

Council

24 April 2008

Contact: Iain Burns ext: 3993

Retiring Council Members

Tribute was paid to Councillors J Hattam and D Lynn who are not standing for re-election in May and to Councillor Jevon who has resigned from the Council.

Shine Awards

The Mayor announced that the Council had been successful at the Shine Awards 2008, winning two awards.

The Council won the Green Award for the improvements made internally by the transport department to both vehicles and fuel consumption and a Place Shaping Award, which recognised Gateshead's track record in engaging with communities and involving local people in our aspirational 'Vision 2030.

North East Charter for Elected Member Development

It was announced that the Council has achieved the North East Charter for Elected Member Development. The Charter will be in place for three years, after which the Council will be assessed again.



Gateshead Council welcomed 2,500 people to the top of the car park. The structure was recently illuminated for five consecutive nights prior to its closure in preparation for the Town Centre Regeneration.



More information is available
from your contact

Tel: (0191) 433 3000 Secretariat



Modernising government

Modernising gateshead

Treasury Policy Statement 2008/09 – 2010/11

The Council approved the Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Review of Social Work Services for Children and Families

Consideration was given to the proposals to review the Social Work Services for Children and Families.

Review of Overview And Scrutiny Committees

The Council approved the recommendations arising from the recent review of Overview and Scrutiny Committees within the Council.

Calendar of Meetings 2008/09

The Council approved details of the proposed calendar of meetings due to take place during 2008/09.

The Gateshead Housing Company - New Management Agreement

The Council considered the proposed new management agreement for the Gateshead Housing Company. That the revised agreement was approved for 5 years, with an option to extend for a further 5 years, subject to satisfactory performance.

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement Report

Consideration was given to the proposed Annual MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) Statements for 2007/08 and 2008/09 following new regulations, which came into force on 31 March 2008.

The Council approve the recommendations of the Strategic Director, Finance and ICT for the MRP Statements for 2007/08 and 2008/09 as outlined in the report.

Cabinet **22 April 2008**

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Access to Social Housing Grant – The Gateshead Housing Company

A performance guarantee has been given to enable The Gateshead Housing Company to register with the Housing Corporation as an investment partner to access Social Housing Grant and also to apply for Management Accreditation status.

Co-ordinated admission scheme for Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools for September 2009

Under regulations made under section 89B and 89C of the School Standards and Framework Act all Local Authorities have a duty to develop and administer Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for all maintained primary and secondary schools within their area, including Voluntary Aided schools. Therefore, Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools have been approved. The Schemes apply to applications for entry into Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools from September 2009.

Primary and Secondary Community School Admissions Policies, September 2009

A new School Admissions Code (the Code) was issued on 8 January 2007 and came into force on 28 February 2007,

and applied to admissions to all maintained schools and academies from September 2008. The new Code and the related legislation ensures that school admission authorities whether local authorities or schools operate in a fair way that promotes fair access to school choice, social equity and community cohesion.

The Community and Controlled Primary Schools, and Nursery Admissions Policies for September 2009 with proposed Planned Admission Numbers are approved. The Admission Policy for September 2009 for Community Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Admission Policy with Proposed Planned Admission Numbers are approved.

Framework Contract for the Supply, Installation and Support of Wireless Technology around the Borough

The tender from MLL Telecoms Limited has been accepted for this contract.

Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function in Gateshead Council

A review of the overview and scrutiny function of the Council has taken place to ensure that scrutiny remains to be effective in the future.

Calendar of Meetings 2008/09

Every year a calendar of meetings is drawn up for the Council's main decision making bodies and overview and scrutiny committees for the following municipal year. The calendar of meetings assists in the effective planning of the consideration of Council business and with the preparation of the Forward Plan.

Revision of the Management Agreement Between the Council and the Gateshead Housing Company

The Council agreed to the formal establishment of The Gateshead Housing Company as the Council's Arms Length Management Organisation to take over management of the Council's housing stock in October 2003. There has been a revision of the Management Agreement between the Council and The Gateshead Housing Company for management of council housing services.

Annual MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) Statement 2007/08 and 2008/09

The concept of MRP was introduced in 1989 to prescribe the minimum amount, which must be charged to the revenue account each year to meet credit liabilities (borrowing and leasing costs). This system has now been radically revised by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and requires an annual statement setting out the method of calculation of MRP.

Appointment of Local Authority School Governor

Mrs B Clelland has been appointed as a Local Authority School Governor on the governing body of High Spenn Primary School.

Tackling Alcohol Disorder in Gateshead

There is a continuation of the Alcohol Ban in the Town Centre and other interventions for tackling alcohol related disorder on the Borough. There will also be a report detailing criteria for other Alcohol Bans across the borough and a further report on the development of the new Gateshead Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Safer Gateshead – Adult Treatment Plan 2008/09

There is a Government requirement for Drug and Alcohol Teams to produce Adult Drug Treatment Plans. Gateshead Adult Drug Treatment Plan has been developed with service providers and all stakeholder organisations and is a comprehensive statement of intentions. The plan has been developed to address local needs in line with national priorities. It also identifies objectives for 2008/2009 together with resource allocations to carry out the plan. The plan also informs, and is informed by, the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Local Delivery Plan, which will be used to judge PCT performance by the Healthcare Commission

Safer Gateshead Draft Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan

This is Gateshead's first Strategic Assessment and forms part of an intelligence-led approach to community safety, which will enable a more focussed, resource-effective and partnership-oriented delivery of options to tackle problems. It outlines the Partnership's strategy for 2008-2011.

Drug Treatment and Housing Support Services

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) has made £55 million available throughout the country for capital building programmes to cater for the rehabilitation of people who misuse drugs.

A joint development of two treatment/housing support services for drug misusers will be provided in partnership with Newcastle and Northumberland Councils and the South of Tyne Primary Care Trust, using capital from the national Treatment Agency.

Annual Road Markings/Anti-Skid Surfacing Contract for 2008/098 – Revised Tender Award

The previous decision to award this contract to the lowest tendered has been withdrawn. The second lowest tender submitted by Coupe Line has been accepted for this contract.

Highways Maintenance Surface Dressing Programme 2008/09

The programme of surface dressing works has been approved for 2008/09. The head of Transport and Highways will award the works and the Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services will advertise and make any temporary traffic regulation orders, as may be necessary during the works.

Responses to Consultation

Responses have been submitted to the following consultations:

- Review of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Scheme for Audit of Local Authorities – FSA
- Transposition of the Mining Waste Directive in England and Wales – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Future Priorities for and Delivery of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
- Shaping the Way Ahead – Review of Informal Learning Department of Innovation University and Skills

Petitions Schedule

There was an update on petitions received and actions taken on them.

Local Education Partnership – Appointment of Chair

Authority has been given to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people to act as Gateshead Council's Shareholder Representative on a Shareholders' Appointments Panel to appoint a LEP Chair. The requirement to appoint a Chair for the LEP Board is required under the Shareholders' Agreement signed by the Council on the 21st December 2007.

Cabinet 1 April 2008

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Grants and Awards

The grants and awards programme is used to maximise benefits to local communities. Various applications were received for grant support and were endorsed.

Best Value Review Implementation Update

A summary of all Best Value Implementation Update and Impact reports that have been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the past 6 months was presented. It has been agreed that actions identified in the Implementation Plans for the Best Value Reviews of Leisure, Street Scene and Services to Neighbourhoods are improving services and that the reviews are having the anticipated impacts for service users. It was also agreed that the anticipated impact has been achieved in the reviews of Community Safety and Services to Adults in Need

Airey Houses

The Gateshead Housing Company in partnership with the Council have been looking at options for improving the Airey houses in Kibblesworth. Following consultation with residents regarding their housing options, it was agreed to build energy efficient homes.

The Vision For Adult Social Care – Action Plan

The Government has set out its vision for the future of health and social care in its White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say". The Council has implemented significant changes over the past five years in response to 'Modernising Social Services', the National Service Frameworks for Older People and for Adults with Mental Health Problems, as well as 'Valuing People' in learning disability. The action plan aims are to be designed and produced in appropriate formats and publicised through the Council's website.

Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008 – 11

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on Councils and Primary Care Trusts to co-operate on a strategic analysis of the health and social care needs of their populations. This was first announced in the government Green Paper 'Independence, Well-Being and Choice' in 2005, and the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' in 2006. This long-term exercise designed to identify key issues, commissioning priorities and areas for service change to reduce inequalities in health has been approved.

Regional Commentary on the Delivery of Cultural Services

This is based on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's desire to strengthen the alignment of national, regional and local objectives and priorities in the cultural sector and to support service improvement. External review and assessment of Cultural Services are intended to help the Council improve outcomes and the quality of service for service users. Overall the Regional Commentary is positive and concludes that the Council has made good progress in delivering against cultural targets and indicators.

Draft Bretts Oils Development Brief

There will be public consultation on the draft development brief of Bretts Oils for a mixed-use site at Pipewellgate. Regeneration of this site meets the objectives of the Government's Sustainable Communities Agenda.

Responses to Consultation

Responses have been submitted to the following consultations:

- Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Comprehensive Area Assessment – Audit Commission
- Regional Spatial Strategy – Government Office North East

The Skills Pledge

The Skills Pledge is a national initiative led by the Learning and Skills Council. The skills development of the Councils entire workforce will be qualified to a minimum of full level 2 qualification and

the Council will liaise with other public services to co ordinate a joint taking of the Skills Pledge. There will be active encouragement and support of all Gateshead's employers to commit to training their workforce.

Freedom of Information Procedure – Annual Report 2007

The Freedom of Information procedure supported by a computerised reporting system was developed in 2004 in response to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which placed statutory obligations on public authorities to deal with requests for access to information within 20 working days of receipt. The Act came into force on 1 January 2005. The report detailed a number of requests for information received by the Council from 1 January to 31 December 2007.

Cabinet 18 March 2008

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Ward Schemes 2008

The Council is committed to supporting local initiative schemes. Ward councillors have previously informed the Council of their local priorities. The funding has been approved and the various schemes will affect all wards within the borough.

Grants and Awards

The grants and awards programme is used to maximise benefits to local communities. Various applications were received for grant support and were endorsed.

Highways Maintenance Revenue Programme 2008/09

This Highways Maintenance Revenue Programme, which is principally to refurbish residential streets, is being implemented. This will ensure that roads and footpaths are maintained to a good standard in compliance with the statutory duty (Highways Act 1980) to maintain adopted highway.

Tenders, Schemes and Estimates

Approval has been granted for the following:

- Tender shortlist for the contract for Network Technologies
- Tender for the contract for the provision of Security Support Services
- Tender for the contract for the Provision of a Host Organisation of the Gateshead Local Involvement Network (LINK)
- The scheme and estimated cost of the proposed resources room and new main entrance to High Spen Primary School and authorise the Group Director, Development and Enterprise to negotiate a tender with the Group Director, Development and Enterprise for the works

Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates – Transfer of Uncollectable Amounts

Outstanding balances from council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates for the period 2007/08 are being transferred to debtor's accounts, where all possible recovery action has been taken and the balances are now considered to be uncollectable.

Treasury Policy Statement 2008/09 to 2010/11

The Council agrees a three year Treasury Management Policy and Strategy which is reviewed at the start of each financial year. Approval is given to ensure that the council fully complies with the requirements of good practice as recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its Code of Practice on Treasury Management and its Prudential Code for Capital and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Guidance on local authority investment.

Miscellaneous Income – Transfer of Uncollectable Amounts

Outstanding balances for miscellaneous income are being transfer for the period 2007/08 to debtor's accounts, where all possible recovery action has been taken and the balances are now considered to be uncollectable

Local Authority Mortgage rate for Mortgages granted Under Housing act, 1985

The interest rate, for the above is to reduce from 7.59% to 7.27%, for the next six months, commencing 1 April 2008.

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

Mr A Nicholson has been appointed as local authority school governor on the governing body of Carr Hill Primary School.

Response to Consultation

A response is being submitted to CLG's consultation on petitions and Councillor Call for Action. The consultation builds

on the Local Government White Paper – ‘Strong and Prosperous Communities’ and the recently enacted ‘Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007’ and aims to increase citizen engagement in local democracy.

Joint Cabinet, Audit Committee and Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 March 2008

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2006/07

The Council has maintained its 4 star rating and was assessed as improving strongly.

Planning and Development Committee

23 April 2008

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Planning Applications

The Committee determined the applications as follows:-

- Granted – 7
- Refused – 0
- Site Visits – 5
- Deferred – 2

Enforcement Action

The Committee received an update on the progress of enforcement action, which had been previously authorised.

Planning Appeals

No New planning appeals have been received.

Planning Obligations

Two new obligations have been received as follows:

- Land at the former British Legion Club, Birtley – Financial contributions of £119,459.55 for a children’s play area.
- Team Valley Area – Financial contributions of £17,875 have been received for sustainable transport

Planning and Development Committee

26 March 2008

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

Planning Applications

The Committee determined the applications as follows:-

- Granted – 3
- Refused – 3
- Site Visits – 1
- Deferred – 0

Enforcement Action

The Committee received an update on the progress of enforcement action which had been previously authorised.

Planning Appeals

No New planning appeals have been received.

Planning Obligations

No new planning obligations have been completed.

Regulatory Committee

22 April 2008

Contact: Anne Jennings ext 2141

Appeals and Prosecutions

Details of Appeals and Prosecutions were reported. A verbal update was given.

Licences, Permits and Registrations issued

Details of Licences, Permits and Registrations issued between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008 were reported.

Sex Establishment Licence

The Committee agreed that the licence for Units 27 - 28 Tundry Way, Blaydon Business Park, Blaydon, be revoked due to breach of Condition 1 attached to the Sex Establishment Licence.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Issues

The Committee agreed that the Private Hire Driver Licence and Hackney Carriage Driver Licence for MLMM be revoked; that MR be allowed to keep his Hackney Carriage Driver Licence with a written warning and be reminded of the conditions of his licence; that PTM be allowed to keep his Hackney Carriage Driver Licence with a severe written warning and be reminded of the conditions of the licence; that DJH be allowed to keep his Private Hire Driver Licence with a severe written warning; that MR be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence; that the application by SAS for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application by TC for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application by IF for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the Private Hire Driver Licence for SF be renewed for a further year and that the extension for a further year for his vehicle be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner.

Regulatory Committee

11 March 2008

Contact: Anne Jennings ext 2141

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Issues

The Committee agreed that the application for GHK for a Hackney Carriage Change of Vehicle Licence be grants; that the application by HH for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application by KW for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application by PM for an extension of one further year be granted, subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application by AS for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence be granted for one year subject to the requirement of an additional test during the year at the cost to the vehicle owner; that the application for DFA for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence be granted and that the application by NPF for a Dual Driver Licence be granted.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Issues

The Committee agreed that NAM be allowed to keep his licence with a written warning regarding his future conduct; that the hearing for MR be adjourned until the next committee, when his legal representative will be available; that SD be allowed to keep his licence with a written warning regarding his future conduct; that RWR be allowed to keep his licence with a written warning regarding his future conduct; that JAH be allowed to keep his licence with a written warning

regarding his future conduct; that the licence in respect of AGW be revoked; that DWB be allowed to keep his licence with a written warning regarding his future conduct and that the licence in respect of SB be revoked.

Rights of Way Committee

18 April 2008

Contact: Iain Burns ext 3993

Claimed Public Right Of Way: Stargate Lane To Hexham Old Road

The Committee agreed for a Definitive Map Modification Order to be made in respect of a claimed right of way at Stargate, Ryton.

It was agreed that the Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services be authorised to make a Definitive Map Modification Order which will add to the Definitive Map and Statement the claimed route along the former mineral line between Stargate and Hexham Old Road; and that if no objections are received, that the Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services, be authorised to confirm the order; or that if objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, to authorise the Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services, to send the orders to the First Secretary of State for confirmation as an opposed order.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 April 2008

Contact: Rosalyn White ext 2088

Work Programme

The Committee agreed an additional meeting date of 22 May to discuss the outcome of the SEN Review

Review of Overview and Scrutiny

The outcomes of the Review identified five key themes for improvement:-

- What does Scrutiny scrutinise – Work Programme
- Communicating the decision-making framework
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Support to Councillors
- Support to Officers

Review of Early Years – Final Report

The Committee was presented with the final report on the Early Years Review.

Five key themes for improvement were identified:-

- Working with our partners
- Evaluating impact
- Engaging the Hard to Reach Families
- Partnership with Schools
- Engaging with Parents and Developing Parenting Skills

Review of SEN Services

The Committee was presented with a report on the review and consultation process in the course of the SEN Inclusion Review.

The proposals of the Review are as follows:-

- Build mainstream capacity
- Increase the number of schools with specialisms (ARMS)
- Develop the role of special schools
- Increase flexibility of provision
- Reduce the need for statements

It was confirmed that stakeholder groups will be invited to the evidence gathering session which will be held on 22 May and, from this, Cabinet will be advised as to the quality of the review process.

Sustainable Communities People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 April 2008

Contact: Anne Jennings ext 2141

OSC Review of Participation in Community Sport and Leisure - Final report

The Committee received the report which set out the initial findings of the review on community participation in Sport & Leisure. The Committee agreed a number of recommendations on how the Council can focus its own action and also work with partners to improve adult participation in Community sport and leisure. The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Committee present the report

to Cabinet as representing the Committee's findings and recommendation of the review.

Regional Commentary on the Delivery of Cultural Services

The Committee received a report which summarised the findings from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Regional Commentary report on Gateshead Councils delivery of Cultural Services. The Committee noted the conclusions of the Regional Commentary and next steps in respect of the proposed Joint Development issues.

Case Study on Work of Youth Offending Team - Re Prevention and Reparation

The views of the Committee were sought on the initiatives developed by the Youth Offending Team to reduce re-offending and to consider some of the approaches used in reparation work with young offenders in Gateshead. The Committee was satisfied with actions taken by the YOT to reduce re-offending by young people and the type of reparation work undertaken.

Sustainable Communities People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 March 2008

Contact: Anne Jennings ext 2141

Work Programme

The Committee agreed to the revisions on the provisional programme and that further reports on the work programme be brought to the Committee.

Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function

The Committee received a presentation on the review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function. The review was carried out due to national level changes stemming from the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

OSC review of Participation in Community Sport and Leisure - Interim Report

The Committee approved the recommendations for the Final report subject to the addition of an additional recommendation regarding the Volunteering Strategy.

Leisure BVR Implementation Update

The Committee received an update on the implementation of service improvements arising from the Best Value Review of Leisure. This set out what has been achieved over the last six months,

the impact on users and what action will be taken next. The Committee agreed that the frequency of future reports be reduced, that the review was having the necessary impact on users and that services are improving in the way the original review anticipated.

Community Safety BVR Impact Report

The Committee confirmed that the review has had the necessary impact upon service users and services have improved in the way the original review anticipated.

Sustainable Communities Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 March 2008

Contact: Deborah Haswell ext 2137

Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function in Gateshead Council

The Committee considered a report on the review of overview and scrutiny function in Gateshead Council.

Gateshead Scrutiny is described as effective with a robust framework. Vision 2030, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement have accelerated partnership working and helped gain a range of opportunities to further develop the role of scrutiny as a service improvement tool.

Opportunities for Social Housing Provision – Interim Report

The Committee received the interim report on opportunities for social housing

provision, which set out the initial findings and recommended actions.

There had been three evidence gathering sessions and presentations from Council officers and partners and a visit to various sites in the borough. Issues emerging from the review were; defining affordable housing; growth and choice; supply and mix; importance of partnership working and delivery models and resources.

Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee

31 March 2008

Contact: Iain Burns ext 3993

Best Value Review of Birtley – Implementation Update

The Committee received an update on the implementation of service improvements arising from the Best Value Review of Birtley that was agreed by Cabinet on 6 September 2005. The report was the fifth implementation update for this review.

Work has continued in relation to improvements to the town centre. The first two phases of the improvements have been undertaken on the co-op building, with only two units remaining that require improvement.

Communication continues with residents in Birtley on the installation of the artwork on the north side of Birtley Lane. A specific campaign will be undertaken to decide a name for the sculpture and initial discussions have taken place on how to engage residents in this process. It is proposed that there will be a Birtley 'Big Vote' campaign where a shortlist of

names will be identified and it will then be up to local residents to vote for the one they want.

The Committee were satisfied that the review is having the necessary impact on service users

Review of Procurement – Final Report

The Committee considered the report, which set out the findings of the review of procurement. The report set out a number of recommendations from the Committee which had been developed following evidence from a range of Council officers, partner agencies and private organisations

The evidence gathering sessions had focused on the following issues:

- Cultural shift
- Providing leadership and building capacity
- Partnering and collaboration
- Doing business electronically
- Stimulating markets and achieving community benefits

Review of Race Equality And Discrimination In Gateshead – Monitoring Report

A report was received, that updated members on actions taken since the Committee's review of race equality and discrimination in Gateshead and the impact that changes are having within Gateshead.

The Committee were satisfied that the review is having the necessary impact on service users and that services are improving in the way the original review intended

Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function In Gateshead Council

The Committee received a presentation on the review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function. The review was carried out due to national level changes stemming from the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Key themes were identified as part of the review and were used to develop draft recommendations for improvement. From the review twenty recommendations for improvement have been identified and have been grouped under five key themes for improvement.

Councillors welcomed the recommendations arising from the review.

Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 April 2008

Contact: Deborah Haswell ext 2137

Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function in Gateshead Council

The Committee received a report on the review of the overview and scrutiny function in Gateshead.

Gateshead scrutiny is described as effective with a robust framework and the Local Government and public Involvement in Health Act 2007 aims to help strengthen the role.

The scrutiny of children and young people's health issues are to be in the remit of Children and Young People OSC to provide a more holistic approach

however, there would still be a joined up approach.

New PCT Management Arrangements in South of Tyne

The Committee received a presentation on the New PCT management arrangements across south of Tyne and Wear.

The Committee were informed of the role of the PCT and it's strategic objectives. There has been progress made in developing and implementing of management methods and looking at engaging the public and working with partners. There are eleven competencies for the PCTs to make sure spending is effectively done and assessments will continue along with development plans for the future.

Monitoring Review of Fair Access to Care

The Committee received an update report on the review of fair access to care and the impact that changing the eligibility threshold is having on local people.

Since the review was completed a project manager has been appointed to review the social care duty system and consultation has taken place and identified a contact centre to be the preferred option. It is too early to estimate the impact and performance outcome of raising the FACS threshold however comparisons are available and this has indicated that the work being carried out is sufficient.

Central Area Forum

25 March 2008

Contact: Iain Burns ext 3993

Health Inequalities Update

The next stage in the process will see representatives from the Primary Care Trust engaging with people on the streets in an informal manner to obtain their views on service delivery, and a sample household survey. The Gateshead Community Network will also be involved in this process. It is hoped that the outcome of the engagement will help inform the services that people want and remove any barrier to people accessing services that currently exist.

Lettings Policy

The Council recently undertook a consultation in regard to the review of the lettings Policy within Gateshead.

As part of the review of the Council's lettings policy, a series of consultative events were held. Following an Advisory Group on 29 October 2007 to clarify the issues, two stakeholders' events were arranged. These took place on the afternoon of 20th February and 5th March 2008. In addition an information gathering station was set up in the Civic Centre reception and in the Community Based Services reception. The feedback was captured via questionnaires. A total of 110 Questionnaires were submitted. The interim results from the questionnaires were fed back the forum.

The forum felt that it was important to ensure that the outcomes of the questionnaire and consultation are fed back to tenants and stakeholders that

took time out to take part in the consultation process.

Local Development Framework

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004 introduced a new way of planning for the future of the Borough. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new system that is quite different from the old Unitary Development Plan. It is made up of a number of different documents that plan the spatial future for the borough over the next 15-25 years. The LDF is the spatial representation of Vision 2030, the sustainable community strategy, and the Local Area Agreement, and also needs to be in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Key issues for the central area will include;

- Regeneration – including the Town Centre, Baltic Business Quarter and the River Corridor
- The creation of sustainable and healthier communities (including a range of good quality homes, affordable housing and local facilities)
- Maintaining and improving existing facilities (Gateshead Library and Leisure Centre)
- Creating sustainable working environments and transport options
- Improvements to areas of open space e.g. Carr Hill Park/Riverside Park
- Waste management
- Sustainable construction and renewable energy

The forum welcomed the opportunity to inform the LDF process. The new process will allow partners to design out problems and identify solutions. It is also important to ensure that neighbourhood plans are incorporated into the process.

East Area Forum

26 March 2008

Contact: Deborah Haswell ext 2137

Healthy East Gateshead

The Forum received a presentation from the PCT who will support the forum on how to deliver services.

The presentation included the breakdown of people's needs in the east area and showed various healthcare points. The forum were shown the key priorities for the PCT and future planning. There has been progress made with major diseases but there is still a gap between Gateshead and national figures, which needs to be bridged.

The Council and the PCT need to work together to help people engage in activities and eat healthily.

Year of the Volunteer

The Forum received a presentation from Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council on events that will take place at the beginning of June. The Year of the Volunteer was launched on 31 January and it is to raise awareness and celebrate the work that volunteers do.

The Local Development Framework

The Forum received a briefing detailing the Local Development Framework. This has implications on Vision 2030 and sets out key themes and issues for areas to consider.

Review of the Lettings Policy

The Forum received a presentation on the Lettings Policy for which consultation is at present on going. There are currently two bands and consideration is being sought for levels of priority, under occupancy and demolition of property is also being considered.

Area Forum Work Programme and Action Plan

The Forum were informed that funding is available for an improvement scheme in Fewster Square.

South Area Forum **27 March 2008**

Contact: Sonia Stewart ext 2149

Review of The Lettings Policy

The forum were updated the on the initial results of a consultation into the review of the Current Lettings Policy. The forum were advised that some of the proposed changes to the policy are in line with new draft guidance issued from Government.

Local Development Framework

The forum heard a presentation with regards to Gateshead's Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework is radically different from the Unitary Development Plan and delivers the spatial side of Vision 2030. The overall aim is for a more effective planning system.

UP2U Project

The forum received a presentation on the UP2U Project. An event was held at Cardinal Hume School which was very well attended. There was a level of excitement from the community regarding the projects and it was hoped that the principles of how this project had worked could be used in other areas of the South.

Update from Partners

The forum received updates from partners on current projects underway within their organisations.

West Area Forum **1 April 2008**

Contact: Rosalyn White ext 2088

Children and Young People – Schools in the West

The Forum were informed about key developments in secondary schools in the West of the Borough.

The West of the Borough is successful in both primary and secondary education and NEET figures (Not In Education, Employment and Training) are not high.

Three main initiatives being implemented in the West include:

- Behaviour and Attendance Improvement Partnership
- Extended Schools
- Vocational Education

BEST has been set up (Behaviour and Education Support Team), which consists of; a coordinator, a teaching assistant

who works in the primary schools, an attendance officer, a family and young peoples worker and a teaching assistant who deals with behaviour support.

All three schools from the West of the Borough have been working together to offer extra-curricular activities. It was confirmed that the extended schools have been successful, and plans for the next three years have been agreed with the cluster of six primary schools that feed into Ryton. The main priorities are based around;

- Parenting
- Behaviour
- Special events
- Music
- Sport

The Forum were informed about the development around the new vocational courses (Diplomas) and the restructure of years 10 – 13 education. The training for the new diplomas is rigorous and worthy of praise offering an alternative to the usual academic GCSE and A-level route.

West Area Portfolio – Work Programme

Information for what will be covered in the forthcoming year will be brought to the next meeting.

There is a need for flexibility around neighbourhood planning and Highfield will be brought forward to the first cluster.

Update from Partners

The Decent Homes Programme has improved 700 properties in the West of the Borough.

The CT Scheme is now up and running and all new passes have been sent out. It is anticipated that Carers passes will be

coming into use in May and June, the passes will be issued to the disabled person and allows their carer to travel with them.

Anti-social behaviour fires have been reduced due to the good work carried out between the fire service and schools in the West.

Inner West Area Forum 2 April 2008

Contact: Anne Jennings ext 2141

Children and Young People in the Inner West

Malcolm Pegg introduced some young people from Lobley Hill Youth Club and informed the Forum that five pilot schemes were taking place to involve young people and to find out their views and opinions for a future Parks and Open Space Strategy for young people to use open spaces more effectively.

Dunston Hill Hospital Site

The Forum was informed that a rationalisation of services is to be undertaken, which would result in potential changes to the site. It was not expected that there would be a loss of services, but an opportunity to re-examine where services should be provided.

Teams Children's Centre Update

An update was given on the Teams and Dunston Children Centre and Adventure Play Area development.

Land at Mandela Way and Former Bridon Ropery Site

The two sites had been the subject of illegal fly tipping. Early discussions with both landowners were promising with both giving an undertaking to improve the condition of the land before any formal enforcement action was undertaken. The two sites have now been substantially improved and are now considered to be in a condition that no formal action can be taken. The owners have been advised that it is their responsibility for keeping the land in a reasonable order. Actions can be requested again should the condition of the land deteriorate.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The model for the plan aims to achieve consistency across all areas of Gateshead. A strategic action plan will guide all work with strategic work providing solutions. The plan is a long-term piece of developing work and we need to consider how the Forum fits into the process.

Area Forum Work Programme and Action Plan

The current work programme and action plan had been circulated and suggestions for additional items were made by the Forum members.

Acceptance of Tenders (£10,000 to £50,000)

Contact: Mike Aynsley ext 2128

The following contracts have been awarded:

Contract for Brighton Avenue Primary School proposed Childrens' Centre
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £82,000.00

Contract for 22 Parkland Avenue, Winlaton – Extension for Disabled Person
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £95,514.00

Contract for 6 and 8 Carlisle Street and 1 Brandling Place – Demolition
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £89,785.00

Contract for Ryton Comm. Infant and Juniors – Upgrade Heating
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £20,000.00

Contract for Kibbleworth Primary School – DDA – External Alterations
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £39,439.69

Contract for Kingsmeadow Comm. School – Proposed Children's Centre
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £52,000.00

Contract for Lobley Hill Primary School –
DDA Works
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £22,000.00

Contract for 9 Burnwood Close, Chopwell
– Rear Garden Works
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £98,915.40

Contract for Whitley Court APU –
Demolition and Associated Works
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Holystone Limited (Newcastle)
Estimated Value: £49,596.00

Contract for Hartswood APH – Demolition
and Associated Works
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: John Hellens Contracts Limited
(Houghton le Spring)
Estimated Value: £71,571.16

Contract for BNG – Howard Street –
Planting Works
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £30,000.00

Contract for Civic Centre – Renewal of
Office Lighting
Period: 01/02/08 – 29/02/08
Supplier: Newey and Eyre Limited
Estimated Value: £37,995.80

Contract for Ravenswood APH –
Demolition and Associated Works
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Holystone Limited (Wallsend)
Estimated Value: £58,295.00

Contract for BNG – Block Improvement –
West of Saltwell Road Phase 2
(consultant – architectural)
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Pennington Consulting Limited
(Runcorn)
Estimated Value: £61,755.08

Contract for Gateshead Visitor Centre –
St Mary's Refurbishment (consultant –
conservation and archaeological)
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Simpson and Brown Architects
(Edinburgh)
Estimated Value: £47,535.00

Contract for St James Boulevard –
Repairs to Walls and Railings
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £20,521.84

Contract for Bensham/Saltwell Estate –
Demolition – Selected Properties
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Owen Pugh and Co Limited
(Cramlington)
Estimated Value: £59,855.46

Contract for St Albans Primary School –
Kitchen Heating and HWS
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £35,000.00

Contract for High Spen Primary School –
Proposed Extension Phase 1
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £50,000.00

Contract for Whickham Library –
Additional DDA Works
Period: 01/03/08 – 31/03/08
Supplier: Local Environmental Services
Estimated Value: £39,031.21

Forthcoming Meetings – May 2008

Annual Council	16.05.08	2.30pm
Healthier Communities OSC	20.05.08	1.30pm
Cabinet	20.05.08	10.00am
Planning and Development Committee	21.05.08	10.00am
Children and Young People OSC	22.05.08	1.30pm