



COUNCIL MEETING

24 January 2019

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 November 2018 – January 2019.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Outcome of Ofsted full inspection – Blaydon Children's Home

Blaydon children's home provides accommodation for up to five young people at any one time. Ofsted inspectors visited the home on 4 and 5 September 2018 and have rated the home as good, which is consistent with the previous inspection in January 2018.

The inspectors noted the young people live in a home that is safe and homely, with ample space for privacy as well as time together. The staff team provide consistent safe care messages and have good trusting relationships with the young people. It was noted that "the commitment and consistency of good quality care practice helps young people to feel safe and emotionally supported in times of crisis".

It was also noted that the leadership and management team, supported by a skilled workforce, work hand-in-hand with a range of professionals from other agencies to support the young people resident in the home.

There were two recommendations made by the Inspectors:

- Staff skills for safeguarding should include being able to identify signs that children may be at risk, and support children in strategies to manage and reduce risk;
- Case records must be kept up to date and signed and dated by the author of each entry, particularly to support arrangements for contact with parents/families.

Adult Social Care

Shadon House

Shadon House Dementia Resource Centre has retained its outstanding status following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission in October 2018.

The inspection team noted that people were extremely well cared for, relaxed and comfortable. They observed that care was provided with great patience and kindness and that the service went to great lengths to ensure people's privacy and dignity were always respected.

It was also noted that staff were very well supported by the management team, and that they were highly skilled and knowledgeable about each person they cared for.

Gateshead Care Partnership

In November 2018, the Gateshead Care Partnership won a prestigious Health Service Journal (HSJ) Award.

The partnership was presented with the award for Improved Partnerships between Health and Local Government in recognition of how it has streamlined health and social care services for the people of Gateshead.

Gateshead Care Partnership was formed in 2015 and is a collaboration between QE Gateshead, Gateshead Council and CBC, whose membership comprises all the local GPs. This means that GPs, hospital staff and social care professionals from the council all come together in a single organisation and help bring a much more coordinated system for patients.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

Brownfield Register

The Brownfield Register Part 1 must identify all brownfield sites for 5 or more new homes which are suitable and believed to be deliverable within the next 15 years. It must be submitted to MHCLG for uploading onto the national website by 31 December each year and is also added to the Council website.

The latest version comprises 105 sites, including nine additional sites which have been assessed as meeting the criteria for inclusion, and include “windfall” sites which have arisen during the year.

Twelve sites which have been deleted on the basis that they have already been developed, or found to be no longer suitable, available or deliverable.

Other than where updated, the Register is consistent with the October 2018 update of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the submission draft of Making Spaces for Growing Places. The Brownfield Register Part 2 allows the Council to select those sites in Part 1 on which it wishes to grant Permission in Principle, which simplifies and partly replaces the planning permission process. Part 2 will be progressed and reported in 2019.

Air Quality Update

Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside local authorities are continuing to work together on a Clear Air Zone (CAZ) Feasibility Study in accordance with the Direction from Defra. The aim of this is to identify how to reduce NO₂ exceedances (higher than 40µg/m³) identified by Defra, to compliant levels in the shortest possible time.

It is 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.

The authorities are working on the outline business case which will set out options to achieve compliance. The work which is currently still in progress, is identifying the predicted locations for exceedances of NO2 and assessing how the challenge can be met. The authorities are assessing a range of options including charging CAZ arrangements and provided a progress update to Defra on this in December. A public consultation will follow once the outline business case has been approved.

Transforming Cities Fund

The Transforming Cities Fund is a Government initiative to support improved sustainable transport connections within major urban areas, with any local bid being co-ordinated across the seven North East authorities through the newly established Joint Transport Committee.

Following an initial submission last year, the North East has been shortlisted for the main bidding process. A small bid for initial funding was submitted in January, focused on relatively small-scale measures which can be implemented quickly, such as improved cycle routes.

A larger bid is to be developed and submitted towards the middle of the year which could include proposals for new or improved rail or Metro routes, bus infrastructure, cycle and walking routes and use of new technology to promote sustainable transport use.

Energy Tariffs

In Spring 2019, the Council will become a domestic electricity supplier for the first time, when it starts supplying power directly to 154 homes in Barford and Stretford Courts. The Council has set the tariffs to be lower than the best tariffs available on the market, to ensure residents make further savings on their energy bills. The scheme is part of the wider HEIGHTS project (High Rise Energy Infrastructure for Gateshead Housing Tenants), which is supported by a £4.6m EU grant, and which has installed new, low-carbon, low cost heating systems to over 600 high rise properties through 2018.

Economy

Business Investment Activity

Despite the uncertainty caused by the back-drop of Brexit, the Council has continued to raise the profile of Gateshead as an investment location, coordinate responses to mobile investment enquiries and support local businesses expand. Investment in the Gateshead economy will provide sustainable opportunities for employment and growth, supporting the Thrive Agenda.

During the last quarter the Council's Economic Development Service supported 12 businesses to implement successful investment projects and have also safeguarded 110 jobs in Gateshead. This included two new inward investment projects and one inward investment reinvestment project.

Notable projects include:

- Any Van, a London based logistics and van hire operator who have established premises in Gateshead
- Team Valley based home improvements company My Pay Weekly have expanded and relocated to new premises at Portobello Trade Park, Birtley.

- Pride Work Media, an independent radio station, relocated from Newcastle to Stonehills in Pelaw. The project will include the provision of studio space for other media to co-locate and cluster on site.
- Cintel Global Ltd, a London based video production and 3D capture company relocated to PROTO the Emerging Technology Centre in the Baltic Quarter.
- US company, Parker Hannifin Ltd - Bioscience Division (formally Domnick Hunter) expanded their facility in Birtley to create new offices and lab space and support further R&D activities.
- Expansion by Polish video games developer People Can Fly based at the Northern Design Centre who are now recruiting to new programmer positions.
- Media Works, a tech business, expanding within Gateshead, moving from Team Valley and securing 10,000sq ft of space at Metro Riverside.

4. COMMUNITIES

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Enchanted Parks

Enchanted Parks is an annual evening arts event bringing specially commissioned artists to transform Saltwell Park into a magical and mythical wonderland. This year's theme 'The House of Lost and Found' was created by Gateshead based writer Susan Mulholland. This year a total of 27,000 tickets were sold. There was also very successful Christmas Market in Saltwell Towers and an enhanced catering offer in partnership with By the River Brew Co.

Christmas Tyne, Baltic Square

During December 2018 Baltic Square hosted the Christmas Tyne Event delivered by SSD Festivals Ltd. The event included a cosy bar in a giant Tipi, Igloo Style Dining Pods for formal festive dining as well as local hot food stalls selling a variety of dishes from traditional fish and chips to authentic Indian Street food. The site was the perfect place to watch New Year's Eve fireworks on the Quayside and complemented the existing offer from By the River View Co at Hillgate Quay. As the first event of its kind on Gateshead Quays feedback has been positive from those who visited, this paves the way for more exciting developments in 2019 and beyond.

Christmas Pantomime

Gateshead International Stadium played host for the second year to the Gateshead Stadium Panto Company's production of Aladdin. The event held over the month of December has received positive feedback and the company and attendances increased by 4700 in comparison to the inaugural event in 2017, and it is anticipated that an additional week of performances may be added to the programme in 2019. As part of the joint commitment of Gateshead International Stadium and the Panto Company a quantity of free tickets were made available to local community groups and Looked After Children to ensure that the event was more accessible to a wider audience.

Go Easy

The Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure Service recently launched a new initiative (Go Easy) to get more Gateshead residents more physically active in Gateshead. Go Easy is for those who are thinking about becoming more active but unsure of where to start including those with long term conditions.

The Go Easy programme offers free 'Fit to Talk' sessions which promote the benefits of exercise and advice on overcoming barriers as well as information of what is available locally. A free day pass is also given to try one of the many sessions available as part of the Go Easy programme including circuits, water-based sessions, walking sports as well as walking groups within the community. The programme also includes sessions for those who have pulmonary disease as well as those who have cardiac problems or recovering from a stroke.

Information packs have been sent to GP Practices across Gateshead including flyers and timetables, and over the next few months the service will be engaging local community groups to expand the range of venues to deliver Fit to Talk sessions to engage vulnerable groups and support individuals into exercise opportunities.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.