



North Tyneside Council

Cabinet

9 February 2024

Monday, 19 February 2024 The Chamber, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm.**

Agenda Item	Page(s)
1. Apologies for Absence	
To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.	
2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted	
You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.	
You are also invited to disclose any dispensation in relation to any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.	
Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.	

If you need us to do anything differently (reasonable adjustments) to help you access our services, including providing this information in another language or format, please contact democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk.

Agenda Item	Page(s)
3. Minutes	7 – 36
<p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024 and the minutes of the Extraordinary meetings held on 29 January 2024 and 5 February 2024 respectively.</p>	
4. Report of the Young Mayor	
<p>To receive a verbal report on the latest activities of the Young Mayor and Young Cabinet.</p>	
5. Determination of School Admission Arrangements September 2025	37 – 94
<p>This is an annual report submitted to Cabinet to meet a statutory requirement to determine school admission arrangements before publication. This report is to approve the proposed admission arrangements for all Community Schools in North Tyneside for the 2025/2026 academic year including the co-ordinated admissions schemes.</p>	
6. Sixth Form Provision in North Shields	95 – 116
<p>Our ‘Ambition for Education’ makes clear, North Tyneside continues to have an education system to be proud of; one that remains a strong performer regionally and nationally. This reflects the hard work of education leaders and their teams, governing bodies, Elected Members, Authority staff and the fantastic children and young people.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to outline the work that has been done to consider post-16 education provision in the North Shields area of the Borough and develop the Mayor and Cabinet’s policy position.</p>	

- 7. Delivering 5,000 Affordable Homes and Reducing Derelict Properties in North Tyneside** **117 – 138**

The Our North Tyneside Plan was approved at full Council on 23 September 2021 and included a target of delivering 5,000 affordable homes and a commitment to reduce the number of derelict properties in the borough.

To meet this ambitious target, Cabinet approved a two-phased delivery approach to the Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) on 21 February 2022.

This report provides Cabinet with a progress update on the delivery of Phase One of the AHP and work planned for the year 2024-25. It also provides information on the good progress that has been made towards delivering Phase Two of the AHP and presents a revised programme that includes several new initiatives that will contribute to the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes.

- 8. Electric Vehicle Charging** **139 – 160**

Following the Motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023 relating to electric vehicle (EV) charging, which is appended to this report, a cross-party working group was established to consider matters raised in the Motion.

Full Council on 23 November 2023 noted the findings of the working group and agreed for these to be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration.

This report invites Cabinet to consider the findings of the working group and to approve a number of recommended actions which relate to the recommendations made by the working group.

9. Exclusion Resolution

This is to give further notice in accordance with paragraphs 5(4) and 5(5) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 of the intention to consider item 10 below in private.

Cabinet is requested to consider passing the following resolution:

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

10. Cobalt Business Park North

161 - 174

This report seeks approval from Cabinet for the proposed extension of the terms of a ground lease covering Cobalt Business Park North.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 18 March 2024 at 6.00pm.

Circulation overleaf ...

Circulated to Members of Cabinet: -

N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)
Councillor C Johnson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor K Clark
Councillor P Earley
Councillor S Graham
Councillor J Harrison
Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor H Johnson
Councillor A McMullen
Councillor S Phillips

**Young and Older People's Representatives and Partners of
North Tyneside Council.**

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Monday, 22 January 2024

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, K Clark, P Earley, S Graham,
J Harrison, Janet Hunter, H Johnson, A McMullen
and S Phillips

In Attendance: C Quinn (Young Mayor)
C Wilson (Business Representative)
D McNally (Age UK, North Tyneside)
V Smith (Voluntary Sector Representative)
R Layton (NT Joint Trade Union Committee)

Apologies: David Hodgson, Business Representative

**CAB2/23 To receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any
Dispensations Granted**

Councillor K Clark declared a registerable personal interest in agenda Item 5: 2023-24 Performance and Financial Management Report to 30 November 2023 (CAB84/24), as she was a Director and Employee at Justice Prince CIC which had contracts with North Tyneside Council funded from North Tyneside Council.

Councillor J Hunter declared a registerable personal interest in Agenda Item 5 as she is a Chair of Governors at Benton Dene School.

CAB3/23 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 November 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Hunter advised that she had submitted her apologies for the November meeting due to unforeseen circumstances they were not able to be recorded.

CAB4/23 Report of the Young Mayor

The Young Mayor reported on the following activities in which he and Young Cabinet Members and/or Youth Councilors had been involved:

- The Equality and Diversity Committee had made a video to showcase what they had been working on and hoped it would attract other young people to join them in their work.
- The Youth Council had received a visit from the Authority's young people's Mental Health and Wellbeing services, who explained about the Connect Team, Recovery Colleges, and the work they were doing in schools. The team would be visiting youth council quarterly to update on developments.
- The Young and youth councillors had taken part in the Authority's budget consultation.
- North Tyneside's Children in Care Council had taken part in a national project which was reviewing Children's Social Care, the session held with the Department of Education and Coram Voice were looking at residential care, stable homes built on love, supportive friendships, loving relationships and preparation for life. This is part of several consultations.
- Students from Beacon Hill school had helped review the leisure activities section of North Tyneside's SEND Local offer. They were working with the participation team to develop a paper document after they highlighted that some parts of the local offer website were not accessible to them in school. This work was being supported by the Authority's Participation Team.
- The first stage of online voting in the two elections for Young Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament had concluded and numbers had been reduced to the top four in each election involving schools across the borough including candidates from George Stephenson, St Thomas More, Marden High, Norham High and Marden Bridge Middle. The candidates will continue with their campaigns until the 2nd stage of voting to take place in schools and colleges in February, with the announcement on 1st March.

The Elected Mayor thanked the Young Mayor for his update.

Councillor Sandra Graham reminded Cabinet that the Young Mayor had also been involved in a tree planting day and an additional 475 trees were planted.

The Mayor thanked officers on explaining the budgets and finances to the Young

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People in a way that was easy for them to understand.

CAB5/23 2023-24 Performance and Financial Management Report to 30 November 2023

Cabinet received a report which provided a full overview of both the service delivery performance and budget position across the Authority as at 30 November 2023. For performance, it sets out the key areas of service delivery, including where this impacted in budget terms. In terms of the budget, it sets out the forecast outturn position to 31 March 2024 for both revenue and capital.

The report detailed the current position in relation to schools finance, the Authority's Investment Plan, developers' contributions and treasury management. It also provided details of additional revenue and capital grants received up until 30 November 2023.

In terms of performance, it was reported that service delivery overall across the Authority remained strong. The Authority continued to manage high levels of demand in a number of areas including Education, Health and Care Needs Plans, children in care, children in need, home care provision, residential and nursing care placements all of which have financial implications. Key areas of strength were delivery of the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 priorities such as the affordable homes programme and carbon net zero. The Ambition for North Tyneside Programme was progressing well with regeneration projects across the four areas of the borough. Capital investment continued to deliver planned improvement works helping maintain council homes at the decent homes standard. Council Tax and Business Rates collection also remained on track.

Since the last report, the number of children in care had increased from 376 in July to 385 in September, which was an additional 55 children in care compared to budgeted levels. The number of children in need had decreased from 1,664 in July to 1,617 in September, closing the gap on the 1,600 budgeted for. The result of the additional children in care compared to July combined with the current mix of placements had driven a £1.372m worsening of the Children's Services position, to a total forecasted pressure of £7.846m.

From a budget perspective, the overall projection for 2023/24 was that the

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General Fund would outturn with a pressure of £9.648m, which was an improvement of £1.662m from the previous report, and the Housing Revenue Account would have a forecast underspend of £0.070m.

The report also set out the programme of work which was in place to manage and mitigate the 2023/24 budget pressures and form part of the 2024-2028 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

The forecast budget monitoring position for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), schools finance and Treasury Management together with the service delivery performance position across the Authority as at 30 November 2023 were set out in detail in sections 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.5.5 of the report.

The Authority's Investment Plan spend to 30 November 2023 and the proposed financing of the Plan to the end of the year was details in section 1.5.4 of the report.

The current position with Section 106 Developer contributions were summarised in section 1.5.6 of the report.

The new revenue grants were outlined in section 1.5.7 and the new capital grants received were set out in section 1.5.8 of the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

It was noted that there is concern about the rising costs of childcare for those children who may have a complexity of needs as Local Authorities on occasion need to use private providers. It was suggested that this is an area which needs some regulations in terms of the fees that are charged.

It was also noted that despite the high level of funding required, this Authority continues to invest and tribute was paid to staff and Cabinet members for being prudent whilst keeping the authority's ambitions.

The Mayor thanked officers, councillors and the Unions, Business Representatives, and the Voluntary and Community Sector for their work with the Council to help during what have been difficult times.

Resolved that (1) the update provided on the Performance of the Authority including updated data on the key pressures facing the Authority and progress against the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025, be noted;

(2) the forecast budget monitoring position for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), schools finance and Treasury Management together with the service delivery performance position across the Authority as at 30 September 2023 (sections 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.5.5 of the report), be noted;

(3) the Authority's Investment Plan spend of £41.973m to 30 November 2023 and the proposed financing of the Plan to the end of the year (section 1.5.4 of the report), be noted;

(4) the variations of £3.789m within the 2023-2028 Investment Plan (section 1.5.4 of the report), be approved; and the current position with Developers' Contributions (section 1.5.6 of the report), be noted; and

(5) the receipt of £0.296m new revenue grants (as outlined in section 1.5.7 of the report), £0.370m of new capital grants and £0.083m of Section 106 Developer contributions to be applied in 2023/24 (as outlined in section 1.5.8 of the report), be approved.

(Reason for decision: It is important that Cabinet continues to monitor performance against the Budget, especially given the current level of financial pressures faced by the public sector.)

CAB6/23 Calculation of the 2024/25 Council Tax Base for North Tyneside Council

A report was received which explained how the North Tyneside Council Tax Base for 2024/25 had been calculated and sought approval for the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax Base for 2024/25.

The Council Tax Base was an annual statutory calculation, used to determine the level of Council Tax to be paid for individual properties in the borough. The Tax Base represented the number of properties that would be subject to Council Tax

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and is expressed in terms of the number of Band D equivalent properties, after allowing for the effect of discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

The agreed Tax Base for North Tyneside Council for 2024/25 would be used in the 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax calculation. The Tax Base was also used as the basis for the major precepting authorities (Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) to determine their precept requirements.

The 2024/25 Council Tax Base calculation and recommendations included a proposed assumed long term collection rate of 98.50% and took account of a change to the way that Long Term Empty Dwellings Premiums were administered by the Authority following a decision taken by full Council on 23 November 2023.

The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 remained the same as 2023/24.

The Council Tax Base calculation for North Tyneside Council for 2024/25 was detailed in Appendix A to and summarised in the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) that the report on the calculation of North Tyneside's Council Tax Base for 2024/25, be approved; and
(2) the assumed Council Tax collection rate for 2024/25 be set at 98.50% and therefore the amount calculated by North Tyneside Council as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 will be 64,471 Band D equivalent properties, pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, be agreed.

(Reason for decision: The proposed 98.50% assumed Council Tax collection rate, is felt to be achievable for the reasons set out in paragraph 1.5.13 of this report.

The risk of setting a Council Tax collection rate too high is that this can result in a deficit position for the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund, which in turn will have to be funded by the Authority's General Fund.

This collection rate is reviewed as part of the annual Council Tax Base calculation, and the 98.50% collection rate will be reviewed in determining the Council Tax Base for 2025/26.)

CAB7/23 Cabinet response to the Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee's Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Emergency Care in North Tyneside

A report was received on Cabinet's proposed response to the report of the which presented the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee's Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on its study into Emergency Care in North Tyneside.

On 27 November 2023 Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee's Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Emergency Care in North Tyneside. This Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was specifically established to take forward the matters set out in a motion regarding Emergency Healthcare, which had been agreed by full Council on 16 March 2023.

At its meeting on 12 June 2023 the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee agreed specific Terms of Reference for the work of the Task and Finish Group. These Terms of Reference set out the detailed objectives which the Task and Finish Group would seek to achieve through its work in scrutinising Emergency Healthcare in North Tyneside, pursuant to the motion passed by full Council in March 2023.

In detailed preparatory and fieldwork sessions undertaken during September and October 2023, the Task and Finish Group:

- a) received and considered detailed information on emergency healthcare and urgent treatment prepared by the Director of Public Health and Public Health Team, the Director of Adult Social Care, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Integrated Care Board (North East and Cumbria)
- b) hosted initial evidence gathering and scrutiny session with senior officers from the Authority and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (with information also provided at this session on behalf of the

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- Integrated Care Board)
- c) undertook a site visit for the Task and Finish Group to North Tyneside General Hospital (Rake Lane), North Shields
 - d) undertook a site visit for the Task and Finish Group to Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital (NSECH), Cramlington
 - e) held a concluding session (all Task and Finish Group members being invited) for evaluation of evidence and formulation of findings and recommendations.

The full report of the Task and Finish Group setting out the evidence on which its findings and recommendations were based was presented to Cabinet on 27 November 2023 and summarised in this report.

Having considered the findings summarised in the report, and the evidence base on which the Task and Finish Group had prepared its recommendations, Cabinet had indicated that it was minded to agree all recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group. Accordingly, Cabinet was recommended to formally agree the proposed responses to the recommendations, as set out in the Appendix to this report; and to authorise the Assistant Chief Executive, Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to deliver the proposed actions set out in the Appendix to this report as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Mayor noted that Cabinet fully endorses and accepts the findings of the Task and Finish Group and notes the action plan to take the recommendations forward where possible.

It was noted that it was hoped that the new regional Mayor may be able to help with the transport issue between the two hospitals.

The report was welcomed and Cabinet were happy to agreed the proposed actions.

The Mayor thanked those who had taken part in the task and finish group.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that(1) Cabinet’s proposed responses to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee’s Task and Finish Group on Emergency Care in North Tyneside as set out in the Appendix to the report, be agreed; and
(2) the Assistant Chief Executive, Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, be authorised to take all necessary steps to deliver the proposed actions set out in the Appendix to the report as soon as reasonably practicable.

(Reasons for decision: This will allow the Authority to progress the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, based on the evidence set out in the Task and Finish Group’s report, in accordance with Cabinet’s wishes. This will also fulfil Cabinet’s responsibility to formulate a response to the Task and Finish Group’s report, in accordance with requirements of the Local Government Act 2000.)

CAB8/23 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB9/23 Pension Update

Cabinet received a report which identified an error regarding the processing of some pension schemes which were administered by the Authority. This was a complex matter, but it was important that Cabinet was fully aware of an issue that had arisen regarding pensions.

The Authority administered several different pension schemes including Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) and NHS Pension Scheme (NHSPS) for its employees. Membership of those schemes depended on the roles undertaken by the employees.

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There were statutory obligations with the management of these schemes. Payroll, pensions and employee services were outsourced in 2012 by the Authority and returned in May 2023 from the service providers. Some pensions processing errors had recently been identified in relation to the operation of the schemes following a complaint from an employee about their pension arrangements. This led to a review of the pension service more closely.

Details of the pension processing errors, and the actions taken and to be taken were set in the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not approve the recommendations and ask for further work to be undertaken on the analysis of the pension issues.

Resolved that (1) the Director of Resources, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Head of Law and Head of People & OD, be authorised to liaise and work with the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund and the Pensions Regulator to resolve the errors identified in the report and ensure any affected pension member did not suffer any detriment to their pension arrangements; and
(2) the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Head of Law, be authorised to take any necessary action to mitigate any loss to the Authority as a result of the errors identified. This would include any appropriate legal action/proceedings against the former provider of payroll and pension and employee services to the Authority; and
(3) both the contents of the report and that a further update would be presented to Cabinet in due course, be noted.

(Reasons for decision: Due to the seriousness of these issues as well as the financial and reputational risk to the Authority, it is necessary to commence activity to remediate the affected employees. The errors are serious and must be reported to the Pensions Regulator as soon as possible.)

CAB10/23 The Former Complete Growth Nursery and Howdon Landfill Site

Cabinet received a report setting out details of a brownfield development site that had been identified with the potential to deliver up to 230 new homes once it

had undergone remediation; and seeking approval to declare the Site surplus to the Authority's requirements. The site comprised the former Complete Growth Nursery, Howdon Landfill Site and part of Howdon Park (shown by dark outline on the plan at Appendix 1).

This remediation and development opportunity was advertised on the open market following clearance being given by the Strategic Property Group in. Interested parties were asked to submit greenfield offers for the site by the closing date of 28 September, taking account of a requirement for 25% of the homes to be delivered as affordable homes. 7 bids were received.

These bids were scored on a combination of the value of offer made and on the bidders past experience of undertaking major remediation schemes in advance of development. Cabinet will note from the scoring matrix at Appendix 2 that bidder 5 scored the highest at 95%. This bid was from a volume national house builder with good experience of undertaking major remediation schemes in advance of development. To assist with the remediation of the site and to make it viable for development, it was anticipated that it would be possible to access up to £5m of Brownfield Funding that had been secured in principle from the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

By securing the remediation and development of this site the new homes would assist in the Authority's ability to deliver the new homes target as set out in the Local Plan, and its own affordable homes target.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) the Site be declared surplus to the Authority's requirements and the appointment of Bidder 5 as the Authority's Preferred Development Partner, be agreed;

(2) the Director of Resources be authorised to agree any reasonable revisions to the terms of the Development Agreement and sale contract arrangements and the final net sale price of the Site in consultation with the Elected Mayor and the Head of Law;

(3) the Head of Law be authorised to negotiate a Development Agreement and phased sale contract, together with associated documents and complete them

in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, the Authority's Constitution and Financial Regulations;

(4) the Head of Law be authorised to agree the arrangements for accessing the Brownfield Funding from the North of Tyne Combined Authority and to complete appropriate legal documentation with the Bidder 5, in order for them utilise the funding to remediate the site in advance of development. This will be in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, the Authority's Constitution and Financial Regulations and also Subsidy Control Rules, and;

(5) subject to resolution (4), the Director of Resources in consultation with the Elected Mayor and the Head of Law be authorised to take any further steps necessary to implement the decision of Cabinet.

(Reasons for decision. It is considered to be the most advantageous way forward to assist in the Authority's ability to deliver the new homes target set out in the Local Plan and the Authority's own affordable homes target.)

CAB11/23 The Former Tynemouth Library and 35 Front Street, Tynemouth

Cabinet considered a report which proposed redevelopment of the site of former Tynemouth Library and 35 Front Street, Tynemouth ("the Property"). Through the redevelopment of the Property, it would see the Authority deliver on its commitment to re-provide a modern library service in Tynemouth following the closure of the former library in February 2020. The extent of the Property was shown by the dark outline on the Appendix Plan.

The report also sought approval for declaring the Property surplus to the Authority's requirements and to agree to dispose of it to a bidder (the Purchaser) that recently submitted an offer to purchase the freehold interest in the Property when it was advertised for sale on the open market.

Prior to the sale of the Property, the Authority and the Purchaser shall enter into a Development Agreement which will require the Purchaser to redevelop the Property in accordance with a planning permission that the Authority secured in 2022. This was for the demolition of the Property and the redevelopment of the site with 6 residential apartments and a library and commercial unit to the ground floor. A condition of the sale will be that this unit is leased back to the Authority in shell condition for a term of 125 years at a peppercorn rent to facilitate the provision of a new library service and building society outlet.

In this respect, the Authority was already in detailed discussions regarding a proposed subletting arrangement as outlined in section 1.5.3 of the report. This was with the objective to secure the fit out of the unit so that it could be used jointly with the Authority as a new library and building society branch.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not approve the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) the Property be declared surplus to the Authority's requirements and the sale of it to the Purchaser on the main terms detailed in Section 1.5.2 of the report, be approved;

(2) the Director of Resources be authorised to agree any reasonable revisions to the terms of the sale contract and a preceding Development Agreement in consultation with the Elected Mayor and the Head of Law;

(3) the Head of Law be authorised to negotiate the Development Agreement and sale contract, together with associated documents, deal with any procurement issues arising from the Development Agreement and intended Sale Contract and to complete the freehold transfer of the Property in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, the Authority's Constitution and Financial Regulations;

(4) the Director of Resources be authorised to agree the final terms of the leaseback, sub-lease and sharing arrangements in respect of the library and commercial unit as detailed in Sections 1.5.2 and 1.5.3 of the report, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and the Head of Law, and;

(5) the Director of Resources be authorised to deal with all ancillary matters arising that are consistent with the preceding recommendations.

CAB12/23 Joint Venture Agreement and land disposals at the former Swan Hunter shipyard, Wallsend

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to dispose of land at the former Swan Hunter shipyard and to end a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Homes England in relation to the former shipyard.

Since the sale of land at the former shipyard in December 2020 to Shepherd Offshore and WD Close & Sons respectively, the Authority had been negotiating to

dispose of additional land interests within the JVA area to WD Close & Sons and an in-principal agreement had been reached.

Authority was sought to declare this additional land surplus to the Authority's requirements and to agree to the terms of disposal; also, to terminate the JVA and approve a delegation to the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law, to authorise payment of a share of the proceeds (as required by the original JVA) to Homes England.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) the progress made in delivering the development of the former Swan Hunter shipyard site, be noted;
(2) the termination of the Joint Venture Agreement dated 5 November 2013 made between the Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency, be agreed;
(3) subject to resolution (2), the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Director of Resources, be authorised to approve and authorise the share of net divisible receipts that was calculated should be paid to the Homes and Communities Agency and to make such payments;
(4) the land identified on the plan at Appendix 1 of the report as being surplus to the requirements of the Authority and agrees to the disposal of the land on the terms set out in paragraph 1.5.3 of this report, and;
(5) subject to resolution (4) the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law be authorised to conclude the disposals to WD Close & Sons Limited and to take all necessary steps in that regard.

(Reason for decision: The recommended option will enable the Authority and Homes England to bring the JVA to an end in accordance with Homes England's condition when previously giving consent to dispose of land to WD Close & Sons Limited and Shepherd Offshore Limited in December 2020.)

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CAB13/23 Date and time of next meetings

Monday 29 January 2024 at 6.00pm (Extraordinary meeting)

Monday 5 February 2024 at 6.00pm (Extraordinary meeting)

Monday 19 February 2024 at 6.00pm (Ordinary meeting)

Minutes published on 25 January 2024

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 1 February 2024.

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Cabinet

Monday, 29 January 2024

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, K Clark, P Earley, S Graham,
J Harrison, Janet Hunter, H Johnson and S Phillips

In Attendance: Councillor J Montagu, Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee
David Hodgson (Business Representative)

Apologies: Councillors A McMullen
Dawn McNally (Age UK)

CAB80/23 To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

Councillor K Clark declared a registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals, as she was a Director and Employee at Justice Prince CIC which had contracts with North Tyneside Council funded from North Tyneside Council.

Councillor P Early declared registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals is a Trustee of North Tyneside Carers Centre which has a contract with the Council.

Councillor J Harrison declared registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals as he is a member of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

CAB81/23 Adult Social Care Charging Proposals – Consultation Response and Decision on Implementation of Changes

Cabinet considered a report which outlined the responses to a public consultation requested by Cabinet on the proposed changes to the Adult Social

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Care Charging Policy and to seek approval for implementation of Charges.

The purpose of the consultation was for feedback on the proposed changes to update the charges and remove charging anomalies. There were 425 responses received with an overwhelming support for the proposals with 96% of respondents confirming they received a good quality of care and service.

The provision is means tested and following assessments service users will make a financial contribution towards their care. The Council will make sure assessments are undertaken fairly and equitably.

Cabinet considered the decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the report, or alternatively, to not approve the recommendations.

Resolved that Cabinet (1) Notes the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed changes to the Authority's 'Contributions Policy for Adult Care and Support Services'; and (2) Agrees to implement the recommended changes to the Authority's Contributions Policy for Adult Care and Support Services, as outlined in this report and highlighted in the Policy which is appended to this report at Appendix 1 and authorises the Director of Adult Social Care to implement those changes; and (3) Authorises the Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, the Director of Resources and the Head of Law to make any future amendments to the Contributions Policy for Adult Care and Support Services and to take any steps that are considered appropriate to implement such amendments.

Reason for decision: The recommendations are intended to increase the amount of funding available in North Tyneside to provide social care services to those who cannot meet the costs of their care. The recommendations also address some aspects of inequity which have been identified to ensure all people are treated the same, according to their financial assessment.

CAB82/23 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet's Updated Budget Proposals

Cabinet received a report which presented the current position and a key milestone in the development of the 2024/25 budget and the 2024-2028 Medium

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Term Financial Plan (MTFP) as it set out Cabinet Budget Proposals for the next financial year and beyond. The Our North Tyneside Plan remains the delivery focus for the Mayor and Cabinet and the Budget is driven by the Authority's key priorities that make up the Plan, a Thriving, Secure, Family Friend, Caring and Green North Tyneside.

Cabinet heard from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee who had chaired the budget study group. The budget study sub-group was open to all non-Executive member of the Chamber and there was cross party representation. The report of the Sub-Group was considered by the full Committee at its meeting on 15 January. This summarised the findings from the 4 meetings of the sub group which took place before Christmas, including presentations from senior officers and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

The group has met again with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and any further updates will be reported to Cabinet on 5 February following a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee on 31 January.

The Sub-Group agreed that the budget process was challenging once again especially in light of several key elements not being released at the time of the 27 November report.

In the conclusion section, we draw particular attention to a number of specific topics including home to school transport, highways funding, support to tenants, food waste and garden waste collections and future council tax support.

Following on from Cabinet's initial Budget Proposals report in November Councillor Johnson presented to Cabinet updated Budget proposals for onward consideration by Council next month.

Councillor Johnson advised that we want North Tyneside to be a great place to live, work, visit and raise a family. We want our residents to thrive, and to live healthy, secure and fulfilling lives. We look after our residents, we look after our environment and we look after our borough. We – the Mayor and Cabinet – have clear priorities for our borough, as set out in the Our North Tyneside Plan. Our budget supports these priorities and it will ensure we deliver our front-line services, continue investing in all parts of the borough, and help those in our

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communities who need it most. Despite thirteen years of government cuts and continued uncertainty, we are proud to have protected our vulnerable residents, secured millions in external funding to deliver ambitious regeneration projects, and built thousands of new homes.

We listened to residents and we acted on what was important to them. We kept and invested in our libraries, our leisure centres, our parks. However, we are now in even tougher times, rising inflation, energy costs and on-going global challenges are putting more pressure on us. Our Adult and Children's social care services are experiencing more demand, with cases growing in complexity. The government continues to expect local authorities to shoulder this burden of increasingly complex and costly social care, without increasing funding. We are expected to do more, with less. In November we confirmed that if Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept are increased to 4.99%, which is what the government assumes, the in-year saving we still needed to find at that stage was £3.7m and we continued to work hard to find a solution. Councillor Johnson announced that we forecasted for many of the challenges I have outlined, and are now in a position to present a balanced budget. Our Budget Proposals have been updated to reflect the outcomes from the Provisional Local Government Settlement in December, as well as the Autumn Statement both of which have introduced additional, and unexpected, challenges for us. The scale of the issues we face are significant. Our Budget Proposals identified over £37m of pressures alone, and we have worked hard to find over £21m of savings to address these, to help bring us to this balanced position. However, looking over the next four years, up to 2028, we have a potential gap of £32.7m if we take no action which is why our approach extends beyond the coming financial year.

The Settlement has increased our Core Spending Power, which is the amount of money we have to fund our services, from government grants and assumed income from Council Tax and Business Rates retention. Our Core Spending Power has increased by more than 6.5%, at £14.6m. However, while this rise sounds significant, most of it comes through the government assumption that we will increase Council Tax by 4.99% and not through large, and much-needed, increases to social care grants to address the increasing demand that we continue to face. After publishing the Cabinet Papers, the Government has announced additional funding for local authorities of £600m. This followed lobbying by the sector on the Settlement, including by ourselves, about the significant pressures faced, especially in social care - £500m has been allocated

for social care pressures.

Whilst additional funding is welcome towards these key pressures which are being experienced throughout the country, it is still not sufficient to meet the budget growth we need to deliver our social care services.

The Government did not confirm how this funding will be allocated, so I cannot confirm how much we expected to get – but based on previous allocations this could be between one and two million pounds. We will find out the actual figure on the Final Settlement, which is expected around 8 February. However, we are already proposing growth relating to Adults and Children’s social care of almost £15m, of which only around £8m is met by government funding including the potential additional allocation, which means our budget proposals are already having to make significant local contributions to meet what is our highest demand pressure. The final allocation will be confirmed to Council at its meeting on 15 February. The amount of funding we are awarded is simply not sufficient to meet our needs and on a per dwelling basis our Core Spending Power falls below both the North East and the national average. This budget proposes to continue to help those residents who need it, including local support with council tax costs, and our £3m fund over three years to help tenants access the full support they’re entitled to.

We are a supportive council, and when a resident needs help, we will help them. But we are also an ambitious council. This budget proposes to continue investing wisely, in line with our priorities. We’ll continue to use external funding to the maximum effect, building on our strong track record and we’ll be proactive in seeking out funding opportunities. This budget supports our ambitious target of being carbon net-zero by 2030. We will have a cleaner, greener and safer borough. Within our Investment Plan we are continuing our plans to invest over £300m in improving our Borough, improving our roads, schools, buildings and ensuring we have the infrastructure in place to deliver our services effectively and efficiently. We work hard to secure external investment, with over £55m of our investment funded by external grants and contributions. Cabinet’s final proposals will be reported to Council on 15 February. This will confirm the amount of additional funding to be received in the Settlement and how we will use this. However, at this stage I can confirm our intention is to maintain our MTFP proposals as set out over the past few months. Any additional funding will be used to reduce the deferral of our Strategic Reserve replenishment, to limit the reliance on the capital receipts flexibilities and to explore options to enhance of

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Poverty Intervention Fund, to take account of the potential ending of the Household Support Fund by the Government.

Cabinet head from the Cabinet member for Housing, he advised that the report in November reiterated that our Housing Revenue Account – HRA – is facing the same external challenges as our General Fund, and high inflation is significantly increasing the cost of maintaining and improving our homes. We continue to follow our long-term plan for our HRA, seeking to invest in our homes in a responsible and sustainable way, and helping to provide much-needed additional affordable housing through our new build programme, in line with our green priorities as a council. We are proposing to increase our rents in line with government policy. This means increasing rent by CPI as of September 2023, plus one percent. CPI is the Consumer Price Index, a national measurement for changes to the price of goods and services. CPI in September 2023 was 6.7%. The recommended rent increase for 24/25, in line with government policy, is therefore 7.7%. Following a review of our service charges, we are proposing some changes, to reflect the impact of the significant financial pressures already outlined. However, as a responsible landlord, we will provide support to those tenants who need it, and are proposing to ensure that our most vulnerable tenants are protected. No existing tenant will pay more than the inflationary element to any service charge increase.

It was also noted that we will also continue with our investment in tenancy sustainment measures and support, as mentioned by Cllr Johnson. All of this has been factored in to a refreshed HRA Business plan, to ensure that the plan can be balanced, while supporting the Mayor and Cabinet's objectives. Within our plans we're expecting to invest almost £3.5 billion of revenue over the next 30 years in managing and maintaining our homes as well as almost £1.6 billion of capital investment to improve our homes and ensure they continue to meet the Decent Homes standard.

In line with our Affordable Homes plans, our long term plans include over £205m to fund the construction of additional homes. Our investment plans for the coming year include over £38m of capital investment across our portfolio, with over £8m of this supporting our immediate new build plans.

We remain committed to improving sustainability as part of our Carbon Net Zero Action Plan, aiming to install over 850 energy efficient boilers as well as external insulation measures and solar PV arrays. We will continue to deliver a range of

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lasting improvements for our tenants, from over 200 planned roof replacements, to the installation of over 700 new kitchens and bathrooms as well as boundary and public realm improvements. We're proud to continue supporting apprenticeships and our Working Roots programme, which gives young people a second chance with employment and training.

We listen to our tenants, and we are proud of the services we deliver to our tenants. Our budget proposals demonstrate our ability to respond to challenges and to continue to deliver our long-term objectives in line with the Our North Tyneside Plan.

It was noted that during the consultation process it has been suggested that there be a reduction in cycle lanes, however, it was noted that the development of cycle lanes is through government funding which is for those specific projects.

The Mayor and Cabinet members thanked officers for all of their hard work in the preparation of the proposals, it was noted that North Tyneside wants the best for residents and continues to be ambitious and work to continue to have a stable financial position, to keep services open and show the ambition for North Tyneside and support for residents. It was noted that we are in government for the benefit of the residents to make a difference to their lives and it is important that we remain ambitious for North Tyneside, we have made significant reforms in Whitley Bay and are being ambitious and trying to do the same in North Shields, Wallsend and the North West.

Cabinet considered the decision options: to either approve the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not approve the recommendations.

Resolved that Cabinet (1) agreed the key principles being adopted in preparing the Medium-Term Financial Plan, which is the Annex to this report, for the Authority, subject to an annual review; (2) considered and agreed proposals for the estimates of amounts for the 2024/25 setting of the Council Tax requirement, including the General Fund Revenue Budget, thereby calculating the proposed level of Council Tax to be recommended to full Council for its meeting on 15 February 2024, in accordance with the Authority's Constitution and Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules; (3) request that the Chief Finance Officer to prepare the appropriate

Council Tax requirement and Budget Resolution document for full Council's consideration at its meeting on 15 February 2024; (4) consider and agree proposals for the 2024-2029 Investment Plan (Appendix D (i)), including the Capital Investment Strategy (Appendix D (iv)) and Prudential Indicators for 2024-2029 (Appendix D (iii)), calculated in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Prudential Framework and the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy in line with capital finance regulations, and note that these will be submitted to full Council for its meeting on 15 February 2024; (5) considered and agreed proposals for the flexible use of capital receipts to support investment in transformational projects linked to the Authorities Medium-Term Financial Plan and note this will be submitted to full Council for its meeting on 15 February 2024; (6) noted that all schemes within the 2024-2029 Investment Plan will be kept under corporate review by the Investment Programme Board; (7) considered and agreed proposals for the Treasury Management Statement, Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and Treasury Management Practices (Appendix C & D of this report) and note these will be submitted to full Council for its meeting on 15 February 2024; (8) noted the outcomes from the engagement process on the Budget proposals (Appendix F); (9) noted the formal Reserves and Balances Policy for the Authority, subject to review at least annually (Appendix H of this report); (10) Noted the key aspects of the 2024/25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 18 December 2023 and how these have been incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan of the Authority. In addition, Cabinet should note the outstanding information required to allow the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to finalise the proposals; (11) noted the medium-term financial challenges and financial risks facing the Authority and agree to address these issues as part of developing the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the Authority and progressing the agreed project workstreams, with progress reported to Cabinet as part of the regular Performance and Financial Management Reporting in order to deliver continued financial stability and prudent management of its financial resources; (12) noted the conclusions of the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee's review of the 2024/25 initial Budget proposals (Appendix I) and note any impact the recommendations may have on the General Fund Budget proposals and Housing Revenue Account and note that any recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee in relation to Cabinet's final Budget

proposals will be considered by Cabinet on 5 February 2024; (13) noted the Provisional Statement by the Chief Finance Officer (Section 11 of the Annex to this report); (14) authorised the Mayor to make any final amendments to Cabinet's proposals in relation to any outstanding information to enable due consideration to be given to the final level of Council Tax that Cabinet proposes to full Council for approval for 2024/25; (15) considered and agreed the final proposals in relation to the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account Budget and associated Business Plan; (16) there be an increase in individual housing rents by 7.7% as outlined in Annex 1 HRA to this report, in line with the Government's policy for social rent which involves increasing rents by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September + 1%; (17) considered and agreed the proposed changes to service charges which are outlined within the report, which also includes protection for existing tenants to limit any increases in line with the rent increase; and (18) increased garage rents for 2024/25 by 7.7% in line with the rent increases as per Section 1.7 of the report.

(Reason for decision: Due to external information still to be received, Cabinet is not able to finalise its proposed Council Tax level for 2024/25 in relation to the General Fund. However, information is suitably advanced to allow the budget proposals to be set out for the General Fund revenue and Investment Plan for consideration by Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee.

The recommendations also include the proposals to agree the final rent, service charge and other elements in relation to HRA to allow updates to tenants billing to commence in advance of the new financial year.)

CAB83/23 Date and Time of Next Meetings

Monday 5 February 2024 – Extraordinary Meeting

Monday 19 February 2024 – Ordinary Meeting

Minutes published on 31 January 2024.

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview,

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Scrutiny and Co-ordination and Finance Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 8 February 2024.

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Monday, 5 February 2024

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, K Clark, P Earley, S Graham,
J Harrison, Janet Hunter, H Johnson, A McMullen
and S Phillips

In Attendance: D Hodgson (Business Sector)
R Layton (JTUC)

Apologies: No apologies were received

CAB97/23 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Councillor K Clark declared a registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals, as she was a Director and Employee at Justice Prince CIC which had contracts with North Tyneside Council funded from North Tyneside Council, she is also a co-opted governor of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for which she has a dispensation granted.

Councillor P Early declared registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals is a Trustee of North Tyneside Carers Centre which has a contract with the Council.

Councillor J Harrison declared registerable personal interest in agenda Item 3: 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process – Cabinet’s updated budget proposals as he is a member of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Councillor Harrison has a dispensation granted in relation both of these roles.

CAB98/23 Report of the Budget Scrutiny Sub-Group of the OSCF Committee in response to Cabinet's Final Budget Proposals as part of the 2024-2028 Financial Planning and Budget Process

Cabinet received a report to consider the outcomes of the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee meeting on 31 January 2024 which considered the Budget Study Sub-Group's review and challenge of Cabinet's budget proposals.

Cabinet noted that the Scrutiny Process is a vital element of the budget setting process for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and our Investment Plan. It's important that we ensure we are developing our proposals in a robust, effective manner and we welcome the challenge that the process has delivered. With that in mind Councillor McMullen expressed his thanks to the Members who have engaged with the process and provided probing questions and constructive feedback throughout.

It was noted that given the immense pressure on our resources it is important that we continue to make the right decisions regarding our Budget and that we embed our key principles and the delivery of Our North Tyneside Plan in our process.

It was noted that the report acknowledges the significant challenges that we face, with ongoing inflationary pressures, increasing demand and complexity and heightened uncertainty around our funding, but it was pleasing to see recognition within the report that despite the challenges, the 2024/25 budget is balanced and is in line with the agreed Our North Tyneside Plan. It is also pleasing to note that there were no formal recommendations raised, there were a number of points for Cabinet to consider which I will address in turn.

- Home to School Transport, the report acknowledged the need for change but confirmed the need for savings to be delivered. I can confirm that the approach we are taking will consider the outcome of the consultation process, as well as our statutory requirements as we look to align the services we provide to the resources we have available to us.
- Regarding our Highways, the group welcomed the Authority's proposal to continue to invest our own resources on improving the condition of our

roads and pavements. We have made a significant contribution in excess of the amount the government have allocated to us for this purpose. This confirms that this does indeed represent a key priority within our Investment Plan. Investing an additional £2m each year does bring ongoing financing costs, which have balanced with our other priorities within the Budget. However, we should not forget that we continue to attract significant levels of external funding to help undertake highway improvements across a range of schemes. Our investment is made in accordance with our Highways Asset Management Plan principles and the condition of our network continues to be closely monitored. Our plans retain the flexibility to respond and react to additional funding announcements as we've seen in recent years. But, this is an area where we simply do not receive enough government funding and we continue to lobby to ensure the scale of the pressures we, and other Local Authorities, face.

- Within the Housing Revenue Account, there was significant consideration regarding the proposed rent increase, which is in line with the government's policy of Consumer Price Index plus 1%. Our HRA budget, which was agreed last week, balanced rent decisions with our long-term investment needs and the need for additional affordable housing. However, the Authority does continue to listen to the views of our tenants and we are maintaining our commitment to those in need, including the continuation of the £3m Tenancy Sustainment Fund we created in 2023/24 which included a range of measures to help support our tenants and improve sustainability.
- The report highlighted uncertainty around the funding associated with the Government's proposed introduction of separate food waste collections. Whilst we have since had formal confirmation of the capital grant the Government intend to provide, confirming we would receive £1.6m towards a projected capital cost of £2.1m, we still await details of the revenue funding. As the report suggests, this is an area we will continue to monitor closely and ensure that we are prepared and that the financial implications are fully considered.
- In relation to future Council Tax support, our budget proposals continue to

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maintain provision to fund £1.5m of additional Council Tax support measures. The nature and level of this fund will be considered as part of developing our proposals in future years alongside other support measures to ensure the package remains appropriate, but we maintain our commitment to supporting our residents.

Cabinet agrees with the need to closely monitor how each of the project workstreams are delivering as they continue to evolve. Throughout the scrutiny process, additional information was provided to respond to queries and challenge which provides a good foundation for understanding the level of detail that is required moving forwards. The existing Performance and Financial Management reporting framework provides us with an opportunity for regular progress reporting. It also gives us an increasing focus on how we are performing against our plans. Both Cabinet and Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee will continue to play an important role in ensuring that we continue to deliver successfully within our financial plans.

Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations set out in the report and the responses to the useful points made within the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee report.

Cabinet **RESOLVED**: that the report of the Budget Scrutiny Committee Sub-Group of the Overview, Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee dated 16 January 2024 in response to Cabinet's Final Budget Proposals be noted.

CAB99/23 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 19 February 2024 at 6.00pm

Minutes published on 8 February 2024

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 15 February 2024.

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 19 February 2024

Title: Determination of School Admission Arrangements September 2025.

Portfolio(s):	Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills Supporting and Protecting Children	Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Steven Phillips Cllr Peter Earley
Report from Service Area:	Commissioning, Partnerships and Transformation		
Responsible Officer:	Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services	Tel: (0191) 6431454	
Wards affected:	All		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This is an annual report submitted to Cabinet to meet a statutory requirement to determine school admission arrangements before publication. This report is to approve the proposed admission arrangements for all Community Schools in North Tyneside for the 2025/2026 academic year including the co-ordinated admissions schemes.

The Authority has a duty to consult on all aspects of its proposed admission arrangements if there are any proposed changes to the arrangements.

There are no changes proposed.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) approve the 2025/2026 proposed admission arrangements and limits for Community Schools, as outlined in Appendices 1 to 5, subject to the appropriate publication of Statutory Notices;
- (2) authorise the Director of Children’s Services, to proceed in administering admission arrangements for the 2025/2026 academic year, subject to the publication of Statutory Notices and compliance with obligations required by the Secretary of State in accordance with the timescales set: and
- (3) authorise the Director of Children’s Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Supporting and Protecting Children to formally seek approval, as necessary, from the Schools Adjudicator in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, for any necessary variations to the determined arrangements for the 2025/26 academic year should these arise.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 8 December 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority in the 2021-2025 Our North Tyneside Plan:

A family friendly North Tyneside:

- We will ensure all children are ready for school including through poverty proofing the school day – giving our kids the best start in life

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Co-ordinated Admission Schemes (The Scheme)

All Local Authorities are required to formulate and consult on a scheme for each academic year for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools within their area. This requirement includes maintained boarding schools but excludes maintained special schools and maintained nursery schools. Co-ordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admission process for parents whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination establishes a mechanism that

ensures that, as far as is practical, every child living in a Local Authority area who has applied in the normal admissions round receives one, and only one, offer of a school place on the same day. While it is for each Local Authority to decide the scheme that best suits its residents and its schools, Authorities must ensure that they:

- a. comply with law, and the School Admission Code 2021, including all the process requirements (for example, the common application form allowing at least 3 preferences, information sharing with other Local Authorities, sending out not more than one offer to all seeking places at its maintained schools or academies on the same day); and
- b. do not disadvantage applications to their schools from families resident in other Local Authority areas.

The Scheme applies to applications received from September 2024 for entry into maintained schools in September 2025. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) requires the Authority to exchange specified information on applications with neighbouring Authorities.

The purpose of the Scheme is to co-ordinate admissions into all mainstream maintained first and primary, middle and high schools in North Tyneside. The Regulations also place a duty on all Local Authorities to make arrangements within their Scheme for cross-Authority border co-ordination of admissions.

The Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes are shown in Appendices 1 and 2.

1.5.1 Admissions Numbers

All schools must have an admission number for each 'relevant age group'. This is defined in law as 'an age group in which pupils are or will normally be admitted' to the school in question. Admission Authorities of maintained schools must set admission numbers with regard to the capacity assessment for the school under the Regulations.

The Planned Admission Numbers are shown at Appendix 3

1.5.2 Admission Policies

Pupils will be able to go to their preferred school unless there are more applications to that school than there are places available. If there are more

applications than places available at a school, oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places after any children with an Education, Health and Care Plan have been provided for where the Education, Health and Care Plan names a specific school.

Admissions Policies for admission to North Tyneside Community Schools and Nurseries for which the LA is the Admissions Authority are shown at Appendices 4 and 5.

1.5.3 Oversubscription Criteria

The oversubscription criteria used by the Authority where there are more applications than places available are set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of this report.

1.5.4 Admissions to Year 12 (sixth form)

Where a secondary school operates a sixth form and admits pupils from other schools at age 16, for instance, an admission number will be required for Year 12 as well as for the main year or years. Admission numbers must refer to pupils being admitted to the school for the first time and not transferring from earlier age groups. The entry requirements for sixth form are largely dependent on the course of study that a student wishes to access.

Details of specific requirements and courses available may be obtained for individual schools. All schools publish information about their post 16 provision.

1.5.5 Community Schools

The Authority is responsible for consultation on and the determination of the admission arrangements for community schools in the North Tyneside area in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

1.5.6 The Learning Trust Schools

The North Tyneside Learning Trust was established in September 2010 and currently comprises 44 schools. The governing bodies of these schools are responsible for determining their arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

Five of the schools in the Learning Trust are Special Schools and these arrangements do not apply to them.

1.5.7 Voluntary Aided Schools

There are 3 Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools and the governing bodies of these schools are responsible for consultation on and the determination of their own admission arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

1.5.8 Academies

There are 17 academies in North Tyneside. The governing bodies/Trust boards of these schools are responsible for consultation on and the determination of their own admission arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

Any school which subsequently changes its status and becomes an academy will be responsible for determining its own admission arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 following the change.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report.

Option 2

Not to approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report and request Officers undertake further work to change proposed admission arrangements.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

There are no changes to the admission arrangements.

The recommendations contained in this report are made to secure compliance with statutory requirements as outlined in Section 2.2 of this report.

If the recommended option is not approved, the Authority may not be in compliance with statutory requirements as outlined in Section 2.2 of this report.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme First and Primary Schools 2025

Appendix 2: Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme Middle and High Schools 2025

Appendix 3: Proposed Admissions Numbers Community First and Primary Schools September 2025

Appendix 4: Proposed Admissions to Nursery Policy September 2025

Appendix 5: Proposed Admissions to Community First and Primary Schools Policy September 2025

1.9 Contact officers:

Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services Tel: 0191 643 1454

Mark Mirfin, Head of Service, Commissioning, Partnerships and Transformation
Tel: 0191 643 8340

Val Johnson, Access Manager, Tel: 0191 6438721

David Mason, Head of Finance Tel: 0191 643 3293

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report:

1. Schools Admissions Code December 2021 [School admissions code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
2. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 [The School Admissions \(Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
3. Equality Act 2010 [http://www.gov.uk/ Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/Equality-Act-2010)
4. School Standards and Framework Act 1998 [School Standards and Framework Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

2.2 Legal

The Authority has a duty under Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, in particular sections 88C and 88M of that Act, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admissions Code 2021 to determine the admission arrangements for maintained schools, for which the Authority is the Admission Authority. It also has a duty to formulate a qualifying scheme for co-ordinating the arrangements for the admission of pupils to maintained schools and academies in the Authority's area.

The Authority is only required to consult on the admission arrangements for those schools for which it is the Admissions Authority by 31 January 2023 if there are any changes to the previously agreed arrangements. The admission arrangements for 2024/2025 must be determined by 28 February 2023.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Regulations made under that Act in relation to responsibilities for the discharge of functions, Cabinet is responsible for determining this matter.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills has been consulted in relation to the proposals.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

No consultation required

2.4 Human rights

The Human Rights Act 1998 confers a right of access to education. This right does not extend to securing a place at a particular school. Admissions Authorities, however, do need to consider parents' reasons for expressing a preference when they make decisions about the allocation of school places, to take account of the rights of parents under the Human Rights Act 1998, though this may not necessarily result in the allocation of a place. These might include, for example, the parents' right to ensure that their child's education conforms to their own religious or philosophical convictions (so far as is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure).

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Under section 85 of the Equality Act 2010, it is unlawful for any education provider, including a private or independent provider, to discriminate between pupils on grounds of disability, sex, race, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief. Discrimination on these grounds, which are known as 'protected characteristics', is unlawful in relation to admission arrangements. There are exceptions to these requirements set out in Schedule 11 of the 2010 Act, including in respect of admissions to single

sex schools, schools with a religious character and in respect of other types of education providers such as further and higher education. In addition, the Equality Act 2010 introduces the following duties on the responsible bodies of schools:

- (a) A duty not to harass a pupil or a person who has applied for admission (on the basis of protected characteristics, harassment or less favourable treatment);
- (b) A duty not to victimise a person in its admission arrangements;
- (c) A duty to make reasonable adjustments in respect of the admission of prospective pupils who may be disabled and not to discriminate in respect of the same.

The arrangements that North Tyneside Council has in place are fully compliant with Section 85 of the Equality Act 2010. In addition, all maintained schools are also fully aware of their responsibilities associated with the Act.

When approving the admission scheme the Authority must also as a result of its duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct which is prohibited by or under that Act, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in relation to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

2.6 Risk management

Failure to determine the admission arrangements could result in the Secretary of State imposing admission arrangements on the Authority.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X

Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for First and Primary Schools in North Tyneside Local Authority 2025

Introduction

1. This Scheme is made by North Tyneside Council under the Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary) (England) Regulations 2008 and applies to all First and Primary Schools in North Tyneside.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme -

"The LA" means North Tyneside Council acting in their capacity as Local Authority;

"The LA area" means the area in respect of which the LA is the Local Authority;

"Primary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996;

"Secondary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

"Primary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

"Secondary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

"School" means a community, foundation or voluntary school (but not a special school), which is maintained by the LA;

"VA schools" means such of the schools as are voluntary aided schools;

"Trust schools" means such of the schools have a trust status;

"Academy" means such of the schools have academy status;

"Admission Authority" in relation to a community school means the LA and, in relation to Trust and VA schools means the governing body of that school, and in relation to an Academy means the Academy Trust of that school.

"The equal preference system" the scheme operated by North Tyneside Council whereby all preferences listed by parents/carers on the common application form are considered under the over-subscription criteria for each school without reference to parental rankings. Where a pupil may be offered a

place at more than one school, the rankings are used to determine the single offer by selecting the one ranked highest on the common application form;

"The specified year" means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2025;

"Academic year" means a period commencing with 1st August and ending with the next 31st July.

"The determination year" in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for a school, means the academic year beginning two years before the academic year to which the arrangements relate.

"Admission arrangements" means the overall procedure, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places and refers to any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered;

"Parent/Carer" means any person who holds parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, and with whom the child normally resides;

"Direct distance" means the distance measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority;

"Appropriate school" means the nearest school identified by the authority in accordance with the home to school transport policy;

"Home" local authority means the local authority in whose area the parents live;

The Primary "National Offer Day" is 16 April or the next working day;

"In year" admission means any application for a place other than the normal year of entry;

School Admissions Code refers to the code published in September 2021;

"Eligible for a place" means that a child has been placed on a school's ranked list at such a point, which falls within the school's published admission number.

Commencement and extent

This scheme applies in relation to the admission arrangements for the schools for admission year 2025–2026 (the specified year).

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to this scheme, or provisions having the same effect.

The governing body of each of the Academies, VA and Trust schools will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in the Schedule, as far as relevant to that school, or provisions having the same effect.

The Scheme

1. The Scheme shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.
2. The scheme shall apply to every school in the LA area as identified in Appendix 1 (except special schools).
3. The Scheme will also include applications from parents seeking admission to North Tyneside schools who live within the following neighboring LA's:
 - Newcastle Local Authority
 - Northumberland Local Authority

We will also co-ordinate our admission process with any other Admission Authorities where relevant.

SCHEDULE 1

PART I – THE SCHEME

1. There will be a standard form known as the Common Application Form.
2. The Common Application Form will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year of First and Primary education in the specified year, and for applications made outside the normal year of entry i.e. 'In year' admissions leading up to, and during, the academic year 2025/2026.
3. The Common Application Form must be used as a means of expressing up to 3 preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and

Framework Act 1998, by parents' resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child-

- a To be admitted to a school within the LA area (including Academies, VA and Trust schools);
- b To be admitted to a school located in another LA's area (including Academies, VA, and Trust schools)

4. The Common Application Form will -

- a Allow parents to express up to 3 preferences, including, where relevant, any schools outside the LA's area, in the rank order in which they wish their child to receive an offer of a place at the respective schools,
- b Specify the closing date and where the application form must be returned in accordance with paragraph 10.

5. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- a That the Common Application Form is available on request from the LA and on-line at www.northynteside.gov.uk/schooladmission until the closing date and
- b. That the Common Application Form is accompanied by a written explanation of the key features of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.

6. The LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

- a Every parent resident in the LA area who has a child attending a nursery class or early years setting and is eligible to commence primary education receives a written explanation of how to apply either online or paper copy (on request only); and
- b Every parent whose application falls within the category of an 'In Year' transfer receives a copy of the Common Application Form (and written explanation), on request, and understands the process.

Parents will be advised that they will receive no more than one offer of a school place and that:

- (i) If more than one school is nominated and two or more preferences can be offered the parent will be regarded as having ranked the schools in the order appearing on the form (the first-mentioned being ranked the highest); and

- (ii) Places at any oversubscribed school will be offered based on equal preference rank order and that where an offer is made it would be for the highest ranked school.
 - (iii) If a place cannot be offered at a nominated school, a place will be offered at an alternative school.
7. The Common Application Form will include an extra section to be completed by parents who express a preference for a Voluntary Aided School to enable them to provide additional relevant information.
8. Where a school receives a supplementary information form from a North Tyneside resident it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a Common Application Form and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary information forms are received directly by schools the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a Common Application Form has been received from the parent and, if not, the LA will contact the parent and ask them to complete a Common Application Form. Under the requirements of the scheme parents will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary information form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.
9. Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude, to enable decisions to be made on nominations, conform to the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule 2. (N.B. no Community, Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided School in North Tyneside operates criteria for selection based on ability or aptitude)

Processing of Common Application Forms

10. It will be the responsibility of parents to ensure that Common Application Forms are received directly to the LA by the closing date of **13 January 2025**. Common Application Forms may also be completed on-line by the closing date.

Determining offers in response to the Common Application Form

11. The LA will act as a clearinghouse for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the Common Application Forms. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the Common Application Form where-

- (a) It is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or
- (b) An applicant is eligible for more than one place and is allocated a place at the highest ranked school, or
- (c) An applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

The LA will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 18 of this Schedule.

- 12. Completed application forms must be received by the closing date of **13 January 2025**.
- 13. Completed application forms, which are received after the closing date will be marked 'LATE' and considered on an individual basis except that the procedure must not prevent the proper processing under the Scheme of application forms received on time.
- 14. The LA will process all application forms; any completed application forms must be treated as a confidential communication between the parent and the LA. All ranked applications received by the closing date will be considered before any ranked applications received after this closing date unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- 15. **By 3 February 2025** the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information received by this date, which schools require to apply their oversubscription criteria. Where parents have nominated a school outside the LA area, the LA will also similarly notify the relevant authority/authorities by this date.
- 16. **By 24 February 2025** the admission authority for each Trust, VA and Academy school will provide the LA with a list in rank order, in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school.
- 17. **By 6 March 2025** the LA will exchange responses to preferences with other LAs.
- 18. **By 11 March 2025** the LA will match the provisional offers of places against each parent's ranking and proceed as follows:
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.

- Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked and any lower offers will be disregarded.
 - Where none of the preferences can be met, the child will be offered a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy, measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority.
 - The LA will not allocate a school place to those pupils who have not submitted a Common Application Form. The Local Authority will not offer a place until a form has been completed and after **8 May 2025**. The parent will then be offered a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.
 - Once all other pupils who submitted a Common Application Form have been considered and after 8 May 2025, the LA will allocate a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy, as measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority
19. **25 March 2025** -The LA informs its First and Primary Schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools and informs other LAs of places in North Tyneside schools to be offered to their residents.
20. **On 16 April 2025** parents will be notified by email of the outcome of their application if they applied online and requested an email notification. If the parent completed a paper application form a letter will be posted 2nd class informing them of the school place allocated. This letter will give the following information
- The name of the school at which a place is offered;
 - The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any of the other higher ranked schools nominated on the Common Application Form;

- Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at the other nominated schools;
- Allow parents to request that their child's name is placed on a waiting list for any schools that they were refused that were ranked higher on the application form than the place that was offered.
- Contact details for the schools (in the case of nominated VA schools where they were not offered a place) so that they can lodge an appeal, with the governing body, and the relevant LAs.

The letter will not inform parents of places still available at other schools.

21. **2 May 2025:** (1) the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. If they do not respond by this date the LA will assume that the offer of the school place is accepted and will notify the school accordingly where possible the LA will also continue to pursue parents for written confirmation of acceptance for oversubscribed schools. (2) the deadline for parents to request to place their child's name on a waiting list for any school they ranked higher on their Common Application Form than the school they were offered.

WAITING LISTS

Parents may ask for their children to be kept on a waiting list of children to be re-allocated places if they become available **after 16 April 2025** at any school they have ranked higher on their Common Application Form than the school they were offered. Where a parent has been offered a place at a school, which they did not nominate on their Common Application Form they may be placed on the list of all the schools they did nominate and can then be considered for places at those schools. If pupil numbers fall below the published admission number, then children will be admitted from the waiting list according to the admission criteria regardless of when their application form was received. The LA will hold all waiting lists where requested. Waiting lists for schools will be kept for **one term** in the academic year i.e., **31 December 2025**. No list will be kept for any school thereafter either by the Local Authority or by any individual school.

22. **8 May 2025:** The LA re-allocates any places that may have become vacant since 16 April, in accordance with the school admission criteria, which will include the following:
 - Those who have not yet been offered any school place, for example, late applications from parents who have just moved into the area and have not been offered a school place.

- Those who have not been offered a school place at any of the schools they nominated on the Common Application Form and the place that has become available is at a school originally nominated on the Common Application Form.
- Those who have been offered a school place but who ranked the school at which a place has now become available higher on the Common Application Form.

Where there are more applicants than places available then the priorities used within the school's admission criteria will also be applied to all applicants on the waiting list to determine the allocation of places.

23. Where a parent has been allocated a place at their second ranked school, they may be placed on a waiting list of their first ranked school but not their third and so on. Where a parent has been offered a place at a school, which they did not nominate on their Common Application Form, they may be placed on the list of all the schools they did nominate and can then be considered for places at those schools.
24. Waiting lists for schools will be kept by the Local Authority for **one term** in the academic year i.e., **31 December 2025**. No lists will be kept for any school thereafter, either by the LA or by individual schools.
25. Where parents have not returned their acceptance slip for oversubscribed schools or responded to the offer the LA will assume that the place has been accepted and the school will be notified accordingly.

PART 2 – LATE APPLICATIONS

26. The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **13 January 2025**. As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for a good reason or in exceptional circumstances may be considered, provided they are received before **31 January 2025**, the date the allocation procedures begin. Examples of what may be considered as good reason and exceptional circumstances include: when a lone parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a close relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a North Tyneside property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances may be considered, and each case will be decided on its own merits by each individual admission authority.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL PREFERENCE AFTER 13 January 2025:

27. Once parents have submitted their Common Application Form, they cannot change their preferences without a genuine reason, for example if the family has recently moved address, proof of ownership or tenancy of a North Tyneside property will be required.

LATE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 31 January 2025

28. Late applications received after 31 January 2025, which, are not deemed to be exceptional by the Authority, will not be processed until after 16 April.

NO COMMON APPLICATION FORM RECEIVED BY 16 APRIL 2025

29. Where no Common Application Form is submitted the child will **not** be offered a school place on 16 April 2025. The Local Authority will not offer a place until a form has been completed and after **8 May 2025**. The parent will then be offered a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 16 APRIL 2025

30. Applications received after 16 April at any school must be forwarded to the LA immediately. Where only the supplementary information form is received the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a Common Application Form has been received from the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete a Common Application Form. The LA will enter the details onto its Education Management System (EMS) and, after consultation with the relevant admission authority, offer a place as soon as possible at the school highest in the parent's order of preference that has a vacancy or if this is not possible, at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy (as defined in paragraph 18).

CHANGE OF SCHOOL PREFERENCE AFTER 16 APRIL 2025

31. Parents cannot change their original school preference(s) without a genuine reason, for example if the family has recently moved address. Where the LA agrees to accept a change of preference application the original school preference will be cancelled, and a new application must be submitted which will be considered as 'Late.' Any place previously offered at a school in North Tyneside on 16 April 2025 will be withdrawn and the parent will be notified in writing of the outcome.

YEAR OF ENTRY APPEALS

32. All Admission Authorities must publish their appeals timetable on their website by **28 February each year**.
33. Where schools are their own admission authority i.e., Academies, VA and Trust the school will be responsible for presenting the schools case for any appeals lodged. However, for Academies and Trust Schools the LA can be present for stage 1 of the appeal to answer any questions on the admission process.

PART 3 – ‘IN YEAR’ ADMISSIONS

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 16 APRIL 2025

34. Applications received after 16 April 2025, and for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry to First and Primary schools, will be treated as ‘In Year’ admissions.

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE OUTSIDE THE NORMAL YEAR OF ENTRY

35. Parents must apply to their ‘home’ local authority regardless of the school they are applying for.
36. The ‘home’ local authority will process all Common Application Forms and inform parents of the outcome of their application even if the school is an Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided.
37. The local authority is unable to process applications for schools where the date that the place is required from, is more than 2 months from the date of the application (Service and Crown Personnel are exempt).
38. Children must be resident in the country before a Common Application Form can be considered (Service and Crown Personnel are exempt).
39. School places cannot be allocated based on intended future changes of address unless a house move has been confirmed through the exchange of contracts or a rental agreement. The admission authority reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support the claim to residence.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

A Local Authority has the power to direct an admission authority (including Academies, Trust and Voluntary Aided schools) to admit a child who is Looked After by the Local Authority, even when the school is full. The Local Authority must not choose a school from which the child is permanently excluded but may choose a school whose infant classes are already at the maximum size. In respect of admissions for key stage 1 a Looked After Child would be admitted

as an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

RESPONDING TO COMMON APPLICATION FORMS

40. If the application is for an Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided school, the local authority will refer the application to the Governing Body of the school. In the case of applications for schools outside North Tyneside, the LA will contact the relevant authority.
41. All admission authorities must respond to the local authority within 5 working days of receiving the Common Application Form informing them of the decision. If there is a place available pupils **must** be admitted within 20 school days of the application being received by the local authority or at the beginning of a half term if appropriate.
42. Where a place is not available at the highest ranked school the local authority will co ordinate with the second and third preference schools until a place can be offered at one of the preferences.
43. If the pupil is not on the roll of a North Tyneside school and a place cannot be offered at any of the nominated schools, the parent will be informed of places available at other schools in the area.
44. If there are more applications than places available the published admission criteria must be applied.
45. Pupils can only be refused a place at a school if one of the statutory reasons in the School Admissions Code applies.
46. Pupils should not be placed outside the normal age group without written recommendation from an Educational Psychologist.
47. The LA will keep a track of any pupils who apply for 'In Year' admissions, and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are placed in a school without undue delay particularly in respect of Looked After Children and disadvantaged children moving into the area i.e., Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.
48. Where schools are their own admission authority i.e., Academy, Trust or VA, the school will be responsible for presenting the schools case for any in-year appeals lodged. The school should liaise directly with the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, Legal, Governance Services, North Tyneside Council, NE27 0BY. Tel: (0191) 643 5316.

DETERMINING OFFERS IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMON APPLICATION FORM

Pupils living in North Tyneside and applying for a school in the area (including Academies, Trust and Voluntary Aided Schools) The LA will notify the parent of the outcome of the place for all schools including Academies, Trust and VA schools.

Pupils living in North Tyneside applying for a school out of the area

The 'Home' authority (NorthTyneside) must contact the maintaining authority to confirm the availability of a place. The 'Home' authority (NorthTyneside) would then confirm the offer of the place in writing to the parent, with a copy to the maintaining authority.

Pupils living out of the area applying for a North Tyneside school

The 'Home' authority must contact North Tyneside LA to confirm the availability of a place. The 'Home' authority would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to North Tyneside LA.

Acceptance of the school place

Parents will be expected to respond to accept or decline the offer within 10 working days, failure to do so will result in the school place being assumed as accepted and the school notified accordingly.

WAITING LISTS

The LA will hold the waiting list where requested. The waiting list will be held for the year of entry only i.e., reception class for oversubscribed schools. The list will be held for **one term** in the academic year. No list will be held by the Local Authority for any school after **31 December 2025**.

**TIMETABLE OF CO-ORDINATED SCHEME
FIRST AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

DATE	EVENT
9 September 2024	Application Process begins for 2025/26
13 January 2025	Closing date for all applications to be received by the Local Authority
3 February 2025	Details of preferences to be sent to Trust, VA, Academies and other Local Authorities where preferences stated are for schools other than the home LA.
24 February 2025	The admission authority for each Trust, VA and Academy School will provide the LA with a list in rank order in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school.
6 March 2025	The LA will exchange responses to preferences with other LAs.
24 March 2025	The LA will inform all North Tyneside schools of children to offered places at their schools.
16 April 2025	National Offer Day for places
2 May 2025	Last date for parents to accept or refuse the offer that has been made.
2 May 2025	Last date for parents to request in writing that they want to place their child's name on the waiting list for any schools which they have

	applied for and been refused.
8 May 2025	The LA reallocates any places that have become available since offer day.
June/July 2025	Appeals to be heard

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME – FIRST AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Admission Authorities in the Area of North Tyneside to which the scheme applies

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Voluntary Aided Schools:

Christ Church C of E Primary School	Keilder Terrace North Shields NE30 2AD
St Bartholomew's C of E Primary	Goathland Avenue Longbenton NE12 8FA
Wallsend St Peter's C of E Primary School	North Terrace Wallsend NE28 6PY
St Aidan's RC Primary School	Coniston Road Wallsend NE28 0EP
St Bernadette's RC Primary School	Rising Sun Cottages Wallsend NE28 9JW
St Columba's RC Primary School	Station Road Wallsend NE28 8EN
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School	Lovaine Place North Shields NE29 0BU
St Joseph's RC Primary School	Wallsend Road North Shields NE29 7BT
St Mary's RC Primary School	Farringdon Road North Shields NE30 3EY
St Mary's RC Primary School	Great Lime Road Forest Hall NE12 7AB
St Stephens' RC Primary School	Goathland Avenue Longbenton NE12 8FA

Star of the Sea RC Primary School

Seatonville Road
Whitley Bay NE25 9EG

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Learning Trust Schools:

Amberley Primary School

East Bailey
Killingworth NE12 6SQ

Appletree Gardens First School

Appletree Gardens
Whitley Bay NE25 8XS

Balliol Primary

Chesters Avenue
Longbenton NE12 8QP

Battle Hill Primary School

Berwick Drive, Battle Hill
Wallsend NE28 9DH

Benton Dene Primary School

Hailsham Avenue,
Longbenton NE12 8FD

Burradon Primary School

Burradon Road
Cramlington NE23 7NG

Carville Primary School

The Avenue
Wallsend NE28 6AX

Denbigh Primary

Denbigh Avenue
Wallsend NE28 0DS

Fordley Primary

Dudley Drive, Fordley
Cramlington NE23 7AL

Forest Hall Primary School

Delaval Road
Forest Hall NE12 9BA

Greenfields Primary School

Taylor Avenue
Wideopen NE13 6NB

Hadrian Park Primary School

Addington Drive
Wallsend NE28 9RT

Hazlewood Primary School

Canterbury Way, Woodlands Park
Wideopen NE13 6JJ

Ivy Road Primary

Forest Hall
Newcastle NE12 9AP

King Edward Primary

Preston Avenue
North Shields NE30 2BD

Monkhouse Primary School

Wallington Avenue
North Shields NE30 3SH

DRAFT

Preston Grange Primary	Chiltern Road North Shields NE29 9QL
Redesdale Primary School	Wiltshire Drive Wallsend NE28 8TS
Richardson Dees Primary	High Street East Wallsend NE28 7RT
Rockcliffe First School	Grafton Road Whitley Bay NE26 2NR
Stephenson Memorial Primary Wallsend Jubilee Primary School	Martin Road Wallsend NE28 0AG
Western Primary School	Mullen Road Wallsend NE28 9HA
Westmoor Primary School	Rutland Road Wallsend NE28 8QL
Whitehouse Primary School	Southgate Killingworth, NE12 6SA
Whitehouse Primary School	Whitehouse Lane North Shields NE29 7PE

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Academies:

Grasmere Academy	Grasmere Court Killingworth NE12 6TS
Kings Priory School	Huntington Place North shields NE30 4RF

Community Schools where the Local Authority is the Admission Authority

Coquet Park First	The Links Whitley Bay NE26 1TQ
Langley First	Drumoyne Gardens West Monkseaton NE25 9DL
Marine Park First	Park Road Whitley Bay NE26 1LT
Southridge First	Cranleigh Place Whitley Bay NE25 9UD

South Wellfield First	Otterburn Avenue Whitley Bay NE25 9QL
Whitley Lodge First	Woodburn Drive Whitley Bay NE26 3HW
Backworth Park Primary	Hotspur North Backworth NE27 0FZ
Bailey Green Primary	West Bailey Killingworth NE12 6QL
Collingwood Primary	Oswin Terrace North Shields NE29 7JQ
Cullercoats Primary	Marden Avenue, Cullercoats North Shields NE30 4PB
Holystone Primary	Whitley Road, Holystone Newcastle NE27 0DA
New York Primary	Lanark Close, New York North Shields NE29 8DP
Percy Main Primary	Nelson Terrace North Shields NE29 6JA
Preston Grange Primary	Chiltern Road, Preston Grange North Shields NE29 9QL
Riverside Primary	Minton Lane North Shields NE29 6DQ
Shiremoor Primary	Stanton Road, Park Estate Shiremoor NE27 0PW
Spring Gardens Primary	Brightman Road North Shields NE29 0HP
Waterville Primary	Waterville Road North Shields NE29 6SL

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Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Middle and High Schools in North Tyneside Local Authority 2025

Introduction

1. This Scheme is made by North Tyneside Council under the Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary) (England) Regulations 2008 and applies to all Middle and High Schools in North Tyneside.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme -

"The LA" means North Tyneside Council acting in their capacity as Local Authority;

"The LA area" means the area in respect of which the LA is the Local Authority;

"Primary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996;

"Secondary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

"Primary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

"Secondary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

"School" means a community, foundation or voluntary school (but not a special school), which is maintained by the LA;

"VA schools" means such of the schools as are voluntary aided schools;

"Trust schools" means such of the schools have a trust status;

"Academy" means such of the schools have academy status;

"Admission Authority" in relation to a community school means the LA and, in relation to Trust and VA schools means the governing body of that school and in relation to an Academy means the Academy Trust of that school.

"The equal preference system" the scheme operated by North Tyneside Council whereby all preferences listed by parents/carers on the common application form are considered under the over-subscription criteria for each school without reference to parental rankings. Where a pupil may be offered a

place at more than one school, the rankings are used to determine the single offer by selecting the one ranked highest on the common application form;

"The specified year" means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2025;

"Academic year" means a period commencing with 1st August and ending with the next 31st July.

"The determination year" in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for a school, means the academic year beginning two years before the academic year to which the arrangements relate.

"Admission arrangements" means the overall procedure, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places and refers to any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered;

"Parent/Carer" means any person who holds parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, and with whom the child normally resides;

"Direct distance" means the distance measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority;

"Appropriate school" means the nearest school identified by the authority in accordance with the home to school transport policy;

"Home" local authority means the local authority in whose area the parents live;

The Secondary "National Offer Day" is 1 March or the next working day;

"In year "admission means any application for a place other than the normal year of entry;

School Admissions Code refers to the code published September 2021;

"Eligible for a place" means that a child has been placed on a school's ranked list at such a point, which falls within the school's published admission number.

Commencement and extent

This scheme applies in relation to the admission arrangements for the schools for admission year 2025-2026 (the specified year).

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to this scheme, or provisions having the same effect.

The governing body of each of the Academies, VA and Trust schools will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in the Schedule, as far as relevant to that school, or provisions having the same effect.

The Scheme

1. The Scheme shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.
2. The scheme shall apply to every school in the LA area as identified in Appendix 1 (except special schools).
3. The Scheme will also include applications from parents seeking admission to North Tyneside schools who live within the following neighboring LA's:
 - Newcastle Local Authority
 - Northumberland Local Authority

We will also co-ordinate our admission process with any other Admission Authorities where relevant.

SCHEDULE 1

PART I - THE SCHEME

1. There will be a standard form known as the Common Application Form.
2. The Common Application Form will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year of Middle and High School education in the specified year, and for applications made outside the normal year of entry i.e. 'In year' admissions leading up to, and during, the academic year 2025/2026.

3. The Common Application Form must be used as a means of expressing up to 3 preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child-
 - a to be admitted to a school within the LA area (including Academies, VA and Trust schools);
 - b to be admitted to a school located in another LA's area (including Academies, VA, and Trust schools)
4. **The Common Application Form will -**
 - a Allow parents to express up to 3 preferences, including, where relevant, any schools outside the LA's area, in the rank order in which they wish their child to receive an offer of a place at the respective schools,
 - b Specify the closing date and where the application form must be returned in accordance with paragraph 10.
5. **The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:**
 - a That the Common Application Form is available on request from the LA and on-line at www.northynteside.gov.uk/schooladmission until the closing date and
 - b. That the Common Application Form is accompanied by a written explanation of the key features of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.
6. **The LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:**
 - a Every parent resident in the LA area who has a child attending year 4 of a First School, year 6 of a Primary, and year 8 of a Middle School, and is eligible to commence secondary education, receives a written explanation of how to apply either online or paper copy (on request only); and
 - b Every parent whose application falls within the category of an 'In Year' transfer receives a copy of the Common Application Form (and written explanation), on request, and understands the process.

Parents will be advised that they will receive no more than one offer of a school place and that:

- (i) If more than one school is nominated and two or more preferences can be offered the parent will be regarded as having ranked the schools in

the order appearing on the form (the first-mentioned being ranked the highest); and

- (ii) Places at any oversubscribed school will be offered based on equal preference rank order and that where an offer is made it would be for the highest ranked school.
 - (iii) If a place cannot be offered at a nominated school, a place will be offered at an alternative school.
7. The Common Application Form will include an extra section to be completed by parents who express a preference for a Voluntary Aided School to enable them to provide additional relevant information.
8. Where a school receives a supplementary information form from a North Tyneside resident it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a Common Application Form and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary information forms are received directly by schools the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a Common Application Form has been received from the parent and, if not, the LA will contact the parent and ask them to complete a Common Application Form. Under the requirements of the scheme parents will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary information form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.
9. Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude, to enable decisions to be made on nominations, conform to the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule 2. (N.B. no Community, Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided School in North Tyneside operates criteria for selection based on ability or aptitude)

Processing of Common Application Forms

10. It will be the responsibility of parents to ensure that Common Application Forms are received directly to the LA by the closing date of **31 October 2024**. Common Application Forms may also be completed on-line by the closing date.

Determining offers in response to the Common Application Form

11. The LA will act as a clearinghouse for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the Common Application Forms. The LA

will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the Common Application Form where:

- (a) It is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or
- (b) An applicant is eligible for more than one place and is allocated a place at the highest ranked school, or
- (c) An applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

The LA will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 18 of this Schedule.

- 12. Completed application forms must be received by the closing date of **31 October 2024**.
- 13. Completed application forms, which are received after the closing date will be marked 'LATE' and considered on an individual basis except that the procedure must not prevent the proper processing under the Scheme of application forms received on time.
- 14. The LA will process all application forms; any completed application forms must be treated as a confidential communication between the parent and the LA. All ranked applications received by the closing date will be considered before any ranked applications received after this closing date unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- 15. **23 November 2024** the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information received by this date, which schools require to apply their oversubscription criteria. Where parents have nominated a school outside the LA area, the LA will also similarly notify the relevant authority/authorities by this date.
- 16. **12 January 2025** the admission authority for each Trust, VA and Academy school will provide the LA with a list in rank order, in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school. The LA will then match this ranked list against the ranked lists of the other schools nominated.
- 17. **26 January 2025** the LA will exchange responses to preferences with other LAs.

18. **26 January 2025** the LA will match the provisional offers of places against each parent's ranking and proceed as follows:
- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked and any lower offers will be disregarded.
 - Where none of the preferences can be met, the child will be offered a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy, measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority
 - The LA will allocate a school place to those pupils who have not submitted a Common Application Form once all other pupils who submitted a Common Application Form have been considered and after 20 March 2025. The LA will allocate a place at the catchment area school if a vacancy exists, or at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy, as measured in a straight-line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS/ONE) those living closer to the school will receive higher priority
19. **16 February 2025** -The LA informs its Middle and High Schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools and informs other LAs of places in North Tyneside schools to be offered to their residents.
20. **3 March 2025** parents will be notified by email if the parent applied online and requested an email response and if the parent completed a paper application a letter will be posted 2nd class informing them of the school place allocated. This letter will give the following information
- The name of the school at which a place is offered;
 - The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any of the other higher ranked schools nominated on the Common Application Form;
 - Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at the other nominated schools;

- Invite parents to contact the LA if they want to be considered for any places that might become available in schools, they ranked higher than the school they are offered, in the re- allocation process on 20 March 2025;
- Contact details for the schools (in the case of nominated VA schools where they were not offered a place) so that they can lodge an appeal, with the governing body, and the relevant LAs.

The letter will not inform parents of places still available at other schools.

21. **15 March 2025:** (1) the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. If they do not respond by this date the LA will continue to pursue parents for written confirmation of acceptance for oversubscribed schools. (2) the deadline for parents to request to place their child's name on a waiting list for any school they ranked higher on their Common Application Form than the school they were offered.

WAITING LISTS

Parents may ask for their children to be kept on a waiting list of children to be re-allocated places if they become available after 3 March 2025 at any school, they have ranked higher on their Common Application Form than the school they were offered. Where a parent has been offered a place at a school, which they did not nominate on their Common Application Form they may be placed on the list of all the schools they did nominate and can then be considered for places at those schools. If pupil numbers fall below the published admission number, then children will be admitted from the waiting list according to the admission criteria regardless of when their application form was received. The LA will hold all waiting lists where requested. Waiting lists for schools will be kept for **one term** in the academic year i.e., **31 December 2025**. No list will be kept for any school thereafter either by the Local Authority or by any individual school.

22. **24 March 2025:** The LA re-allocates any places that may have become vacant since 3 March, in accordance with the school admission criteria, which will include the following:
- Those who have not yet been offered any school place, for example, late applications from parents who have just moved into the area and have not been offered a school place.
 - Those who have not been offered a school place at any of the schools they nominated on the Common Application Form and the place that has

become available is at a school originally nominated on the Common Application Form.

- Those who have been offered a school place but who ranked the school at which a place has now become available higher on the Common Application Form.

Where there are more applicants than places available then the priorities used within the school's admission criteria will also be applied to all applicants on the waiting list to determine the allocation of places.

23. Where a parent has been allocated a place at their second ranked school, they may be placed on a waiting list of their first ranked school but not their third and so on. Where a parent has been offered a place at a school, which they did not nominate on their Common Application Form, they may be placed on the list of all the schools they did nominate and can then be considered for places at those schools.
24. Waiting lists for schools will be kept by the Local Authority for **one term** in the academic year i.e., **31 December 2025**. No lists will be kept for any school thereafter, either by the LA or by individual schools.
25. Where parents have not returned their acceptance slip for oversubscribed schools the LA will give the parent a further opportunity to respond however, the LA will explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not accept.

PART 2 – LATE APPLICATIONS

26. The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **31 October 2024**. As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for a good reason or in exceptional circumstances may be considered provided they are received before **22 November 2024**, the date the allocation procedures begin. Examples of what may be considered as good reason and exceptional circumstances include: when a lone parent has been ill for some time or has been dealing with the death of a close relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a North Tyneside property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances may be considered, and each case will be decided on its own merits by each individual admission authority.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL PREFERENCE AFTER 31 October 2024:

27. Once parents have submitted their Common Application Form, they cannot change their preferences without a genuine reason, for example if the family

has recently moved address, proof of ownership or tenancy of a North Tyneside property will be required.

LATE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 22 November 2024

28. Late applications received after 22 November 2024, which, are not deemed to be exceptional by the Authority, will not be processed until after 3 March. Parents will, nevertheless, receive an offer of a school place on 3 March 2025 in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

NO COMMON APPLICATION FORM RECEIVED BY 3 March 2025

29. Where no Common Application Form is submitted the child will not be offered a place on 3 March 2025.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 3 March 2025

30. Applications received after 3 March at any school must be forwarded to the LA immediately. Where only the supplementary information form is received the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a Common Application Form has been received from the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete a Common Application Form. The LA will enter the details onto its Education Management System (EMS) and, after consultation with the relevant admission authority, offer a place as soon as possible at the school highest in the parent's order of preference that has a vacancy or if this is not possible, at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy (as defined in paragraph 18).

CHANGE OF SCHOOL PREFERENCE AFTER 3 March 2025

31. Parents cannot change their original school preference(s) without a genuine reason, for example if the family has recently moved address. Where the LA agrees to accept a change of preference application the original school preference will be cancelled, and a new application must be submitted which will be considered as 'Late.' Any place previously offered at a school in North Tyneside on 3 March 2025 will be withdrawn and the parent will be notified in writing of the outcome.

YEAR OF ENTRY APPEALS

32. All Admission Authorities must publish their appeals timetable on their website by **28 February each year**.

33. Where schools are their own admission authority i.e., Academies, VA and Trust the school will be responsible for presenting the schools case for any appeals lodged. However, for Academies and Trust Schools the LA can be present for stage 1 of the appeal to answer any questions on the admission process.

PART 3 – ‘IN YEAR’ ADMISSIONS

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 3 March 2025

34. Applications received after 3 March 2025, and for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry to Middle and High schools, will be treated as ‘In Year’ admissions.

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE OUTSIDE THE NORMAL YEAR OF ENTRY

35. Parents must apply on their ‘home’ local authority form regardless of the school they are applying for. The Local Authority will deal with all school applications unless the school has opted to deal with the forms directly. (New School Admissions code September 2021)
36. The ‘home’ local authority will process Common Application Forms were requested to do so and inform parents of the outcome of their application even if the school is an Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided.
37. The local authority is unable to process applications for schools where the date that the place is required from, is more than 2 months from the date of the application (Service and Crown Personnel are exempt).
38. Children must be resident in the country before a Common Application Form can be considered (Service and Crown Personnel are exempt).
39. School places cannot be allocated based on intended future changes of address unless a house move has been confirmed through the exchange of contracts or a rental agreement. The admission authority reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support the claim to residence.

Looked After Children

A Local Authority has the power to direct an admission authority (including Academies, Trust and Voluntary Aided schools) to admit a child who is Looked After by the Local Authority, even when the school is full. The Local Authority must not choose a school from which the child is permanently excluded but may choose a school whose classes are already at the maximum size.

RESPONDING TO COMMON APPLICATION FORMS

40. If the application is for an Academy, Trust or Voluntary Aided school, the local authority will refer the application to the Governing Body of the school. In the case of applications for schools outside North Tyneside, the LA will contact the relevant authority.
41. All admission authorities must respond to the local authority within 5 school days of receiving the Common Application Form informing them of the decision. If there is a place available pupil **must** be admitted within 20 school days of the application being received by the local authority or at the beginning of a half term if appropriate.
42. Where a place is not available at the highest ranked school the local authority will coordinate with the second and third preference schools until a place can be offered at one of the preferences.
43. If the pupil is not on the roll of a North Tyneside school and a place cannot be offered at any of the nominated schools, the parent will be informed of places available at other schools in the area.
44. If there are more applications than places available the published admission criteria must be applied.
45. Pupils can only be refused a place at a school if one of the statutory reasons in the School Admissions Code applies.
46. Pupils should not be placed outside the normal age group without written recommendation from an Educational Psychologist.
47. The LA will keep a track of any pupils who apply for 'In Year' admissions and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are placed in a school without undue delay particularly in respect of Looked After Children and disadvantaged children moving into the area i.e., Gypsy, Roma and Traveler children.
48. Where schools are their own admission authority i.e., Academy, Trust or VA, the school will be responsible for presenting the schools case for any in-year appeals lodged. The school should liaise directly with the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, Governance Services, North Tyneside Council, NE27 0BY. Tel: (0191) 643 5316.

DETERMINING OFFERS IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMON APPLICATION FORM

Pupils living in North Tyneside and applying for a school in the area (including Academies, Trust and Voluntary Aided Schools) The LA will notify the parent of

the outcome of the place for all schools including Academies, Trust and VA schools.

Pupils living in North Tyneside applying for a school out of the area

The 'Home' authority (NorthTyneside) must contact the maintaining authority to confirm the availability of a place. The 'Home' authority (NorthTyneside) would then confirm the offer of the place in writing to the parent, with a copy to the maintaining authority.

Pupils living out of the area applying for a North Tyneside school

The 'Home' authority must contact North Tyneside LA to confirm the availability of a place. The 'Home' authority would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to North Tyneside LA.

Acceptance of the school place

Parents will be expected to respond to accept or decline the offer within 10 working days, failure to do so will result in the school place being assumed as accepted and the school notified accordingly.

WAITING LISTS

The LA will hold the waiting list where requested. The waiting list will be held for the year of entry only i.e., reception class for oversubscribed schools. The list will be held for **one term** in the academic year. No list will be held by the Local Authority for any school after **31 December 2025**.

SCHEDULE 2

TIMETABLE OF CO-ORDINATED SCHEME
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

DATE	EVENT
9 September 2024	Application Process begins for September 2025/26
31 October 2024	Closing date for all applications to be received by the Local Authority
22 November 2024	Details of preferences to be sent to Trust, VA, Academies and other Local Authorities where preferences stated are for schools other than the home LA.
13 January 2025	The admission authority for each Trust, VA and Academy School will provide the LA with a list in rank order in accordance with their admission criteria of all pupils who applied for a place at the school
27 January 2025	The LA will exchange responses to preferences with other LAs.
17 February 2025	The LA will inform all North Tyneside schools of children to offered places at their schools.
3 March 2025	National Offer Day for places
17 March 2025	Last date for parents to accept or refuse the offer that has been made.
17 March 2025	Last date for parents to request in writing that they want to place their child's name on the waiting list

	for any schools which they have applied for and been refused.
24 March 2025	The LA reallocates any places that have become available since offer day.
June/July 2025	Appeals to be heard

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME – MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Admission Authorities in the Area of North Tyneside to which the scheme applies

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Roman Catholic Academy:

St Thomas More Catholic High Lynn Road
North Shields NE29 8LF

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Learning Trust Schools:

Marden Bridge Middle School	Lovaine Avenue Whitley Bay NE25 8RW
Monkseaton Middle School	Vernon Drive, Monkseaton Whitley Bay NE25 8JN
Valley Gardens Middle School	Valley Gardens Whitley Bay NE25 9AQ
Wellfield Middle School	Kielder Road, South Wellfield Whitley Bay NE25 9WQ
Burnside College	St Peter's Road Wallsend NE28 7LQ
Churchill Community College	Churchill Street Wallsend NE28 7TN

George Stephenson High School	Southgate Killingworth NE12 6SA
John Spence High School	Preston North Road North Shields NE29 9PU
Longbenton High School	Hailsham Avenue Longbenton NE12 8ER
Marden High School	Hartington Road North Shields NE30 3RZ
Monkseaton High	Seatonville Road Whitley Bay NE25 9EQ
Norham High School	Alnwick Avenue North Shields NE29 7BU
Whitley Bay High School	Deneholm Whitley Bay NE25 9AS

The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Academies:

Kings Priory School	Huntington Place Tynemouth, North Shields, NE30 4RF
North Gosforth Academy	Dudley Lane Seaton Burn NE13 6EJ

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY FIRST AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS POLICY 2025

Where the Local Authority receives more applications than places available, the following admission criteria are used to decide on admission to Community First and Primary Schools.

All Community First and Primary Schools operate an equal preference system for processing parental preferences.

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are required to be admitted to the school named in the EHCP. Thereafter the following oversubscription criteria will apply.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Looked after children in the care of a local authority or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements (formerly residence) or special guardianship order. *See Note 1 below.*
2. Pupils who live within the catchment area of the school (pupils in this category with a sibling link (an older brother or sister) who will be attending the school in September 2025 will be given priority).
3. Sibling link (an older brother or sister) to include adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings and long term fostered children residing at the same address and who will be attending the school in September 2025.
4. Shortest distance measured as a straight line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) system.

N.B The above distance measurement will also be used as a 'tiebreaker' within each criterion, if necessary. In the case of flats if there is more than one home address with the same measurement the flat with the lowest number will be offered the place. In all other cases of the same measurement, random allocation will be used.

NOTE 1

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission. This also includes children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

An **adoption order** is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002

A **child arrangements order** (formerly residence order) is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989

A **special guardianship order** is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

Closing Date

In determining admissions, priority will be given to those applications where the parental application is received by the published deadline date **13 January 2025**.

Late Applications

If you return your application after the closing date your application will be classed as Late unless exceptional circumstances exist. The Governing Body will consider your reasons, provided they are received before 31 January 2025 and if they are exceptional, consider your application along with those received on time. Examples of what may be considered as exceptional circumstances are a family who have just moved into the area (proof of ownership or tenancy agreement will be required). If your reasons

are not exceptional then your application will not be processed until after **16 April 2025**. You should be aware that this will reduce your chance at gaining a place at the school you want.

Offer Date

16 April 2025 parents will be notified of the outcome to their application. If you applied online and requested an email response, then you will be sent an email on this day. If you completed a paper application a letter will be sent out by 2nd class post on this day.

Equal Preference System

The Governing Body of each school operates an equal preference system for processing applications. This means at the first stage there will be no distinction between first, second or third preference applications. Therefore, all applications will be considered equally against the admission criteria. If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school the parent's highest ranked preference will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

Parental Responsibility

When considering your application, the Local Authority will use the parental home residence of the Parent/Carer who receives or would have received the child benefit for the child/ren.

Waiting lists

If you have been refused your preferred school(s), you will have the opportunity to place your child's name on a waiting list(s) for those schools. You may wish to place your child's name on a waiting list for more than one school. Children are placed on the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria regardless of when their application was received. Within each criterion their place is ordered by shortest distance to the school measured in a straight line, from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

If pupil numbers fall below the published admission number, the place will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. This means a child who is on the waiting list will move down the list if another late application is received that falls within a higher priority under the oversubscription criteria.

Waiting lists for schools will be held for one term in the academic year i.e., 31 December 2025; no list will be held by any individual school or the Local Authority after this date.

Catchment Areas

All Community and Learning Trust Schools have a defined geographic area called a catchment area. To find out which catchment area you live in log onto www.northtyneside.gov.uk or contact the Access Team on telephone number 0191 643 8724

Sibling Link

If your child has an older brother or sister residing at the same address (including adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings, long term fostered children) attending your preferred school in September 2025, the governing body will consider this as a sibling link. However, no guarantee is given that siblings can transfer to the same school where the school is oversubscribed.

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

The School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. However, a child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children this is almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted.

Some parents may feel that their child is not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age, or that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the

same academic year. The child must, however, start school full time in the term after its fifth birthday.

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age.

Further information/advice on the admission of summer born children is available on the school's website and North Tyneside Council's website at www.northtyneside.gov.uk

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NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL

Admission Numbers September 2025

North Tyneside Community First and Primary Schools

School No.	School Name	Published Admission Number 2024	Indicated Admission Number	Proposed Admission Number 2025	Comments
392/2032	Backworth Park Primary School	30	45	45	
392/2054	Bailey Green Primary School	60	60	60	
392/2076	Collingwood Primary School	60	58	60	
392/2059	Coquet Park First School	30	30	30	
392/2000	Cullercoats Primary School	60	58	60	
392/2036	Holystone Primary School	60	60	60	
392/2060	Langley First School	60	60	60	
392/2058	Marine Park First School	75	75	75	
392/2081	New York Primary School	44	45	45	
392/2008	Percy Main Primary School	30	34	30	

392/2021	Riverside Primary School	30	30	30	
392/2031	Shiremoor Primary School	60	60	60	
392/2055	South Wellfield First School	60	58	60	
392/2046	Southridge First School	60	60	60	
392/2016	Spring Gardens Primary School	60	57	60	
392/2004	Waterville Primary School	30	30	30	
392/2074	Whitley Lodge First School	45	45	45	

**ADMISSION POLICY- SEPTEMBER 2025 for
Sir James Knott Nursery School and
Community, Trust and Multi Academy Schools which have
a Nursery Class attached
(Including Grasmere Academy)**

Applications for nursery places should be made directly to the school. Offers of place will be made as soon as possible after this date.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Looked after children in the care of a local authority or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements (formerly residence) or special guardianship order. *See Note 1 below.*
2. Pupils who live within the catchment area of the nursery school/class (pupils in this category with a sibling link (an older brother or sister) who will be attending the school in September 2025 will be given priority.
3. Sibling link (an older brother or sister) to include adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings and long term fostered children residing at the same address and who will be attending the nursery school/class in September 2025.
4. Shortest distance measured as a straight line from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the nursery school/class using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) system.

N.B The above distance measurement will also be used as a 'tiebreaker' within each criterion, if necessary. In the case of flats if there is more than one home address with the same measurement the flat with the lowest number will be offered the place. In all other cases of the same measurement, random allocation will be used.

NOTE 1

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed

will still be looked after at the date of admission. This also includes children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

An **adoption order** is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002

A **child arrangements order** (formerly residence order) is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989

It should be noted that universal places in a nursery school or nursery class would be on a part- time basis (5 mornings or 5 afternoon sessions per week) and this will be the maximum amount of funding allocated. One nursery session is based on three hours in length.

It is possible for working parents to be entitled to 15 *additional*/funded hours; however, this will be subject to eligibility criteria which apply at the time of the application. Parents will need to check their eligibility for additional provision.

Individual Schools will have further information regarding eligibility and availability of other offers of early years nursery provision at their school. You will need to contact schools directly.

Further information on childcare entitlements and eligibility is available on the government website: childcarechoices.gov.uk

Information on local childcare is available on the North Tyneside Council [childcare webpages](#)

Waiting Lists

Where parents are refused a place, schools will keep a waiting list of the names of applicants. Children are placed on the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria regardless of when their application was received. Within each criterion their place is ordered by shortest distance to the school measured in a straight line, from a single fixed central point of the home address (including flats) to the central point of the school using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

If a place becomes available, it will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. This means a child who is on the waiting list will move down the list if another application is received that falls within a higher priority under the oversubscription criteria.

There is no appeal procedure for parents refused a place in a nursery school/class but if parents feel that they have been unfairly treated then they can go through the Schools Complaints procedure through the Governing Body.

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North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 19 February 2024

Title: Sixth Form Provision in North Shields

Portfolio(s): Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills	Cabinet Member: Councillor Steven Phillips
Report from Service Area: Children Services	Responsible Officer: Julie Firth, Director of Children Services Tel: 0191 643 1454
Wards affected: All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary

Our 'Ambition for Education' makes clear, North Tyneside continues to have an education system to be proud of; one that remains a strong performer regionally and nationally. This reflects the hard work of education leaders and their teams, governing bodies, Elected Members, Authority staff and the fantastic children and young people.

Mayor and Cabinet understand that education is the catalyst for social mobility and the mitigation of deprivation; championing the learner continues to sit at the heart of the Authority's decision making. The Authority remains committed to addressing barriers to education and enabling young people to maximise their potential.

A critical part of this is access to the best possible learning opportunities. The Mayor and Cabinet have spelled out their ambition for education and

specifically improved outcomes and a range of options for post 16 education and training, this includes local sixth form offers, top class vocational courses and to be able to meet the needs and aspirations of young people with Special Educational Needs.

The purpose of this report is to outline the work that has been done to consider post-16 education provision in the North Shields area of the Borough and develop the Mayor and Cabinet's policy position.

1.2 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Note the work to support the policy consideration by the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills to look at options for post-16 education provision in North Shields;
- (2) Authorise further work be undertaken to progress the preferred option for the development of a school-led sixth form (post-16 provision) based at John Spence Community High School;
- (3) Authorise the Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills, to take all necessary steps to progress the work, in line with Department for Education guidance; and
- (4) Agree to receive further reports as required on progress made.

1.3 Forward Plan

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 19 January 2024.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following themes in the Authority's updated Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025:

- A family friendly North Tyneside
- A thriving North Tyneside
- A caring North Tyneside

1.5 Information

1.5.1 Background

In 2017, as part of a national review and several changes to Further Education providers, TyneMet became part of TyneCoast College (the College), along with Queen Alexandra sixth form College, South Tyneside College and South Shields Marine School. A new management team was created, and governance refreshed to reflect the change.

In July 2020 the College made a decision to temporarily move sixth form courses from the Queen Alexandra College campus to the Battle Hill site with effect from September 2020. This decision was taken based on the capital costs required for the upkeep of the Queen Alexandra site, in the context of loss of income and additional costs caused by the pandemic. Following the announcement, the change was discussed between the leadership of the College and the Mayor, then Deputy Mayor and then Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Learning. A series of concerns were raised, very specifically, about the provision of post 16 education for young people attending North Shields schools.

In April 2023, the College announced that it would no longer provide A-Level courses, once the current Year 13 cohort finishes in July 2024.

As this meant there would be no local sixth form provision for children in North Shields, the Cabinet Member asked officers to support the development of policy options for the Mayor and Cabinet.

This work looked at demographics and demand, current Government guidance, outline costs and the potential options. The rest of this report summarises that detailed work.

1.5.2 Priorities

In discussion with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment & Skills four main priorities have been identified in relation to the provision of Post 16 education for students from North Shields

- Ensuring local high quality Post 16 education provision for young people from North Shields who want to attend a local sixth form
- Improving outcomes in attainment and progression for young people from the North Shields area
- Removing barriers that may prevent young people from engaging in academic and vocational post 16 learning; and
- Meeting the needs and aspirations for our young people with Special Educational Needs.

Provision for young people from North Shields who want to attend sixth form

Each year there are around 400 young people who reach the end of year 11 in North Shields. The majority attend Norham High School, John Spence Community High School and Marden High School.

Of those 400 the majority choose providers other than Tyne Coast, predominately Newcastle College with some joining Whitley Bay High School sixth form. While some attended Queen Alexandra College the numbers have been falling and sixth form provision is now ending this year.

Data shows those North Shields young people do as well as young people who attend sixth form elsewhere in the Borough. However, they are travelling further. There is also a concern that, particularly post pandemic, some may decide against further study because of that need to travel.

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance – Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools and the statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2023).

In considering the options to meet need more locally the Mayor and Cabinet will need to be aware of the relevant guidance. The current guidance makes it clear

- **Creation of new post 16 provision;** local authorities are, in themselves, not able to establish stand-alone post 16 provision. Any such provision must be progressed under the 'free school presumption' sponsored by way of an Academy / Multi Academy Trust
- **Demand;** there should be a clear demand for additional post-16 places in the local area (including evidence of a shortage of post-16 places and a consideration of the quality of Level 3 provision in the area). The proposed sixth form should not create excessive surplus places or have a detrimental effect on other high quality post-16 provision in the local area
- **Financial viability:** The proposed sixth form should be financially viable (there must be evidence of financial resilience should student numbers fall)
- **Size;** the proposed sixth form will provide at least 200 places and there should be sufficient demand for those places (please note this is a threshold. It is generally recognised a higher number is required for financial sustainability)
- **Subject Breadth;** the proposed sixth form should – either directly or through partnership – offer a minimum of 15 A-level subjects or equivalent technical / vocational options
- **Addition of post 16 provision on an existing school site;** there is a DfE expectation that any proposal for the addition of sixth form provision will only be put forward for secondary schools that are rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Finally, in terms of expansion onto an additional site (or 'satellite sites') where proposers seek to expand onto an additional site, they will need to ensure that the new provision is genuinely a change to an existing school and not in reality the establishment of a new school.

1.5.3 Options for the development of Post 16 Offer in North Shields

Based on need and the national guidance a full range of options were considered with the Cabinet Member. Three were subject to more detailed consideration.

- **Option 1:** Secure a delivery partner and use the Queen Alexandra site
- **Option 2:** Develop a North Shields town centre FE-led provision with sixth form; and
- **Option 3:** Support the development of a school based sixth form.

Consideration of Options

All three options were subject to detailed discussion. The conclusions are summarised below.

Option 1: Secure a delivery partner and use the Queen Alexandra site

While this would deliver continuity there were two main barriers: The site is not in local authority ownership and there is no provider appetite to take on stand-alone provision.

Option 2: Develop our North Shields town centre FE-led provision with sixth form

While this option has clear attractions – particularly for town centre footfall – the project would be capital intense and there is no provider appetite to take on stand alone provision.

Option 3: Support the development of a school-based sixth form

Having looked at all three secondary school sites and considered the national guidance, John Spence is in the right location, is part of an academy trust who have post-16 experience and are keen to develop their offer. While not currently Good or Outstanding, this is expected to change in the timeframe of the project. Option 3 was therefore preferred.

Barriers to attendance

In addition to developing future provision, the Cabinet Member also looked at all the barriers to current attendance: Specifically the costs to students attending sixth form out of their local area. Further work is being done to engage with young people and their families to understand the risks, barriers and opportunities to help.

As the preferred option will take time to come to fruition, short to medium term options will be considered and discussed by the Mayor and Cabinet in due course.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Accept the recommendations outlined in section 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Not to accept the recommendations outlined in section 1.2 of the report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

This option will enable young people to access a high quality sixth form experience in the North Shields area and meets the policy objectives of the Mayor and Cabinet.

Appendices: None

1.7 Contact officers:

Julie Firth, Director of Children Services, Tel: 0191 6431454

1.8 Background information

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [Review of Secondary School Provision Cabinet Report 14 October 2013](#)
- (2) [Education Review Cabinet Report 8 September 2014](#)
- (3) [Education Review – Feedback from Prepublication Cabinet Report 10 November 2014](#)
- (4) [Education Review – Feedback from Publication Consultation 12 January 2015](#)
- (5) [Education Review – Feedback from Publication Consultation Supplementary Report 12 January 2015](#)
- (6) [Education Review Update Report 13 July 2015](#)
- (7) [Education Review Cabinet Report 11 July 2016](#)
- (8) [Education for North Tyneside Cabinet Report 10 July 2017](#)
- (9) [Education for North Tyneside Cabinet Report 30 July 2018](#)
- (10) [LGA Education Funding Report, House of Commons, 4 June 2019](#)

- (11) [Education for North Tyneside Cabinet Report 29 July 2019](#)
- (12) [Ambition for Education Cabinet Report 25 January 2021](#)
- (13) [Ambition for Education Strategy 2020 - 2024](#)
- (14) [SEND Inclusion Strategy 2021 - 2024](#)
- (15) [Ambition for Education Cabinet Report 20 September 2021](#)
- (16) [North Tyneside Council Local Area SEND Ofsted Inspection](#)
- (17) [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) and Alternative Provision \(AP\) Improvement Plan](#)
- (18) [Ambition for Education Cabinet Report 21 September 2022](#)
- (19) [Ambition for Education Cabinet Report 18 September 2023](#)
- (20) [EQIA – Attached](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

At this time, a decision to progress the preferred option for the development of school-led post-16 education provision based at John Spence Community High School does not have any financial impact for the Authority but requires a commitment from Officers to work with the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment & Skills and other key stakeholders.

However, work has been done on the broad financial implications which will be refined as the proposal is developed. Based on the experience in North Tyneside, useful estimates of potential capital costs were considered. Drawing on national guidance and regional experience estimates of revenue costs were also considered.

2.2 Legal

The Authority has a legal duty to ensure that every child fulfils their educational potential. The report sets out the steps taken by the Authority to fulfil that obligation and what further steps are to be taken in that regard.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Internal Consultation

Extensive internal engagement has been done to support the Ambition for Education. In preparing this work relevant officers, elected members and the Mayor were involved in discussions.

External Consultation / Engagement

Extensive consultation and engagement were undertaken to support the Ambition for Education and the review of post-16 provision across the Borough. Informal discussions supported this work including TyneCoast College, New River, DfE, Pele Trust and a successful sixth form provider in the region.

Should Cabinet agree the recommendations the next stage of exploration will be to engage and consult with a range of stakeholders, including young people, parents and carers.

2.4 Human rights

This report has been prepared having regard to Article 2 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998 and a person's right to have an effective education.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Inherent within the principles of working for the Authority's Ambition for Education is a commitment to work with education colleagues to close the gaps in educational attainment and progress, between the most vulnerable pupils and their peers and to promote opportunities for our children and young people. An Equality Impact Assessment has been

completed and will take account of age, disability and socio-economic factors.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk issues arising directly from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive

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Change Equality Impact Assessment's (EqIAs)

1. Proposal details	
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed (subsequently referred to as project)	North Shields Sixth Form development
Purpose of project	<p>North Tyneside continues to have an education system to be proud of and we remain ambitious to improve the offer as stated in the Ambition for Education.</p> <p>The Authority understands that education is the catalyst for social mobility and the mitigation of deprivation; championing the learner continues to sit at the heart of the Authority's decision making. We remain committed to addressing barriers to education and enabling our young people to maximise their potential.</p> <p>The purpose of the proposal is to consider the options to ensure that young people from our North Shields wards have access to high quality post 16 education in the form of a school based Sixth Form. With the closure of Queen Alexander Sixth Form provision as part of the TyneCoast College offer many of our young people have to travel to Newcastle College to be able to study A Level and Vocational courses. The cost of travel and subsistence to study in Newcastle is prohibitive to many of our young people.</p> <p>The North Tyneside Council report to February Cabinet, '<i>Sixth Form Provision in North Shields</i>' outlines the work which has been undertaken, proving the need for improved access to post-16 provision in the North Shields area to support our young people to access local, high quality provision close to their communities.</p>

Who is the project intended to benefit?	Young people in the North Shields community.	
What outcomes should be achieved?	Cabinet to note the work completed looking at options for post-16 provision in North Shields. Cabinet to approve that further work is undertaken to progress the preferred option for the development of Post 16 offer. Young people in North Shields can choose a local post 16 school based provider.	
Version of EqIA	1	
Date this version created	29/01/2024	
Confidential	No	
Directorate	Children's Services	
Service	Education North Tyneside	
	Name	Service or organisation
Principal author	Lisa Cook	Education North Tyneside, North Tyneside Council
Additional authors	Juliet Morris	Strategy and Transformation Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding North Tyneside Council

2. Groups Impacted		
Does the project impact upon?		If yes, what is the estimated number impacted? And the Level of impact this will have on the group (high, medium, low)
Service Users	yes	Around 300 young people from the North Shields area currently travel out of borough for post 16 education (high impact)
Carers or Family of Service Users	yes	Families face the cost of weekly travel and subsistence (potential for high impact).
Residents	yes	
Visitors	no	
Staff	no	For a school to expand to create a new Post 16 provision the impact on other local providers has to be considered and approved by the DfE. There

		cannot be a negative impact on current, local post 16 providers (low impact).
Partner Organisations	yes	Pele Academy Trust (medium impact)

3. Evidence Gathering and Engagement		
	Internal evidence	External Evidence
What evidence has been used for this assessment?	Evidence has been gathered from briefing papers, Finance, and Policy, Performance and Research Targeted data on the impact of out of borough provision on successful completion of post 16 studies has been gathered.	External partners have been consulted, DfE, Pele Trust Significant Change process from the DfE has been used as a guide.
Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this proposal?	yes	
If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?	At this point no public consultation has been undertaken. Guidance has been taken from the DfE on the development of new Post 16 provision. An initial conversation has taken place with the PELE Academy Trust to ensure that they are willing to explore this opportunity further.	
Is there any information you don't have?	Yes	
If yes, why is this information not available?	We need to gather targeted data on the impact of out of borough provision on successful completion of post 16 studies – this will be collected by March 2024	

4. Impact on Different Characteristics			
Legally Protected Characteristics	Potential Positive	Potential Negative	Description of the potential impact and evidence used

	Impact Identified	Impact Identified	
Age	yes	no	The young people who would benefit in the borough are aged 16+. A new post 16 provision in North Shields would remove financial and travel barriers to learning.
Disability	yes	no	There could be an improved education offer for young people with a disability or who have an EHCP in any development of post 16 provision. A new build for the provision could improve accessibility to post 16 education.
Gender reassignment	yes	no	The changes proposed would not disproportionately impact young people who are going through gender reassignment.
Marriage & civil partnership	no	no	
Pregnancy & Maternity	no	no	
Race	yes	no	The changes proposed will not disproportionately young people in respect of their ethnicity.
Religion or belief	yes	no	The changes proposed would offer a wider choice for post 16 in North Tyneside.
Sex	yes	no	The changes proposed will not disproportionately young people in respect of their sex.

Sexual Orientation	yes	no	There could be an improved education offer for young people building a confident and diverse community.
Intersectionality	no	no	
Non-legally protected characteristic			
Carers	yes	no	The opportunity to access post 16 education in North Shields will be of benefit to young carers as it will remove significant barriers such as cost of travel, remaining in a community they are confident in and who knows their needs; leading to increased engagement and attendance.
Socio- economic disadvantage	yes	no	The cost of travel and subsistence for a young person from North Shields to access A Level courses in Newcastle is prohibitive for many of our families. For some of our young people who are in the socio-economic disadvantaged group travel out of North Shields is not an option at 16.

•

5. Achievement of the Authority's public sector equality duty		
Will the proposal contribute to any of the following?		If yes, how?
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment	N/A	
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a	yes	A local post 16 provision would improve the offer for our young people who have protected characteristics such as age,

protected characteristic and those who do not		disability, socio- economic disadvantage or are young carers. Young people can see travel out of local area as a block to the continuation of study post 16. This new provision would give a broader range of local options. Better qualifications and wider social opportunities would specifically benefit this group of young people.
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	The aim to create a diverse post 16 provision, the curriculum offer would include academic and vocational courses to suit a range of abilities. The new provision would provide a safe environment where young people with these protected characteristics would be part of the school community.

6. Negative Impacts		
Potential negative impact	Can it be reduced or removed?	If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?

7. Action Plan				
Actions to gather evidence or information to improve NTC's understanding of the potential impacts on people with protected characteristics and how best to respond to them	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area	Target Completion Date	Action completed
Gather targeted data on the impact of out of borough	Lisa Cook	Education North Tyneside	16/02/2024	no

provision on successful completion of post 16 studies.					
Actions already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area	Impact		
N/A					
Actions that will be taken to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area	Impact	Target Completion Date	Action completed
N/A					
Actions that will be taken to make the most of any potential positive impact	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area	Target Completion Date	Action completed	
A comms plan will be developed with the school. As the project progresses the school would complete a consultation with support from LA Officers to identify positive impact in line with DfE guidance.	Lisa Cook	Education and Inclusion	20/12/2024	in progress	
Actions that will be taken to monitor the equality impact of this proposal once it is implemented	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area	Target Completion Date	Action completed	
Too early in the process to identify					

Date review of EqIA to be completed	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area
01/04/2024	Lisa Cook	Education North Tyneside

8. Outcome of EqIA	
Outcome	Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion:
The proposal is robust no major change is required.	<p>There is no negative impact on the organisation's ability to meet the aims of the 2010 Equality Act, the evidence provided in this assessment shows that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no potential for unlawful discrimination • all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity have been taken • all opportunities to foster good relations have been taken • There are plans in place to monitor and review the equality impacts of the proposal during implementation.

9. Corporate Equality Group Member approval	
Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree
If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Corporate Equality Group Member	Anne Foreman
Date	31/01/2023

Section 10 Guidance

10. Director approval	
Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree

If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Director	Julie Firth
Date	31/01/2023

Please return the document to the Author and Corporate Equality Group Member.

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North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 19 February 2024

Title: Building a Better North Tyneside – Delivering 5,000 Affordable Homes and Reducing Derelict Properties in North Tyneside

Portfolio(s): Housing

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor John Harrison

Report from Service

Area: Housing and Property Services

Responsible Officer: Peter Mennell, Director of Housing and Property Services (Tel: (0191) 643 6395)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Our North Tyneside Plan was approved at full Council on 23 September 2021 and included a target of delivering 5,000 affordable homes and a commitment to reduce the number of derelict properties in the borough. To meet this ambitious target, Cabinet approved a two-phased delivery approach to the Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) on 21 February 2022.

This report provides Cabinet with a progress update on the delivery of Phase One of the AHP and work planned for the year 2024-25. It also provides information on the good progress that has been made towards delivering Phase Two of the AHP and presents a revised programme that includes several new initiatives that will contribute to the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes including:

- A revised Housing Revenue Account 10-year Delivery Plan that will invest circa £44m to deliver around 300 new Authority homes by 2033 including the delivery of homes on recently acquired sites
- An innovative housing-led regeneration project in Wallsend that targets empty and derelict properties and supports the delivery of the Ambition for Wallsend
- A private rented partnership approach to increase the provision of temporary accommodation within the Housing Revenue Account to reduce costs
- Identifying opportunities to work with Adult and Children's services to deliver specialist housing to provide a great landlord service and contribute to tackling the rising care costs.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Note the progress to date to deliver 5,000 affordable homes through the Affordable Homes Programme and programmed work for 2024-25
- (2) Approve the revised 10-year Affordable Homes Delivery Plan including bringing forward new sites as outlined in section 1.5.5 of this report
- (3) Authorise the Director of Housing and Property Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Director of Resources, Director of Housing and Property and Head of Law to undertake all necessary work to bring forward the proposals as identified in section 1.5.5 of this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 30 November 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021-25 Our North Tyneside Plan:

A thriving North Tyneside:

- We will reduce the number of derelict properties across the borough
- Support the regeneration of the borough

A secure North Tyneside:

- Provide 5,000 affordable homes

A green North Tyneside:

- We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030
- Deliver low carbon homes and secure funding for low-income households to achieve this

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) was approved by Cabinet on the 14 May 2013 and by the end of 2023-2024 will have delivered over 2,300 new affordable homes in 10 years which constitutes a 182% improvement on the ten years prior to the programme starting.

The Cabinet also approved a new five-year Housing Strategy on the 27 March 2023 that outlined plans to Build a Better North Tyneside. To meet the ambitious target of delivering 5,000 affordable homes, Cabinet, in February 2022, approved a two-phase approach to delivering the AHP. This approach included firm plans for the delivery of Phase One that will achieve the delivery of 4,000 homes by 2032 and identified workstreams that would be explored to deliver the additional 1,000 homes in Phase Two.

The Authority has an outstanding record of building high-quality homes with all homes built above the current Decent Homes Standard and Building Regulations. The Authority declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and the AHP plays a significant role in responding to the challenge of reducing carbon emissions. This has included trialling innovative products including solar technology, air-source heat pumps and a fabric first approach to insulating homes.

The Authority also prioritises bringing back long-term empty and derelict homes into use as affordable homes and provides support and advice to private landlords. The Authority's proactive approach has seen the number of

long-term empty properties reduce from 1,326 in January 2019 to 850 in December 2023.

Acting in a strategic enabling role, the Authority has successfully worked with a wide range of partners including Homes England, Registered Providers (RPs) and developers to meet a range of housing needs, including the needs of vulnerable groups.

Aurora Affordable Homes, the Authority's wholly owned subsidiary Company, has continued to invest in affordable housing and reached a significant milestone of owning 100 homes. The Company continues to support the Authority's housing priorities and in May 2023, the Cabinet approved that loan financing be made available to the Company to increase their stock to 200 homes by 2025.

As well as achieving the 5,000 homes target, the AHP directly supports the Authority's regeneration aims across the borough including the current and emerging Master Plans. The revised AHP will also focus on supporting the Authority's Adults and Children's care team by seeking opportunities to directly providing specialist accommodation that will offer individuals a high-quality home and reduce costs for the Authority.

1.5.2 Delivering 5,000 homes and reducing the number of Derelict Properties – Phase One

Overview

Phase one of the AHP will see 4,000 affordable homes delivered by 2032 and an indicative programme for delivery is provided in Appendix 1. This Phase will be delivered across several workstreams including directly delivered homes by the Authority, tackling derelict properties, and working in partnership with Aurora Affordable Homes and Registered Providers.

The Authority will continue to act in a strategic enabling role to seek affordable homes through Section 106 contributions from Private Developers. The following information details progress made in the last 12 months and provides details of the Authority's plans for 2024/25.

Phase One – Recent Progress

(a) HRA Housing Delivery

Since April 2023, the Authority has continued to deliver high-quality, new build affordable homes including nine, award winning modular bungalows on underused garage sites at Bellshill Close and Blackhill Avenue in the Battle Hill Ward, four recreation rooms converted into affordable homes, and six empty homes that will be leased-in from the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Reducing the number of Derelict Properties

In-line with the Authority's Housing Strategy approved by Cabinet in March 2023, the Authority has continued to bring back derelict and empty homes for use as affordable homes. This includes targeting long-term empty properties and working with owners who may be struggling to maintain their rental properties. Since April 2023, three long-term empty properties were returned to use as affordable housing homes by the Local Authority.

(c) Working with Registered Providers (RPs) and Care Providers

The Authority continues to work closely with RPs and Care Providers to identify opportunities to meet housing need in the Borough. Since April 2023, the following schemes have been delivered:

Howdon Green, Willington Quay – Bernicia purchased four new affordable homes from Persimmon at their Howdon Green site.

Site Of Coquet Park, Marine Park Schools – 26 affordable homes were provided on the former Marine Park School site in Whitley Bay. This included nine affordable homes by Places for People and 17 shared ownership retirement apartments by McCarthy and Stone.

(d) Planning Obligations

The largest volume of homes within the first phase of the programme will be delivered by private developers who are subject to ever changing market conditions. The decision on when to bring forward large sites is not within the Authority's direct control and will be heavily reliant on the strategic sites at the Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor coming forward. It is expected that the developers will deliver circa 1,800 homes in phase 1 of the AHP.

By April 2024 a total of 52 new homes will have been delivered across North Tyneside by developers through this route.

(e) Aurora Affordable Homes

The North Tyneside Trading Company Limited through its subsidiary Aurora Affordable Homes, increased its asset base to 100 homes during 2023/2024 as part of the first phase of the AHP. Since April 2023, the Company has successfully acquired 16 new homes from the open market to be let at an intermediate affordable rent. This also includes providing several homes for clients requiring specialist housing provision. A further five homes will be purchased by April 2024.

1.5.3 Affordable Homes Programme - Phase One Work Planned 2024-25

250 affordable homes are expected to be delivered by April 2025. A breakdown of these is provided in Appendix 2.

(a) Housing Revenue Account Housing Delivery

The Authority through its HRA has developed a 10-year HRA delivery Plan that will see circa 300 new Council homes delivered by 2033. The 10-year plan has been updated this year to include new windfall opportunities including the purchase of new sites that will be used to provide more Council homes. The revised 10-year plan can be found in Appendix 3.

In 2024-25 the Authority will deliver four new homes and is forecasting to begin work to secure a further 22 new build homes. The details of these include:

25-26 Wellington Avenue, Wellfield – The former children’s home will be refurbished into two, 3-bed semi-detached affordable homes.

Conversion of underutilised Recreation Rooms – Two recreation rooms will be converted into affordable homes following consultation with local Ward Members. These properties have low levels of community use and the conversion to new homes will go towards meeting housing needs across the borough, support the Authority’s affordable home ambitions, reduce compliance and cleaning costs, and provide Council Tax income.

Swindale Drive, Killingworth – Work will begin on site at Swindale Drive to bring forward 22 new affordable homes on a site of a former Public House that was purchased by the Authority in March 2023.

(b) Working with Registered Providers (RPs) and Care Providers

The Authority continues to work in partnership with Registered Providers who are expected to provide 142 affordable homes by April 2025. These include:

West Chirton Industrial Estate South – 71 new homes are expected to be purchased by Karbon from the developer at the site off Norham Road to be delivered as affordable housing.

Former Fusilier Pub – Karbon are developing 20 affordable homes at the site of the former Fusilier Pub in Forest Hall

Hawkeys Lane – a 51-unit extra care unit is expected to be delivered on Hawkeys Lane, North Shields

(c) Tackling Derelict Properties

The Authority will continue to work with owners to refurbish long-term empty homes and take ownership of them until all costs have been repaid. This approach will deliver at least 11 affordable homes by April 2025.

(d) Planning Obligations

The number of affordable homes delivered through planning obligations is expected to be 82 affordable homes by the end of April 2025.

Additional affordable homes will continue to be secured through Section 106 requirements in the future as further planning applications are submitted by developers.

(e) Aurora Affordable Homes

The North Tyneside Trading Company Limited through its subsidiary Aurora Affordable Homes will seek to deliver a further 28 affordable homes up to April 2025 to bring the total number to 136. The Company will continue to focus on purchasing homes for adults and children requiring specialist care, to support the Authority reduce care costs.

1.5.4 Delivering 5,000 homes and reducing the number of Derelict Properties – Phase Two

Phase Two of the AHP focuses on delivering the remaining 1,000 homes that are not currently within the AHP as quickly as possible. The Authority has little suitable land available for development and challenging economic conditions has meant that the Authority is required to focus on innovative partnerships and accessing funding streams to support delivery.

Work has been underway across several workstream since February 2022 and in 2023-24 the Authority has been successful in identifying a further 287 affordable homes towards the 1,000 homes in Phase Two. These include:

(a) Increased new build homes by the Authority

The revised 2023-32 10-year HRA Affordable Homes Delivery Plan includes new sites purchased by the Authority. The Former Rosehill Club and Parkside House sites in the Wallsend Ward, have been purchased by the Authority with the purchase of a further site in the Longbenton Ward expected to complete in the coming months. All three sites contained long-term derelict properties that had been the subject of complaints and anti-social behaviour. With the market unable to find a viable solution for these properties, the Authority intervened to secure the sites for the delivery of Affordable Homes. The sites are currently the subject of a bid for £1.445m from the North of Tyne Brownfield Fund to support the demolition and remediation of the sites. Site plans are provided in Appendix 4.

Subject to planning approval being secured, it is intended that the sites will deliver the following:

Former Rosehill Club Site, Wallsend – Eight new Council homes including three, 3-bed houses and five, 2-bed homes. The scheme is expected to cost in the circa £2.000m with work programmed to start on site in 2024.

Parkside House, Wallsend – 10 new Council homes including five, 2-bed and five 1-bed apartments. The scheme is expected to cost circa £3.600m with work programmed to start on site in 2024.

Site in Longbenton – Following the completion of the purchase, the site will be remediated allowing access to an existing HRA land asset. The combined land area is expected to be developed to provide circa 48 new Council homes. Upon completion of the of the sale, the scheme is currently programmed to start on site in 2025.

(b) Acquiring Properties into the HRA

With few suitable land assets available for the Authority to build new homes, an Acquisition Plan for the Housing Revenue Account has been produced to provide focus on the types of properties and opportunities that the Authority will consider. This includes:

- Buying back ex-right to buy properties
- Purchasing portfolios from private landlords in key regeneration areas
- Purchasing homes from auction
- Ensuring Best Value on all purchases
- Purchasing homes for specific use for temporary accommodation or to support individuals requiring specialist housing requirements

It is expected that three properties will have been acquired by the end of 2023-24 for use as temporary accommodation to reduce the use of bed and breakfast properties with a potential further 10 homes purchased in 2024-25.

(c) Private Landlord Leasing Scheme

An opportunity has been identified to operate a partnership scheme with private landlords in North Tyneside to further increase the number of affordable homes.

The scheme will include the Authority leasing properties from private landlords for a guaranteed period at a rent level that is not higher than Local Housing Allowance. The scheme will give full control of the property to the Authority and can be used to reduce pressure on the waiting list for Council homes or to provide temporary accommodation for clients presenting as homeless.

This aim is to trial this approach by securing an initial five properties in with the potential to expand the scheme in 2024-25 following an evaluation of the approach.

(d) Housing Led Regeneration Scheme – Wallsend

A new, housing-led regeneration initiative to target empty homes in a specific area of Wallsend within Phase One of the Wallsend Town Centre Master Plan. A map of the area is provided as appendix 5. The target area has been identified as having an above average number of long-term empty properties and a disproportionate amount of private rented accommodation.

The aim of the project will be for the Authority to purchase empty homes and refurbish the properties to exceed the Decent Homes Standard. Following refurbishment, the properties will then be sold to Aurora Affordable Homes at full market value. This will allow the funding to be recycled to allow the

Authority to purchase more homes. Aurora Affordable Homes will let the homes as affordable properties and act as an exemplar landlord.

This budget for this project will be circa £0.600m from the Empty Homes Fund.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

- (a) To receive a note the update on the delivery of Phase One of the Affordable Homes Programme detailed in 1.2(1) of this report; and
- (b) Agree the recommendations detailed in paragraph 1.2(2) of this report

Option 2

- (c) To receive a note the update on the delivery of Phase One of the Affordable Homes Programme detailed in 1.2(1) of this report; and
- (d) Reject the recommendations detailed in paragraph 1.2(2) of this report

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- It will support the delivery of the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's commitment within the Our North Tyneside Plan to deliver more quality homes, reduce the number of derelict properties and support the ambition for North Tyneside to be carbon neutral by 2030.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Revised Housing Revenue Account Affordable Homes 10-year Delivery Plan

Appendix 2: Affordable Homes Programme – Phase 1 Indicative Programme to 2032

Appendix 3: 2024/25 Affordable Homes Programme Expected Delivery

Appendix 4: Recently Acquired sites to be included in the Affordable Homes Programme

Appendix 5: Wallsend Housing-Led Regeneration Project – Target Area

1.9 Contact officers:

Richard Brook, Housing Growth Manager, Housing & Property, tel. 07540 182 225

Darrell Campbell, Senior Business Partner, tel. 07920 509234

Robert Peach, Housing Strategy Programme Manager, tel. 07974 576848

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [Cabinet Paper March 27 2023 ITEM Title: Building a Better North Tyneside: The 2023-28 Housing](#)
- (2) [Cabinet Paper 21 February 2022 ITEM title: "Delivering 5,000 Affordable Homes and Reducing Derelict Properties in North Tyneside"](#)
- (3) [Cabinet Paper May 28 2019 ITEM title: "Delivering the Affordable Homes Programme"](#)
- (4) [Cabinet Programme "Paper April 9 2018 ITEM title: "Delivering the Affordable Homes Programme"](#)
- (5) [Cabinet Paper March 13 2017 ITEM title: "Delivering the Affordable Homes Programme"](#)
- (6) [Cabinet Paper September 14 2015 ITEM title: "Delivering Affordable Homes - Update"../..../Business_Devpt/Affordable Homes/BOARDS and Cabinet/Cabinet/October 2013/7k Delivering Affordable Homes FINAL.doc](#)
- (7) [Cabinet Paper March 9 2015 ITEM title: "Delivering Affordable Homes - Update"../..../Business_Devpt/Affordable Homes/BOARDS and Cabinet/Cabinet/October 2013/7k Delivering Affordable Homes FINAL.doc](#)
- (8) [Cabinet Paper March 10 2014 ITEM title: "Delivering Affordable Homes - Update"](#)
- (9) [Cabinet Paper October 14 2013 ITEM title: "Delivering Affordable Homes"](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The resources to provide for the revised elements of these plans have been built into the Authority's Budget proposals for 2024-25, along with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the Investment Plan and 30-year HRA Business Plan. These proposals were approved at Cabinet on 29 January 2024.

Specifically, in relation to the HRA, the resources include an additional £3.747m of Capital Receipts relating to RTB sales in 2022-23 and 2023-24, which the Government have offered the authority the opportunity to retain, providing they are spent within 5 years, on the same basis as existing retained receipts i.e., to fund no more than 40% of new build / acquisition costs. This will enable the authority to increase the spend on building/purchasing affordable properties by over £9m in the next 5 years, to supplement existing new build plans.

Any resources identified as required in relation to Private Sector Homes initiatives identified in section 1.5.5 are already included within existing budgets through the General Fund Investment Plan.

2.2 Legal

The legal implications and advice required for each proposed stream of affordable housing delivery will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the context and specifics of the transactions involved. In more general terms:

- (a) The Authority is expressly empowered under various enactments (e.g. section 120 Local Government Act 1972 and section 17 Housing Act 1985) to acquire and appropriate land for various purposes, including housing.
- (b) Land should be acquired based on market value ensuring best value for the Authority and in accordance with the Authority's constitution and governance requirements.
- (c) Any potential subsidy situations would need to be considered against the relevant legal principles and Subsidy Control Act 2022.
- (d) Development by the Authority will need to be subject to the usual site investigations, due diligence, planning and other consents. Development contracts will need to be awarded in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Procurement Act 2023 and the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

- (e) Development of affordable housing by third parties is largely outside of the Authority's legal control, save as can be controlled through the planning system, required under Section 106 planning obligations and as may be imposed via sale terms in cases where the Authority is selling land to a developer.
- (f) Schemes involving the purchase or leasing of properties will need to be subject to the usual due diligence, property investigations and use suitable legal structures according to context of the transaction involved.
- (g) Activities by the Authority's trading companies should be undertaken in accordance with those companies' purposes and terms of incorporation.
- (h) Any provision of affordable housing must be in accordance with the Authority's duties as a local authority registered provider of social housing under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, the requirements of Regulator of Social Housing and the duties of landlords as regards housing standards etc.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Our North Tyneside Plan was agreed by Cabinet on 23 September 2021.

The preparation of the Local Plan was supported by multiple stages of engagement internally with senior officers and members. The overall progress of the Local Plan to adoption was overseen by a Local Plan Steering Group comprised of senior officers, the Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Finance. The Local Plan was recommended for adoption by Cabinet and agreed at Full Council in July 2017 with the Masterplans for the strategic sites adopted by Cabinet in December 2017.

Comprehensive governance arrangements have been put in place for the Affordable Homes Programme. Members and key officers are consulted through the Strategic Property Group comprised of the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Members for Housing, Environment and Finance and Resources, Directors of Housing and Property, Resources, and Regeneration and Economic Development. They receive a quarterly update on the Affordable Homes Programme and make recommendations on key decisions for Cabinet.

In addition, the Authority's Investment Programme Board comprised of the Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, and Directors of Housing & Property, Resources and Regeneration and Economic Development receive update reports on the delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

RPs undertake consultation with existing residents on their future proposals for these sites prior to submission for planning approval and an officer from the Housing Strategy Team attends. There are also detailed planning requirements in terms of the consultation to be undertaken as part of the formal planning approval process.

Pre-planning consultations are held with Ward Members, residents, and businesses for all HRA development sites. The Authority's tenants are kept up to date with progress through the Authority's Repairs and Investment Service Development Group that is held three times a year. In addition, there are regular press releases to ensure the local communities are kept up to date with progress and the key milestones on the Authority's developments. The Local Plan has also involved extensive consultation around housing, which has included engagement with developers and members of the public.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An increase in mixed tenure homes would help to meet local need as set out in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and increase the overall affordable housing supply, including helping to reduce some of the potential pressure for 1 and 2-bedroom properties.

The Affordable Homes Delivery Programme also includes purpose-built housing for specific client groups which will help to promote equality for groups with specific characteristics.

2.6 Risk management

There are multiple risk registers associated with all Authority new build schemes. These are monitored on a regular basis as part of their respective governance arrangements. A project risk register has been collated for the Affordable Homes Programme, however at this stage it is considered that there are no specific risks that need to be added to the Directorate Risk Register.

2.7 Crime and disorder

Any sites being brought forward for development by either the Authority or by a private developer must address crime and disorder issues as part of the normal planning process.

When building new homes, the Authority's Design Standard is followed ensuring that Secure by Design Principals are followed.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

Environment and sustainability issues will be considered as part of the normal planning process on any sites brought forward for development by either the Authority, RP, or a private developer.

The Authority declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and it important that the AHP supports the response to tackling this and the 2030 net-zero targets set under the Authority's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan. The Authority will commit to delivering new homes that will utilise a fabric first approach ensuring that all homes are highly insulated and provide high levels of air tightness. The Authority will go further on directly built homes by moving ahead of planned changes to Building Regulations and build homes without fossil fuel heating systems and including solar photovoltaic panels wherever feasible.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X

Appendix 1 – Affordable Homes Programme – Phase 1 Indicative Programme to 2032

Developer	2014-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Total
Council Housing	587	19	4	73	70	20	25	64	10	10	882
Registered / Care Providers	575	21	142	50	104	186	100	100	-	-	1,278
Private Developers	831	52	82	94	80	142	171	130	136	81	1,799
Aurora Homes	87	21	28	20	20	20	20	-	-	-	216
Empty Homes	51	3	11	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	112
Total	2,131	116	267	244	281	375	323	301	152	97	4,287
Cumulative Total	2,131	2,247	2,514	2,758	3,039	3,414	3,737	4,038	4,190	4,287	

Appendix 2 – 2024–25 Affordable Homes Programme Expected Delivery

Site Name	Delivery Method	Affordable Homes
Land Adjacent To, Rake House Farm, Rake Lane	Private Developers	8
Land To The West Of Station Road North And Land South Of East Benton Farm Cottages	Private Developers	21
Centurion Park Sports Centre	Private Developers	30
Land West Of Mackley Court	Private Developers	3
Land Adjacent To, Rake House Farm, Rake Lane	Private Developers	20
25-26 Wellington Avenue, Wellfield	North Tyneside Homes	2
Elizabeth Drive, Palmersville	North Tyneside Homes	1
Morpeth Avenue, Wideopen	North Tyneside Homes	1
West Chirton Industrial Estate South phase 1	Registered / Care Providers	71
Hawkeys Lane	Registered / Care Providers	51
Former Fuslier	Registered / Care Providers	20
empty homes	Empty Homes	11
aurora	Aurora Affordable Homes	28
Total number of Affordable Units by April 2025		267

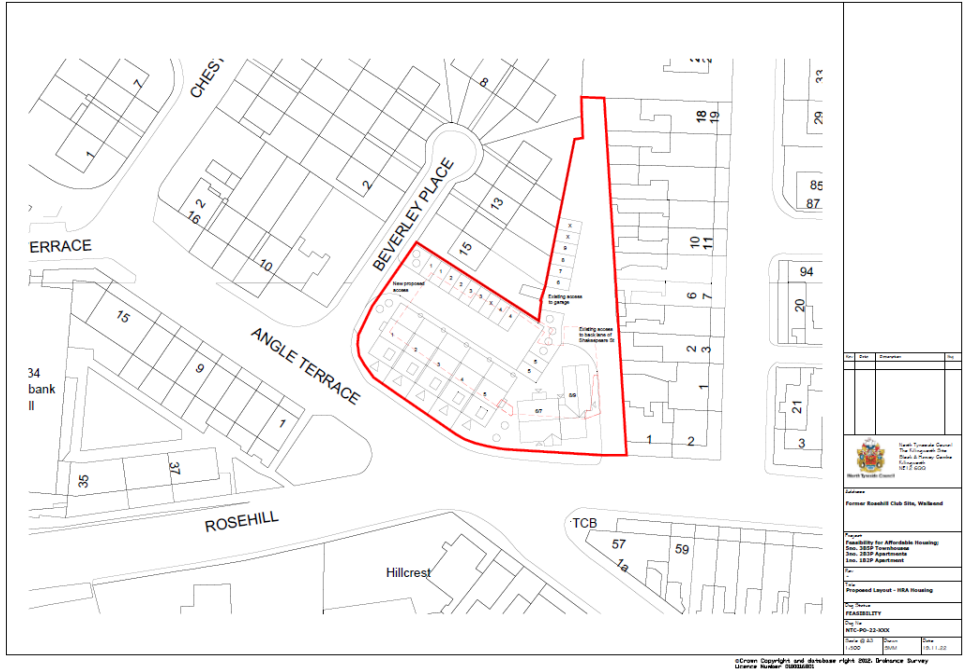
Appendix 3 – Revised Housing Revenue Account Affordable Homes 10-year Delivery Plan

Affordable Housing Scheme	Number of Homes	Scheme Description	Projected Construction Completion
Husk Phase 2 - Battle Hill	9	Completion of the scheme to provide nine HUSK bungalows on former garage sites	2023/24
Swindale Court	22	Development of 22 new Council homes on a former derelict public house site in Killingworth	2025/26

Charlton Court	60	Redevelopment of an HRA residential care scheme to re-provide modern homes and additional general needs bungalows	2029/30
Wellington Avenue	2	Refurbishment of a long-term empty children's homes	2024/25
Husk Phase 3	20	A further phase of HUSK bungalows on sites to be determined in 2024/25	2025/26
Lynholm Grove - Rec Room	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2023/24
Richmond - Rec Room	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2024/25
Forest Hall - Rec Room	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2024/25
Elizabeth Drive - Rec Rooms	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2024/25
Holystone - Rec Rooms	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2024/25
Morpeth Avenue - Rec Rooms	1	Refurbishment of a former recreational room into a HRA bungalow	2024/25
Benton Lane (including St Peter's Church)	48	Using the recently purchased derelict Church site, the Council will bring forward new homes on HRA land	2026/27
Rosehill Club	9	New homes on the recently purchased former Rosehill Club site	2025/26
Parkside House	10	New homes on the recently purchased former Parkside House office site	2026/27
Acquisition of three properties for the use of Temporary Accommodation by the HRA	3	Homes to be purchased in locations according to housing need	2023/24
Purchasing Fund per year (to balance)	98	Ongoing acquisition of properties in line with annual spending profile within the programme	Ongoing
TOTAL	287		

Appendix 4 – Recently Acquired sites to be included in the Affordable Homes Programme

Rosehill Club, Wallsend



Parkside House, Wallsend



Appendix 5 - Wallsend Housing-Led Regeneration Project – Target Area



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North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 19 February 2024

Title: Electric Vehicle Charging

Portfolio(s):	Environment Climate Emergency	Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor H Johnson Councillor S Graham
Report from Service Areas:	Regeneration and Economic Development Environment		
Responsible Officers:	John Sparkes, Director of Regeneration and Economic Development Samantha Dand, Director of Environment	(Tel: 0191 643 6091)	(Tel: 0191 643 3442)
Wards affected:	All		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

Following the Motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023 relating to electric vehicle (EV) charging, which is appended to this report, a cross-party working group was established to consider matters raised in the Motion.

Full Council on 23 November 2023 noted the findings of the working group and agreed for these to be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration.

This report invites Cabinet to consider the findings of the working group and to approve a number of recommended actions which relate to the recommendations made by the working group.

Cabinet is also invited to approve arrangements for the updating of the North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy (“the ZEV Strategy”), which sets out the Authority’s approach to zero-emission vehicles, including EVs, within the context of the North Tyneside Transport Strategy and the wider regional framework of the North East Transport Plan.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet

- a) considers the content of this report and the findings of the cross-party working group established in accordance with the Motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023, attached as Appendix 1;
- b) approves the recommended actions relating to the working group’s recommendations, attached as Appendix 2;
- c) authorises the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Environment to make amendments to the North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy to reflect the actions agreed by Cabinet; and
- d) authorises the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, to make amendments to the North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy from time to time to reflect the developing nature of the market for ZEVs.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days’ notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 5 January 2024.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The proposals in this report relate to a number of priorities in Our North Tyneside, the Council Plan 2021 to 2025, in particular:

- A green North Tyneside:
 - We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030

The proposals also support the following priority in the Carbon Net Zero 2030 Action Plan:

- Travel
 - Bid for EV charging infrastructure (on-Street, Fast, HPC)

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Context

In the course of its work, the working group:

- i. looked holistically at a range of available options in relation to electric vehicle charging in the borough, against the national, regional and local policy backdrop and with the support of industry experts;
- ii. took care to ensure to look at the issue in terms of a mixed economy in which public sector, private sector and individual households all have an important part to play;
- iii. noted the policy context at regional level: this includes the North East Transport Plan, which sets out the overall context for transport in the region, and the proposed major regional bid to the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund for the provision of further publicly available EV chargepoints;
- iv. considered the policy context at local level, including the North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy (“ZEV Strategy”), which notes that the Authority is not a mainstream fuel provider to the public or businesses. While the Authority is part of the solution, it is expected that the commercial market will provide the substantial majority of payable EV charging;
- v. took on board predictions that:
 - a. transport represents about 30% of the carbon emissions in North Tyneside (Carbon Net Zero 2030 Action Plan 2023/24);
 - b. by 2030 there could be over 35,000 fully electric vehicles in North Tyneside (Transport for the North online tool); and
 - c. this could imply a demand for circa 1,000 publicly accessible chargers alongside circa 30,000 home or workplace chargers (Transport for the North online tool).
- vi. noted that where EV chargers can be installed is dependent on the availability of an electricity grid connection. For on-street locations, this may also be affected by local factors, e.g. some streets have combined ‘pay and display’ and residents’ permit parking;

- vii. recognised that while there is a demand in general for increased EV charging provision, there is uncertainty over how many EV users would take up any particular charging technology;
- viii. appreciated that charging from home can be considerably cheaper than using public charging infrastructure. The group ensured that proper consideration was given to residents who are currently disadvantaged by their type of accommodation (e.g. terraced property, flat or house without private off-street parking) as they are currently unable to take advantage of home charging; and
- ix. recognised that any provision brought forward should minimise risk to the Authority. This must be assessed against the scale of the provision and where the ultimate liability rests.

1.5.2 Technologies

The group found it positive to hear that a number of technologies are on the market, with different solutions better suited to different situations, and considered various case studies. The following points were noted:

- a. The cheapest and simplest technology available involves running a charging cable from a resident's home to their vehicle and using cable matting, placed across the footway by the resident, to cover the charging cable. However, this is likely to be unpopular with footway users and poses a risk related to liability for trips and falls. Different local authorities have taken different approaches to the level of risk. The Authority cannot fully understand the potential risks to it or others in relation to the use of this technology until it has been tested. An example of a potential risk is a personal injury claim that could be made against the person responsible for the hazard caused by a cable running across the footway, or, depending on the Authority's knowledge, a claim made against the Authority as the local highway authority responsible for the safe passage of the public over the footway, should a person trip and suffer an injury. Any such claims would be decided on a case-by-case basis and not all of the claims would necessarily succeed. However, any such claims made against the Authority would have to be dealt with appropriately.
- b. Utilising streetlight column charging for EVs was considered to be a potentially viable option. However, as the Authority's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract regarding the provision of streetlighting runs until 2029, it may not be a short-term possibility. In addition, it may require a deed of variation to the PFI contract to enable such charging to take place. This should be considered as part of the planning for the end of the

the PFI contract and when considering subsequent streetlighting column provision.

- c. Bollard type EV chargers are an established technology. However, users of these types of chargers would not benefit from lower household electricity prices (or the lower household rate of VAT). Installing these type of EV chargers could mean a reduction in the amount of car parking availability.
- d. Emerging technologies such as 'lance and connector' models where the connector sits flush with the pavement (after excavation) merit further investigation once results are available from pilot schemes.
- e. The group was interested to review the type of gully system being piloted by Durham County Council (where the provider Kerbocharge is used) owing to its apparent ease of installation, low cost, and safety features for footway users. The group noted that:
 - i. it appeared that this system might have some advantages over comparable products such as the Oxford 'gul-e' system;
 - ii. the Durham pilot involves a cost to households for an annual inspection of the gully, and residents signing up to terms and conditions associated with a licence for its private use;
 - iii. the formal evaluation of the Durham pilot will be available in 2024 following completion of the pilot scheme; and
 - iv. further investigation should take place once the evaluation of the Durham pilot is available.
- f. other local authorities have introduced some of the above solutions under licence/permit arrangements, as a means of both seeking to require residents to adhere fully to the terms and conditions and confirm residents' understanding of the terms and conditions (e.g. a parking space on the public highway cannot be reserved for individual use). This was felt to be something that should be considered and explored further.

Following discussion of the above points, the group:

- i. appreciated that EV charging provision is primarily for the market to deliver, and the Authority's role is essentially one of facilitator as the local highway authority;
- ii. recognised that residents would appreciate having as much information as possible available on the Authority's website;
- iii. recognised that any charging option would have to be sufficiently attractive to the market;

- iv. acknowledged that the majority of chargers are expected to be provided at homes and workplaces. However, to respond adequately to likely future levels of demand, the Authority is likely to have to ensure that there is a range of provision including both on-street and off-street EV chargers;
- v. recognised that this would pose some challenges around delivery, the ongoing management of the highway network (e.g. residents' expectations around parking enforcement) and highway maintenance (e.g. utility works to the footway), with associated potential for increased maintenance costs;
- vi. recognised that arrangements would have to be made for any charging infrastructure installed to be managed and maintained; and
- vii. noted that some authorities appeared to be further forward with aspects of public EV charging provision and would like to see similar steps taken to move forward in North Tyneside.

1.5.3 Actions recommended by the group

The group recommended the following actions:

1. Request that Cabinet consider updating the North Tyneside ZEV Strategy to provide further guidance around on-street EV charging provision.
2. Further analysis should be undertaken around predictions of future EV charging uptake and the prioritisation of potential charging sites within the borough.
3. The Authority's website should be updated providing clear information and guidance on EV matters, including advice for homes without off-street parking.
4. The Authority should continue to seek funding for further EV charging provision in its public car parks.
5. The Authority should, where appropriate, take further steps to encourage others, including major retailers, to provide publicly accessible EV charging in their car parks.
6. As pilots/trials in other areas develop and their findings become available, the Authority should develop a range of solutions and options which could be trialled or implemented in appropriate locations in the borough, as funding opportunities arise. This should be carried out in conjunction with further analysis around predictions and criteria for the prioritisation of locations in the borough.

7. Whilst the group acknowledged that cable matting was the simplest technology, use of this would come with a number of challenges, for example, durability in adverse weather; potential for incorrect installation by residents; accessibility for footway users (particularly the potential cumulative impact of cable mats in the same street/area) and potential conflict with the Authority's aims to encourage walking, wheeling and other sustainable travel. The group recommended that the Authority should develop a policy statement to clarify its position relating to use of cable matting on the highway.

1.5.4 Policy context

Transport policy in the borough is delivered in accordance with the principles set out in the North Tyneside Transport Strategy. One of those key principles is to reduce carbon emissions from transport; and within the wider context of the North East Transport Plan, one of the main objectives is to bring about a carbon-neutral North East. Within this policy framework, the ZEV Strategy sets out a number of aims which focus on encouraging and supporting the take-up of ZEVs, in preference to petrol and diesel vehicles, in the borough.

The Our North Tyneside Plan 2021 to 2025 also commits to publishing an action plan of the steps which the Authority will take and the national investment which it will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030. The resulting Carbon Net Zero 2030 Action Plan, in the section relating to Travel, includes an objective to bid for EV charging infrastructure.

The Authority has worked constructively with partners on opportunities to improve EV charging provision in the borough. For example, works have been undertaken, with external funding, to install publicly available EV charging provision at Tynemouth Pool car park, adding to the range of charging options available for residents and visitors.

1.5.5 Recommended actions and governance arrangements

In accordance with the policy context set out above, recommended actions to respond to the working group's recommendations are set out at Appendix 2 for consideration by Cabinet.

The recommended actions set out at Appendix 2 include arrangements for appropriate delivery targets to be developed and monitored through the Carbon Net Zero Board.

In relation to the working group's first recommendation, the recommended action would involve updating the ZEV Strategy to provide further guidance around on-street EV charging provision. As such, recommendation c) in section 1.2 of this report invites Cabinet to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Environment to update the ZEV Strategy accordingly.

To reflect the current senior management structure of the Authority, and to ensure efficient and streamlined decision-making, it is recommended that Cabinet agree to recommendation d) in section 1.2 of this report. If agreed, this recommendation will enable the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, to make further amendments to the ZEV Strategy from time to time to reflect the developing nature of the market for ZEVs.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

To approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above, including approving the recommended actions set out in Appendix 2.

Option 2

To approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above while making amendments to the recommended actions set out in Appendix 2.

Option 3

Not to approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

To put in place an approach which enables the recommendations of the cross-party working group to be taken forward in the context of the Authority's wider transport and carbon net zero aims.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023

Appendix 2 – Recommendations of the cross-party working group being made to Cabinet

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Watson, Head of Highways and Transportation, 0345 2000 101

Paul Nelson, Head of Environmental Sustainability, 0191 643 6467

Andrew Flynn, Senior Manager – Integrated Transport, 0191 643 6083

Amar Hassan, Principal Accountant, Investment (Capital) and Revenue, 0191 643 5747

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [North Tyneside Transport Strategy](#)
- (2) [North East Transport Plan](#)
- (3) [North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy](#)
- (4) [North Tyneside Transport and Highways SPD](#)
- (5) [North Tyneside Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial and resource implications directly arising from this report.

It is envisaged that all of the recommended actions set out in Appendix 2 can be delivered within existing budgets (the Local Transport Plan capital budget and Technical Services Partnership managed budget) or using specific external grant funding, where applicable. Any expenditure which cannot be contained within existing budgets will be reported to Council / Cabinet, as appropriate for a decision before any expenditure is incurred or committed.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

However, when actions are implemented on EV charging, including some of the recommended actions set out in Appendix 2, it will be necessary to consider the legal implications of doing so. Such considerations could range from ensuring that procurement legislation is complied with when procuring EV chargers, as well as ensuring the Authority's obligations as the local highway authority under the Highways Act 1980 are complied with. Such duties include asserting and protecting the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway, including footways. As stated in the report, some of the options considered could impact on the condition of the highways in the Borough.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has involved the Cabinet Member for Environment, the Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Environment.

The working group involved Cllr L Bartoli, Cllr L Marshall, Cllr J O'Shea and Cllr M Wilson.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The work of the cross-party working group has involved discussion amongst Members of the group, with advice from officers and industry experts, and hence no external consultation/engagement has been undertaken on this matter.

Subject to approval of the recommendation, the recommended actions set out at Appendix 2 would be implemented: these would include, for example,

engaging with local businesses, through established groups and programmes, to promote and discuss EV infrastructure provision.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The Authority's approach to policy and strategy development is carried out having regard to the public sector equality duty imposed on the Authority by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

The cross-party working group's consideration of the policy context, with advice from industry experts, included aspects of good practice relating to the accessibility of EV charging, such as the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification PAS 1899, which sets a new industry standard for making EV chargers accessible to all.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report. Strategic and operational risks associated with transport matters are assessed via the established corporate process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

Road transport represents about 30% of the carbon emissions in North Tyneside. There are positive environment and sustainability implications as the outcomes of the working group highlight a number of points which are reflected in the recommended actions set out at Appendix 2. These will support the Authority's efforts to encourage the take-up of zero-emission vehicles in preference to petrol or diesel vehicles, and alongside the use of public transport or active travel, and to achieve the Authority's 2030 net-zero targets.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive

Appendix 1 – Motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023

EV on street charging

Electric vehicles are one of the best ways that households can reduce their emissions. Across the country, many people are making the swap to EV – with over 30% of all new car sales being battery powered electric vehicles. However, for many people across North Tyneside without access to off street parking, owning an electric vehicle with the ability to charge it at home is just a pipe dream.

North Tyneside Council believes that finding a sustainable solution to the issue of on-street EV charging is significant in our borough's journey to net zero.

North Tyneside Council notes the scheme which has been set up in Oxford (gul-e) gives residents the opportunity to have gullies installed on the pavement – allowing charging cables to run safely from the property to the roadside without causing a trip hazard.

North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to set up a cross-party working group to look holistically at all options available to improve EV provision in North Tyneside, particularly looking to reflect the dropped curb scheme. The group should produce a report to be presented to Full Council before the end of 2023 setting out a plan to submit to cabinet.

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Appendix 2

Recommendations of the cross-party working group on electric vehicle (EV) charging made to Cabinet – February 2024

Cabinet is invited to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and to state the reasons for this decision; and to indicate what action, if any, Cabinet proposes to take.

Working group recommendation	Officer commentary	Recommended Cabinet decision (accept or reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
Recommendation 1: That Cabinet consider updating the North Tyneside Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Strategy to provide further guidance around on-street EV charging provision.	The ZEV Strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2021. Officers could update the strategy to incorporate additional guidance regarding on-street EV charging provision. Subject to Cabinet’s approval for the recommendations in the present report, the updated strategy would then be approved by the authorised Directors.	Accept	Development of an updated version of the ZEV Strategy by August 2024.

<p>Recommendation 2: Further analysis should be undertaken around predictions of future EV charging uptake and the prioritisation of potential charging sites within the borough.</p>	<p>Various databases and sources of information are available which may assist in the analysis of predictions of future EV charging uptake and potential site prioritisation.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Officers to make appropriate arrangements for the analysis to be carried out. Initial analysis expected to be undertaken by May 2024. Outcomes of analysis to be kept under ongoing review.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: That the Authority's website should be updated providing clear information and guidance on EV matters, including advice for homes without off-street parking.</p>	<p>The relevant section of the Authority's website can be updated to provide clear information and guidance.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Relevant content on the Authority's website to be updated in February 2024 and subsequently reviewed and updated on a regular basis.</p>

<p>Recommendation 4: That the Authority should continue to seek funding for further EV charging provision in its public car parks.</p>	<p>Arrangements are in progress, with external funding, for the installation of EV charging provision at Tynemouth Pool car park, with Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding, and at two sites, anticipated to be Low Lights car park in North Shields and Park View car park in Whitley Bay, with Levelling Up Fund (LUF) funding. Arrangements are being developed to utilise funding from the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) for a further 9 EV chargepoints in public car parks.</p> <p>In November 2023 Transport North East, in conjunction with the region’s seven local authorities, submitted a stage 2 application to the Government’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, based on the indicative allocation of £15.8m. A decision on the award of funding is expected between January and March 2024. If the application is successful, it is anticipated that the procurement of EV infrastructure would be carried out in a number of tranches – subject to the outcome of this process,</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Officers to work with regional colleagues to deliver infrastructure which has been identified for delivery with funding from LGF, LUF and ORCS.</p> <p>Officers to continue to support regional colleagues on new bid opportunities (e.g. the LEVI fund) and if successful to ensure delivery in accordance with the grant conditions.</p> <p>Delivery targets to be developed by July 2024 and monitored through the Carbon Net Zero Board.</p>
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	<p>delivery of the first tranche of EV infrastructure could then be underway by September 2024. Authorities in the region would seek to maximise investment by the private sector as part of this process.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Authority should, where appropriate, take further steps to encourage others, including major retailers, to provide publicly accessible EV charging in their car parks.</p>	<p>Local businesses, including retailers, manage a substantial volume of parking provision in the borough. It may represent a commercial opportunity for businesses, as well as a benefit for the public, if they were to provide publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure.</p> <p>Existing channels which would be utilised to encourage businesses to provide publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure could include engagement through the Town Centres Task Group, the Go Smarter programme and other relevant channels.</p> <p>Officers could seek to develop further channels/opportunities to engage with</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>To utilise existing channels, and seek new opportunities for engagement with relevant businesses, to promote and discuss opportunities for publicly available EV infrastructure on an ongoing basis from February 2024.</p>

	major retailers and similar national businesses.		
<p>Recommendation 6: That as pilots/trials in other areas develop and their findings become available, the Authority should develop a range of solutions and options which could be trialled or implemented in appropriate locations in the borough, as funding opportunities arise. This should be carried out in conjunction with further analysis around predictions and criteria for the prioritisation of locations in the borough.</p>	<p>Findings of pilots/trials in other areas will be available in due course, with some potentially released by June 2024.</p> <p>Officers will examine the findings of such pilots/trials and develop a range of solutions and options.</p>	<p>Accept, subject to recognition that it is dependent on the availability of funding and further analysis being carried out around prioritisation of locations.</p>	<p>On completion of the analysis work and the findings from pilots/trials becoming available, and subject to external funding being approved, works would be implemented in accordance with the grant conditions.</p> <p>Delivery targets to be developed by July 2024 and monitored through the Carbon Net Zero Board.</p>

<p>Recommendation 7: Whilst the group acknowledged that cable matting was the simplest technology, use of this would come with a number of challenges, for example, durability in adverse weather; potential for incorrect installation by residents; accessibility for footway users (particularly the potential cumulative impact of cable mats in the same street/area) and potential conflict with the Authority's aims to encourage walking, wheeling and other sustainable travel. The group recommended: That the Authority should develop a policy statement to clarify its</p>	<p>The proposed updating of the ZEV Strategy will involve consideration of the potential implications of cable matting on the highway. The updated strategy will set out the Authority's position. Implementation of any proposals would have to be carried out in accordance with relevant highway and associated legislation, taking into consideration equality impact; public realm considerations; levels of footfall and specific issues relating to the local area.</p>	<p>Accept in part – the Authority's position relating to the use of cable matting on the highway can be clarified through the updating of the ZEV Strategy rather than as a separate policy statement. Implementation must be in accordance with relevant highway and associated legislation and with consideration for relevant</p>	<p>Development of an updated version of the ZEV Strategy by August 2024.</p>
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position relating to use of cable matting on the highway.		factors as set out in column 2.	
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