



COUNCIL MEETING

20 September 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 July to September 2018.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Health and Wellbeing

Gateshead Care Partnership

Gateshead Care Partnership has been shortlisted by the Health Services Journal in the category of 'Improved Partnerships Between Health and Local Government'.

Gateshead Care Partnership is designed to provide an improved, more joined up approach to community health services across the borough. By bringing together all the experts from health and social care into a single point, improved services are provided for the patient and offer a simpler, more trusted system that can only be better for the public.

The aim of the partnership is to bring together all the expert knowledge and resources into a single point of contact so that patients and families can navigate the health and social care system far more easily.

The awards ceremony is taking place on 21 November in London.

Adult Social Care

Academy Special Olympics

The Council, in conjunction with The Newcastle United Academy and Newcastle University have announced an innovative, revolutionary and exciting community project which will see it's Under 18 and Under 23 players coaching and interacting with Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne and Wear footballers. Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organisation for children and adults with a learning disability.

The Academy players will work with the players all aged 20-50 and will focus on technical, tactical, physical and psychological areas of the game with the sessions aiming to further develop the latent talent that exists in the region.

The programme will not only develop the skills of the players but will add to the learning experience and life skills of the Academy players through peer to peer learning. Fifteen Special Olympians, players with a learning disability attended the first training camp at

Newcastle United Academy on 11 September. Monthly sessions are planned until April 2019. Feedback from the first session will be taken on board to enhance the experience for all concerned.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

Air Quality

It is now recognised that air pollution across the UK may be responsible for 40,000 deaths per annum, principally from the long-term effects of exposure to pollutants including particulate matter and NO₂.

Defra has directed Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside Councils to carry out a feasibility study to set out a preferred solution to bring air quality (NO₂) exceedances within compliance.

The study must identify an approach to achieve compliance in the shortest possible time. Measures that improve air quality include traffic management, lower emission vehicles and increased numbers of journeys by foot, bike and public transport. One option that must be assessed is a charging Clean Air Zone.

The Direction requires the local authorities to produce an outline business case by 31 December 2018 followed by consultation and a full business case as soon as possible. A joint study is being carried out with officers from all authorities chaired by the Chief Executive.

Fly Tipping Prosecutions

Since the Environmental Enforcement Team was set up, a total of 166 criminal charges have been pursued.

79 criminal charges have been finalised resulting in a total of £30,508 in fines and £15,582.63 costs. Other outcomes include:

- One person subject to vehicle forfeiture, and an 18-month community order including 6 month curfew (6pm - 6am) and 25 x RAR days;
- 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;
- One person being given 160 hours community service and a 12-month supervision order.

There are 86 pending charges awaiting being heard in court; this includes 10 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.

Tyne Bridge Grade II Listed Building

On 21 August 2018, Historic England upgraded the Tyne Bridge from grade II to grade II* status in recognition of its architectural and historic interest. The review of the listing was prompted by the Great Exhibition of the North. The Bridge is considered to be particularly important and of more than 'special interest' in the national context for the following reasons:

- Its design and construction as a single span with no piers - a single steel span with Cornish granite pylons, which house two towers that are broadly intact with evidence of Art Deco influences;
- A scaled down version of Sydney Harbour Bridge;
- Association with distinguished C20 engineers such as Mott, Hay and Anderson;
- It's group value with the other bridges over the Tyne, creating a symbol of the region which is nationally known.

Minimising Plastic Waste

Officers have been asked to explore ways of minimising plastic waste and the following have been progressed and/or implemented:

- Phasing out of stand-alone water dispensers where appropriate, in favour of promoting the use of water being dispensed by taps in kitchen areas;
- Ensuring that it is easy for employees to recycle plastic bottles by providing special recycling bins at each workplace;
- Within our Building Cleaning Services, we have invested in chemical free cleaning where possible and this massively reduces the volume of plastic packaging and containers used at specific sites;
- School catering recycle on site and encourage pupils to do so. The service has minimised the use of disposable packaging and provides re-usable plastic trays and plates in most of the schools that it services;
- Within all of our traded services we adhere to segregated waste or designated recycling arrangements where they have been put in place by our customers;
- Ensuring that our photocopier paper packaging is paper based rather than made from plastic;
- Our tender processes have secured a wide range of commitments from our suppliers to help us to minimise the use of plastics and waste in general that will continue to be implemented.

Officers will continue to look into to explore other options of minimising plastic waste.

4. COMMUNITIES

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Angel of the North 20th Birthday

- Over the year there will have been 38 different projects celebrating the Angel's 20th birthday and fantastic coverage in the media.
- Knitted Angels made by community groups have been distributed to every Primary School in Gateshead so children can take their own Angel on adventures this year.
- Angel20 themed activities in Gateshead venues for NewcastleGateshead's Late Shows Culture Crawl in May this year. The Nest in Low Fell had t-shirt design and angel biscuits; Bensham Grove had pottery angels to decorate and glass painting and Curious Festival had light design workshops.
- The BBC launched their Angels of the North campaign in February for the Angel's birthday and have now selected 20 people from the region from public nominations for being an 'Angel' of their community.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.