



COUNCIL MEETING

19 JULY 2018

GATESHEAD COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE CABINET

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is the report from the Cabinet. Its purpose is to report on issues for the period May – July 2018.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

learningSkills Awards Ceremony

The thirteenth annual learningSkills Award Ceremony was held on the evening of the 28 May 2018, to recognise the learners and staff who have gone the extra mile.

On the night over 200 people attended and recognised some of the 12,032 people who have enrolled and excelled in education through Gateshead Council learningSkills.

Learners in Gateshead are very successful with 10,716 having achieved their learning aim, a success rate of 89%.

The Council targets those people who have been historically unsuccessful in their learning careers and often learners overcame massive barriers and personal challenges to get through the front door of their learning venue. This achievement is what makes the night so special. There were some inspirational quotes:

- “My experience was exceptional”
- “This course has opened up my mind”
- “I’ve achieved something I never thought was possible”
- “Absolutely enthralling”
- “I’ve improved my confidence and resilience”
- “The course has made me want to make a difference to other peoples’ lives”
- “I have changed my perspective on how other people live their lives”
- “I was made to feel like a worthwhile member of society”

The awards included:

| Award | Purpose | Winner |
|----------------|--|---|
| Employer Award | This award recognises those employers who have made an outstanding commitment to the lifelong learning and development of their workforce. | Willmott Dixon Construction - As well as supporting the apprenticeship within their employment, they are also supporting them further through enrichment activities and are involved in community projects working on renewable energies. |

| Award | Purpose | Winner |
|---|--|--|
| Young Person's Award | This award recognises the achievements of our younger learners aged 16 plus. They might have completed a Traineeship or Programme of Study or taken part in our Alternative Education Programme. | Jessica Wilson - This committed learner has been ill during the course and even when in hospital asked for work to be sent out to her so she didn't fall behind. |
| Apprentice/ Workplace Learner Award | This award recognises those individuals who have significantly improved their performance at work through learning new skills on an apprenticeship programme. | Stacey Unsworth - Within 3 months this learner helped identify business improvements and made systems more effective within the company. |
| Family Learning Award | This award is for an individual, family or organisation that have participated in or supported Family Learning | The North East Young Dads and Lads- a unique service which supports young dads in Gateshead who have challenging and diverse backgrounds. |
| Skills for Employment Award | This award is for an individual who has demonstrated the most dedication and progress in improving their employability skills and ability sustain employment | Faye Batch - This courageous woman has overcome significant difficulties in her life, which includes extremely challenging circumstances. |
| Recognition Award | This award is to recognise the efforts of an individual or venue involved in organising the provision of education | Headworks, The Civic Centre - It is a place where learners feel safe and supported and able to reach their full potential. |
| The Dawn Brown Community Learning Award | This award is for a group or individual who have used learning to support development in their community. | Skills for Life Reading Ahead Club - Some of the learners in the group haven't read before, so reading and reviewing six texts has been a challenge. |
| Learning for Life Award | This award is in recognition that it is never too late to learn. We were looking for an individual who might have begun learning later in life and perhaps found unexpected new horizons | Paul Carrick - From his starting point of attending and being easily overwhelmed by his feelings, he is becoming an independent young man, talking confidently about his future plans. |

| Award | Purpose | Winner |
|--|---|---|
| Skills for Life Award | This award is in recognition of the achievements of adults who have been able to improve their skills in English or Maths | Vicki Milburn - had little confidence and no formal qualifications after she was home schooled. She took the opportunity to gain maths and English qualifications. |
| Inspirational Person of the Year Award | This award is in recognition of a person who has been inspirational in supporting learning development | Sarah Gorman – Edberts House This special person has inspired hundreds of people and has brought communities together. |
| Equality and Diversity Award | This award recognises the achievements of individuals, providers or organisations who have demonstrated a strong commitment to equality and diversity | OpenDoor – Provision for people with Learning Disabilities - They work hard to secure work placements for vulnerable learners to support them to progress into employment |
| Learner of the Year Award | Our final and most prestigious award of this evening went to the individual who has demonstrated outstanding progression and achievement | Shaun Vanstone - He has been an inspiration to other learners on the course through his bravery and generosity. |

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

Heworth Roundabout Junction Re-opened

The works to repair the supporting bridges under the road was completed on 8 June, eight weeks ahead of schedule. The work meant this busy junction being reduced to single carriageway working, with full road closures at nights and at weekends, and the partial closure of the A185 Shields Road between Pelaw and Sunderland Road.

The Council took as much of the work in-house as possible which enabled more resources to be directed to the issue. Crews have been working long shifts, at weekends and overnight, to get the work completed as fast as possible.

The opportunity was taken to upgrade this junction by removing the redundant roundabout to smooth the flow of traffic along the Felling bypass, and improve road safety by upgrading other features such as pedestrian crossings, street lighting, crash barriers and traffic controls. Following the opening the Council has received many thank you messages from road users via Facebook and Twitter.

Conservation Update

Significant enhancement in Coatsworth conservation area has been achieved by the Coatsworth Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), which draws to a close at the end of July, after £1.45million investment funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. A number of

shop-fronts have been brought back to their former glory, and other historic buildings have been substantially renovated/rebuilt.

This follows the success of the Bridges Conservation Area THI in 2011 which benefited from £2.6million investment. A shopfront design guide is due for public consultation to maintain investment in Coatsworth, whilst the Bridges Conservation Area Management Strategy will be reviewed to complement adjacent regeneration including the Quays.

A Rural Conservation Areas Management Strategy covering seven areas – Rowlands Gill, Ryton, Clara Vale, Lintzford, Whickham, Marley Hill and Lamesley, is in draft and will be presented to Cabinet for approval for public consultation later this year.

A number of projects are currently in development to secure the conservation and enhancement of five scheduled ancient monuments in the Borough which are currently deemed at risk due to their deteriorating condition, including Crowley Dam, Bowes Railway, Ravensworth Castle, Dunston Staiths and Whinfield Coking Ovens.

Mobikes

Mobike cycle hire launched in Gateshead on Tuesday 19 June, building on the scheme launched in Newcastle last year. Mobike work to a different model from many previous bike hire schemes in that there are no fixed docking points and each bike has a 'smart lock' which both secures the bike and provides a GPS location to the central control. The lock is activated via the schemes smartphone app. The system sets out a number of preferred locations for parking but the bikes can effectively be parked and locked anywhere, although the scheme operates a credit scheme to encourage responsible parking.

The preferred parking locations in Gateshead include a number of points on highway around the Town Centre and incorporates Baltic, Sage Gateshead, Hillgate Quay, Northern Design Centre/Gateshead College, Gateshead Stadium, Gateshead Library, Civic Centre and Staiths South Bank. The scheme has launched with around 150 bikes in Gateshead. Should the scheme be successful, Mobike are willing to look at potential extensions to the scheme, which could involve moving out into local centres and on to locations such as Saltwell Park and the Angel of the North. There is also the potential for a scheme operating in and around Team Valley.

Fly Tipping Prosecutions

Since the Environmental Enforcement Team was set up a total of 130 criminal charges have been pursued.

Of these 53 have been finalised, resulting in a total of £17,822 in fines and £12,022.24 costs. Other outcomes of note include:

- One person subject to vehicle forfeiture, an 18 month community order including 6 month curfew (6pm - 6am) and 25 Rehabilitation Activity Requirements.
- One person being given an 8 week custodial sentence suspended for 12 months plus 75 hours unpaid work
- One person being given a 12 month community order with 100 hours unpaid work attached

There are 77 pending charges awaiting being heard in court; this includes 11 charges against five defendants whereby a warrant for their arrest has been issued because they have failed to attend. This figure also includes a number of people who have entered guilty pleas but are awaiting sentencing. These figures do not include the fixed penalty notices issued for fly tipping.

4. COMMUNITIES

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Late Shows

The Late Shows, held in Gateshead on 19 May, were a tremendous success. Venues participating in the promotion included Baltic, Bensham Grove Community Centre, Gateshead Central Library, The Nest Café and the Shipley Art Gallery. The promotion encouraged new audiences to visit a wide range of cultural venues through to 11pm at night. A small grants programme offered by Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums encouraged a range of smaller venues to offer highly creative activities on the night.

Healthy Emotional Lives Programme (HELP)

This ground-breaking programme explores how arts and culture interventions can support mental health professionals to reduce stress and anxiety in pupils in Gateshead schools. In June HELP successfully appointed an Artist in Residence, John Quinn to work in tandem with Mental Health Nurse Jane Bowler to develop arts based activities, build cultural partnerships and raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellbeing and reduce the incidence of stress and anxiety amongst our children and young people. HELP brings together the three strands of mental health, learning and culture, to share common goals to develop an open and accepting culture and a vibrant learning environment where our young people might become confident learners, personally self-aware and thrive in Gateshead. In the next phase the four schools involved, (Whickham School and Sports College, Washingwell Primary, Whickham Front Street Primary, Fellside Primary and Whickham Parochial) will devise cultural interventions that suit the characteristics of their school, build a supportive relationship to share practice and the knowledge they gain from these cultural interventions and begin to monitor the effects of these interventions on the attitudes to mental health in the schools. The main delivery phase will begin in September 2018 at the start of the next school year.

Gateshead Libraries Reading Hack Programme

Over the last five years Gateshead Library Service has developed a series of successful engagement groups across the borough, catering for a wide and diverse range of young people's interests as part of the national Reading Hack initiative. The groups are led by young people aged 13 to 24 who plan and take part in creative and reading activities and volunteering, to gain skills and experience. The programme is co-ordinated by The Reading Agency and Gateshead is a key partner, helping to guide the strategic direction of the programme. Gateshead Libraries have developed Reading Hack groups in Central, Birtley and Blaydon libraries. All three groups will be sustained.

Reading Hack is coming to the end of five years of funded activity, the Reading Agency has commented "Gateshead has been our stand-out Reading Hack authority". In

recognition of their contribution to Reading Hack, Gateshead librarians and young people were invited to London for the Reading Hack Celebration Seminar.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.