

## Annual Council 1 May 2009

Contact: Iain Burns ext 3993

### Election of Mayor

It was agreed that Councillor J Eagle be elected Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Gateshead for the ensuing municipal year until acceptance of office by his successor.

### Election of Deputy Mayor

It was agreed that Councillor P Dillon be elected Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Gateshead for the ensuing municipal year until acceptance of office by her successor.

### Vote of thanks for the Work of the former Mayor and Mayor's Consort, and Retiring Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress

The Council conveyed its appreciation to Councillor M Chaplin, Mr Chaplin, Councillor J Mitchinson and Mrs Mitchinson for the performance of the many duties expected of them as Mayor, Mayor's Consort, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress respectively.



**Troops from a local TA regiment in a special parade to welcome home colleagues who have been serving overseas.**



## **Appointment of Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet**

It was agreed that Councillor M F Henry and Councillor J I Mearns be appointed as Leader and Deputy Leader respectively and Councillor A Armstrong, C Donovan, M Foy, M W Graham, L Green, J McElroy, M McNestry and P J Mole be appointed to the Cabinet for the ensuing municipal year.

## **Allocation of Seats**

It was agreed that in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, that the allocation to the various political groups represented on the council of seats on those bodies to which the said Act applies, as set out in the schedule be approved.

## **Appointments to Committees of the Council and Other Bodies Exercising Non Executive Functions**

Councillor M F Henry, moved that the Gateshead Labour Group nominations as set out in the report, be appointed to the Planning and Development, Regulatory, Licensing, Appeals, Rights of Way, Personnel Appeals, Special Appointments, Contracts, Employment Issues, Audit and Accounts Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Standards Committee, Joint Consultative Committees, Tyne and Wear Co-ordinating Committee, Joint Committee for the Appointment of Council Members to the Northumbria Police Authority and outside bodies dealing with functions that are not wholly an executive responsibility respectively for the municipal year 2009/10.

Councillor N G Rippeth, moved that the Liberal Democrat nominations as set out

in the report, be appointed to the Planning and Development, Regulatory, Licensing, Rights of Way, Appeals, Personnel Appeals, Special Appointments, Contracts, Employment Issues, Audit and Accounts Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Standards Committee, Joint Consultative Committees, Tyne and Wear Co-ordinating Committee and outside bodies dealing with functions that are not wholly an executive responsibility respectively for the municipal year 2009/10.

## **Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs**

The chairs and vice-chairs of the bodies listed in Annex 1A to Part 3 of the constitution and of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the municipal year 2009/10 were approved.

## **Council 15 April 2009**

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Contact: Iain Burns ext 3993

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## **Investors in People**

The Deputy Mayor announced that the Council has recently achieved Corporate Investors in People Status. An award was presented to the Leader of the Council in acknowledgement.

## **The Kelly Hendry School of Dance**

The recent successes of the Kelly Hendry School of Dance at the Irish Dancing World Championships were announced. It was agreed that the School would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council.

## **Treasury Policy Statement**

The Treasury Policy Statement and Strategy for 2009/10 to 2011/12 was approved.

## **Corporate Risk Management: Policy Statement**

The revised Corporate Risk Management Policy Statement was approved by Council.

## **Review of Business Centre License Fees**

An increase in business centre licence fees, to take effect from 1 April 2009 was approved.

## **Calendar of Meetings 2009/10**

The calendar of meetings for 2009/10 was agreed for the forthcoming municipal year.

## **Councillor Call for Action Protocol**

The Councillor Call for Action Protocol for dealing with local government and crime and disorder councillor calls for action was approved.

## **Housing Revenue Account 2009/10**

Consideration was given to the revised Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10, based on changes proposed by the Department for Communities and Local Government as a result of the economic downturn. It was agreed that the revised recommended option for the average weekly rent increase of 3.1% be approved.

## **Development of a Joint Local Development Framework Core Strategy**

Consideration was given to the development of a Joint Core Strategy for Gateshead and Newcastle. It was agreed that a joint core strategy be prepared and that authority for any decisions arising from this be agreed, with governance of the arrangement via the Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership making recommendations to the two constituent councils, who will exercise full legal authority over the Core Strategy.

## **Saltwell Place Future Intervention Area Plan**

Proposed changes to the Bensham and Saltwell Neighbourhood Action Plan improvement proposals for Saltwell Place Future Intervention Area were approved.

## **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees**

This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 April 2009. Cabinet agreed that in order to allow more time to consider the implications of the options available, particularly with regard to the current economic downturn and service provision. Cabinet therefore recommended that Council be recommended to authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation to determine the outcome of this matter.

## **Report of the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of key issues currently affecting the Council.

# Cabinet

## 21 April 2009

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Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

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### **Highway Maintenance Revenue Programme 2009/10**

Consideration was given to the programme of revenue highway maintenance schemes in 2009/10, to address the backlog of deterioration of residential streets throughout the borough.

### **Community Centres Review – Re-provision of Springwell Community Centre and Closure of Springwell Activity Centre**

To support the implementation of the Community Centres Review consideration was given to the progress being made on the Community Centres Review and proposals for the development of community facilities on the Springwell Estate.

### **Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools – September 2010**

A co-ordinated admission scheme for the co-ordination of the “In Year” admission process to all Gateshead maintained secondary schools from September 2010 will be developed to enable the Council to comply with government regulations relating to school admissions and co-ordinated admission arrangements.

### **Primary and Secondary Community Schools Admissions Policies – September 2010**

Consideration was given to the Community Secondary Schools

Admissions Policy (including Sixth Form Admissions Policy), the Community and controlled Primary Admission Policy and Planned Admission Numbers (PAN's) for September 2010.

### **Waste Management Partnership Arrangements - Short Term Contract for Waste Treatment and Disposal**

Following a comprehensive evaluation of all tenders received, the tender from J & B Recycling Limited, Hartlepool is considered to be the most economically advantageous tender submitted. The tender will be accepted subject to satisfactory minimum tonnage input levels.

### **Housing Revenue Account 2009/10**

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) requires the Council to set a Housing Revenue Account for each year which is in overall credit. Part of this process includes consideration of rent increases for tenants, which are subject to national guidelines under the Government's policy on rent restructuring.

Recommendations will be made to Council to enable the Council to set a Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10 which is in overall credit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) and ensuring rent levels are maintained at affordable levels.

### **The Development of a Joint Local Development Framework Core Strategy with Newcastle**

Cabinet received a report relating to the potential development of a Joint Local Development Framework Core Strategy for Gateshead and Newcastle. The report set out progress to date with the integration of strategic planning across

Gateshead and Newcastle and a number of key spatial issues which need to be addressed. It also put forward a proposal for potential governance arrangements for a Joint Core Strategy and made recommendations on the way forward on preparing a Joint Core Strategy for Gateshead and Newcastle.

### **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fees**

To ensure that the varied Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fees take into account the costs of providing the service, consideration was given to the objections and the results of consultations. The proposed increase in all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fees of 4.5% in 2009/10 was recommended to Council with immediate effect.

### **Review of Mental Health and Well-Being – Final Report of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on its Review of Mental Health and Well-Being services in Gateshead identified key areas of improvement centred on:

- A range of service developments
- Workplace issues
- Service users and information
- Commissioning

Recommendations to address these areas of improvement were formulated and endorsed.

### **Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Refresh 2009**

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. The 'Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being' in 2007 set out this duty as a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), a long-term exercise designed to identify key issues, commissioning priorities and areas for service change to reduce inequalities in health. JSNAs were also associated with the intention to incrementally move some resources from acute hospital services to community ones that have a preventative focus. In April 2008 Cabinet approved the JSNA for Gateshead, with a refreshed version planned for 2009.

Based on the evidence of need and effectiveness, and local consultation, the JSNA proposed a set of priorities for 'children and young people' and 'adults and older people'.

### **Gateshead Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2009/2010**

It is a Government requirement for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (within Gateshead this statutory responsibility is absorbed within Safer, Stronger Communities and Culture Partnership) to tackle the harm caused by drug misuse at a local level and 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 2009/2010 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.

### **Gateshead Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy**

The Commissioning Strategy outlines the national and local policy context and key drivers for change in Adult Social Care. It takes account of identified needs for adult social care including the Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and sets out a strategy to deliver outcomes to meet these needs.

The draft Adult Care Services Commissioning Strategy will be used for further consultation with all key stakeholders.

### **Resource Allocation System for Adult Social Care**

The draft Resource Allocation System (RAS) Policy Framework and the continued application of the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) eligibility criteria of critical and substantial has been approved along with the RAS pilot proposals and continued roll out of personal budgets.

### **Safer Gateshead Partnership Plan 2009 Refresh**

The Police and Justice Act 2006 imposes a statutory duty on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to produce an annual Partnership Plan. The Partnership Plan must be refreshed on an annual basis, taking into account the draft priorities derived from the Strategic Assessment and subsequent consultation on those priorities. The 2009 refresh was endorsed.

### **Outcomes of The Gateshead Housing Company Inspection**

The Housing Inspectorate carried out an on-site inspection of The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) between 17-28 November 2008. The Audit Commission considered their findings and awarded TGHC a 3 star rating with excellent prospects for improvement.

### **The Gateshead Housing Company Memorandum of Association - Proposed Amendments**

The original Memorandum of Association, which was adopted when TGHC was created in October 2003, sets out its objects and identifies what it can do. The version adopted, as with most ALMOs, was a template version appropriate for the initial phase of the Company's development.

It was felt appropriate to consider amendment of the Memorandum to allow TGHC the appropriate freedom and flexibilities to take the development of the organisation forward.

The changes will allow TGHC to carry out a number of activities it presently does on behalf of the Council, for other organisations or on its own behalf. This will include: providing, managing, maintaining and improving housing stock; providing amenities and services for residents and other organisations; and providing services generally. They will also allow the TGHC to contribute to regeneration beyond that of the area of Gateshead.

### **Heathfield House**

Heathfield House is a large Grade II listed house in Low Fell which lies within the Saltwell conservation area.

The Council has investigated the options that are available in relation to the building and land to ensure the best use of Council resources subsequently approval will be given to the sale of the property on the open market subject to an agreed set of requirements.

### **The Protection of Children in England – A Progress Report**

Following the case of Baby P in Haringey, Lord Laming was commissioned by the Children’s Secretary Ed Balls, to provide an urgent report on progress being made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children. The task was to evaluate good practice developed since the publication of the report of the Independent Statutory Inquiry following the death of Victoria Climbié in 2000, which led to the Children Act 2004 and the implementation of the Every Child Matters framework. In order to further protect children and young people from harm and improve outcomes, the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) will develop, with all key partners, an action plan which will address the actions set out by Government in response to Lord Laming’s report.

**Appointment of Local Authority School Governors**

In accordance with the School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2003 the following governors are nominated for election for a period of four years with effect from the date stated below.

School	Appointment	Date from
Birtley, St Joseph’s Infant	Cllr P Foy	21.4.09
Joseph Swan	Mr D Haygarth	21.4.09

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

Outstanding balances from Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) accounts will be transferred, where all possible recovery action has been taken and the balances are considered to be uncollectable.

**Petitions**

An update on petitions received and actions taken on them has been considered.

**Responses to Consultation**

Responses are being submitted to the following consultations:

- ‘A National Flood Emergency Framework’ – The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Community Empowerment Discussion Paper – Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
- The Government’s consultation on proposed amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target 2008-2011 - Department of Energy and Climate Change

**Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule**

Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule were submitted.

**Cabinet  
31 March 2009**

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

**Ward Schemes 2009**

Ward improvement schemes were identified. Where there is a cost, and wherever possible, mainline funding or other sources of funding are identified to finance the schemes. Where no funding is identified against a scheme, they are

considered for funding from the Gateshead Development Pool.

### **Calendar of Meetings 2009/10**

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. The calendar of meetings for 2009/10 was approved.

### **Councillor Call for Action Protocol**

In order to meet the requirements of the relevant provisions within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006, a draft protocol has been produced setting out the process for dealing with Councillor calls for action, which takes account of the requirements of the legislation and the new guidance.

### **Grants and Awards Programme 2009/10**

To ensure that the grants and awards programme is used to maximise benefits to local communities and is managed effectively, the advice of the Grants and Awards Advisory Group on whether or not to approve applications for grant support in 2009/10 was considered.

### **Response to Consultation**

A response will be submitted to the following consultation:

- Business Rates Supplements: A consultation on draft guidance to local authorities - HM Treasury, Communities and Local Government

### **Department for Children, Schools and Families Co-location Fund**

"The Children's Plan: One Year On" announced the creation of a dedicated fund of £200m to support the co-location of services. Invitations to bid have now been issued for support from the Cross-Government Co-location Fund for capital projects enabling the co-location of two or more services for children, young people and families e.g. education, early years, health, police etc. A bid will be developed to co-locate safeguarding services for children and young people and to provide office accommodation to co-locate , Northumbria Police child protection, children and families referral and assessment , and youth offending staff.

### **Appointment of Local Authority School Governors**

In accordance with the School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2003 the following governors are nominated for election for a period of four years with effect from the date stated below.

<b>School</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Date from</b>
St Alban's	Mrs M Harris	12.4.09
St Oswald's & Glynwood	Cllr J Lee	12.4.09
South Street	Mr D Collingwood	24.4.09
Greenside	Mrs S Noone	31.3.09
Hookergate	Mrs V McKie	31.3.09
St Mary's	Mr F Kamali	31.3.09

### **Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Corporate Strategy**

The overall vision for CCTV in Gateshead is “to provide a first class service to the community that reduces the perception and fear of crime, prevents and detects crime and enhances public confidence and reassurance of a safe environment to visit”.

For the Council to actively address these drivers of change a draft corporate CCTV strategy has been developed and is based upon the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Ensure high quality service management and operation
- Priority 2: Reduce crime and improve public confidence.
- Priority 3: Concentrate on monitoring activity in higher risk public areas,
- Priority 4: Improve service effectiveness through the use of technology
- Priority 5: Ensure the service is provided at a cost that represents best value.

The findings and analysis of evidence presented to the joint Sustainable Communities People and Places Advisory Group regarding the development of this strategy was outlined

### **Consultation on the implementation of Designated Public Place Orders**

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 enables local authorities to identify public places in their area where they believe there are problems of nuisance, annoyance or disorder because of the consumption of alcohol. Such areas can be defined as Designated Public Places, where it is then a criminal offence to refuse to comply with the reasonable request of a Police Constable to stop consuming alcohol or to hand over alcohol for confiscation. It is proposed to conduct a widespread public consultation exercise on the implementation of further

Designated Public Place Orders in the Borough.

### **Local Development Framework Consultation – Feedback**

In 2004, the Government introduced a new system of preparing Development Plans, known as Local Development Frameworks (LDF). The Core Strategy is the most important part of the new system of development plans. The progress being made on Gateshead’s Local Development Framework, and the approach and the scale of response to consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options document, can be viewed at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Building/Strategies/LDF/LDF%20Strategy.pdf>.

### **Gateshead Carbon Management Programme**

As part of the Carbon Trust’s Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, the Council will submit to the Carbon Trust a Carbon Management Plan which outlines actions that will be taken at no cost as well as projects, that through investment, will result in significant fuel savings; reductions in carbon emissions and identified cost savings.

### **Highways Maintenance Surface Dressing Programme 2009/10**

A list of surface dressing schemes for 2009/10 has been prepared in line with the anticipated available budget. The works will be carried out during the summer months, depending upon weather conditions and the availability of the surface dressing contractor.

### **The Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy 2009 – 2011**

The Council is required, under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance)(England And Wales) Order 2002 ( the RRO), to produce a Policy, where it intends to use the powers provided within the Order. The Order confers on Local Authorities the power to improve living conditions in their area. The Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy 2009-2012 which incorporates as appendices the Empty Property Policy(the EPP), the Private Sector Housing Renewal Financial Assistance Policy (the FAP), and the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (the EP) was approved.

### **Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule**

Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule were submitted.

## **Cabinet**

### **17 March 2009**

Contact: Kevin Ingledew ext 2142

### **Term Contracts for Highway Works 2009/12**

The following contracts were awarded:

- Surfacing & Cold Planing Contract for 2009-12;
- Surface Dressing Contract for 2009-12;
- Road Marking & Anti-skid Surfacing Contract for 2009-12

### **Framework Contract for the Provision of Printing**

Gateshead Council operates an in house Central Print Unit (Print Point). The unit provides a quality printing service, employing experienced and qualified staff using the latest technology providing the

majority of print, design and promotional literature to facilitate the requirements of the Council.

This external print framework is being developed to complement the service offered by Print Point. It will be used as a back up on occasions when the service is operating at full capacity or when other print technologies are required to those available in house. The tenders received for the Framework Contract for the Provision of Printing for Gateshead Council were considered.

### **Treasury Policy Statement 2009/10 to 2011/12**

To provide a framework for the Strategic Director, Finance & ICT to exercise his delegated powers, the Council agrees a three year Treasury Management Policy and Strategy which is reviewed at the start of each financial year.

The Treasury Policy and Strategy have been prepared taking into account the Local Government Act 2003, DCLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments, CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The documents are also consistent with the Council's approved Treasury Management Practice Statements and are recommended for approval in line with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

### **Corporate Risk Management: Policy Statement**

A revised Corporate Risk Management Policy Statement has been approved as the foundation of the Council's corporate risk management framework.

A number of key drivers including changes to the way the Council delivers services, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Audit Commission recommendations on best practice and

the Use of Resources Criteria for Judgement in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) necessitated the revision.

### **Review of Business Centre Licence Fees**

It is proposed that an increase in licence fees of 5% at all centres be approved to take effect from 1 April 2009 and also that the existing policy to apply an annual charge of 5% above the normal licence fee rise to occupiers in their fourth and subsequent years be suspended until the economic upturn.

### **Corporate Plan Refresh - Three Year Target Setting**

The proposed targets for the next three years were considered as part of the Gateshead Agreement and Corporate Plan refresh.

The proposed targets, which have also been considered by relevant OSCs, will ensure the Council's performance is continuously improving and contribute to the delivery of Vision 2030, The Gateshead Agreement and the Corporate Plan.

### **Responses to Consultation**

Responses will be submitted to the following Consultations:

- Changing Council Governance Arrangements Mayors and Indirectly Elected Leaders – Department for Communities and Local Government

### **Miscellaneous Income – Transfer of Uncollectable Amounts**

Approval was sought to transfer outstanding balances in excess of £300

from certain miscellaneous income accounts where all possible recovery action has been taken and the balances are now considered to be uncollectable. There are currently 60 accounts, amounting to a net sum of £88,439.30 where all possible recovery action has been taken and the amounts remain unpaid. These debts are now deemed uncollectable.

### **Local Authority Mortgage Rate for Mortgages granted Under Housing Act, 1985**

The statutory declaration of the local authority mortgage interest rate, for the six months commencing 1 April 2009 was made. A reduction from the current rate of 6.89% to 6.69% was recommended.

### **Review of the Lettings Policy**

Following the Lettings Policy Review, consideration by Advisory Group and the release of Communities and Local Government (CLG) Code of Guidance for Choice Based Lettings, Cabinet were required to approve some changes to the Council's lettings Policy and to also approve a review of the homelessness service.

### **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy**

An update was received by Cabinet in relation the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The overarching aim of the strategy is to reduce alcohol related harm in Gateshead for people living, working and learning in the borough. The Strategy aims to address harms caused by alcohol misuse in terms of health, community safety, criminal justice and social exclusion.

This aim will be achieved by focussing on the four theme areas of the Gateshead

Agreement, targeting the reduction of alcohol related harms.

- Safer, Stronger Communities and Culture
- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities & Adult Health and Well being
- Economy, Skills, Housing and Transport

### **Demolition of Garages at Alderwyck, Leam Lane**

It was recommended to Cabinet that 12 garages at Alderwyck, Leam Lane, be demolished.

The three blocks of garages at Alderwyck, Leam Lane, have been derelict for some time and there is currently no demand for them. Local residents have reported anti-social behaviour on the site. Consultation with residents in the immediate vicinity indicated that some residents feel intimidated walking through the garages to access their homes.

### **Merger of Tyne and Wear Archives and Tyne and Wear Museums**

Following a series of reports considered by the Tyne and Wear leadership group, a decision has been taken to merge the Tyne and Wear Archives and Tyne and Wear Museums Services into a new Joint Service – to be known as the Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Service. Approval for the merger was sought from Cabinet.

### **Tyne and Wear Development Committee – Joint Committee Agreement**

On dissolution of the County Council of Tyne and Wear, the Tyne and Wear Development Company was established to manage residual property assets on

behalf of its successor authorities. Through the Company and its subsidiaries the joint interests of the member authorities were managed highly successfully, maximising the advantages available to Tyne and Wear Development Company as a Local Enterprise Agency. A Joint Committee was established in 1999 to ensure the company continued to receive favourable treatment of the financial resources available to the authorities.

To seek Cabinet approval to extend the existing Tyne and Wear Development Company Joint Committee arrangements for promoting economic development across Tyne and Wear.

### **Review of Business Centres Policy – Extension of Occupation Periods at Blaydon Business Centre**

Consideration was given to the request to review and amend the Council's Business Centres policy, specifically to allow licensees of the larger units at Blaydon Business Centre the opportunity to remain beyond the normal five years and become 'anchor tenants'.

### **Use of Council Owned Sites by Fairground Operators**

Applications to locate fairground attractions on Council approved sites were received and considered.

### **Petitions**

An update on petitions received and actions taken on them has been considered.

### **Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule**

Variations with the Forward Plan/Supplementary Schedule were submitted.

## **Planning and Development Committee**

### **29 April 2009**

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Contact: Karen Fletcher ext 2129

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#### **Planning Applications**

The Committee determined the applications as follows:-

- Granted – 2
- Refused – 1
- Site Visits – 0
- Deferred – 0

#### **Enforcement Action**

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

#### **Planning Appeals**

One new appeal has been received as follows

- 2 Julian Road, Wardley – erection of conservatory at rear of dwelling house

Three appeal decision have been received:

- Storage area of south boundary, HFW Plastics, Albany Road – display of 1 x internally illuminated 48 sheet hoarding size 65305mm x 3523mm and 1 x internally illuminated 96 sheet hoarding size 12200mm x 3050mm – appeal dismissed in favour of the Council

- Holburn Crescent, Ryton – change of use of ground floor premises (un-used Use Class A1 off-licence/shop) to hot food take-away (Use Class A5) and elevational alterations – appeal dismissed in favour of the Council
- Grassed area adjacent to Camerons Builders, Sunderland Road – display of 2 x externally illuminated 48 sheet advertisements within hoarding size 3.048 x 6.096m and 1 x externally illuminated 96 sheet hoarding size 3.048m x 12.192m – appeal dismissed in favour of the Council

#### **Planning Obligations**

Six new planning obligations have been received:

- Land south of Beechgrove, Beechwood Avenue, Ryton – financial contribution/works toward junior play, teenage play and toward open space.
- CPS Haulage (Tyneside) Ltd – financial contribution/works as a Sustainable Transport Contribution in the Quays area. The signing of a Section 278 and/or 38 agreement under the Highways Act prior to constructing the pedestrian route. No trading until the pedestrian route is open to the public. That the hotel shall not exceed 30 rooms or 15% of hotel bedrooms (whichever is greater) as serviced residential apartments.
- Vacant Warehouse A398A Princes Way, Team Valley – financial contribution/works as a sustainable transport contribution in the Team Valley area.

- Land to the rear of Kimberley, Smailes Lane, Rowlands Gill – financial contribution/works toward off site junior play and toward off site toddler play.
- Land to the west of Croft View, Crawcrook, Ryton – financial contribution/works toward junior play, teen play and toward open space.
- Plot 3 Highfield south of Smailes Lane, Rowlands Gill – financial contribution/works toward toddler play and teenage play.

No new payments have been received

**Application Reference:  
DC/08/00036/FUL Gateshead  
College Site, Durham Road,  
Gateshead – Appeals Decision**

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government allowed the planning appeals for planning permission and conservation area consent for the redevelopment of the Gateshead College site on Durham Road. The Secretary of State considered the amended scheme submitted by the appellants shortly before the planning inquiry, and based her decision upon this. The Secretary of State awarded partial costs against the Council in relation to unnecessary works, which the appellant undertook in responding to the Council's case on the effect upon sunlight and daylight to neighbouring dwellings.

### **Changes To Planning Appeals Procedure**

A report detailed changes brought in by the Planning Act 2008 by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Planning Inspectorate from 6

April 2009 that affect the planning appeals system.

Department of Communities and Local Government Response to the Killian Pretty Review

The Killian Pretty Review has looked at the planning application process from the start of initial discussions with the local planning authority, to the discharge of pre-commencement conditions and the start of work on site. The aim of the review is to identify improvements to the process, building on previous reforms.

## **Planning and Development Committee 8 April 2009**

Contact: Karen Fletcher ext 2129

### **Planning Applications**

The Committee determined the applications as follows:-

- Granted – 7
- Refused – 2
- Site Visits – 0
- Deferred – 1
- Withdrawn – 1

### **Enforcement Action**

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

### **Planning Appeals**

Five new appeals have been received, all of which are to be considered under the written representations procedure.

- 1 Linley Hill Whickham - Erection of first-floor extension over existing garage at side of dwellinghouse and single-storey extension at rear, construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof at front (revised application)
- 18 Cromwell Street, Deckham - Erection of 5 terraced dwelling-houses (Use Class C3), boundary walls and fences, cycle stores and associated car parking
- 35 Firtrees, High Heworth - Erection of single-storey extension at side of dwellinghouse
- 36 Firtrees, High Heworth - Erection of single-storey extension at side of dwellinghouse (revised application)
- 4 The Steadings, Greenside, Ryton - Erection of first-floor extension at side of dwellinghouse above existing kitchen, dining, and play room

One Appeal decision has been received:

- 20 Rannoch Close, Wardley - Erection of part single-storey/part two-storey at side and rear of dwellinghouse – dismissed in favour of the Council

## Planning Obligations

Seven new planning obligations have been received:

- Felling Developments Ltd – financial contribution/works toward

junior and teenage play within 1 mile of the site.

- Land at Burney Villas, Gateshead – financial contribution/works toward toddler and junior play within 1 mile of the site.
- 92 High Street, Felling, Gateshead – financial contribution/works toward offsite junior play and off site teenage play.
- The Beacon, Beacon Lough Road, Beacon Lough – financial contribution/works toward off site junior play and toward off site teenage play.
- Asda, Gibside Way, Metrocentre, Dunston – financial contribution/works toward sustainable transport measures around the Metrocentre.
- East Farm, Barlow Road, Barlow – financial contribution/works as a Traffic Regulation Order Contribution.
- Musgrove House, Albion Street, Windy Nook – financial contribution/works toward off site children's play area

Two new payments have been received as follows:

- Land adjacent the Bungalow, Streetgate Farm, Gateshead Road, Whickham – payment made in relation to open space and junior play area.
- Vacant Factory/Warehouse, Former Dunloy Hydraulic J209, Earlsway, Team Valley – payment made in relation to sustainable transport contributions at Team Valley.

## **Planning and Development Committee**

### **18 March 2009**

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Contact: Karen Fletcher ext 2129

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#### **Planning Applications**

The Committee determined the applications as follows:-

- Granted – 8
- Refused – 1
- Site Visits – 0
- Deferred – 0

#### **Enforcement Action**

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

#### **Planning Appeals**

No new appeals had been received

One appeal decision has been received:

- 34 Burghley Road – Erection of porch and canopy at front of dwellinghouse (retrospective) – appeal allowed in favour of the appellant

#### **Planning Obligations**

Two new planning obligations have been received:

- Land adjacent to 2 South Close, Ryton – financial contribution/works toward off site junior play provision, off site

teenage play provision and toward off site open space provision.

- Land adjacent The Bungalow, Streetgate Farm, Gateshead Road, Whickham – financial contribution/works toward off site junior play provision and toward off site open space provision.

No new payments have been received

## **Regulatory Committee**

### **21 April 2009**

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Contact: Anne Jennings 2141

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#### **Appeals and Prosecutions**

Details of Appeals were reported.

#### **Licences, Permits and Registrations Issued**

Details of Licences, Permits and Registrations issued between 1 and 28 February 2009 and 1 and 31 March 2009 were reported.

Details of requests for deviation from the age policy from November 2007 to March 2009 were reported.

#### **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Issues**

The Committee considered details of 2 applicants.

The Committee agreed that the application by AS with a permit for Newcastle International Airport to modify the standard conditions be approved; that the application by SAS for a 12 month exception to the age policy be granted subject to the vehicle having three tests per year; that the application by GJC be

adjourned to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **Regulatory Committee**

### **10 March 2009**

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Contact: Anne Jennings 2141

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#### **Appeals and Prosecutions**

Details of Appeals and Prosecutions were reported.

#### **Licences, Permits and Registrations Issued**

Details of Licences, Permits and Registrations issued between 1 and 31 January 2009 were reported.

#### **Application for Approved Premises Status**

The Committee approved the application on behalf of the Newcastle Marriott Metrocentre Hotel, Gateshead, the European 1,2 & 3 Rooms (maximum occupancy 100 per room), the European 1 & 2 Rooms together (maximum occupancy 200) and the London suite (maximum occupancy 80).

#### **Dog Breeding Establishment Application**

The Committee approved an application for a Dog Breeding Establishment from Mr & Mrs Moffat, Mill Farm Chopwell.

#### **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Issues**

The Committee considered details of 11 applicants. And Seven Hackney Carriages licensed by Gateshead Council which have permits from Newcastle Airport Ltd to provide services from the private rank at Newcastle Airport.

The Committee agreed that the application for JWG for a 12 month exception to the age policy be approved subject to the vehicle having three tests per year; that the application for PW for an exception to the age policy be granted for 6 months, that the application by SM for an exception to the age policy be granted for 6 months; that the application by TC for a further exception to the age policy be not granted; that the application for HH for a further exception to the age policy be not granted; that the application by LB for an exception to the age policy be granted for 12 month subject to the vehicle having three tests per year; that the application by JWU be allowed to keep his Hackney Carriage and Duel Driver Licence with a written warning as to his future conduct; that applicant PGM be allowed to keep his Private Hire Driver Licence with a written warning as to his future conduct; that applicant SF be allowed to keep his Private Hire Driver licence with a written warning as to his future conduct; that applicant DWB be allowed to keep his Private Hire Driver licence with a written warning as to his future conduct; that the application by GJC be adjourned to the next meeting of the Committee; that the application by seven drivers with permits for Newcastle International Airport to modify the standard conditions be approved.

## **Looked after Children**

### **OSC**

### **27 April 2009**

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Contact: Rosalyn White 2088

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#### **Foster Care Recruitment Strategy and Placement Stability**

The Committee received a presentation on the foster care recruitment strategy. Work has been ongoing over the last few years to increase recruitment numbers to

ensure placement choice and promote placement stability and to reduce the need for out of Borough placements.

Placement stability is a national indicator, which measures the number of placement moves in a year Gateshead compared well to the national average however this continues to be an area of challenge.

### **Treatment Foster Care Programme Report**

The Committee received an update report on Springboard Fostering and the research into Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care in England (MTFCE). Springboard has established six specialist foster care placements for children with extremely challenging behaviours, enabling children to remain in the local area and offering support and interventions. 12 young people have been successfully placed in Springboard. Work is currently ongoing to achieve accreditation from Oregon Social Learning Centre for the service, and it is hoped that Gateshead will become the first authority to do so.

### **Children in Care Budget Holding Lead Professional – Impact of Pathfinder**

The Budget Holding Lead Professional: Children in Care Pilot (BHLP) provided funding to allow individual professionals control over budget decisions to ensure care plans are more personalised and encourage positive outcomes for LAC. In the last financial year (2008/09) five Social Workers were lead professionals, with a budget of £8,500 to spend on their caseload.

An evaluation of the pilot will be carried out by Newcastle University and the full evaluation published in the Summer.

### **Response to Young People's Issues**

The Committee watched a DVD which was recorded at a recent residential weekend. The weekend was used to build up the confidence of young people and offer dedicated time to look at issues in more depth. It also provided young people with the opportunity to receive support from each other in addition to getting to know officers better as corporate parents.

### **Virtual Head Report**

The Virtual School Head Pilot ends in August 2009 and Bristol University are carrying out a full evaluation which will be published in the Autumn term. Attendance has been monitored regularly and it was noted that Gateshead figures are good in comparison to other local authorities.

## **Sustainable Communities People OSC**

**22 April 2009**

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Contact: Anne Jennings 2141

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### **Annual Work Programme**

The Committee approved the provisional work programme and the review topic and case study for 2009/10 was agreed.

### **Review of Measures to Address Unemployment and Worklessness – Final Report**

The final report was presented to the Committee. Four cross cutting themes had been developed to examine the issues raised by the review. These were Education and Skills, Employment and

Employability, Health and Childcare. The next stages of the review were agreed.

### **Best Value Review of Leisure – Impact Report**

The Committee received a report which gave a summary of the impact of the implementation plan. The plan consists of 5 service options which were now complete and all milestones had been met.

### **Monitoring of Review of Participation in Community Sport and Leisure**

The Committee was presented with a report which provided the first annual update on the actions arising from the review of Participation in Community Sport and Leisure. The Committee was informed of progress in the four themes areas of Health and Quality of Life;

Opportunities to participate; Community and Voluntary Sector and Partnerships.

### **Case Study – Domestic Violence Court**

The Committee considered a case study which highlighted the work of the Domestic Violence Court. The report highlighted the aims and objectives of the Court, how the court works, including all victims offered support, training for magistrates, dedicated CPS lawyers and a separate entrance for victims.

The case study gave an example of a case which had been through the Domestic Violence Court and highlighted some of the issues faced by victims and those in the criminal justice system. The case study also highlighted the statistics between April 2008 and December 2008 which would become the baseline figure for measurement in future years.

## **Sustainable Communities Place OSC**

### **20 April 2009**

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Contact: Karen Fletcher 2129

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### **ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN GATESHEAD REVIEW – FINAL REPORT**

The final report that provided the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the review on adapting to climate change in Gateshead was considered. The review has explored the projected impact of climate change on communities, businesses and services, key priorities, the role of partners and Council strategies along with emergency planning and resilience arrangements.

A presentation gave an overview of the effects of climate change, the infrastructure in Gateshead and its ability to meet the needs of local people, current plans for tackling emergency situations and their potential impact. It also highlighted opportunities that are available in the future and the role needed to secure a sustainable Gateshead.

There have been a number of evidence gathering sessions which resulted in the identification of a number of key issues and developed recommendations for the review.

### **MONITORING OF OSC REVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

A report was provided that gave a summary update on the actions arising from the Committee Review of Opportunities for Social Housing Provision.

Following the completion of the review there has been a significant downturn in the economic climate which has provided difficulties across the housing arena. This includes difficulties for owners to pay mortgages that in turn has resulted in more people relying on rented accommodation in the public and private sector to meet their housing needs.

The Committee were satisfied that progress is being made towards overall impact on users to date.

### **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10**

The Committee agreed the provisional work programme for the municipal year 2009/10.

## **Standards Committee 6 April 2009**

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Contact: Iain Burns 3993

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### **Assessment Sub Committee – Monitoring Officer Action**

The Committee considered the action taken by the Monitoring Officer as a result of the direction given by the Assessment Sub-Committee which met on 6 January 2009 to consider a complaint, as required by Regulation 13(4) of the Standard Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

### **Assessment Sub Committee – Matters Resolved**

A verbal update was provided by the Monitoring Officer in relation to matters that have been resolved by the Assessment Sub-committee. It was agreed that all members of the Committee would be notified upon the receipt of a complaint by the Monitoring Officer.

## **Joint Bridges Committee**

**3 April 2009**

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Contact: Sonia Stewart 3045

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### **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES REVENUE BUDGET**

Details of the expenditure for 2007/08 and a review of the expenditure for 2008/09 and the proposed budget for 2009/10 for cross Tyne bridges was presented to the Committee.

### **TYNE BRIDGE CAPITAL WORKS**

The Committee were advised that there would be approximately £0.5M of capital work required on the Tyne Bridge.

### **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES – MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A report was presented to the Committee highlighting the maintenance responsibilities for the cross-Tyne bridges.

## **Children and Young People OSC 2 April 2009**

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Contact: Rosalyn White 2088

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### **Systems in Place to Improve Behaviour and Attendance in Schools**

A case study on the current arrangements in place for improving behaviour and attendance in Schools was presented. Fair Access Protocols (FAP) are in place to ensure educational

provision for all pupils. Gateshead have developed Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships which aim to improve the behaviour and attendance of all Gateshead's learners.

The Fair Access Process ensures that all schools take their fair share of pupils with challenging behaviour resulting in fewer inequalities between secondary schools. Head Teachers now take borough wide responsibility for ensuring a child has an appropriate school placement. Since initially being set up in February 2008, 86% of referrals have resulted in successful placements. In the future it is hoped that the process will be rolled out to primary schools.

The work of the Education Welfare Service was looked at and in particular their work around Persistent Absence (PA). A persistent absentee is a pupil who, by the end of the Spring term, has more than 54 sessions of absence. A priority school is where 7% or more of the school population are persistent absentees. There are 5 priority schools in Gateshead.

### **Monitoring of OSC Review of Early Years**

The Committee received the second update report on the actions following the review of delivery of early years services through Children's Centres. Since the review, work has been ongoing with health partners to deliver commissioned services, including community health visitors and midwifery services. Children's Centres are engaging with hard to reach families through parent outreach workers. It is hoped that in the future more work will be carried out to help families who have children with disabilities. Work to engage fathers is increasingly successful.

### **OSC Review – Final Report**

The final report of the review into the mechanisms in place to support family life was received. Key themes were identified;

- Common processes
- Training and cultural change
- Empowering families
- Early intervention and schools
- Role of the voluntary and community sector
- An emphasis on narrowing the gap in outcomes
- Dissemination

## **Healthier Communities OSC**

**31 March 2009**

Contact: Deborah Haswell 2137

### **Proposed Changes to Adult mental health Urgent Care Services**

The Committee considered a report on the proposed changes to adult mental health urgent care services accessed by Gateshead residents. The proposals involve increasing the capacity of the crisis resolution/home treatment service and introducing a new urgent care day service. There will be a reduction in the number of inpatient beds at the Tranwell Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital from 60 (plus 5 intensive care unit beds) to 40 (plus 5 intensive care unit beds). There will also be a provision on higher quality in-patient service, which is to be AIMS accredited.

### **Healthcare Commission annual Health Check**

The Committee received a report on the Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check. Each year the Healthcare

Commission seeks the view of OSCs on how the OSC consider Gateshead PCT, Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust and Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust provide services that relate to the Department of Health's core standards for health care services. The Committee received information from each representative setting out the processes undertaken to ensure that their respective organisations comply with the core standards.

### **Case Study Quality of Care Homes and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults**

The Committee considered a report of the case study of the quality of care homes and safeguarding of vulnerable adults. There are currently 28 residential care and nursing homes for older people in Gateshead, and since the introduction of the national care Standards Act 2000 the responsibility for registration and inspection has fallen to the Commission for Social Care Inspection. The Commission for Social Care Inspection are required to undertake to inspect Care Homes on an annual basis, awarding them a star rating from zero to three.

### **Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Review – Final Report**

The Committee received the final report on the mental health and emotional well being review. There were 4 evidence gathering sessions and during these sessions the Committee considered and analysed evidence from Council officers, the Director of Public Health for Gateshead, Officers representing NHS South of Tyne, Northumberland Tyne and Wear mental health partnership and a GP representative of GATDOC. There were also two members of the Gateshead Mental Health Partnership.

### **Annual Work Programme**

The Committee received a report on the Annual Work Programme for 2009/10. The Committee also received a draft protocol for the Councillor Call for Action. This was introduced under section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006.

### **Corporate Vitality OSC 30 March 2009**

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Contact: Iain Burns 3993

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### **OSC Review of Volunteering – Final Report**

The Committee received the final report on the review into promoting and supporting volunteering and also looked at the potential barriers to volunteering. The report contained recommendations to enhance the support of volunteering in the borough.

### **Customer Service Strategy – Case Study**

The Committee received a case study on the implementation of the current customer services strategy. The Committee's views were also sought on the new customer services strategy.

The current position on customer services was discussed, in particular the service development, technology development, geographical development and employee development. Key data was provided which included the volume of calls taken per day and the performance of the service. It was confirmed that there has

been a marked improvement in hitting targets following a large intake of permanent staff.

The new strategy was provided and it was noted that much of the original customer service strategy remains valid.

### **BVR Services to Neighbourhoods – Implementation Plan Report**

The Committee received the third progress report on the implementation of the Best Value Review of services to neighbourhoods.

Progress with regards to the five work streams were discussed, the work streams are outlined below: -

- Neighbourhood planning
- Democratic renewal
- Neighbourhood delivery and service reconfiguration
- Narrowing the gap / neighbourhood performance information
- Community empowerment and duty to involve

### **Birtley East Value Review – Final Impact Report**

The Committee received the final impact report on the Best Value Review of Birtley. It was noted that there are currently two milestones still outstanding and these are around town centre car parking.

It was acknowledged that the service review has resulted in improved parking arrangements, improvements to the shopping area, higher quality facilities for young people and better public information relating to air quality.

### **Monitoring of OSC Review of Increasing Democratic Involvement**

The Committee received an update report on the review into increasing democratic involvement in Gateshead.

It was noted that there has been success in greater engagement at a local level through consultations, in particular consultation around the budget, allowed local people to make real choices. The involvement of public and partners in the scrutiny process continues as well as work to increase participation, for example Citizenship Ceremonies.

### **Monitoring of OSC Review of the Implementation of the Corporate Procurement Strategy Action Plan**

The Committee received an update report on the review of the implementation of Corporate Procurement Strategy Action Plan.

The five key themes of the review were as follows;

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

### **Annual Work Programme 2009/10**

The Committee received the provisional work programme for the municipal year 2009/10. The work programme has been developed following extensive consultation with partners, a consultation event was held in February. A draft protocol for Councillor Call for Action was also provided.

## **South Tyne and Wear Waste Management**

## **Joint Executive Committee**

**27 March 2009**

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Contact: Rosalyn White 2088

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### **Waste Transfer and Disposal Arrangements**

Discussions have been underway between officers of the Partnership and Newcastle City Council regarding collaboration in the procurement of ancillary contracts. The Partnership will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration.

### **Area Based Grants**

Representatives from South Tyneside Council discussed Area Based Grants. This allows local authorities to experience more freedom and flexibility in specific areas. It is hoped that in the future information based at a local level will be developed, further community engagement will be ongoing and also the development of local infrastructure.

### **Communications**

A breakdown of media coverage for 2008 showed that in the last two quarters there has been positive media coverage, this has been since the recruitment of a dedicated PR officer who has been working more proactively. The Love Food Hate Waste Campaign is currently in phase two which is targeting the council employees through exhibitions in civic buildings.

## **Employment Issues Committee**

**25 March 2009**

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Contact: Iain Burns 3993

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The Committee approved a number of applications for flexible retirement, requests to undertake outside employment, requests to work beyond the age of 65, and noted the decisions approved under delegated powers.

## **Inner West Area Forum**

**22 April 2009**

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Contact: Anne Jennings 2141

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### **Tyneview Children's Centre**

A presentation was given on Tyneview Children's Centre. The Tyneview Children's Centre is the final one in the second phase of children's centre programme. The building was completed in December and occupation took place in January 2009. By 2010 Gateshead will have 16 Children's Centre and through the third and final phase a number of satellites.

### **Kickstart Challenge Competition 2009**

Members of the Forum were informed that support was being sought for a funding bid for better bus services for the Team valley, as part of the Kickstart Challenge competition 2009. The Department for Transport (DfT) is making available funds to 'pump-prime' new or enhanced bus services which may not be commercially viable from day one, but which, over time, have the potential to do so. Nexus have identified several routes in Tyne and Wear, some crossing local authority boundaries, that meet the criteria and it is intended to put forward a bid to obtain funds to back the initiatives.

In Inner West the proposed service is the Team Valley links route, which would connect many local communities in Gateshead, Sunderland/Washington and County Durham to a major employment, retail and educational site. Letters of support and any information regarding evidence of need for such links which may help the bid to be successful would be welcome.

### **South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Update**

Tony Alder, Director of the Council's Local Environmental Services gave an update on the progress by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership and informed the Forum about the purchase of a site, in Felling, for potential use as a reference site within the procurement of a new waste treatment facility.

Any proposed plans are subject to in-depth consultation as part of any future planning.

### **Climate Change Strategy – Workshop Event**

David Shimmin, the Council's Senior Research and Information Officer invited the Forum to attend a Special Forum on the Climate Change Strategy, which will take place on Monday 27 April 2009 from 11.30 – 2.30 at the Dryden Centre, to consider the cross cutting issues facing all partners in tackling the changing climate.

A Discussion Document and survey are available on the Council's website, which aims to widen debate about the impact of climate change on Gateshead and seeks views from organisations and individuals on the key issues and potential actions.

### **Teams & Derwentwater Neighbourhood Action Plan Update**

The Best Value Review of Services to Neighbourhoods, Teams Neighbourhood Plan Update to March 2009 had been circulated for information.

Paul Cairns informed the Forum of the challenges identified within the Plan. Future planning would take place within the Corporate Plan.

### **Dunston West & Ravensworth Road Neighbourhood Plan Update**

A series of Focus Groups had been undertaken in partnership with the Gateshead Strategic Partnership and multi-faith groups. The information is now being collated and a list of key actions, themes and developments action will be identified. It is hoped that this information will be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.

## **West Area Forum**

### **21 April 2009**

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Contact: Rosalyn White 2088

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### **OSC Work Programme**

An outline of the extensive consultation process with partners was given. Officer leads for Healthier Communities OSC have been made aware of the work of the Forum around the misuse of alcohol and the potential involvement of the Forum will be picked up in the future.

### **Update from Partners**

### **South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership**

Bidders are providing a variety of technologies for the treatment of the rubbish and outline proposals have been received, the successful bidder will be named in August.

## **NEET**

A bid has been made for further funding towards the Highfield Centre project which will be aimed at preventing young people from coming onto the NEET register.

## **Nexus**

The Gateshead Kickstart Bid 2009 is aimed at improving links to Team Valley, bids are due in by June 2009 with services likely to begin early 2010. In addition the Bus Strategy will be officially launched on 24 April 2009.

## **Chopwell Masterplan**

The Chopwell Masterplan is in the second stage of consultation, responses will be brought back to a future meeting.

## **Gateshead Employment Fair Evaluation**

Feedback from the event was positive however, take up from people in the West was relatively low. A meeting is planned with Economic Development on ways to target employment in the West.

## **Gateshead Together Week**

The Gateshead Together Week will be held in the last week of May.

## **Blaydon Health Centre Proposals**

The proposals for the new Primary Care Centre (PCC) were discussed. The new centre will be located on the old school site, Shibdon Road, Blaydon, co-located with new leisure facilities. Constructors are currently on site and design champions are involved in addition, transport links are also being looked at.

## **South Area Forum 15 April 2009**

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Contact: Sonia Stewart 3045

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## **BIG Gateshead Joint Venture Update**

The forum received presentation on the progress made in establishing a Joint Venture Partnership. The background, governance and structure of the partnership were highlighted and a timeline of the project was also provided.

Three test sites have been identified:

Freight Depot (the 'Flagship' site)  
Bensham (Phases 1, 11 and 111)  
Birtley, Northside.

## **Support for Kickstart Challenge Competition**

Nexus informed the forum of a Bid which was being put forward jointly with Go North East. The focus of the bid is to improve links to Team Valley from various areas of Gateshead and Chester le Street. There will be an hourly weekday daytime service along three corridors. The purpose is to provide improved, sustainable bus links to this major employment site. The exact routes and times are still to be finalised. Bids are due in at the end of June 2009 with a decision expected late 2009. If the bid is successful, services are likely to begin early in 2010. They will be low floor accessible buses and will be expected to run commercially in the long term.

## **Community Safety Intelligence Update and Partnership Plan Refresh**

The forum were presented with a report which provided an update on Community Safety issues in the South Area. The report showed that there has been a reduction in recorded crime by 9% on the previous year. There does appear as though there is an increase in numbers relating to drug and alcohol but overall the numbers are very small. Work is ongoing to introduce Alcohol Designation areas.

## **Best Value Review of Birtley – Final Impact Report**

The Forum were presented with the Final Impact Report in respect of the Best Value Review of Birtley. The Best Value Review of Birtley was the first geographic review to be undertaken in England. Currently there are two milestones outstanding which are in relation to car parking and this is currently being looked at as part of the Gateshead wide review of car parking.

## **Wrekenton Community Matters Update**

The forum were presented with a report which provided an update on the work of the Wrekenton Communities Matter Team during 2008/09. The report also sought the forums views of the proposed programme for 2009/10.

## **East Area Forum 1 April 2009**

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Contact: Deborah Haswell 2137

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## **Gateshead Community Network – Junior Conference**

The Forum was shown a DVD of the Gateshead Community Network Junior Conference, which was a big success.

## **East Area Retail Centres**

The Forum received a presentation on retail centres in the East of the Borough, which includes Felling Town Centre, Fewster Square and Pelaw. Few shop units are let in Felling, which are mainly at the top of the hill however, there are few shop units not let in Fewster Square and it was suggested that the area needs to be looked at. Pelaw is the most sustainable of the three areas with all units let.

## **Gateshead Employment Fair Evaluation**

The Forum received a report on the Gateshead Employment Fair Evaluation. The Employment Fair was held at The Sage Gateshead on 5 March and the overall aim was to provide an opportunity for employers with real job vacancies to have an opportunity to talk to local jobseekers in a relaxed and informal setting and in turn to fulfil their recruitment needs.

## **South of Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Update**

The Forum received an update report on the Waste Management Partnership. There has been a recent purchase of land in Felling for potential use as a reference

site within the procurement of a new waste treatment facility. The three South of Tyne and Wear Councils approved a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in October 2007, which included reducing the amount of rubbish sent to landfill and increase recycling. The Partnership is in the process of procuring a service for the treatment and disposal of residual municipal waste for a period of 25 years.

### **Bus Strategy**

The Forum was informed that Nexus would be taking a bus around the borough to discuss the Bus Strategy with local residents on 24 April.

## **Central Area Forum 30 March 2009**

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Contact: Neil Porteous 2149

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### **WASTE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The forum received an update report on the progress made by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership. The report also informed the Forum about the purchase of a site, in Felling, and its potential use as reference site within the procurement of a new waste treatment facility.

The following eight bidders have been invited to submit proposals as part of the next stage in the procurement:

- Graphite
- MVV Umwelt
- Shanks
- Sita
- United Utilities
- VT Environmental
- Viola ES Aurora Ltd
- Urbaser SA

### **SALTWELL PLACE FUTURE INVESTMENT AREA**

When the Preferred Neighbourhood Action Plan for Bensham and Saltwell was finalised in December 2005, the area in and around Saltwell Place was designated as “an area for potential future investment” due to concerns it may not be a viable or sustainable community.

Since then, officers have reviewed the indicators of low demand, in order to propose a range of interventions to improve the area. Residents, landlords with private rented properties and ward members were invited to attend the public consultation but due to a relatively low response rate an additional letter drop with information and questionnaires was delivered. No negative responses to the consultation were received.

The forum received details of the Saltwell Place Future Investment Area - Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will be sent to Cabinet on 21 April and if approved, planning and delivery will take place as scheduled, for the financial year 2010/2011.

The forum was informed that due to resource implications, consultation on Selective Landlord Licensing will begin in Chopwell and then be followed by areas displaying the strongest need, in terms of low housing demand and/or significant anti-social behaviour.

### **BIG GATESHEAD JOINT VENTURE UPDATE**

The forum received a presentation on the progress made on the Council’s initiative to establish a Joint Venture Partnership. The presentation also outlined the background, advantages, structure and governance of the Joint Venture Vehicle and provided a timeline for the work.

The following three test sites were identified:

- Freight Depot (the 'Flagship' site)
- Bensham (Phases I,II and III)
- Birtley, Northside

Some of the developers are joining up to bid for the invitation to submit final tender (ITSFT).

## **West Area Forum**

**9 March 2009**

Contact: Rosalyn White 2088

### **Decent Homes and Affordable Social Housing**

The Forum received a presentation on Decent Homes and the Gateshead Standard. 10,950 homes have been brought up to standard and in the West 2,304 properties have been completed.

In the financial year 2009/10 the Chopwell, High Spenn, Hallgarth and High Crawcrook estates will benefit. Followed by improvements to the Parkhead and Barlow estates and in 2011/12 in Bleach Green and South Sherburn.

Work is ongoing towards increasing supply of housing stock through grant support and cross subsidy on land in existing estates.

### **Update from Partners Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue**

The Phoenix course, which is currently being planned, is aimed at 12 – 17 year olds who have been involved with the Youth Offending Team, to improve discipline and increase confidence.

### **Blaydon Car Parking**

Concerns regarding charges and costs will be addressed in the Cabinet report.

### **OSC Work Programme**

The Forum received a report on the emerging themes for the Council's OSC work programme 2009/10 and it was agreed that the Forum could contribute to the evidence gathering for the review on alcohol misuse.

### **Mobile Youth Facility**

Approval has been received for a mobile youth facility and tenders are currently being sought.

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

Pre-engagement work is ongoing in Highfield, and surveys have gone out to 20% of the households in the area, an update will follow.

### **Nexus**

A refurbishment of Blaydon bus shelter will start next week and will take 5-6 weeks to complete.

### **Police**

Operation WAYS ('We Asked You Said') is ongoing which will focus on the West of the Borough.

### **Blaydon Metals**

Blaydon Metals have been successfully prosecuted for a breach of anti-pollution laws.

# Safer Stronger Communities and Culture Partnership

24 April 2009

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Contact: Karen Fletcher 2129

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## Culture

It is hoped that a health impact assessment will take place at the quayside within the near future.

## Environment

The consultation date for the discussion document on adapting to climate change has now been extended until 15 May 2009. There will be two consultation events held to give people the opportunity to give their views on how they think Gateshead should tackle climate change and will be held:

- Monday 27 April 2009 from 11.30am at the Dryden Centre
- Thursday 7 May 2009 from 4pm at the Civic Centre

## Safer Communities

Gateshead Area Command Unit have been identified as an area of excellent performance over the last financial year.

## Adult Learning

No update

## COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA)

A presentation was provided on CAA. The new framework is the independent assessment of local public services and represents a fundamental change in the approach to inspection and provides an

assessment on how well people are being served by their local public services.

The area assessment for Gateshead will be an assessment of the overall achievement of Vision 2030 and the Gateshead Agreement. The Audit Commission has developed a reporting tool to make the CAA more user friendly and meaningful to local people.

## GET SET PROGRAMME

A presentation was provided that outlined the aims of the Get Set Programme that included:

- To involve as many children and young people as possible in the excitement of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- To take the magic and inspiration of the London 2012 Games out to classrooms, playgrounds and into the lives of young people across the UK
- To support children and young people across the UK in the development of their leadership, personal, thinking and life skills
- Between now and 2012 we want to create a vibrant, inspirational network of schools, colleges and other learning providers
- To enrich the programmes schools and colleges that are already running in order to achieve their existing aims and objectives

## SAFER GATESHEAD PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2009 REFRESH

A report providing an update to the Safer Gateshead Partnership Plan 2008/09-2010/11 was submitted to the Partnership.

The Safer Gateshead Partnership Plan must be refreshed on an annual basis taking into account the draft priorities

from the Strategic Assessment and consultation on those priorities. The Strategic Assessment identified that total crime decreased by 13% in 2007/08 compared to the same period 2006/07 and significant progress has been made against the eight priorities identified within the Plan.

A second Strategic Assessment was completed in December 2008. Draft priorities were identified in terms of volume, increase, harm and national importance and consultations were undertaken on the priorities with the Strategic Partnership, Area Forums, Community Network, Neighbourhood Management Team, Youth and Community Learning and Involvement Forum.

The Partnership Plan can be accessed on the Council website at:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/People/Strategies/communitysafety/PartnershipPlan.pdf>

## **GATESHEAD TOGETHER WEEK**

An update report on the development of Gateshead Together Week was provided to the Partnership.

Gateshead Together, Gateshead's Community Cohesion Strategy, aims to build on the sense of identity and belonging within communities in Gateshead and to encourage more people to play an active part in improving their neighbourhood. It also includes specific aims on promoting and encouraging volunteering and activities and initiatives that promote neighbourliness in Gateshead with a view to overcoming isolation and segregation across the borough.

Gateshead Together Week will take place from 25 – 31 May and will also link to European Neighbours Day on 26 May and as part of the week a series of events

and initiatives will be organised by the Council and other partners.

## **GATESHEAD ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES DRUG TREATMENT PLAN**

An overview of the Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2009/10 was provided to the Partnership.

It is a requirement that an Adult Drug Treatment Plan be submitted on an annual basis and this has been developed with service providers and all stakeholder organisations. The plan has been developed to address local needs, in line with national priorities, with particular attention to the changes identified within the drug treatment system at the current time.

The plan provides a strategic summary of the problem drug situation in Gateshead and the aim of it is to work together as a multi agency team to deliver drug treatment, based on national guidance and evidence, tailored to local people and local community needs.

## **LEARNING REVOLUTION**

A presentation on the Learning Revolution was provided and highlighted that the Government recognises the importance of adult learning to people's lives and well-being. Informal learning can help people gain satisfaction, development and fulfilment and it can be a stepping stone to further learning, qualifications and more rewarding work and can also bring people and communities together.

# Safer Stronger Communities and Culture Partnership

27 March 2009

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Contact: Karen Fletcher 2129

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## UPDATE FROM PARTNERS

### Culture

The 'culture' strand of the Partnership was to be more strongly recognised. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s), as part of the new work programme(s), would also look to pick up this matter.

### Environment

The second meeting of the Environment Forum had taken place and had focussed upon local food growth, education and links to health agenda. Links with obesity action groups for both adults and children were also identified

### Safer Communities

No Update

### Adult Learning

There have been two White Papers published – Skills for Life and Learning Revolution and the government have announced £20m of funding which will be managed by local authorities. In January 2010, there will be a new Adult Learning premises opened at the Dryden Centre. The centre will concentrate on community learning.

## CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY CONSULTATION – YOUTH

## ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Council had tasked the Youth Assembly with organising an event that would link to the aspirations of the authority. The Youth Assembly have put together a 'Get Green' conference which will be held on 28 March 2009 at the Civic Centre. A range of activities will take place and there will also be presentations from various organisations and displays. Those involved in creating the event are keen to ensure that more events are held in the future.

Earth Hour would take on 28 March 2009 from 8.30pm – 9.30pm, organised by the World Wildlife Fund whereby people are encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour to take action against global warming.

## AUDIT COMMISSION RESEARCH – HOW WE TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR THROUGH POSITIVE DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES

Two researchers from the Audit Commission visited Gateshead in January 2008 to speak with officers and also visit a number of projects and initiatives across the borough which gave the opportunity to speak to the young people engaged.

The Audit Commission identified Gateshead as one of three of the fourteen local authorities visited as an area to carry out further in depth research by way of focus groups with young people.

Feedback from the focus groups included:

- There is a marked difference in attitudes of those engaged in sport against those who were not engaged in sport in terms of

positive outlooks, manner, confidence levels.

- Whether engaged or not there seemed a definite sense that there was not enough for young people to do in the areas, not a lot of spaces that could be seen as their space where they are wanted or understood
- Barriers to getting involved included: cost, confidence, lack of interest, involvement in drugs and alcohol, short term-ism of projects (projects start and then end without replacements), unaware of what is available.

## **PREVENT AGENDA – STOPPING PEOPLE BECOMING OR SUPPORTING TERRORISTS**

In response to the threat to national security posed by radical terrorists the Government, in 2007, introduced a strategy known as CONTEST, consisting of 4 strands Pursue (to stop terrorist attacks), Prepare (to mitigate impact), Protect (to strengthen against attacks) and Prevent (to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists).

As one of the four stands to the strategy the Prevent agenda, that aims to prevent radical ideas being allowed to go unchallenged has been devised. Gateshead along with every other local authority area is required to have in place a strategy and an action plan to address the agenda. An informal multi agency working group has been established to start the development of the strategy and an assessment has been undertaken, looking at local threats and vulnerabilities to determine the local risk. There are currently no concerns within Gateshead or with Northumbria Police.

## **ARTS DEVELOPMENT WITHIN GATESHEAD**

A presentation highlighting the role of the arts development within Gateshead, community identity, community engagement, contribution to Gateshead's six big ideas and priorities for the future was provided for information.

## **MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES COUNCILS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATION**

In July 2008, a White Paper entitled Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power was published and its aim was to revive civic society and participation in local democracy, by ensuring that communities and individuals are encouraged and enabled to get involved in their neighbourhoods and influence their local services.

A consultation document has been produced that highlights the elements of the white paper, which are felt to be relevant to museums, arts and libraries.

## **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual report is based on sound epidemiological evidence, is an independent professional statement, provides a tool for planning and monitoring the impact of local programmes and services over time and acts as a stimulus to local action.

## **Health and Social Care Partnership** **12 March 2009**

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Contact: Deborah Haswell 2137

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### **Emerging Themes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes 2009/10**

The Partnership received a report on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes for 2009/10. The emerging themes for this Partnership include tackling alcohol misuse, transformation into personalisation and end of life care strategy, for which the Partnership agreed its support.

### **Active and Healthy Gateshead**

The Partnership received a report on Active and Healthy Gateshead. A range of services is available to help the key drivers for the Health Strategy and Vision 2030 pathway. There is still a great deal to do and help from partners is essential. There is a need for communities to be involved and have a bottom up and top down approach. Actions plans are being developed and work is being carried out with partners to look for ideas for early intervention, encouragement and informed choices to help narrow the gaps.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been refreshed and will be used to inform effective commissioning by describing the future health care and well being needs of the local population and the strategic direction of service delivery to meet those needs. It is required to look ahead over the next three to five years and to highlight where we need to change.

### **Your Life, Your Way**

The Partnership received a progress report on the Your Life, Your Way Action Plan. The Action Plan is linked to a wide

range of other strategies and initiatives in Gateshead. Key activities from the Action Plan related directly to the local and national visions for adult social care and follow the seven aims and outcomes of the Action Plan, which crosscut each other. Activities around a very wide range of issues is taking place in Gateshead however, foundations need put in place regarding transport and physical access. There also needs to be continued and increased resources for volunteering, participation and support to work and appropriate information about services and facilities.

### **LAA Update**

The Partnership noted that the Gateshead Agreement was signed in June 2008 and it has been refreshed with Local Government Office North East. There have been no changes to our National Indicators.