Projected MRP Charge		16.485

TITLE OF REPORT: **Proposal to Consult on an Options Review of Colegate Community Primary School**

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

Purpose of the report

1. To propose that the Council consults on an Options Review of Colegate Community Primary School.

Background

2. Colegate Community Primary School carries a large financial deficit which is forecasted to increase.
3. Other factors compound the school's financial difficulties. The birth rate is falling, and no new housing is planned for the area. The school is currently judged requires improvement by Ofsted, making it a less attractive option for parents. Consequently, the school roll is falling. The school Pupil Admissions Numbers per year group is 30. In the last 3 years admission to Reception, despite the efforts of staff and governors to attract families, has been half of that.

Numbers for September 2023 are as follows:

Year group	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Number of pupils	15	13	13	20	23	20	21	125

4. Leaders have implemented staffing savings where they can but there is limited capacity to cover unexpected staffing costs (such as illness). Such financial pressures add to the deficit even with a carefully managed budget.
5. Despite low numbers, 30% of pupils have special educational needs with above average proportions who have significant needs and who require additional adult support.
6. Outcomes at the end of the academic year (2023) were low for Reception and significantly below average at the end of KS1. There are significant gaps in knowledge that will be difficult to close as these cohorts move through key stages 1 and 2.
7. The school occupies more than one building. This increases the number of staff needed to ensure pupils' safety. Considerable capital investment (a minimum of £250,000) is required to move all classrooms and facilities into one building.

8. Limited staff and leadership capacity, as well as a significant budget deficit, means that the school is struggling to implement the changes needed to secure a good judgement at its next inspection. The school does not have a full-time substantive headteacher and relies on secondments to add to leadership capacity.
9. The above factors mean that there is no prospect of the structural deficit being eliminated.
10. While the birth rate is declining, the school is also struggling to attract children from its catchment area. The projected numbers (below) show a decrease in this planning area's population based on birth data and current numbers in primary schools. These projections include the new housing on the Freight Depot site which is part of this planning area but will not impact on Leam Lane, Heworth and Wardley. The Leam Lane, Heworth and Wardley areas are not currently under pressure from in year transfer requests.

Heworth Grange Planning Area Pupil Forecasts

Academic year	Primary							
Forecasts	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2023/24	395	416	420	412	422	401	411	2,877
2024/25	360	395	416	420	412	422	401	2,826
2025/26	373	360	395	416	420	412	422	2,798
2026/27	361	373	360	395	416	420	412	2,737
2027/28	343	361	373	360	395	416	420	2,668

The table above shows a forecast decline in primary pupil numbers of 209 pupils between 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

11. Colegate is our most vulnerable school with a deficit budget and multiple other challenges which make ensuring a good education for the schools pupils more challenging. The school relies on additional funding for SEND children to operate and function. Further staffing reductions will be likely in the financial year 24-25 making the school even more vulnerable. A SWOT analysis has been completed to consider the possible options.

Option 1: Status quo, continue to work to improve to become a good school offering a good quality education, but further staff reduction in academic year 24-25 through more mixed age classes in order to reduce the deficit.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school reduces the rate of increase in structural deficit. The community is still served by a local school. No redundancies take place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is limited leadership capacity within the school which jeopardises the school becoming good. The curriculum will need to be redrawn to ensure it is fit for further mixed age classes.

	outcomes and closing gaps in knowledge becomes greater.
Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some secondment opportunities for staff in other maintained schools who want more experience in another school and leadership experience. 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers decrease further because parents are unhappy with mixed age classes. The deficit remains – it just grows less quickly. Structural deficit remains (deficit balance brought forward) The school gets another Requires Improvement judgement, or an inadequate judgement, resulting in an academy order. If this occurs the deficit of the closed school remains with the LA and would impact negatively on wider council budgets. It may be difficult to find seconded staff willing to teach in the school.

Option 2: The school remains open as above but moves into one building and increase the numbers of mixed age classes.

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school reduces the rate of increase in the structural deficit. The community is still served by a local school. No redundancies likely to take place. Some reduction in running costs. 	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is limited leadership capacity within the school which jeopardises the school becoming good. The curriculum will need to be redrawn to ensure it is fit for differently organised mixed age classes. The challenge of improving outcomes and closing gaps in knowledge becomes greater. There is an additional cost of a minimum of £250,000 to the council to make one building fit for purpose.
Opportunities <p>The remaining buildings could be repurposed by the local authority, potentially this could be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative provision site for time measured input linked to SEMH/ASD needs. 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers may decrease further because parents are unhappy with mixed age classes. The deficit remains – it just grows less quickly. Structural deficit remains (deficit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stage 3 alternative provision – assessment hub to support the Y7/8 SEN. • Relocation of a special school setting. • Development of a Cognition and Learning ARMs. 	<p>balance brought forward)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school gets another Requires Improvement judgement, or an inadequate judgement, resulting in an academy order. If this occurs the deficit of the closed school remains with the LA and would impact negatively on wider council budgets. • There are limited opportunities for the buildings to be repurposed because of their proximity to the school. • The remaining buildings may fall into disrepair • If the remaining buildings are demolished, they would only create extra car parking space. This would result in additional cost.
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Option 3: Colegate closes and children are accommodated in other local schools.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deficit budget does not grow. • There is one less school with a deficit budget and other schools become more financially robust. • Neighbouring schools will fill places, therefore are less vulnerable to financial pressures. • The closure would be planned for July 2025. This allows for careful planning and management of future potential admissions and allocation of places for current students. • Pupils can be accommodated in schools that have an OFSTED rating of at least good and who have capacity to further improve and well-embedded curriculums. • There will be greater capacity in other schools to support the number of children with additional need. • The continued reduction in the birth rate as outlined above in the short to medium term should 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community would need to travel further to access education. • Closure of a school is unlikely to be a popular option for some local families. • All Colegate school staff will be at risk of redundancy. • Closure would potentially reduce the number of places available for new families moving into the area, however, there is decreased projected demand in the area for the short to medium term. • In the longer term, Windy Nook may need additional accommodation to support additional pupils. There is a cost implication to this. • The deficit budget of the closed school will remain with the LA and will impact negatively on wider council budgets.

<p>ensure that there will be places available for future reception intake in the area.</p>	
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>The buildings could be repurposed by the local authority, potentially this could be for (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative provision site for time measured input linked to SEMH/ASD needs. • Key stage 3 alternative provision – assessment hub to support the Y7/8 SEN. • Relocation of a special school setting. • Development of a Cognition and Learning ARMs. • Considering current and projected numbers from September 2023 all pupils in Colegate Community Primary School, apart from one year group, year 4 (see below), can be accommodated in neighbouring primary schools which are within a reasonable walking distance as outlined in Department for Education guidance. (2 miles walking distance for children under 8 years of age and 3 miles for children 8 years and over) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These are Windy Nook (expanding to a 2-form entry to create extra places in the longer term if required), ○ The Drive, Wardley, ○ St Augustine's, Roman Road, ○ Lingey House ○ White Mere primary schools. • Information regarding the limited capacity of neighbouring schools to accommodate Year 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ some pupils live a distance away from the school eg Springwell Estate, so places at a school nearer to their 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distance to travel may affect attendance of some families. • Elected members may face challenge and opposition to the proposal • There would be a reduction of choice for parents which may increase school place appeals. • If this option is agreed there is the potential that parents will look to move their children out of Colegate before the official closing date. • Colegate's catchment would need to be re distributed. Parents within the local area may view this negatively. • An expansion of Windy Nook may cause instability to the school. • There may be an increase in parking/ traffic issues around the Windy Nook site.

<p>home address could be explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We could also ask schools to exceed their Pupil Admission Numbers to accommodate these students if necessary, as there is no class size limit, unlike at KS1. 	
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Recommendations

12. Cabinet is recommended to agree to a consultation on the Options Review of Colegate Community Primary School.

For the following reasons:

- Colegate Community Primary School carries a large financial deficit which is forecasted to increase.
- Over the last 3 years, the school roll has fallen to less than a 50% intake despite every effort by the Leadership of the school to increase.
- The school's financial difficulties are compounded by a falling birth rate leading to a reduced intake in future years.
- There are no new housing developments planned for the area which may have increased the intake.
- The school is currently judged requires improvement by Ofsted, making it a less attractive option for parents.

CONTACT: Suzanne Dunn extension: 8606

Policy Context

1. The Options Review reflects the Council's objectives as set out in "Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives": Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028, in particular the 'Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do', agenda. It also recognises the local authorities responsibility to '...secure efficient primary education is available to meet the needs of the population areas, as stated in The Education Act, 1996 (Section 13: General Education Responsibilities). It is supported by the work undertaken in the planning of school places to ensure that there are an appropriate number of school places to accommodate all children in Gateshead (School Capacity Document).

Background

2. Colegate Community Primary School carries a large financial deficit which is forecasted to increase.
3. Other factors compound the school's financial difficulties. The birth rate is falling, and no new housing is planned for the area. The school is currently judged requires improvement by Ofsted, making it a less attractive option for parents. Consequently, the school roll is falling. The school Pupil Admissions Numbers per year group is 30. In the last 3 years admission to Reception, despite the efforts of staff and governors to attract families, has been half of that.

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9. The above factors mean that there is no prospect of the structural deficit being eliminated.
10. While the birth rate is declining, the school is also struggling to attract children from its catchment area. The projected numbers (below) show a decrease in this planning area's population based on birth data and current numbers in primary schools. These projections include the new housing on the Freight Depot site which is part of this planning area but will not impact on Leam Lane, Heworth and Wardley. The Leam Lane, Heworth and Wardley areas are not currently under pressure from in year transfer requests.

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2027/28	343	361	373	360	395	416	420	2,668

The table above shows a forecast decline in primary pupil numbers of 209 pupils between 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Consultation

11. Employee engagement commenced on 12 February 2024 to ensure that they were aware of this report coming to Cabinet on 20 February 2024 and the options contained within it.
12. Community engagement commenced on 13 February to inform all parents and stakeholders of the intention to present the report to Cabinet and directing them to the published report on the council website.
13. The employees have been advised that no formal collective consultation will be required unless Cabinet approve the recommendation in this report.
14. Should Cabinet approve to consult on the Options Paper with one of the outcomes being the potential closure of Colegate Community Primary School then this would result in the affected employees being placed at risk of redundancy, at this time we will ensure the relevant trade union representatives are involved.
15. As this Cabinet paper is being considered during the week of the scheduled school closure for half term, the collective consultation with both employees and trade union representatives would commence on 28 February 2024 and end on 28 June 2024.

16. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Ward Councillors have been consulted on the report.

Alternative Options

17. This report will look at the options available to the Council regarding the future of Colegate Community Primary School.

Implications of Recommended Option

18. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are financial implications for all options for Colegate Community Primary School. If the outcome of the review is to close Colegate Community Primary School this will enable a time limited budget process to be put in place to mitigate as far as possible the increase in Colegate Community Primary School's deficit budget and therefore the impact on Council resources.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – If the outcome of the review determines that the only viable option to take forward is to close Colgate Community Primary School then the council will strive to avoid any compulsory redundancies, by working with all maintained schools and services across the Council to find suitable alternative redeployment for the employees. However, the full detail of this cannot be determined until the outcome of the consultation period.
- c) **Property Implications** – If the outcome of the review determines that the only viable option to take forward is that the school remains open but moves into one building the council would have to consider that there are limited opportunities for the buildings to be repurposed because of their proximity to the school. If the outcome of the review determines that Colegate closes and children are accommodated in other local schools, the existing buildings could be repurposed by the local authority.

19. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no direct implications and all statutory procedures are being followed.

20. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - If there is an impact on staff the local authority as employer will provide support through the agreed HR policies and procedures available to all employees. These include; training, redeployment opportunities, counselling and support for employee well-being. If there is an impact on pupils the local authority will mitigate this through the school admissions process in identifying alternative school places to meet the needs of individuals with protected characteristics.

21. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no direct implications.

22. **Health Implications** - Should option 2 be agreed the alternative schools for the children are within the recommended two mile walking distance for children under 8 outlined in the travel to school guidance from the Department for Education. The consultation process and proposed options is likely to cause stress and anxiety for staff, pupils and their parents / carers due to uncertainty.

This could have a negative impact on health and wellbeing for employees and pupils and their families. The council will listen to all concerns as part of the consultation process and communicate effectively with all stakeholders to reduce any negative impact on health and wellbeing as far as possible. An Impact Assessment report is available.

23. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no direct implications.
24. **Human Rights Implications** - If there is an impact on staff the local authority as employer will provide support through the agreed HR policies and procedures available to all employees. These include; training, redeployment opportunities, counselling and support for employee well-being. If there is an impact on pupils the local authority will mitigate this through the school admissions process in identifying alternative school places to meet the needs of individuals with protected characteristics.
25. **Ward Implications** - The Wards for which there may be implications are as follows:
- Windy Nook
 - and Whitehills
 - Wardley and Leam Lane
 - Pelaw and Heworth
 - Felling
 - High Fell
 - Deckham
 - Chowdene (1 child)

Background Material

The following documents have been used in order to prepare this document:

- “Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives”: Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028
- The Education Act, 1996
- DfE: [Opening, closing and making changes to schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/opening-closing-and-making-changes-to-schools)
- Cabinet Report: Primary Community Controlled School Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordinated admission schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools for 2025/26
- ‘School Capacity Audit to ensure Sufficiency of School Places’ Report produced by Education Support Services.
- Schools Financial Budget documents

TITLE OF REPORT: Framework for considering applications from independent schools applying to move into the maintained sector

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the framework for use by the Council when considering applications from independent schools seeking to open a new maintained school to replace an independent school.

Background

2. Legislation allows independent schools to move into the maintained sector and the local authority is the decision maker for such applications.
3. In general, all new state funded schools should be opened as academies, however there are a number of exceptions. These include proposals to open new voluntary aided schools and proposals to replace existing independent schools with new foundation or voluntary controlled schools. The local authority is the decision maker for applications from independent schools wanting to open new maintained schools to replace existing independent schools. The Department for Education (DfE) publishes guidance in relation to a range of school organisation issues, including where independent schools want to move into the maintained sector. A local authority must have regard to this guidance.
4. The updated guidance (January 2023) [Opening and closing maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) sets out a number of requirements for local authorities to consider in reaching a decision on proposals to open a new maintained school to replace an independent school. In particular the local authority must ensure that the decision to proceed with such a proposal is clearly based on value for money and that the school is able to meet the high standards expected of state-funded educational provision. The guidance lists a number of specific expectations (p36):
 - That there is genuine demand /need for this type of school place in the local community
 - That the proposal should demonstrate that, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, the proposed new school would promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, as set out in the department's guidance [Promoting fundamental British Values through SMSC](#)
 - That the proposal is compliant with the DfE's [School Admissions Code](#)

- That the school is viable and cost-effective, using the DfE's guidance in Section A2 of [How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-apply-to-set-up-a-mainstream-free-school)

5. In addition, the local authority as the decision maker must consider:

- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which requires local authorities to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination;
 - advance equality of opportunity; and
 - foster good relations between people with a protected characteristic and those without that characteristic
- The impact of the proposals on the relevant protected characteristics and any issues that may arise from the proposals
- An integrated impact assessment has been completed in relation to this paper (Appendix 4)
- That the proposer has shown a commitment to providing access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area in which a school is located, whilst ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.
- The impact of any proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives and have regard to the [Integrated Communities Action Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-communities-action-plan)
- How children will travel to the school and be satisfied that the proposers have taken into account that the children they expect to apply for the school will be able to travel there sustainably, where possible, e.g. by walking, cycling or using public transport.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that Cabinet approves the framework to assess applications by independent schools that seek to join the maintained sector. The framework will provide information about the way in which the council will assess an application and the evidence required.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the framework to assess applications by independent schools that seek to join the maintained sector as set out in appendix 2.

For the following reasons:

- (i) The framework will assist the council in its decision making.
- (ii) Prospective applicants will be clear about the council's expectations.

Policy Context

1. Legislation permits proposals for a new voluntary aided school or, where there is an existing independent school, to replace this with a new foundation (including foundation special) school or voluntary controlled school. These are exceptions to the normal requirement for new state maintained schools to be academies. Under section 11 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, any person may propose to establish a new maintained school falling within the exceptions covered in that section. Proposals must be submitted to the local authority and the local authority will decide whether to accept the proposals or not. When making a decision, the local authority must take account of the Department for Education's statutory guidance on establishing a new maintained school.
2. The proposal supports the Council's Corporate Plan and Thrive.

Background

3. The updated guidance (January 2023) [Opening and closing maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) sets out a number of requirements for local authorities to consider in reaching a decision on proposals to open a new maintained school to replace an independent school. In particular the local authority must ensure that the decision to proceed with such a proposal is clearly based on value for money and that the school is able to meet the high standards expected of state-funded educational provision. The guidance lists a number of specific expectations (p36):
 - That there is genuine demand /need for this type of school place in the local community
 - That the proposal should demonstrate that, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, the proposed new school would promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, as set out in the department's guidance [Promoting fundamental British Values through SMSC](#)
 - That the proposal is compliant with the DfE's [School Admissions Code](#)
 - That the school is viable and cost-effective, using the DfE's guidance in Section A2 of [How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
4. In addition, the local authority as the decision maker must consider:
 - The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which requires local authorities to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination;
 - advance equality of opportunity; and
 - foster good relations between people with a protected characteristic and those without that characteristic
 - The impact of the proposals on the relevant protected characteristics and any issues that may arise from the proposals

- that the proposer has shown a commitment to providing access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area in which a school is located, whilst ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.
- the impact of any proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives and have regard to the [Integrated Communities Action Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- how children will travel to the school and be satisfied that the proposers have taken into account that the children they expect to apply for the school will be able to travel there sustainably, where possible, e.g. by walking, cycling or using public transport

Consultation

5. The Leader and Children and Young People Portfolio Holders have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Alternative Options

6. To not have a framework would make it more difficult for the council in reaching a decision, and proposers would be unclear of the expectations of the council, as the decision-maker.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. On proposing to open a new maintained school to replace an existing independent school, the new school would become funded through the council's allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The school's revenue funding would be decided in accordance with Gateshead's school funding formula.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – the framework explains that as part of due diligence, clarification and confirmation will be required to ensure HR policies are in accordance with The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 and the statutory guidance on Managing staff employment in Schools and on school teacher's pay and conditions.
- c) **Property Implications** - the framework explains the standard of accommodation required before entry into the maintained sector would be approved and therefore, makes clear that a move to the maintained sector will not secure priority for major capital investment. The replacement school becomes part of the maintained estate and will be eligible for capital funding streams that occur from time to time.

8. Risk Management Implication -

There is a risk to the reputation of the council if independent schools become maintained and do not provide a good standard of education, do not have good

governance or are not financially robust. The requirements within the framework ensure these factors are fully explored.

There is a financial risk to the council if schools are not in adequate premises. Each year, the council receives a limited pot of monies in relation to the condition of school premises. Should an existing independent school in poor premises become maintained, this could present a burden on these funding streams.

9. **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

Maintained schools are public bodies and must comply with the public sector equality duty and set and publish equality objectives.

A school must demonstrate that it is compliant with the duties of schools as identified in the Equalities Act and that the school positively promotes equality of opportunity for all pupils (e.g. irrespective of gender, race, disability, sexuality).

The main duties under the Equalities Act are:

- A school must not:
 - discriminate against a pupil or prospective pupil because of their disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, or sexual orientation;
 - harass or victimise a pupil or prospective pupil. A school must not discriminate against a person in relation to the following activities:
 - admission to the school;
 - the provision of education to pupils;
 - access to any benefit, facility or service;
 - exclusion from school; by subjecting a pupil to any other detriment.

Maintained schools are public bodies and must comply with the public sector equality duty and set and publish equality objectives. A new maintained school replacing an independent school should demonstrate its ability to deliver the national curriculum and to meet the diverse needs of pupils, including pupils with special educational needs. Maintained schools have obligations under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.

10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report.

11. **Health Implications** – There are no direct health implications arising from this report. Conversion of independent schools to maintained are likely to have positive health outcomes.
12. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications arising from this report.
13. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.
14. **Ward Implications** - There are no ward implications.

Background Information

15. The following documents have been relied on in preparation of the report –
 - Opening and Closing maintained Schools, DfE, 2023
 - Promoting Fundamental British Values through SMSC, DfE, 2014
 - School's Admissions Code, DfE, updated 2022
 - How to apply to set up a mainstream free school, DfE, 2022
 - Integrated communities Action Plan, DfE, 2019

Appendix 2

Information for Independent Schools Wishing to Join the Maintained Sector

Legislation allows independent schools to move into the maintained sector and the local authority is the decision maker for such applications.

In general, all new state funded schools should be opened as academies, however there are a number of exceptions. These include proposals to open new voluntary aided schools and proposals to replace existing independent schools with new foundation or voluntary controlled schools. The local authority is the decision maker for applications from independent schools wanting to open new maintained schools to replace existing independent schools. The Department for Education (DfE) publishes guidance in relation to a range of school organisation issues, including where independent schools want to move into the maintained sector. A local authority must have regard to this guidance.

The updated guidance (January 2023) [Opening and closing maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) sets out a number of requirements for local authorities to consider in reaching a decision on proposals to open a new maintained school to replace an independent school. In particular the local authority must ensure that the decision to proceed with such a proposal is clearly based on value for money and that the school is able to meet the high standards expected of state-funded educational provision. The guidance lists a number of specific expectations (p36 -):

- That there is genuine demand /need for this type of school place in the local community
- That the proposal should demonstrate that, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, the proposed new school would promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, as set out in the department's guidance [Promoting fundamental British Values through SMSC](#)
- That the proposal is compliant with the DfE's [School Admissions Code](#)
- That the school is viable and cost-effective, using the DfE's guidance in Section A2 of [How to apply to set up a mainstream free school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

In addition, the local authority as the decision maker must consider:

- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which requires local authorities to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination;
 - advance equality of opportunity; and
 - foster good relations between people with a protected characteristic and those without that characteristic
- The impact of the proposals on the relevant protected characteristics and any issues that may arise from the proposals
- that the proposer has shown a commitment to providing access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area in which a school is located, whilst ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.
- the impact of any proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives and have regard to the [Integrated Communities Action Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- how children will travel to the school and be satisfied that the proposers have taken into account that the children they expect to apply for the school will be able to travel there sustainably, where possible, e.g. by walking, cycling or using public transport.

Gateshead local authority has developed a framework, based on this guidance, to assess applications by independent schools that seek to join the maintained sector. This document provides information about the way in which the council will assess an application and the evidence required.

At the earliest stage of consideration, please note;

It is expected that your application is able to evidence that the school has already made progress to adapt your governance, leadership, and management systems, so that they are ready for the rigours of the state sector and the Ofsted inspection under the common inspection framework.

Declaration of financial liabilities

Applicants will be required to sign a declaration guaranteeing that you have disclosed all your financial liabilities, including any tax disputes. If your independent school has significant debts, it is very unlikely to be approved. Maintained Schools also need to follow Gateshead Council's Manual of Financial Procedures.

[Manual of Financial Procedures - Gateshead Intranet](#)

Premises

If your school requires capital investment, it is unlikely to be approved.

Quality of education

Schools need to demonstrate that they are currently offering a 'good' or 'outstanding' educational offer to be considered.

Small schools

In order to provide a sustainable broad and balanced curriculum there is a presumption that primary provision should have a minimum of two forms of entry of 30 pupils, and secondary provision have a minimum of four forms of entry of 30 pupils. Schools smaller than this are unlikely to be approved.

Schools outside Gateshead

Unless there are very exceptional circumstances, schools outside of Gateshead are very unlikely to be approved.

Application process

Any independent school that is considering making an application should contact the council at the earliest opportunity. The application should be completed and submitted when the governing body of the independent school considers that it is fully prepared to join the maintained sector and is ready to present all of the information and evidence that it would like the council to consider.

The Application form comprises of the following

Application form:	To be completed in full as an accompaniment to the range of evidence requested.
Appendix A:	Self-assessment on achievement of the school, the quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils, quality of leadership in, and management of your school
Appendix B	Self-assessment of the governance arrangements of the school
Appendix C:	Declaration

Reviews and reapplying

Decisions by the Council are final. However, you can ask for the decision to be formally reviewed if you think there has been an error made. If your application is not successful, you will receive a feedback letter giving information about the judgement. You should allow enough time to address any weaknesses and strengthen your application before reapplying. If you are reapplying after being unsuccessful previously, we expect you to demonstrate explicitly how you have changed your application in response to the written feedback you received. If this feedback is not addressed, it is likely that your application will not be considered further, and you may not get full feedback on the application.

Guidance for preparing an application:

Your application must be able to evidence that the school has already made progress to adapt your governance, leadership, and management systems, so that they are ready for the rigours of the state sector and the Ofsted inspection under the education inspection framework. Below are the requirements that you will need to be able to demonstrate and evidence to the council, as it considers your request.

A There is a genuine demand/need for this type of school in the local area

Independent schools seeking to become a Gateshead maintained school should enhance choice and increase the number and quality of school places locally. You will need to show how the independent school will do this in Gateshead. The address of the school should be located in Gateshead, unless there are very exceptional circumstances that you would like the council to consider.

You will need to demonstrate that there is a strong and sustained demand for your education offer. To do this, you will need to provide data showing applications for school places and numbers on roll for the last three years.

Where the school is proposing to operate as a designated faith school, a demand for places for pupils of that faith must be demonstrated. It is expected that:

- a. the school should be fully subscribed (defined as 95% full against normal admission numbers) in two year groups (Reception and year one for primary or year 7 and 8 for secondary) for two out of the three previous years before the date of application.
- b. the percentage of Gateshead resident pupils attending the school should be at least 80% for primary and 70% for secondary at the date of application.
- c. The address of the school is located in Gateshead unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

In proposing any expansion you will need to set out clearly how this will be managed. You should set out the suitability of the related curriculum offer and be clear about the capacity of the school, in terms of site, staff, and resources to make expansion a success.

B The school is able to meet the high standards expected of state funded educational provision

The School should have been registered as an independent school with the DfE for a period of at least two years.

The School should provide an education offer that is rated as good or outstanding in all aspects by Ofsted (leadership and management including safeguarding, personal development, quality of education, behaviour,). The Ofsted inspection should have taken place within two years of the application.

(Note: Where the last Ofsted review is 'good or outstanding' but more than two years old, a robust, externally validated self-assessment may, when considered alongside other evidence, be considered sufficient.)

The school must provide a current self-assessment against the Ofsted common inspection framework for maintained schools and the self-assessment must be externally validated by an Ofsted trained inspector or a locally authority commissioned review.

You should demonstrate how the leadership in your school has or will have successful systems in place to monitor and develop the effectiveness of teaching and learning, and the continuous professional development arrangements to underpin that;

You must provide a self-assessment of current governance arrangements and provide clear transition plans, if necessary, to a highly effective governing body within the state sector;

The school may also wish to commission an independent review of its governance arrangements to submit as evidence.

The school must provide minutes from the previous 12 months' meetings of its main governing body.

The school must provide the proposed the instrument of governance for the new maintained school.

C Current and projected financial health of the proposer is strong

The school proposer (if different to the school) must provide financial information to demonstrate the financial health of the organisation/trust – the last three years audited accounts together with financial information for any period since the last audited accounts.

In relation to the school, the school must provide financial information to demonstrate the financial health of the school– the last three years audited accounts together with financial information for any period since the last audited accounts.

The council may engage its own independent financial advisors to assess the financial health of the proposer and/or school and therefore the proposer/school must be prepared to share information, if requested.

D The proposal represents long term value for money

The school must provide a five year projected revenue budget for the future operation of the school as a maintained school that demonstrates a fully funded broad and balanced national curriculum from within state funds (voluntary contributions allowable in proscribed circumstances to fund activities over and above the national curriculum requirements). The projected revenue budget must follow the national scheme for Consistent Financial Reporting in schools (CFR).

The school must confirm its compliance with national pay provisions and provide information on staffing costs, including National Insurance and Pension contributions.

It is expected that the average cost per pupil at the school, taking account of all of the factors within Gateshead's funding formula, will be within the current range of Gateshead schools for a similar phase (primary, secondary, all through).

The school is invited to set out how it will work in partnership with other Gateshead schools, utilising its resources and expertise, to contribute to the achievement of all of Gateshead's children.

E Suitability

The school must demonstrate how it supports UK democratic values, including respect for the basis on which UK laws are made and applied, respect for democracy, support for individual liberties within the law and mutual tolerance and respect as set out in DfE guidance 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.

The school will need to be able to describe how the school will promote these fundamental British values across a range of subjects as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and how pupils in the school will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to a life in modern Britain.

F The school is able to deliver the whole of the national curriculum to the expected high standard

Where the school is currently delivering the whole of the national curriculum, evidence of this must be provided. The school must provide a curriculum timetable for all year groups.

Where a school is not providing the whole of the national curriculum, the school needs to provide evidence of its plan of action to develop and deliver the whole national curriculum offer as a state maintained school.

Where a school relies on voluntary contributions or donations for the delivery of any part of the school day (excluding after school activities), the school must provide information on the number of timetabled hours provided by state funds and the number of timetabled hours reliant on voluntary contributions/donations. Whilst there is no statutory requirement

for the number of state funded school hours, there is an expectation that it will be broadly in line with other Gateshead state-maintained secondary schools.

The school must demonstrate its ability to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and its capacity to cater for children with special educational needs placed at the school as a result of a pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan.

The school must demonstrate how it will monitor and track pupil progress effectively and meet both Ofsted's pre- and post-16 achievement criteria (if appropriate).

If a secondary school, the school must provide information on the destination of its pupils.

G The school meets the requirements as set out in the Equalities Act

The school must demonstrate that it is compliant with the duties of schools as identified in the Equalities Act and that the school positively promotes equality of opportunity for all pupils (e.g. irrespective of gender, race, disability, sexuality). The main duties under the Equalities Act are:

A school must not:

- discriminate against a pupil or prospective pupil because of their disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, or sexual orientation;
- harass or victimise a pupil or prospective pupil.

A school must not discriminate against a person in relation to the following activities:

- admission to the school;
- the provision of education to pupils;
- access to any benefit, facility or service;
- exclusion from school;
- by subjecting a pupil to any other detriment.

Maintained schools are public bodies and must comply with the public sector equality duty and set and publish equality objectives.

H Evidence is provided to allow the local authority to undertake due diligence

The Department for Education sets out the statutory policies that are required of state maintained schools. These can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools>

Applicants should ensure that they have prepared policies to comply with these requirements. The guidance sets out the requirements to make policies available on a schools website.

In considering the application, the council may ask for any of these policies. These will need to be provided on request. It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that the school's policies comply with statutory requirements and the purpose of the council's request is to satisfy itself that the governing body is making sufficient preparations to become state-maintained.

Due diligence by the council includes but is not limited to:

- Financial health (above)
- Admission criteria meet statutory requirements and comply with the School Admissions code
- National Curriculum requirements (above), including curriculum policy
- Governance arrangements (above)
- HR requirements (e.g. evidence of appropriate recruitment policies, pay and appraisal policy, disciplinary policy, sick pay policy) in accordance with The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 and the statutory guidance on Managing staff employment in schools and on school teacher's pay and conditions
- Qualified Teacher Status of teaching staff
- Safeguarding (e.g. evidence of DBS checks for all staff and appropriate systems and policies, completion of Gateshead's Safeguarding Audit)
- Inclusion and Special Educational Needs - ability to provide the type of arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) expected by the SEND Code of Practice including the information report
- Behaviour and exclusions
- Arrangements for dealing with complaints,
- Arrangements for the school's land and buildings
- Voluntary contribution policy
- Catering arrangements for pupils entitled to free school meals
- Attendance policy and data
- Policy and arrangements for the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of pupils,
- Arrangements for independent careers guidance provision (for secondary schools)
- Data protection and arrangements for Freedom of Information
- Register of business interests of headteachers and governors
- Destinations data (for secondary schools)

Where policies or requirements are expected to change as a result of the school becoming maintained, details of such changes should be submitted to the local authority.

I The school building is appropriate or can easily be improved

Buildings must meet standards set out for maintained schools or the school must provide a costed and active plan of action (with evidence of funding source in place) to meet the requirements.

The school must demonstrate that it has sufficient financial resources to meet the financial responsibilities of any planned maintenance work for a 5 year period.

- The school must provide a condition survey that must have taken place within 1 year of the application
- The school must provide asbestos survey and register that must have taken place within 1 year of the application
- Current Health and Safety document
- Energy bills for the most recent year
- Latest servicing certificate (maintenance) within 1 year
- Current fire management/ risk assessment/ escape plan
- Complete Gateshead's compliance spreadsheet

School must demonstrate that in the five years following the VA transfer the school will not have any major capital expenditure.

Appendix 3

Application Form – Gateshead Framework for Independent Schools Wishing to Join the Maintained Sector

Submission

Please submit both physical and electronic copies of your application, ensuring that you have completed Appendix A, B and C. Please attach all sources of evidence that you wish the council to consider.

Post Submission

If your independent school passes the paper-based assessment, your school will receive a visit from one or more representatives of the Council before being invited to interview. The visit will form part of the assessment of the transition plans in your application and your self-assessment and will inform interview questions.

Appeals and reapplying

Decisions by the Council are final and there is no formal appeals process. If your application is not successful, you will receive a feedback letter giving information about the judgement. You should allow enough time to address any weaknesses and strengthen your application before reapplying. If you are reapplying after being unsuccessful previously, we expect you to demonstrate explicitly how you have changed your application in response to the written feedback you received. If this feedback is not addressed, it is likely that your application will not be considered further, and you may not get full feedback on the application.

Data protection

Personal data is collected in order to consider an application to set a Gateshead maintained school and will not be used for other purposes.

Information about the current independent school

1. The name and address of the current independent school.
2. Date the school was established
3. Please set out any particular ethos of the current school, including any educational philosophy
4. Please set out the current ownership and governance arrangements for the **independent school** (trust, company, governing body) and set out the relationship and responsibilities between parties involved in the governance.
5. Please list all members of the current Trust and/or governing body, identifying any specific role (e.g. Chair, Vice chair etc)
6. Please list dates of Governing Body meetings over the last 12 months and provide minutes of the meetings.
7. Please set out the current ownership arrangements for the land and premises

Information about the proposed maintained school

8. The name and address of the proposed maintained school
9. Please set out any particular ethos of the proposed maintained school, including any educational philosophy if different from above
10. Please set out the proposed governance arrangements of the proposed **maintained school** and the proposed relationship and responsibilities between parties involved in the governance.
11. Please list all members of the proposed governance arrangements of the proposed maintained school, identifying any specific role (e.g. Chair, Vice chair etc)
12. Please set out the proposed ownership arrangements for the land and premises for the proposed maintained school

A. **There is a genuine demand/need for this type of school in the local area**

13. Please set out your evidence there is a need for the proposed maintained school in the area. Where the school is proposing to operate as a designated faith school, a demand for places for pupils of that faith must be demonstrated.
14. In your current independent school, please confirm the number of pupils you seek to receive in September each year in Reception for primary schools or Year 7 for secondary schools.
15. Please confirm the current number of all pupils in your school.

16. Please confirm the number of these current pupils that are resident in Gateshead..
17. Please provide the number of pupils on roll for each of the last five years in each year group.
18. For each of the last five years, please provide the number of applications received for entry (either Reception or Year 7 places) and the numbers that start in September each year.
19. For the proposed maintained school, please provide the projected number of pupils in each year group for the first seven years of operation.
20. In proposing any expansion to your current numbers you will need to set out clearly how this will be managed. Please set out the suitability of the related curriculum offer and the capacity of the school, in terms of site, staff, and resources to support an expansion.

B. The school is able to meet the high standards expected of state maintained funded educational provision

21. Please confirm the date and outcome of your last Ofsted inspection and provide a link to the inspection report.
22. Please confirm that you have provided your latest self-assessment against the Ofsted common inspection framework (Appendix A).
23. Please confirm how your self-assessment has been externally validated and provide contact details of the external validator (or organisation).
24. Please provide minutes of your Governing Body meetings for the last 12 months.
25. Please provide a self-assessment of your governing body (Appendix B) and provide evidence/examples of how your governing body has effectively monitored and challenged the independent school to improve educational standards.
26. Please set out how your proposed governance structure, and roles and responsibilities will ensure accountability and effective decision making in the new proposed school and drive continuous improvement in the school.
27. Please set out any transition or improvement plan to ensure that the governing body of the new maintained school will be a highly effective governing body in driving continuous improvement. In particular, you should demonstrate how the leadership in your school has or will have successful systems in place to monitor and develop the effectiveness of teaching and learning, and the continuous professional development arrangements to underpin that.
28. Please provide the proposed instruments of governance for the new maintained school.

29. For secondary schools, please provide details of the destination of pupils who have left your school in, at least the last two years.

C. Current and projected financial health of the proposer is strong

30. Please provide three years audited accounts of a) the school and b) the proposing organisation/trust (if different).

31. Please set out any secured and unsecured loans of) the school and b) the proposing organisation/trust (if different).

32. Please set out any other financial liabilities of a) the school and b) the proposing organisation/trust (if different).

33. Please confirm that, if requested, you are prepared to share financial information in relation to the proposing organisation/trust and the school with the council's independent financial advisors.

D. The proposal represents long term value for money

34. Please provide a five year projected revenue budget for the proposed maintained school that follows the national scheme for Consistent Financial Reporting in Schools (CFR).

35. Please provide a list of all posts in the proposed maintained school (teaching, support, management, administrative) together with the salary information, employer contributions (national insurance and pension contributions).

36. Please confirm that your pay policy complies with the provisions in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions. If not, please set out the steps and timetable for ensuring that your pay policy complies and all staff are paid according to these provisions

37. Please provide a copy of your policy in relation to voluntary contributions in the proposed maintained school.

38. If your budget relies on regular voluntary contributions for the delivery of any part of the school day (excluding after school activities), please provide evidence for any assumptions you have made in relation to these contributions.

39. If your budget relies on regular voluntary contributions for the delivery of any part of the school day (excluding after school activities), please set out the elements of the curriculum or other activities which are dependent on these voluntary contributions.

40. If your budget relies on regular voluntary contributions or donations for the delivery of any part of the school day (excluding after school activities), please set out number of timetabled hours each week that will be funded by

a. State funding through the schools funding formula

- b. Voluntary contributions or donations

41. Please set out how the school will work in partnership with other local schools, for example, utilising resources and expertise, to contribute to the achievement of all of Gateshead's children

E. Suitability

42. Please describe the approach of the proposed maintained school to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils and in particular, to meet the Department for Education's guidance 'Promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'. Please demonstrate how the school will promote fundamental British values across a range of subjects as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

43. Please provide examples of how pupils in the school will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to a life in modern Britain.

F. The school is able to deliver the whole of the national curriculum to the expected high standard

44. Please provide your proposed timetable for each year group (weekly or fortnightly timetable).

45. Please provide a breakdown of the how many hours in the timetable (weekly or fortnightly) that is allocated to the teaching of

- a. English
- b. Maths
- c. Science
- d. PE

46. Please indicate any areas of the national curriculum that are underdeveloped and set out your plans to strengthen or improve this aspect of the curriculum. Please indicate the resources required to deliver the improvement and the timetable for implementing the improvement (e.g. if your music offer is not yet meeting the expectations of the national curriculum, what steps are you taking and when will the steps be taken)

47. Please provide a staff structure, clearly indicating lines of accountability and responsibilities.

48. Please provide a list of all staff that will be employed in the proposed maintained school and indicate whether each person has Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and when it was gained. If a teacher is unqualified, please set out the plan of action and timetable for acquiring QTS.

G. The school meets the requirements as set out in the Equalities Act

49. Please set out how the maintained school will demonstrate that it is meeting the requirements as set out in the Equalities Act.
(you may find it helpful to consult the 'Guidance for schools on the Equality Act')

H. Due diligence

50. Please provide copies of all policies that are statutory requirement of the Department for Education. Please see required
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools>

51. Please provide a copy of your register of interest for the headteacher and governors of the proposed maintained school.

52. Please provide a signed declaration as set out in Appendix C

I. The school building is appropriate or can easily be improved

53. Please confirm whether your current premises meet the requirements of Gateshead's maintained schools (check – do we have a doc – see SW). If not, please provide a costed timetabled plan of action together with evidence of the source of funding that will ensure the premises will meet this standard.

54. Please provide a condition survey that must have taken place within 1 year of the application

55. Please provide a recent asbestos survey and register (dated within 1 year of the application)

56. Please provide a copy of the last 12 months energy bills.

57. Please provide a fire management/ risk assessment/ escape plan.

Appendix A. Self – assessment against Ofsted framework for the current independent school

Please complete the following self-assessment in full.

Name of school						
Girls/Boys/ Co-educational		% Special Educational Needs	% Free School Meals (or pupils on bursaries)	% English as an Additional Language	% Persistent Absence	% Attendance
Name of principal		Additional information about the school [Please provide details about your school's site, physical environment and any finance issues, including any debt you may have.]				
Chair of governors						
Number of pupils currently on roll						
Capacity						

Your assessment against Ofsted framework (please provide a commentary) Review outcomes - current position		Your self- assessed Ofsted grade (1-4)	Required position - risks, actions plan (including priorities identified) and timescales
Overall Position	[Please provide an overall commentary on your school, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors, please delete this guidance before submitting this form]		
Quality of Education	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		
Behaviour and attitudes	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		
Personal Development	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		

Leadership and Management	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		
Early Years (if applicable – if not delete row)	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		
Sixth-form provision (if applicable – if not delete row)	Please cross-reference every section from the current school inspection handbook, with reference to the Ofsted grade descriptors. Please delete this guidance before submitting this form.		
The extent to which the education and systems provided by your school meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school,			

and in particular the needs of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs.			
Any other comments or observations not captured above. Please note, AP schools should state whether they are registered and if their existing provision is interwoven with the LA.			

Appendix B: Governance self-assessment

Please complete the following self-assessment in full.

Your assessment against the Governors and Academies Financial Handbook		Your assessment of current position (How you do it now)	How will you get to required position – Please list risks, actions plan (including priorities identified) and timescales
1. The roles and responsibilities of the directors/trustees	<p>Please detail your duties as:</p> <p>J. company directors and charity trustees;</p> <p>K. accounting officer</p> <p>Understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school.</p> <p>Understanding performance data (what data do you use), how do you use it to ensure robust oversight of performance (including externally provided data for example data dashboard the school presents)</p> <p>Holding school leadership to account</p>		
2. Structure of the board	<p>Accountability system</p> <p>Structure of decision making</p>		
3. Meetings	<p>Please detail your board and committee meetings schedule and outline agenda</p>		
4. Finance	<p>Please give details of:</p> <p>L. your chief financial officer, with appropriate qualifications and/or experience;</p> <p>M. Schemes of delegation;</p> <p>N. Approvals</p>		

	<p>process- budget; O. Investment policy; P. Procurement including leases; Q. Internal control framework; R. Contingency and business continuity plan; S. Insurance cover</p> <p>Compliance with Manual of Financial Procedures</p> <p>Manual of Financial Procedures - Gateshead Intranet</p>		
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[H&S questionnaire](#)

Appendix C: Declaration

As part of your application, you will need to sign a declaration guaranteeing that you have disclosed all your financial liabilities, including any tax disputes.

One copy must be signed by a company member on behalf of the company/trust and one copy by the Chair of the Governing Body

I confirm that the information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I further confirm that if the application is successful the company will operate a Gateshead maintained school in accordance with:

T. all relevant obligations and requirements that apply to Gateshead maintained schools (e.g. safeguarding, welfare and bullying) – this includes statutory requirements (those that are enshrined in legislation) and non-statutory requirements (those contained in DfE guidance); and

U. the School Admissions Code, the School Admissions Appeal Code and the admissions law as it applies to maintained schools. 16 to 19 applicants do not need to follow these codes, but must have admissions arrangements and criteria which are fair, objective and transparent.

I have fully disclosed all financial liabilities and the full extent of each/any debt for which the company, trust or existing school is liable.

I confirm that we are not and have never been barred from regulated activity within the meaning given by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. I further declare that all current governors of the school have confirmed to me that they are not and have never been so barred, and that if it comes to my attention whilst I am chair of the school's governing body that I or any other governor are or have been so barred I will notify Gateshead Council. I and all other governors understand that the school's application may be rejected if a governor of the school is found to have been barred from regulated activity.

I acknowledge that this application may be rejected should any information be deliberately withheld or misrepresented that is later found to be material in considering the application.

Signed:

Position:

Print name:

Date:

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TITLE OF REPORT: Highway Asset Management Plan Update

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides an update of the Gateshead Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) 2018-30 which was initially approved at Cabinet in 2018 with subsequent updates annually. It provides the latest performance information and details of progress with key targets in the plan relating to the management of the Council's highway assets. The Council's HAMP is expected to form part of a regional Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) which is one of the obligations of the devolution deal to access future highway maintenance funding and which is under development by Transport Northeast.

Background

2. Gateshead's road network provides a fundamental resource, essential to the economy of the area and for the quality of life for residents and visitors. Its effective management and maintenance have an impact on activity of all kinds, from day-to-day journeys to work, school, shopping or for leisure, through to the needs of the emergency services and the road freight industry. The HAMP provides the strategic framework for the management of this resource.
3. The HAMP must evidence how the Council are planning to utilise their highway maintenance funds and provide benchmarking data and progress reports on the Council's key targets and policies. Failure to conduct regular updates could affect the Council's funding allocations.

Information and Proposals

4. The most recent monitoring data and update on progress with targets is summarised in appendices 2 and 3, respectively.
5. Appendix 2 table1 shows that the A, B and C roads in Gateshead are in very good condition; ranked in the highest road condition quartile of local highway authorities across the country. However, the condition of the unclassified network is, however, relatively poor (residential and industrial estates) with 21% or 143 km in need of immediate repair- (Appendix 2 table1). Although we have targeted considerable resources using different methods and techniques in the last three years to this area, the highway condition indicator for our

unclassified roads has remained constant around 20% indicating the extent of the problem. We will continue to target the unclassified network as shown in (Appendix 2 table 3). Extra capital funding has been provided internally and by government in 2023/24 and it is hoped this will draw the condition indicator down and away from the existing “steady state”. However there has been a reduction in revenue maintenance budgets by 50% since 2010.

6. The number of recorded defects or reactive repairs conducted in 2023 is shown in Appendix 2 table 2. Gateshead’s highway and footpath network is inspected throughout the year based on the Council’s Highway Safety Inspection Policy available online:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/4502/Highways-Asset-Management-Plan>

7. The number of pothole and pavement repairs from inspections and reports from the public has increased in 2023 compared to previous years. The trend tends to follow the severity of the winter but is still provides an underlying indicator of the state of the network. The aim of the HAMP is to ensure by timely intervention with repairs, that potholes do not develop and, if they do, to make sure they are prioritised to avoid accidents and damage to vehicles. A sum of £3,385.89 was paid out in compensation last year from 47 claims for damage caused by potholes of which 90% were defended successfully. This is considerably less than most of our neighbouring authorities. The numbers of all types of repairs on footpaths and footways are higher than on the carriageways and this is becoming a concern. A more targeted approach to footpath repairs in higher risk areas is proposed in appendix 3.
8. Recent improvements in management of our traffic signals with a new asset management system and inventory is allowing us to target sites on obsolescence and reliability. This helps the planning of subsequent repair and maintenance programmes. This is a key target of the HAMP in order to manage the 180 signal sites. The conversion of all the traffic signal sites from the existing tungsten halogen lighting to LED is now very much a priority. The conversion is not straight forward as a new controller and equipment is needed at each site but the benefits in energy and carbon savings as well as reliability are excellent. On a single pelican crossing the energy savings are as high as £800 a year using 2kw less power which equates to a carbon saving of 464 kilos. We currently have 48 sites still requiring conversion and recently made a bid to central government for extra funding for this purpose. An updated target relating to this work has been proposed in appendix 3. The successful LED conversion programme with our street lighting estate has provided similar savings and was a target in earlier years for the HAMP.
9. The financial year 2023/24 has been used as the base year to monitor carbon reduction through using new materials. The Council has established a carbon reduction group in partnership with Tarmac which has the Council’s current term maintenance contract. We have begun using warm lay road resurfacing materials (instead of high carbon, hot lay materials) after a successful trial last year. A similar trial with a new thinner surfacing product with a much-improved finish and greater longevity has led to this product replacing the use of micro-asphalt in Gateshead. Annual carbon reductions will be included in future versions of the HAMP monitoring report. With all these materials there is a balance to be found between carbon generation, product suitability and cost.

10. Updates to the targets for the HAMP are proposed in appendix 3. New targets specifically relate to carbon measurement (2), the conversion of traffic signals to low carbon LED (2 and 6) and the management of footpath repairs (7). These, together with updated information summarised in appendices 2 and 3 will be incorporated into a revised HAMP, the full version of which will be available online at:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/4502/Highways-Asset-Management-Plan>

11. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Cabinet approves the updated HAMP targets as set in appendix 3.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To optimise investment in the local transport network.
- (ii) To provide the basis for improved management and maintenance of Gateshead's highway network and to ensure the effective use of resources.
- (iii) To maximise external funding streams awarded to highway authorities who conduct effective highway management.
- (iv) To introduce measures to reduce carbon production in highway maintenance materials and operational maintenance procedures.

CONTACT: Kevin Ridpath

ext. 3113

Policy Context

1. The proposals support the pledges within Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives. They also support the aims and objectives of the Councils' Climate Change Strategy, Transport Plan for the Northeast and the Gateshead Highway Asset Management Plan.

Background

2. The total length of the highway network in Gateshead is more than 560 miles (900km). The road network reflects the mixed character of Gateshead, ranging from major urban routes carrying large volumes of traffic to more lightly used rural roads providing access to outlying villages and farms. It includes 740 miles (1,191km) of footway, 32,000 streetlights, 289 bridges & other highway structures, and 180 traffic signalled junctions or crossings.
3. The purpose of the HAMP is to ensure that available resources are directed to maximum effect. It seeks to identify the main difficulties and problems affecting maintenance of the network and how these should be tackled.
4. The Council's first HAMP was introduced in 2014. In 2018 a new three-part strategy for the HAMP was adopted by the Council for the period 2018 to 2030 comprising the highway asset management framework (HAMF); the highway asset management plan (HAMP); and the highway maintenance plan (HMP). All three documents are published on the Council's website. To meet the Department for Transport's (DfT's) performance rating guidelines the HAMP is required to be updated regularly. Failure to carry out the update could affect the Council's funding allocations.

Consultation

5. In preparing this report the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport has been consulted and agrees with its contents.
6. The Council's highway asset management policies are available to view by the public on the Council's website.

Alternative Options

7. There are no alternative options.

8. **Resources**

- a) **Financial Implications** – the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – there are no human resources implications.
- c) **Property Implications** – no property implications have been identified.

9. **Risk Management Implications** – there are no risk management issues.

10. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – maintaining and improving the highway network through the schemes identified above will assist in reducing social exclusion by improving access for the young, elderly, unemployed/low waged and people with disabilities.

11. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – not applicable.

12. **Health Implications** – transport and highway improvements are vital in achieving Active and Healthy Gateshead.

13. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – maintenance of highways, forms part of a sustainable transport system capable of supporting the borough's environmental, social, and economic objectives sustainably. The Plan has specific targets related to carbon reduction.

14. **Human Rights Implications** – there are no human rights implications.

15. **Ward Implications** – the policy affects all wards.

Key Highway Performance Indicators

1 Annual Highway Maintenance Key Performance Indicators

(% of carriageway network needing immediate repair)

Table 1

Road Class	Length (km)	2017	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023
Principal (A)	78	1	1	1	1	1	1
B & C	141	2	2	2	2	2	2
Unclassified	682	18	20	18	20	20	21

2 Annual Recorded Defects

(Repairs carried out after inspections)

Table 2

Defects	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Trips / footway kerb	7,456	5,576	4,023	3,484	3,433	4,176
Potholes	4,740	3,191	2,628	4,226	2,625	3,725
All Defects **	18,104	13,469	10,563 *	12,937	12852	16,279

* Includes lockdown period in second quarter where no work was issued

** for traffic signs, lines, street-furniture, ironwork, kerbs

3 Carriageway length treated 2022/23 (km)

Table 3

Type of treatment	A road	B roads	C roads	Unclassified roads
Reconstruction	0.2	0.2	0.35	1.9
Overlay	0	0	0	2.8
Resurfacing	0.22	0	0	1.9
Surface dressing	0	0	0	4.4
Thin surfacing*	0	0	0	0
Programmed patching	1.9	2.5	3.3	3.6
Total	2.32	2.7	3.65	14.6

*Micro asphalt

HAMP Targets and Progress 2022/23

	Action / Target	Priority	Progress 2022/23	Status
	Strategic / General			
1	The development of life cycle plans for different asset types in Gateshead.	High	Life cycle plans now available for all assets (Traffic signals added 2022/3.) (Complete)	
2	Assessment of the impacts of climate change for future maintenance regimes. Development of carbon measurement (carbon calculator for materials).	High	<p>Conversion of traffic signal installations to LED now high priority to provide carbon/energy savings and reliability gains.</p> <p>Conversion of all Street lighting lanterns to LED complete. Carbon/energy savings being accrued.</p> <p>Tarmac partnership commenced with carbon reduction baseline.</p> <p>New warm mix and ultrathin products now being used to replace more traditional higher carbon materials. (ongoing)</p>	
3	Review inspection and repair policy to reduce repair numbers using new risk-based code of practice.	High	New risk related highway inspection policy now achieving target to reduce repair numbers and improve repair times. New policy continues to provide benefits in safety and cost savings in 2023/4 (Complete)	
	Maintenance Programmes			
4	To arrest the declining condition of the Council's unclassified carriageway network (residential estate roads) to bring it in line with other Northeast authorities.	High	Extra funding continues to be targeted into this area. The decline may have been arrested; improvements may require more resources.	

	Action / Target	Priority	Progress 2022/23	Status
5	Deal with the increasing incidences of potholes in carriageways using new methods and techniques where appropriate.	High	External funding provided to assist in 2022/23, however numbers remain weather dependent. (ongoing)	
6	Replace obsolete traffic signals equipment with new longer lasting and more energy and carbon-efficient equipment.	High	Maintenance programme commenced guided by the Imtrac asset management system. (Ongoing seeking further funding)	
7	Develop evidence-based ward programme for improving footway condition based on footpath hierarchy, condition, and defect records.	High	Utilised extra funding and used new footway maintenance survey (FMS).	
8	Assess and where necessary act to remedy geotechnical problems.	High	Priority areas addressed.	
9	Tackle problems relating to vehicle restraint systems.	High	Full survey conducted and repair programme commenced. (ongoing)	
10	Develop programme for the continuous replacement of older lighting support columns.	High	1090 new lighting support columns have already been planted as part of the ongoing column support replacement scheme.	
11	Structural testing of lighting columns.	High	Structural programme nearing completion	
12	Tackle deteriorating condition of signs and road markings.	Medium	Extra funding provided and programme of works continues.	
13	Improve the management of highway gullies using a new risk-based approach.	High	New risk based computerised management system now operational (October 22). Analysis of first year's data and optimised routes will follow. And new strategy development will follow.	

	Action / Target	Priority	Progress 2022/23	Status
	Information / Analysis			
14	Improve links to actual cost information for schemes.	High	Some work completed. (Ongoing)	
15	Link footway inventory data to asset database.	Medium	Completed.	
16	Identify future approach towards updating inventory information.	Medium	New asset information strategy completed.	
17	Develop new skidding resistance policy and work programme expanded to B and C roads.	High	Network analysis completed. 2nd year of B and C road surveys completed and remedial work underway. Policy requires an update.	
18	Update Imtrac traffic signals asset management system to manage performance and future maintenance programmes. Fault reporting system to be centralised.	High	Inventory now updated. Allowing accurate billing, life cycle planning and fault reporting. (Complete)	
	Funding			
19	Review capital and revenue allocations in face of changing budget pressures and emerging priorities.	High	Considered as part of capital and revenue budget setting and in identifying potential funding. (Cabinet report)	
20	Assess options for meeting funding shortfalls.	Medium	Continue successful capital bidding. And ongoing monitoring	
21	Improve benchmarking of costs for maintenance and improvement works.	Medium	Latest survey completed with Tyne & Wear partners in July 2023	
22	Develop business cases for funding repairs to specific asset types.	High	Both street lighting and traffic signal maintenance have had successful bids. (Ongoing)	
23	Investigating sources of funding to meet longer term maintenance and renewal needs.	High	Continue monitoring and bidding for capital. Traffic signals in 2022/3 and 2023/4 (ongoing)	

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TITLE OF REPORT: North East Screen Industries Partnership

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to enter into an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) relating to the North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) and to provide the financial contribution for 2023/24 in accordance with the agreement.

Background

2. In early 2021, the BBC published a UK commissioning strategy – ‘The BBC Across the UK’ – and announced its commitment to increase out-of-London production by 10% by 2028 (equivalent to £700m of expenditure). This strategy sets out to ensure increased representation of communities throughout the UK across all BBC platforms and increase commissioning spend in the nations and regions.
3. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BBC and the North East region was signed on 22 September 2021, following discussions and agreement with the three Combined Authorities and individual local authorities across the region. This set out the BBC’s intention to invest up to £25m over 5 years into regional programming and content and establish a new North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) between the BBC and the North East local authorities, through which a co-ordinated regional Screen Industries development Programme would be funded and delivered.
4. On 22 March 2022 Cabinet approved the funding for 2022/23.

Proposal

5. The MoU set out a partnership vision and mutual investment targets by BBC and the North East authorities over a five year period to promote the development of region’s cultural and creative industries, through the strategic development of the local TV and screen industry and skills. In order to continue to deliver the required step-change in the growth of the screen industries sector across the North East, it is essential that investment continues to be committed by all of the North East authorities as a whole and in a collaborative way to deliver a sustainable eco-system.
6. It was agreed that Tees Valley Combined Authority (“TVCA”) would fulfil the role of Accountable Body for the North East authorities in relation to NESIP. An IAA is now required between the North East authorities to ensure the respective roles and responsibilities (including the mutual funding obligations) of the individual North East authorities involved in the partnership are clearly set out, and the

associated governance and financial responsibilities are clear.

7. The IAA will initially operate between TVCA, the North of Tyne Combined Authority (“NTCA”) and the four authorities within the North East Combined Authority (“NECA Authorities”), including Gateshead, for the period up to 2023/2024. With effect from 2024/2025 the intention is that the IAA will be novated by the NTCA and the NECA Authorities to the proposed new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (“NEMCA”) to then operate for the remainder of its term up to the end of 2026/2027.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (i) Authorises the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, in consultation with the Strategic Director Corporate Services and Governance, the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, to agree the final IAA in connection with NESIP on the terms as set out in this report and such other terms as may be approved; and
 - (ii) Approves a financial contribution of £158,481 for the period 2023/24 to support NESIP pursuant to the terms of the above agreement.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To support the delivery of the Council’s Economic Development Strategy.
- (ii) Specifically to increase opportunities for the development of media content businesses to grow or locate in Gateshead to provide more and better jobs for Gateshead residents

CONTACT: Peter Udall

extension: 2901

Policy Context

1. On a local level, the IAA will directly deliver many objectives within the Thrive agenda, as follows
 - a. *Invest in our economy.* To invest in and promote the region's cultural and creative industries, through the strategic development of the local TV and screen industry and skills which increases external spend in Gateshead, to then increase local businesses in this sector in Gateshead.
 - b. *Opportunities for employment, innovation and growth.* To further support business case and attractiveness of cultural and creative media industries in Gateshead to provide more opportunities for employment of Gateshead residents.

Background

2. In early 2021, the BBC published a UK wide commissioning strategy – 'The BBC Across the UK' – and announced its commitment to increase out-of-London production by 10% by 2028 (equivalent to £700m of expenditure). This strategy sets out to ensure increased representation of communities throughout the UK across all BBC platforms and increase commissioning spend in the nations and regions.
3. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BBC and the North East region was signed on 22 September 2021 following discussions and agreement with the three Combined Authorities and individual local authorities across the region. The MoU sets out the BBC's intention to invest up to £25m over 5 years into regional programming and content and a region-wide target commitment to seek to commit £11.4m to support creation of a sustainable screen industries eco-system over the same period of time.
4. The MoU set out a series of shared ambitions and established a new North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) between the BBC and the North East local authorities as a new partnership initiative through which a co-ordinated regional Screen Industries development Programme can be funded and delivered. Signing of the MOU followed a period of engagement with the BBC and partners across the region, co-ordinated by Northern Film & Media (now operating as North East Screen), which is the North East's not for profit regional screen agency.
5. UK's screen industry is flourishing, generating a Gross Value Added (GVA) of £6.1 billion in 2016 and representing growth of 140% over the past ten years. There is huge potential to grow the sector locally by capitalising on the rapid expansion of the industry at UK level, while the re-location of Channel 4 to Leeds is opening-up new opportunities for North-East-based companies. The growing interaction between film, TV & screen, and gaming & virtual reality (VR) is also catalysing new opportunities for UK creative content businesses which presents great opportunities to Gateshead's VR businesses.
6. Over a decade of low or no investment in screen sector support and infrastructure

and a lack of a regional production fund to attract new investment, combined with major programming cuts made by broadcasters in 2008, has left the North East as one of the smallest screen sectors in the UK. Less than 2% of content produced in the UK is made in North East and just 0.9% of production and post-production industry companies are based here.

7. Regional data on the sector and its impact is currently limited. Development of robust regional data will be critical as the North East Screen Industries Partnership moves forward. In the interim, data and research commissioned by the BBC, British Film Institute and the Liverpool City Region Film Office has been used to identify anticipated economic impact as follows:
- BBC spend in the Nations and Regions has an economic multiplier effect of 2.63 for every £1 of spend
 - The average medium-sized production spends the majority of its budget (circa 67%) on 'non-screen' activities, including construction, professional services, logistics and hospitality & leisure
 - In the Liverpool City Region £7 was generated in the wider economy for every £1 investment via the production fund, which drives demand for and supports the growth and sustainability of local supply chains, talent development pipelines and the visitor economy.
8. Gateshead is well placed to benefit from growth in the screen sector and given the existing cluster of production firms, the range of content production services at PROTO and facilities at the Pride Media Centre.

Consultation

9. The Leader and Deputy Leader and Economy Portfolio Holders have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Alternative Options

10. The alternative option would be to not support the regional funding proposal. However, this would be contrary to the strategic objectives and commitments of the North East authorities and the BBC through the MoU to promote the region's TV and screen industry and skills.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. **Resources:**

a) Financial Implications –

Gateshead Council's annual share of the North East Regions local authority contribution is £158,481.

The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that Gateshead Council's contribution has been provided for in the 23/24 budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

b) Human Resources Implications – None

c) Property Implications - None.

12. **Risk Management Implication** - This approach has a number of risks, which are addressed below:

Project does not deliver outcomes. The proposal will be monitored against economic data to be agreed and outcomes assessed. The governance proposals will allow for the approach to be modified during the year to better target the programme to deliver the outcomes.

Monitoring requirements will be agreed across the region and with North East Screen to enable reporting within individual local authorities, combined authorities and to the NE Screen Industries Partnership.

13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report..
14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
15. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from this report although the improved opportunities for business and employment are a determinant of health.
16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate emergency or sustainability implications arising from this report.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
18. **Ward Implications** - Proposals will impact the whole borough.

Background Information

19. None.

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TITLE OF REPORT: MetroGreen Area Action Plan – Draft Plan for Public Consultation**REPORT OF: Peter Udall – Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet to undertake consultation on [the Draft MetroGreen Area Action Plan and Sustainability Appraisal](#). This consultation will take place under Regulation 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (hereinafter referred to as “the Local Planning Regulations”).

Background

2. The Council's long established position on MetroGreen is set out in the statutory Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP). CSUCP Policy CS3 identifies MetroGreen as a major brownfield site for a new sustainable community in an Area of Change. CSUCP Policy AOC2 sets out the requirements for future development at MetroGreen including: a mixed-use sustainable community, providing new residential neighbourhoods, commercial, leisure and community facilities, a network of green spaces and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and substantial improvements to public transport and flood and surface water management infrastructure.
3. The development and regeneration of MetroGreen is to be in accordance with planning policy as set out in an Area Action Plan (AAP). A Draft AAP (hereinafter referred to as the AAP) for MetroGreen has been prepared for public consultation.
4. The AAP is a key tool to facilitate the regeneration of land surrounding and incorporating the Metrocentre. MetroGreen will support the Metrocentre and its diversification by providing flexibility for Metrocentre related development, recognising changes in the retail/leisure sector to ensure the ongoing viability of the Metrocentre and its longer-term contribution to the economy of Gateshead and the wider region.

5. MetroGreen will deliver over 974 homes, 25,500 square metres of leisure and ancillary uses, including a hotel and a transformed and outward-facing Metrocentre, which will be integrated into the wider MetroGreen area.
6. The AAP provides a co-ordinated strategy for guiding future long-term re-development and investment. It sets out new and improved walking and cycle routes and public transport improvements; measures to manage river and surface water flooding; and a network of multi-functional green spaces, including a continuous riverside route and park along the River Tyne with links to the Metrocentre. The AAP promotes a high design led approach to the regeneration and as such contains a design guide, supported with illustrative drawings and images.
7. The AAP safeguards land to ensure the critical strategic blue and green infrastructure and sustainable transport improvements can be delivered to enable development to come forward and create a sustainable place at MetroGreen. This land is within multiple ownerships and will require site assembly. The AAP will enable the Council to consider the use of its compulsory purchase powers should this be necessary as a last resort to deliver the objectives and policy requirements of the AAP.
8. The delivery of MetroGreen will take place over a number of years in phases. The AAP sets out the key development phases and the order in which development of infrastructure and specific land parcels should progress. This indicates that the strategic flood infrastructure along the River Tyne will need to be implemented in advance of some of the development sites.

Proposal

9. The proposal is to undertake consultation on the Draft MetroGreen Area Action Plan, commencing 26 February 2024 – 7 April 2024, for a minimum of 6 weeks.
10. Delegated authority is sought for the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to make minor changes necessary to the plan, prior to release for public consultation.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - i. Approves the [Draft MetroGreen Area Action Plan and Sustainability Appraisal](#) for a minimum of 6 weeks public consultation in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Local Planning Regulations.
 - ii. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Economy Innovation and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and

Transport to make minor changes necessary to the plan, prior to release for public consultation.

For the following reasons:

- i. To progress the Draft MetroGreen Area Action Plan through the various stages of consultation on its way to adoption as part of the development plan for Gateshead Council.
- ii. To support the regeneration of the Metrocentre and the surrounding area.
- iii. Public consultation is a key part of local plan preparation, feedback from the public and stakeholders will be considered in preparing the Draft Local Plan.

CONTACT: Neil Wilkinson extension: 3411

Policy Context and Background

1. The Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) sets out the development requirements for MetroGreen and commits to preparing an Area Action Plan (AAP) for the MetroGreen area. The AAP will be part of the Gateshead Local Plan. The AAP is a statutory document that will provide detailed planning and design policies and guidance for the area setting out which land uses should go where, what infrastructure is required and how it will be delivered.
2. The Council commenced work on a new Local Plan through the recent consultation called [Start of the Conversation](#). The AAP has been prepared alongside and in conjunction with the evidence base informing the forthcoming new Local Plan which looks ahead to 2045. The AAP plan period extends to 2045 in alignment with the new Local Plan. This will allow for the AAP to be incorporated into the new Local Plan should it be adopted.
3. The AAP is being prepared to support the regeneration of and investment in vacant and underused brownfield land around the Metrocentre, approximately 213 hectares. The AAP supports the re-positioning of the Metrocentre, diversifying and encouraging multi-functionality to ensure its longer-term contribution to the economy of Gateshead and the wider region.
4. The Metrocentre has potential to deliver additional growth beyond what is currently planned for, diversifying further the range of uses and substantially increasing the number of homes. The scope of this has been discussed in the recent consultation which ended in January called the [Start of the Conversation](#). The operators of the centre have also considered the scope of additional growth and are actively engaging with the Council to look at the infrastructure challenges particularly around transport and water. Any additional growth would be handled through the Local Plan review.

The Importance of MetroGreen

5. The transformation of MetroGreen is a Council priority. The location and strategic scale of development will deliver the following benefits:
 - MetroGreen supports the Metrocentre and its transformation through diversification of uses at the centre and connection to the wider MetroGreen area, helping to sustain over 10,000 jobs and its contribution to the local, regional and national economy.
 - MetroGreen is set within a wider riverside renaissance which will be fundamental in transforming the riverside from Gateshead Quays to the Derwent Valley.
 - MetroGreen will help deliver the Councils key strategies including Gateshead Thrive, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Development, Climate and Housing.

- MetroGreen will boost the supply of housing at a national and local level, helping to deliver the Council's housing targets and provide new homes in the local area.
- MetroGreen is a significant brownfield opportunity in an area of high accessibility by sustainable transport modes, limiting the need to travel by car and contributing to carbon neutral growth.
- MetroGreen will deliver strategic multifunctional blue/ green infrastructure that will create a sustainable, attractive and healthy environment that includes flood management solutions to protect existing and new development, the creation of high quality public open spaces, biodiversity retention, creation and/or enhancement and active travel routes including the recreational riverside route along the River Tyne.

MetroGreen Vision and Objectives

6. The vision for the MetroGreen AAP is:

MetroGreen brings together sustainable waterfront communities offering a hugely attractive lifestyle with the River Tyne as its backdrop and easy access to city and countryside, riverside and seaside.

A mix of distinct neighbourhoods are well connected to local facilities and activities. At the core of the area, integrated with these neighbourhoods, is a re-imagined Metrocentre - outward looking and incorporating an exciting leisure offer of regional importance.

Connected communities - residential and business - are supported by excellent public transport and a green network of parks, streets and spaces with water never far away.

7. The strategic objectives of the draft AAP form the basis of the plan and its policies. The themes for the strategic objectives are set out below:

- Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing
- Facilities, Leisure and Wellbeing
- Sustainable Transport Connections
- Greenspace and Biodiversity
- Water and Blue Infrastructure
- Low Carbon
- Economy and Employment

8. The MetroGreen Vision and Objectives document can be found on the Councils website [here](#).

MetroGreen Draft Area Action Plan

9. The AAP provides the planning policy framework for the comprehensive development of the following principal uses:

- 974 homes
 - 25,500 square metres of leisure (use class) and ancillary uses
 - Hotel
10. The AAP sets out improved walking, cycle and public transport improvements; measures to manage river and surface water flooding; the provision of green spaces including a continuous riverside route and park along the River Tyne with links to the Metrocentre. The AAP promotes a high design led approach to the regeneration and as such contains a design guide, supported with illustrative drawings and images.
 11. The MetroGreen AAP is supported by a substantial evidence base which includes a range of technical reports that can be found on Gateshead Council's website [here](#).
 12. Preparation of the AAP has undergone various consultation stages in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. These are summarised below:
 - MetroGreen Scoping Report
 - MetroGreen Options Report
 - MetroGreen Pre-Consultation Options Report

The Reports are available on the Gateshead Council website [here](#).
 13. Consultation on the Draft AAP and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal will be carried out for a minimum of 6 weeks starting in February 2024 in line with the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#) adopted in July 2020. The upcoming round of consultation is important as it is the last informal round of consultation on the Draft AAP, welcoming comments and suggestions to all aspects of the draft plan. It also provides members of the public and stakeholders with the opportunity to be further informed of the Council's and Metrocentre's regeneration plans.
 14. The results of this consultation will be assessed, and the Draft AAP will be revised considering the comments received as appropriate. Cabinet will then be requested to endorse the AAP for pre-submission publication (Regulation 19) during which formal representations can be made, followed by formal submission to the Secretary of State and an Examination in Public.

MetroGreen Delivery Strategy

15. The Council is working with partners to prepare a delivery strategy for MetroGreen which will set out how the development will be funded and delivered. There are a number of viability challenges facing the delivery of development due to site abnormal and infrastructure costs. Significant investment will be needed to deliver the physical infrastructure and

development which will require long term commitment and funding from a variety of sources. The development is likely to be led by the public sector to begin, so to unlock the scheme.

Consultation

16. The following have been consulted on the report:
- Environment and Transport Portfolio
 - Ward Councillors for Blaydon, Dunston and Teams and Whickham North

Alternative Options

17. The alternative option would be to not progress the AAP or delay preparation and consultation. This would be reputationally damaging and cause uncertainty to our partners supporting Gateshead Council in the areas regeneration.

Implications of recommended option

18. **Resources**
- Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, confirms that there are no additional revenue implications arising from this report and there is a Capital Programme allocation for MetroGreen.
 - Human Resource Implications** - Currently anticipated to be delivered within existing resources. This will be kept under review alongside other work priorities.
 - Property Implications** - There are no direct property implications arising from this report, albeit the Council has land ownership in the MetroGreen area.
19. **Risk Management Implications**
- There are several risks such as reputational, procedural and legal that will need to be addressed in the preparation of the AAP. A strong, collaboration, budget and governance structure has been developed that will ensure these risks are met as the project develops and which will ensure planning regulations are complied with. The AAP itself sets out the infrastructure requirements to address risks to the successful development of the area and the MetroGreen Delivery Strategy will address how the development will be funded and delivered.
20. **Equality and Diversity Implications**
- The MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan Sustainability Appraisal. This includes a Strategic Environment Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment as part of a combined integrated approach.
21. **Crime and Disorder Implications**
- There are no direct crime and order implications.

22. **Health Implications**
The MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan Sustainability Appraisal. This includes a Strategic Environment Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment as part of a combined integrated approach.
23. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications**
The MetroGreen AAP Plan Draft Plan assesses the climate emergency and sustainability implications.
24. **Human Right Implications**
There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.
There are no direct human right implications.
25. **Ward Implications**
There are Ward implications for Blaydon, Dunston and Teams and Whickham North.

Background Information

- MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan
- MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan Policies Map
- MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan Communications Plan
- MetroGreen AAP Draft Plan Sustainability Appraisal

REPORT TO CABINET

20 February 2024

TITLE OF REPORT: Registration as a Responsible Body for the use of Conservation Covenants

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

Purpose of Report

1. The Government has recently established the process by which public bodies and other organisations involved in the conservation of the natural or historic environment can apply to be registered as Responsible Bodies for the purpose of entering into conservation covenants.
2. The report asks for the Council to become a Responsible Body so initially it may benefit in using its land for the benefit of off-site biodiversity net gain. In effect providing the opportunity to receive payment for managing its land in an ecologically beneficial way.
3. The report makes a recommendation for the Council to be registered as a Responsible Body with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Background

4. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. The Government, to halt and reverse the decline, are making it mandatory for developers to deliver a biodiversity net gain (BNG) on new developments requiring planning permission of 10% and has identified various mechanisms in which this can be secured for a period of at least 30 years. One of the mechanisms is for landowners to enter a conservation covenant with a Responsible Body. A conservation covenant is a private, voluntary agreement between a landowner and a Responsible Body to conserve the natural or heritage features of an area of land.
5. Developers will need to create and/or enhance habitats to deliver biodiversity net gains – also known as biodiversity units – in the red-line boundary of the development site or by relying on the delivery of off-site units. Conservation covenants have an important role. Where a developer wishes to rely, including in part, on off-site biodiversity gains to meet or contribute to the 10% BNG requirement, those biodiversity units must be listed on a register of off-site habitats maintained by Natural England. Habitats can only be included on the register if they are legally secured either through a conservation covenant or a

section 106 planning obligation.

6. The Responsible Body regulates and enforces the promises made by the landowner under the agreement. Responsible Bodies are responsible for monitoring the actions of the landowner in fulfilling the terms of the conservation covenant, for which they can charge the landowner.
7. The Council as a Responsible Body is not obliged to enter into a conservation covenant should it choose not to.

Proposal

8. The proposal is for Gateshead Council to become a Responsible Body. Initially, it is anticipated the Council will only be required to act as a Responsible Body for a conservation covenant where the developer is a neighbouring local authority and where the neighbouring local authority wishes to use its own land for the purpose of delivering offsite net gains or for heritage assets. In this scenario, a local authority cannot enter into a S106 agreement with itself, hence the need for a conservation covenant to legally secure the offsite BNG or secure the heritage asset. This would be a reciprocal arrangement to allow Gateshead Council to benefit from the approach. The use of conservation covenants may also be offered to developers if it was felt appropriate.
9. Following an approach by a neighbouring local authority, Council officers will consider the proposal and, where satisfied, negotiate any charges for executing the duties of the Responsible Body.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Approves that Gateshead Council applies to be registered as a Responsible Body for the purpose of entering into conservation covenants.
- (ii) Agrees to delegate authority for the purpose of entering a conservation covenant to the Service Director for Climate Change, Compliance, Planning and Transport.

For the following reason:

To ensure that the Council is ready as a landowner to meet the opportunities that changes in legislation provide to manage its landholding and maximise BNG.

CONTACT: Neil Wilkinson

extension: 3411

Policy Context

1. On a local level, Conservation Covenants will directly help deliver the Councils Local Plan supporting policies to improve nature and facilitating development.

Background

2. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. According to a study by the Natural History Museum the UK has only half the biodiversity that existed before the Industrial Revolution, putting it in the bottom 10% of countries worldwide. Much of this depletion has taken place in the past 50 years.
3. The Government, to halt and reverse the decline, are making it mandatory for developers to deliver a biodiversity net gain (BNG) on new developments requiring planning permission of 10% and has identified various mechanisms in which this can be secured for a period of at least 30 years. One of the mechanisms is for landowners to enter into conservation covenants with a Responsible Body. Only relevant organisations can be registered as a Responsible Body for the purpose of entering conservation covenants with landowners.
4. A conservation covenant is a private, voluntary agreement between a landowner and a Responsible Body to conserve the natural or heritage features of an area of land, introduced under Part 7 of the Environment Act 2021.
 - A conservation covenant must be for the public good and have a conservation purpose.
 - The provisions of the covenant are legally binding and are registrable as a local land charge.
 - To be able to enter into conservation covenants, an organisation must apply to DEFRA to be registered as a Responsible Body.
 - The application determination period is up to 12 weeks.
5. The application process is free and is completed online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/conservation-covenants-apply-to-become-a-responsible-body>
6. Conservation covenants will support the provision of biodiversity net gain (BNG) in accordance with the Environment Act. From January 2024, it will be mandatory for new developments requiring planning permission to provide at least 10% BNG. It is also anticipated that mandatory BNG will come into force in 2025 for nationally significant infrastructure projects given development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
7. Developers will need to create and/or enhance habitats to deliver biodiversity net gains – also known as biodiversity units – in the red-line boundary of the development site or by relying on the delivery of off-site units. Units can also be purchased directly from the government using its statutory credit scheme; however, this will be made deliberately expensive so as not to undermine the local market for off-site biodiversity units.

8. Conservation covenants have an important role in the new BNG legal regime. Where a developer wishes to rely, including in part, on off-site biodiversity gains to meet or contribute to the 10% BNG requirement, those biodiversity units must be listed on a register of off-site habitats maintained by Natural England. Habitats can only be included on the register if they are legally secured either through a conservation covenant or a section 106 planning obligation.
9. Conservation covenants can also be used to secure the conservation of land, or the setting of, places of archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural, or historical interest. This can include protecting, restoring, or enhancing those assets. But the focus of the legislation is nature.
10. The Responsible Body regulates and enforces the promises made by the landowner under the agreement. Responsible Bodies are responsible for monitoring the actions of the landowner in fulfilling the terms of the conservation covenant, for which they can charge the landowner. Fees are a matter to be negotiated between the parties therefore the role of the Responsible Body can be undertaken on a full cost recovery or an income-generating basis.
11. When a Responsible Body is approached by a landowner who needs to enter into a conservation covenant, there is no obligation on the Responsible Body to do so; it is entirely free to decide whether it wants to do so depending on the circumstances of that case and the Responsible Body's capacity or desire to enter into covenants at that time.
12. The Environment Act 2021 introduced the concept of conservation covenants. A conservation covenant is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and a Responsible Body that commits the land to specific restrictions over an extended period, potentially in perpetuity, irrespective of successor ownership.
13. Conservation covenants are expected to become a useful tool in legally securing long term biodiversity net gain either in tandem with or replacing Section 106 agreements where related to delivering offsite biodiversity measures required through the planning process. It should be noted that the Council will still expect all biodiversity improvements to take place on-site wherever possible.
14. In September 2023 DEFRA opened applications for organisations to apply to become a Responsible Body. Although Local Authorities are not required to apply, it is the expectation that most will do so. Multiple Responsible Bodies can cover the same geographical area.
15. By nominating ourselves as a Responsible Body the Council does not commit to entering into any individual agreements but does commit to submitting an annual report on the number of conservation covenants entered into. There is little information on this at present, but the Secretary of State may make regulations in the future providing for how annual returns are to be made.
16. It should be noted that the Council cannot enter a Covenant with itself on land in our ownership. Northumberland County Council have already applied to be a Responsible Body and neighbouring authorities are considering their positions. It is understood that a conservation covenant can be moved between Responsible Bodies if all parties agree. This may present an opportunity for a regional Responsible Body to be set up in the future to take on BNG related conservation

covenants.

17. By becoming a Responsible Body, the Council will safeguard the ability to use this function in the future. The government has yet to provide detailed guidance regarding the use of conservation covenants, but it is considered prudent to ensure the Council is able to take advantage of this function in the future, where it is considered the most appropriate and effective vehicle to deliver the Council's aims.

Consultation

18. Consultation has taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Environment and Transport Portfolio.

Alternative Options

19. The Council could choose to not be a Responsible Body, but this risks neighbouring Council's choosing not to perform the role of Responsible Body for conservation covenants where Gateshead Council is the developer and wishes to use its own land for the purpose of offsite biodiversity net gain measures. This could hamper the development aspirations of the Council (Gateshead) and prevent the delivery of much needed housing and employment growth and improved land management to encourage biodiversity

Implications of the recommendation

20. Resources

- **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director Resources and Digital confirms that there are no cost implications arising from this report. Acting as a responsible body has potential to become an income-generating Activity.
- **Human resource Implications** – Registration does not require the Council to act as a Responsible Body for conservation covenants. The decision to enter a conservation covenant will be taken on a case by case, subject to the Council having sufficient capacity to discharge its legal duties and ensuring full cost recovery.
- **Property Implications** - the Council cannot enter into a legal agreement with itself, entering into a conservation covenant with another Responsible Body will be required when securing biodiversity net gain on Council-owned land. Having a reciprocal arrangement with a neighbouring Council(s) will allow investment in nature on Council owned land

21. Risk Management Implications

There are no risks associated with this report.

22. Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no Equality or Diversity implications with this report.

23. Crime and Disorder Implications

There are no Crime and Disorder implications from this report.

24. Health Implications

Conservation covenants will be used to protect natural and historic assets that contribute to health and wellbeing, where access is available to the public.

25. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications

Conservation covenants will be used to secure new and enhanced habitats that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation including sequestering carbon, reducing flood risk, improving water and air quality.

26. Human Right Implications

There are no human rights implications from this report.

27. Ward Implications

All.

REPORT TO CABINET
20 February 2024

TITLE OF REPORT: **Community Asset Transfer – Former Bowls Pavilion,
Chopwell Welfare Park, Chopwell**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to the Community Asset Transfer by the grant of a 25 year lease in relation to the Former Bowls pavilion, Chopwell Welfare Park, Chopwell.

Background

2. The property, which is shown edged black on the plan provided, is held by the Council as trustee. Although the property is no longer required by the Council for service delivery, for the reasons set out in the appendix, the Council has to act in the best interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries and identify alternative uses for the property.
3. As the property is held in trust the consent of the Charity Commission and the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) is also required.
4. Approval to the letting has been sought from the CISWO, which has indicated that subject to sight of the lease, it will be willing to give its consent, but only to a lease for a term of 25 years. The consent of the Charity Commission will be sought once the Council as Trustee has the formal approval of CISWO.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that a 25-year lease be granted to Bibliotheca Magica Community Interest Company (CIC), in line with the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy, which is considered to be in the best interests of the Trust.

Recommendations

6. Cabinet, in its capacity as Trustee, is asked to approve, subject to the necessary consents being obtained, the grant of a 25 year lease to Bibliotheca Magica CIC in line with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy.

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 realise savings for the Trust

CONTACT: Zoe Sharratt

extensions: 3503

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the overall objects of the Trust and helps the community to support itself. 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 and communities..

Background

2. The property, known as Former Bowls Pavilion, Chopwell Welfare Park, shown edged black on the plan provided, is held by the Council as trustee. As the property is held in trust by the Council, there is an obligation for it to act in the best interests of the Trust.
3. At its meeting on 19 September 2017 Cabinet decided to rationalise the Council's maintained stock of bowling greens and pavilions as recommended within the Playing Pitch Strategy (Minute No. C62). The Bowls pavilion in Chopwell has not been used in connection with bowling for a number of years, but was until about two years ago, being used informally by a community group, but this group is no longer active and is in the process of being dissolved.
4. The Council has, however, been approached by another local group, Bibliotheca Magica CIC to determine whether it could take on responsibility for the former Bowls pavilion in the Park. The group who provide a variety of gaming activities and a safe, nurturing, encouraging space to support the local community currently rent a shop unit in the village but as it has no water or toilet facilities, they are looking for accommodation where they can develop their proposals further. Bibliotheca Magica CIC has worked on its business plan to use the pavilion and is now in a position to proceed with a community asset transfer of the property.
5. The grant of a 25 year lease at nil consideration to Bibliotheca Magica CIC is considered to be in the best interests of the Trust as it provides a sustainable model for the former Bowls pavilion. The lease will require that Bibliotheca Magica CIC act in accordance with the objects of the Trust, in order to ensure the Council, as Trustee complies with its obligations under the Trust Deed.
6. The letting is subject to the consent of the Charity Commission and the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) as the building is held in trust. Approval to the letting has been sought from the CISWO which has indicated that subject to sight of the lease it will be willing to give its consent but only to a lease for a term of 25 years. The consent of the Charity Commission will be sought once the Council as Trustee has the formal approval of CISWO.

Consultation

7. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and Ward Councillors for Chopwell and Rowlands Gill.

Alternative Options

8. The option of retaining the property has been discounted as there are currently no alternative viable options for the use of the property.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources:

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

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

c) Property Implications - The grant of a lease of this property held in Trust will result in a reduction in the Council's operational property portfolio and reduce operational costs.

10. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risk management implications arising from this recommendation.

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

12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property held in Trust will reduce opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft.

13. **Health Implications** – There are health implications arising from this report, as the activities provided by the tenant will provide mental health benefits to people who participate in the activities delivered.

14. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property held in Trust will reduce the level of the Council's operational maintenance, which will subsequently result in a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.

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

16. **Ward Implications** – Chopwell and Rowlands Gill.

17. **Background Information** – Minute No. C62(2017)



Title
Chopwell Park Pavilion

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Drawing Number
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Major Projects and Corporate Property
Economy Innovation and Growth

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13th June 2023

Drawn By
Joe Davies

Date Printed
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TITLE OF REPORT: Surplus Declarations – Disposal and Community Asset Transfers

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to (i) the properties listed below being declared surplus to the Council's requirements and (ii) the future proposals for the properties after being declared surplus.
 - Land adjacent to former Clasper Village, Teams
 - Playing Field and Changing Room at Axwell View, Winlaton
 - Former Changing Room, South Street, High Spennings

Background

2. The properties, which are shown edged black and hatched (Clasper Village), on the plans provided, are no longer required by the Council for service delivery for the reasons set out in the Appendices.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that the properties be declared surplus to the Council's requirements, and thereafter dealt with in accordance with the proposal set out in the appendices.

Recommendations

4. Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendations set out in the appendices of this report.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (ii) To encourage the building of sufficient new homes using land sustainably and prioritising the use of brownfield land.
- (iii) To encourage asset transfers of changing rooms/ football pitches as part of Playing Pitch Strategy

APPENDIX 1: Land adjacent to former Clasper Village, Teams

Policy Context

1. The proposed surplus declaration supports the overall vision for Making Gateshead a Place where People Thrive. In particular, investing in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth and will help deliver the Gateshead Housing Strategy, in particular; ensuring a supply of new housing that best meets current and future needs and aspirations to create thriving, mixed communities.
2. The proposed declaration will also accord with the provisions of the update of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020. In particular, growing the economy (jobs) and providing housing choices.

Background

3. At its meeting on 19 January 2016, Cabinet declared the land shown edged black (excluding the hatched area) on the plan provided, surplus to Council requirements, so that it could be disposed of for residential development with an option for small ancillary retail.
4. The land shown hatched and shaded grey on the plan is held for Education purposes, but has not been used for this purpose since 2008 when the Clasper Towers Adventure Play Area, was provided . The Play Area was closed in 2015 due to lack of resources and for safety reasons, and it has been secured with fencing for the last 8 years. As the land has not been used as a school playing field for more than 10 years, section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 does not apply and Secretary of State consent to the disposal will not be required.
5. When the adjacent site was declared surplus, the intention was to allow the developer to adapt and use the former Adventure Play Area as part of the open space provision for the housing site to be developed on the adjacent site. However, it has more recently been suggested that the land be included within the site to be sold to provide the developer with greater flexibility in relation to the layout/ design of the overall development site.
6. The land shown shaded grey on the plan is to be retained to provide a forest school area for the adjacent school.

Proposal

7. It is proposed that the property shown edged black and hatched on the plan provided be declared surplus to the Council's requirements, so that it can be sold for development on the open market as part of the larger site shown edged black on the plan.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that Cabinet declare the property surplus to the Council's requirements so that it can be sold for development on the open market as part of the larger site shown edged black on the plan.

For the following reasons: -

- (i) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (ii) To encourage the building of sufficient new homes using land sustainably and prioritising the use of brownfield land.

Consultation

- 9. In preparing this report consultations have been carried out with the Leader, Deputy Leader, and Housing Portfolio holder. Ward Councillors have also been consulted

Alternative Options

- 10. The alternative option of retaining the land for use as public open space has been discounted as the land has been identified as being suitable for residential development.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources & Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - The future disposal of the land will meet the requirements of the Corporate Management and Asset Strategy Plan by bringing forward a site for development.

- 12. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 15. **Health Implications** – There are no health implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no sustainability implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

- 18. **Ward Implications** - Dunston and Teams

Background Information

19. Council Min C147(2016)

APPENDIX 2: Playing Fields and Changing Room at Axwell View. Winlaton NE21 6NF

Policy Context

1. The proposed surplus declaration supports the overall vision for Making Gateshead a Place where People Thrive. In particular, supporting communities to support themselves and each other and will help deliver the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular the policy objective to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
2. The proposed declaration will also accord with the provisions of the update of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020. In particular, the rationalisation of the estate through the disposal of an uneconomic asset.

Background

3. At its meeting on 19 December 2016 Cabinet decided to further 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), but at that time there was no club in a position to progress with this site.
4. Winlaton Community Football Club Community Interest Organisation (CIO), however, currently use the property by way of a licence and have expressed an interest in taking a Community Asset Transfer of the property, so that they can develop the facilities to continue to provide community football and support healthy recreation and community activities. As part of their proposals, the Club wish to enclose the playing fields with fencing and following discussions with local Councillors specific terms have been agreed in relation to this aspect. The Club has also been working on its business plan and is now in a position to proceed with a community asset transfer of the property.
5. The property, shown edged black on the plan, is held for Leisure purposes and is used for recreation/ open space. Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may dispose of land consisting of an open space, for any purpose for which it is authorised, to acquire land by agreement, if it advertises its intention to do so in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated and considers any objections which may be made to it.
6. Therefore, the disposal of this land may be advertised, then (depending on the decision taken in respect of any objections/representations made to the advert), the land can be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposal

7. It is proposed that, subject to the proposed disposal being advertised as required by Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the property, shown edged black on the attached plan, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and a 35-year lease subject to an annual rent of £1,565 and five yearly rent reviews, be

granted to Winlaton Community Football Club CIO pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that subject to the proposed disposal being advertised as required by Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, Cabinet:
 - (i) Declares the property surplus to the Council's requirements.
 - (ii) Authorises the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities to grant a 35-year lease subject to an annual rent and 5 yearly rent reviews pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy to Winlaton Community Football Club CIO.

For the following reason:

- (i) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (ii) To encourage asset transfers of changing rooms/ football pitches as part of Playing Pitch Strategy

Consultation

9. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Ward Councillors for Blaydon and Winlaton and High Spennings.

Alternative Options

10. The option of retaining the property has been discounted as the maintenance of the playing fields and changing room have been identified as an efficiency saving. There are currently no alternative viable options for the use of the site.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the proposed annual rent will lead to an increase in the income of Property, Assets and Traded Services.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** - There are no direct staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property will result in a reduction in the Council's operational property portfolio and reduce operational costs.

12. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risk management implications arising from this recommendation.

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

14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property will reduce opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft.
15. **Health Implications** – There are health implications arising from this report, as the activities provided by the tenant will provide both physical and mental health benefits to people who participate in the activities delivered.
16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - The future grant of a lease will reduce the level of the Council's operational maintenance, which will subsequently result in a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
18. **Ward Implications** – Blaydon and Winlaton and High Spennings.
19. **Background Information** – None

APPENDIX 3: Former Changing Room at South Street, High Spen NE39 2HF

Policy Context

1. The proposed surplus declaration supports the overall vision for Making Gateshead a Place where People Thrive. In particular, supporting communities to support themselves and each other and will help deliver the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular the policy objective to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
2. The proposed declaration will also accord with the provisions of the update of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020. In particular, the rationalisation of the estate through the disposal of an uneconomic asset.

Background

3. At its meeting on 19 December 2016 Cabinet decided to further 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), but at that time there was no Club in a position to progress with this site.
4. High Spen Social Action Community Interest Company (CIC) have however, now expressed an interest in taking a Community Asset Transfer of the property so that they can develop the facilities to create a community hub providing family support, a family pantry and wardrobe activities. The organisation has been working on its business plan and is now in a position to proceed with a community asset transfer of the property.
5. The property, shown edged black on the plan, is held for Leisure purposes and is used for recreation/ open space. Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may dispose of property held for recreation/ leisure, for any purpose for which it is authorised to acquire land by agreement, if it advertises its intention to do so in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated and considers any objections which may be made to it.
6. Therefore, the disposal of this property may be advertised, then (depending on the decision taken in respect of any objections/representations made to the advert), it can be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposal

7. It is proposed that, subject to the proposed disposal being advertised as required by Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the property, shown edged black on the attached plan, be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and a 35-year lease at nil consideration be granted to High Spen Social Action CIC pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that subject to the proposed disposal being advertised as required by Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, Cabinet:
- (i) Declares the property surplus to the Council's requirements.
 - (ii) Authorises the Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities to grant a 35-year lease pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy to High Spen Social Action CIC.

For the following reason:

- (i) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (ii) To encourage asset transfers of changing rooms/ football pitches as part of Playing Pitch Strategy.

Consultation

9. In preparing this report consultations have taken place with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Ward Councillors for Winlaton and High Spen.

Alternative Options

10. The option of retaining the property has been discounted as the maintenance of the changing room have been identified as an efficiency saving. There are currently no alternative viable options for the use of the property.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no financial implications arising from this recommendation.
- b) Human Resources Implications** - There are no direct staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- c) Property Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property will result in a reduction in the Council's operational property portfolio and reduce operational costs.

12. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risk management implications arising from this recommendation.

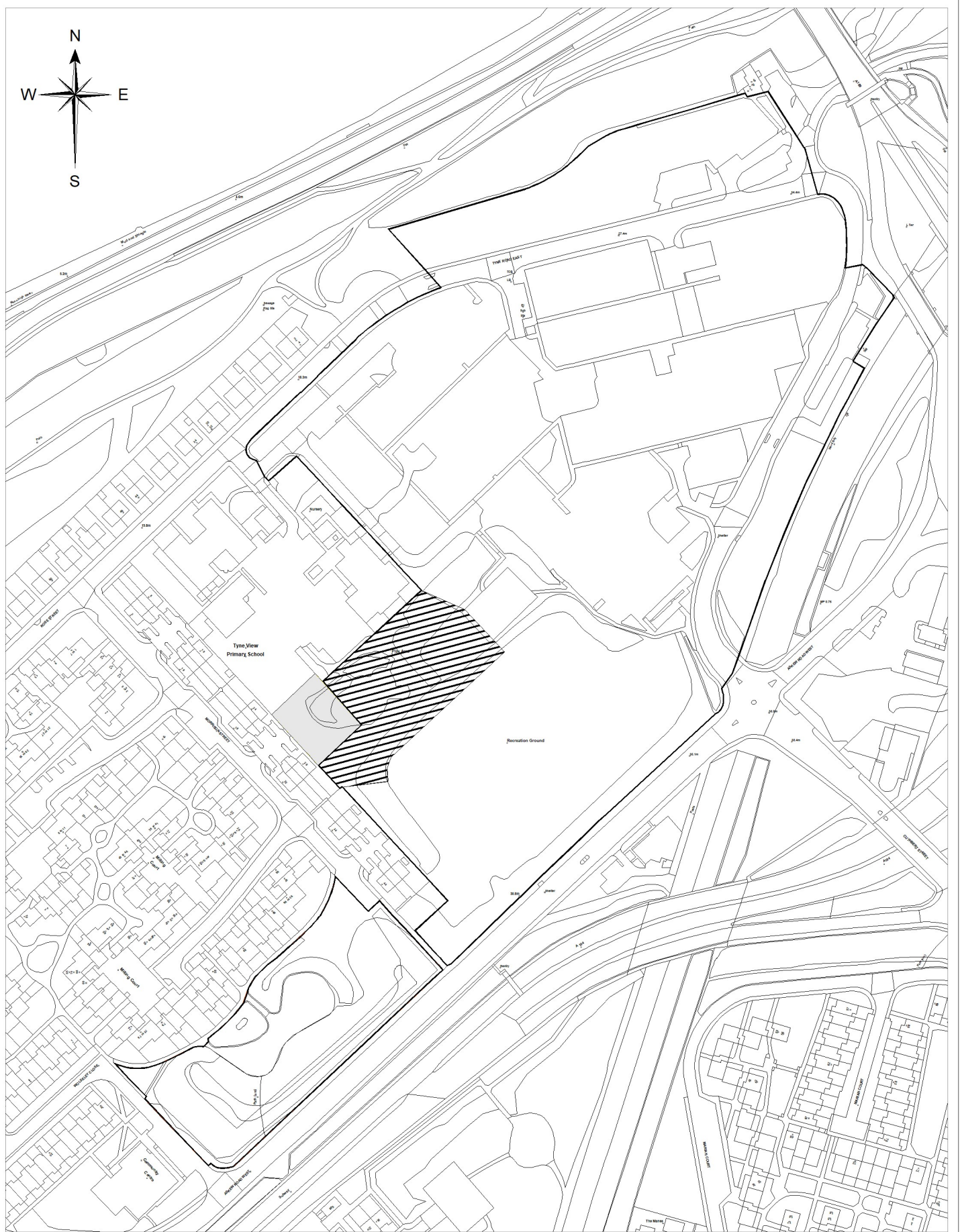
13. **Equality and Diversity** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.

14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - The grant of a lease of this property will reduce opportunities for crime and disorder, especially vandalism and theft.

15. **Health Implications** – There are health implications arising from this report, as the activities provided by the tenant will provide mental health benefits to people who participate in the activities delivered.

16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - The future grant of a lease will reduce the level of the Council's operational maintenance, which will subsequently result in a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no implications arising from this recommendation.
18. **Ward Implications** – Winlaton and High Spen.
19. **Background Information** – None

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Major Projects and Corporate Property
Economy Innovation and Growth

Scale
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Date Created
18th December 2023

Drawn By
Joe Davies

Date Printed
18th December 2023

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NZ2462NW

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Title
Land at Axwell View

Scale
1:2500

Date Created
7th December 2023

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Joe Davies

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Drawing Number
Asset ID : 001442 (D) 00

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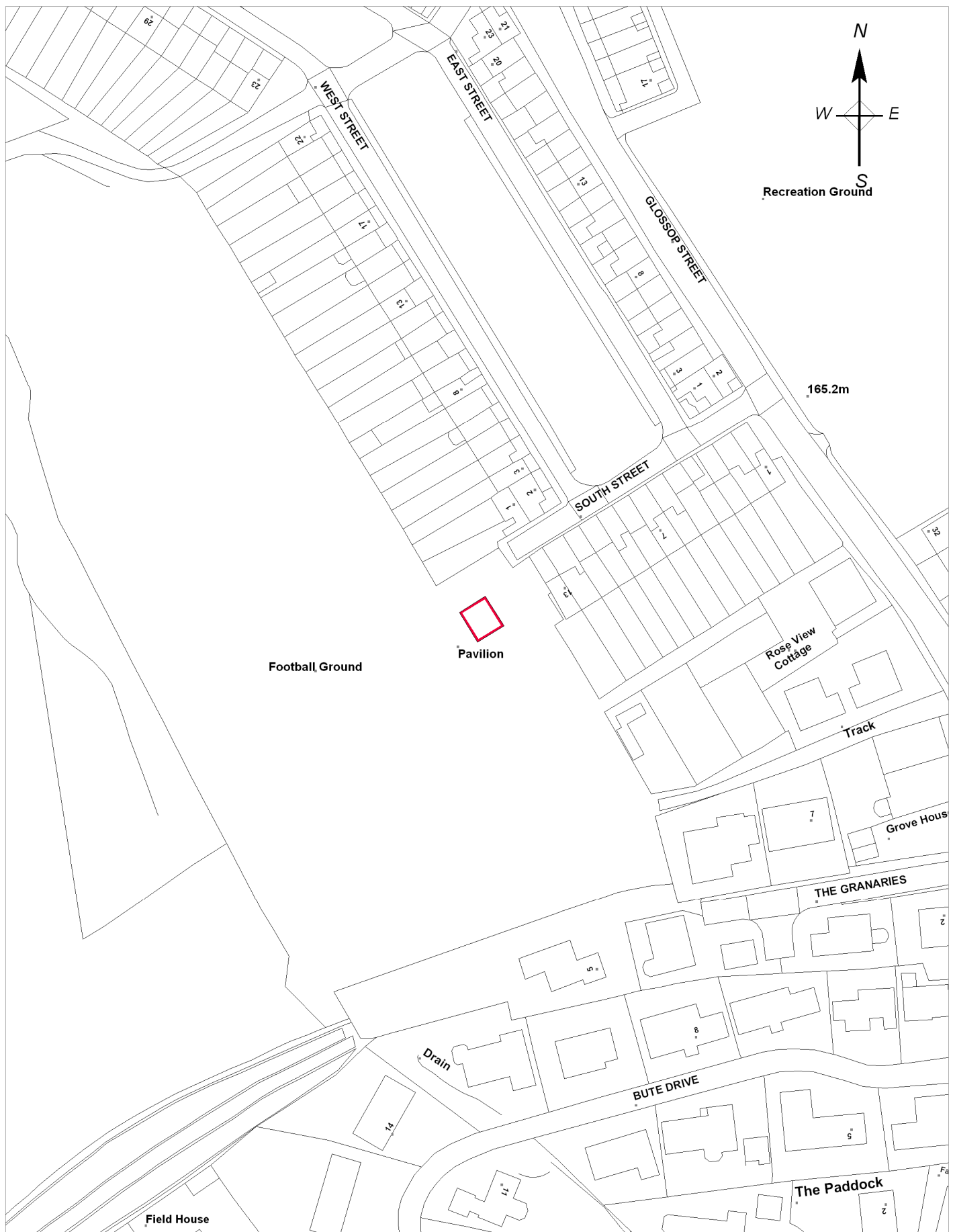
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7th December 2023

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Major Projects and Corporate Property
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Title

**High Spen Playing Field Changing Room
South Street, High Spen**

Scale
1:1250

Date Created

21st September 2010

Drawn By

Gillian Hall

Drawing Number

Asset ID 000013

Rev

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Date Printed

21st September 2010

O/S NUMBER

NZ1359NE

Corporate Asset Strategy Team
Legal and Corporate Services
Gateshead Council

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