

Cabinet

Monday, 21 February 2022

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, C Burdis, P Earley, S Graham,
A McMullen and M Rankin

In Attendance: D Hodgson (Business Representative)
R Layton (North Tyneside Joint Trades Union
Committee)
D McNally (Age UK)

Apologies: Councillors K Clark, S Cox and S Day and S McKenzie
(Young Mayor)

CAB94/21 To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

Councillor S Graham declared a registerable personal interest in agenda Item 11: North Tyneside Trading Company-Strategic Business Plan 2021-2025 (CAB103/22), as she was a Director of North Tyneside Trading Company Limited and its subsidiaries.

Councillor C Johnson declared a registerable personal interest in agenda Item 11: North Tyneside Trading Company-Strategic Business Plan 2021-2025 (CAB103/22), as he was a Director of North Tyneside Trading Company Limited and its subsidiaries.

CAB95/21 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous meetings held on 24 January (Ordinary Meeting), 31 January and 7 February 2022 (Extraordinary Meetings) be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB96/21 Report of the Young Mayor

In the absence of the Young Mayor who was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that her report would be noted and circulated to all parties for information.

The Elected Mayor took the opportunity to praise the work of the young people for their amazing work.

CAB97/21 Determination of School Admission Arrangements September 2023

Cabinet considered a report detailing the proposed admission arrangements for all Community Schools in North Tyneside for the 2023/2024 academic year including the coordinated admissions schemes.

All Local Authorities were required to formulate and consult on a scheme for each academic year for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools within their area. Co-ordinated schemes were intended to simplify the admission process for parents whilst

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reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination established a mechanism that ensured that, as far as was practicable, every child living in a Local Authority (LA) area who had applied in the normal admissions round received one, and only one, offer of a school place on the same day. While it was for each LA to decide the scheme that best suited its residents and its schools, authorities must ensure that they:

- a) complied with law and regulations, including all the process requirements; and
- b) did not disadvantage applications to their schools from families resident in other local authorities.

The Scheme applied to applications received from September 2022 for entry into maintained schools in September 2023. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 required the LA to exchange specified information on applications with neighbouring Authorities.

The purpose of the Scheme was to co-ordinate admissions into all mainstream maintained first and primary, middle and high schools in North Tyneside. The Regulations also placed 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 were attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

All schools had to have an admission number for each 'relevant age group'. 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 were detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

Pupils would be able to go to their preferred school unless there were more applications to that school than there were places available. If there were more applications than places available at a school, oversubscription criteria would be used to allocate places after any children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan had been provided for where the Statement or the Education, Health and Care Plan named a specific school. Admissions Policies for admission to North Tyneside Community Schools and Nurseries for which the Local Authority was the Admissions Authority; and the oversubscription criteria used by the LA where there were more applications than places available were set out in Appendices 4 and 5 to the report.

Where a secondary school operated a sixth form and admitted pupils from other schools at age 16, for instance, an admission number would 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 were largely dependent on the course of study that a student wished to access. Details of specific requirements and courses available may be obtained for individual schools. All schools published information about their post 16 provision.

The local authority was responsible for consultation and determining the admission arrangements for community schools in the North Tyneside areas in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

The North Tyneside Learning Trust had been established in September 2010 and currently comprised 44 schools. The governing bodies of these schools were responsible for

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determining their own admission arrangements. Five of the schools in the Learning Trust were Special Schools and these arrangements did not apply to them.

The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools and of the four Academies were also responsible for consultation and determining their own admission arrangements.

Any school which subsequently changed status would be responsible for determining their own admission arrangements following such change.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals and request officers undertake further work to change the proposed admission arrangements.

Resolved that (1) the proposed 2023 admission arrangements and limits for Community Schools, as outlined in Appendices 1 to 5 to the report, be approved, subject to the appropriate publication of Statutory Notices;
(2) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management be authorised to proceed in administering admission arrangements for the 2023/2024 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) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, be authorised 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 2023/24 academic year should these arise.

(Reasons for decision: to secure compliance with statutory requirements as outlined in the report).

CAB98/21 Proposed Acceptable Use of Authority Owned Land Policy

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the development of a new Borough wide Policy to outline how permission to use Authority owned land can be applied for and to set out the various activities that would be prohibited or restricted on land owned by the Authority.

The Authority's Strategic Property Team had noted a considerable increase in enquiries to use land owned by the Authority for miscellaneous activities. There had also been a correlated rise in Members Enquiries and complaints from members of the public about inappropriate activities taking place in public open spaces such as beaches and parks that are owned by the Authority. An example was the noticeable increase in the use of drones at St Mary's Lighthouse Nature Reserve, which is part owned by the Authority and classed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Natural England. This increase had caused multiple disturbances and a potential danger to wildlife. Other activities such as balloon and sky lantern releases could be harmful to the environment and can also pose a fire risk.

It was therefore appropriate for the Authority to consider the implementation of a borough wide Policy that would set out how individuals could apply for permission to use Authority owned land where appropriate, and the factors that would be taken into account when assessing such applications, as well as specifying the activities that would not be permitted

on Authority owned land.

An officer working group was established in response to a number of activities of concern who were working together to draw up a draft Policy. The service areas represented on the Group, including the Community and Public Space Protection Team, had examples of activities that had been brought to their attention either by Members, or members of the public, in addition to those that officers had observed themselves, which could be considered inappropriate and unacceptable for a number of reasons. Those reasons could include health and safety issues, potential damage to property as well as environmental and wildlife issues. Examples of the activities that would be considered as part of the development of the Policy and that would be consulted on (if considered appropriate) as activities that would either be prohibited or restricted include: -

- Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones on SSSI sites (unless approved by the Authority and Natural England)
- Setting off fireworks/firework displays
- The release of balloons and/or sky lanterns
- Camping
- Bonfires or firepits
- The riding or racing of quadbikes and/or motorbikes
- Metal detecting

The officer working group would continue to formulate the draft Policy and consult with the Deputy Mayor before it was published and made available for public consultation. The working group, amongst other things, were considering the following principles when shaping the draft policy and considering whether the activities such as those listed above are likely to: -

- Disturb wildlife
- Damage the environment
- Reduce the value of an asset
- Be considered as anti-social or cause a nuisance to the general public

If there was a breach of the proposed Policy, then officers would have regard to the Authority's Enforcement Policy and Code for Regulators and the circumstances surrounding the breach before enforcement action is considered. Breaches of the Policy could either result in a warning being issued to an individual or enforcement action being taken through the civil courts or potentially through the Magistrates' Court. In either case, court action would only be taken if it was considered a proportionate step to take and being in the public interest. Enforcement action through the Courts would always be the last resort.

The Authority currently regulated public spaces in the borough using Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). These were made under a specific legislation featuring a statutory test and currently tackle irresponsible dog ownership and the public consumption of alcohol. The PSPOs must be reviewed every three years and can be extended for a further period of time if that was considered to be appropriate. The required review would commence later this year with draft proposals being considered separately by Cabinet in the early part of 2023 prior to undertaking a statutory consultation process. However, the development of this Policy would inform the review of PSPOs.

Option 1: To agree to the principle of implementing a Policy to control unwelcome activities on Land owned by the Authority, comprising the borough's parks, beaches and areas of public open space.

Option 2: Not to agree to the principle of implementing a Policy in which case many unwelcome activities may continue to occur on the Authority's land.

Resolved that (1) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, be authorised to take all necessary steps to draft an Acceptable Use of Authority Owned Land Policy taking into account the principles outlined in section 1.5 of the report;
(2) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, following consultation with the Deputy Mayor and the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to publish and undertake public consultation on the draft Acceptable Use of Authority Owned Land Policy;
(3) the Deputy Mayor, in consultation with the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management and the Director Law and Governance, be authorised to amend and approve the adoption of the Acceptable Use of Authority Owned Land Policy on behalf of the Authority having regard to the consultation responses;
(4) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management be authorised to publish the Policy;
(5) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, be authorised to undertake future reviews on the Acceptable Use of Authority Owned Land Policy as appropriate and to make amendments to the Policy, following consultation with the Deputy Mayor and the Director of Law and Governance.

(Reasons for decision: It is considered to be the best way to potentially reduce the number of unwelcome activities that take place on land owned by the Authority, if a subsequent delegated decision is taken to implement a Policy following the period of public consultation.)

CAB99/21 Delivering 5,000 Affordable Homes and Reducing Derelict Properties in North Tyneside

Cabinet received a report on progress of phase one delivery in 2021/22 and the planned delivery for 2022/23 to deliver 4,000 affordable homes by 2032: and to formally request the North Tyneside Trading Company Limited and its subsidiaries to consider options to support the Authority's priorities within the Our North Tyneside Council Plan and increase their delivery of affordable homes and support the reduction of derelict properties.

The Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) was approved by Cabinet on the 14 May 2013 and by the end of 2021/22 would have delivered over 1,900 new affordable homes across North Tyneside. In January 2021, the Mayor and Cabinet set out their policy intentions by increasing the AHP target to 4,000 affordable homes by 2032. This included a new ten-year Authority delivery plan called 'Supporting the Ambition for the Borough through Housing Growth' that would see the Authority invest circa £50m and directly deliver an additional 350 new homes. The 'Our North Tyneside Plan' approved by full Council in November 2021, included within it as a priority the delivery by the Authority of "5,000 affordable homes" and a plan to "reduce the number of derelict properties".

The need for more affordable housing was clear. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014 provided a robust evidence base on the level of housing need within the

Borough, including the need for affordable housing. In addition, the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment tool brings together a range of information (e.g., SHMA, Census data, Market Position Statement, demand from the Authority's housing register) and was used to assess the type and size of affordable housing needed across the Borough. The current AHP had been a success, and by end of 2021/22 would have delivered over 1,900 new affordable homes in eight years which constituted a 135% improvement on the ten years prior to the programme starting.

The Authority had an outstanding track record of building high-quality homes with all homes built above the current Decent Homes Standard and Building Regulations, utilising a fabric first approach. Alongside new build development, the Authority also prioritised bringing back long-term empty homes into use as affordable homes. This approach, coupled with the Authority working with private landlords, had been a significant success, with the number of long-term empty properties reducing from 1,326 in January 2019 to 912 in September 2021. Acting in a strategic enabling role, the Authority had 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.

North Tyneside Trading Company (Development) Ltd had continued to invest in affordable housing using "Section 106" funding the Authority has available. The Company had used a purchasing strategy since 2018, to buy homes in-line with housing need to let at an affordable rent from the open market. This strategy had been successful with the Company now owning 73 affordable homes with firm plans to bring its asset base up to 100 homes in 2022.

The Authority declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and the AHP played an important role in responding to the challenge of reducing carbon emissions. This had included trailing innovative products including solar technology and high levels of insulation. Going forwards, the Authority had committed to ensuring that all new homes built directly by the Authority would utilise a fabric first approach ensuring that all homes were highly insulated and provided high levels of air tightness. This would support occupants of those homes by providing a high thermal performance and reduce energy consumption. The Authority would also go further on new build homes by no longer using fossil fuel to heat homes and other innovative technology to reduce carbon emissions.

Phase one of the AHP would see 4,000 affordable homes delivered by 2032 and an indicative programme for delivery was provided in Appendix 3 to the report. This phase would be delivered across several workstreams including directly delivered homes by the Authority, tackling derelict properties, and working in partnership with the North Tyneside Development Company and Registered Providers. The Authority acting in a strategic enabling role would continue to seek a high-level of affordable homes through Section 106 contributions from Private Developers. Details of the progress made in 2021/22 were set out in the report and provided details of the plans for 2022/23. Projected targets for future years were included in Appendix 4 to the report.

Phase two of the AHP would focus on delivering as quickly as possible the remaining 1,000 homes that were currently not within the plan. The successful achievement of phase two, would require innovation and exploration of new ways of delivering homes. The Authority would also be required to work with a wide range of partners and assess a range of potential funding opportunities to support this.

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The Authority would consider options to increase the direct delivery of affordable homes and continue to work in a strategic capacity to ensure that new opportunities from developers were considered.

Windfall sites were identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment that may realise an additional 1,356 homes that were not currently within the Local Plan. These sites had been assessed as having the potential to be developed for residential use but might not have come forward to due viability or planning issues. Whilst it was not possible to accurately predict the level of windfall opportunities that come forward, it was possible to look at historic returns. Since 2016, a total of 436 windfall homes had been delivered at an average of 73 per year. Many of these were on small sites that did not attract a Section 106 contribution. Of the larger sites where Section 106 was required a total of 220 homes were brought forward and it was reasonable to expect a similar number would continue to be delivered that would directly contribute to the 1,000-home target in phase 2.

The HRA ten-year delivery plan in phase one of the AHP made use of currently developable land assets held by the Authority. Therefore, to increase delivery in this area, there would be a requirement to identify new sites or buildings suitable for conversion that can be brought forward. This might require additional resources to purchase or build new schemes and potentially new delivery models and partnerships. It would also be an opportunity to look at Brownfield sites within the borough that maybe suitable to bring forward potentially in conjunction with new delivery models including lease back models or other innovative solutions to funding new affordable homes.

North Tyneside Trading Company was responding to the new policy agenda of the Authority and had produced a new 4-year Business Plan for the consideration of Cabinet that would include an ambition to further increase their stock past 100 affordable homes in the next 4 years and to reinvest all surpluses into the delivery of new affordable homes and tackling derelict properties.

The Deputy Mayor commented the report recognised the significant progress made to date delivering affordable homes, it sets our specific plans for the next 12 months along with the associated delivery plans, and more importantly commits to deliver a new, more ambitious target, to deliver 5,000 much needed affordable homes across North Tyneside.

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

Resolved that (1) in relation to the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes and the reduction of derelict properties:

- (a) the progress of phase one delivering in 2021/22 and the planned delivery for 2022/23 identified in section 1.5.2 to deliver 4,000 affordable homes by 2032, be noted;
- (b) the North Tyneside Trading Company Limited and its subsidiaries, developers, Registered Providers and Care Providers to consider options, be requested to support the Authority's priorities within the Our North Tyneside Council Plan and increase their delivery of affordable homes and support the reduction of derelict properties;
- (c) the Director of Environment, Housing and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Director of Resources and Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to undertake all necessary steps relating to phase two of the Affordable

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Homes Plan and to bring forward the emerging plans identified in section 1.5.3 of the report to deliver the additional 1,000 homes required to achieve the target of 5,000 affordable homes; and

(d) It be agreed to receive an annual report on progress.

(Reason for decision: It will support the delivery of the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's commitments within the Our North Tyneside Plan to deliver more quality affordable homes, reduce the number of derelict properties and support the ambition for North Tyneside to be carbon neutral by 2030.)

CAB100/21 An Ambition for North Tyneside - update

Cabinet received an update report on the delivery of the Council's 'Ambition for North Tyneside' which was agreed by Cabinet on the 26 November 2018 as a framework for the regeneration of the of the borough in line with the then Our North Tyneside Plan.

An Ambition for North Tyneside considered the borough as four areas namely:

- The South West area around Wallsend, including the communities who lived in Howdon, Willington Quay, Hadrian Park, High Farm and Battle Hill;
- The North West including Benton and Longbenton, Forest Hall and Killingworth, Dudley, Weetslade, Burradon, Camperdown and Fordley;
- The North East area around Whitley Bay, including Monkseaton and Earsdon, Shiremoor, Backworth and West Allotment; and
- The South East area around North Shields, including Cullercoats and Tynemouth, Chirton and Percy Main.

The Elected Mayor and Cabinet's ambitions for the Borough were set out in the Our North Tyneside Plan. Specific commitments had been made and were being met in terms of a thriving, family-friendly, caring, secure and green promises.

To deliver the ambition and pay for delivery, the Authority had allocated £2m per year for five years (2021-26) through its budget setting process. This had enabled the Authority to use this as 'match funding' and attract external funding from the North of the Tyne Combined Authority, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, Government and the private sector.

The report explained in detail progress that had been made on the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's ambitions for each part of the Borough. It sets out what had been achieved over the last 12 months, what was currently planned and what would happen next (subject to funding) and what the Authority would do if it could and when it could.

An update was last provided to the Cabinet in September 2020. Since then, the Deputy Mayor and officers had been working closely with a range of partners to unlock potential and opportunity. In summary, the following had been delivered:

- In North Shields the Authority acquired the former Co-op building and had prepared it for

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demolition.

- The Authority also acquired and demolished the Unicorn House office building which would be brought forward for new family housing.
- Work had commenced improving the public realm in Northumberland Square and on Howard Street.
- Planning Applications had now been for a new transport hub in North Shields and a walkway between the Town Centre and Fish Quay.
- Supported North Shields Fish Quay Development Company and the Port of Tyne to begin work to repair and extend the Protection Jetty.
- In Whitley Bay the Authority continued work on the Northern Promenade with works around the Rendezvous Café.
- In Wallsend the Authority had continued to work with the new owners of the Swan Hunter Site (Shepherd Offshore Limited) to bring the site forward for employment purposes.
- The Authority had also completed the refurbishment of residential properties in Charlotte Street, Wallsend which had seen them brought forward for family housing following their acquisition from a private landlord.

In the next 12 months the Authority expected to deliver the following:

- In North Shields the Authority would demolish the former Co-op building and would commence work on the new Transport Interchange and Civic Square.
- The Authority would also commence work on the Embankment Walkway linking the town centre with the Fish Quay.
- The Authority would have started to acquire third party property interests at the Tyne Brand Site on the Fish Quay which was identified for new housing.
- Works to Howard Street and Northumberland Square would be completed in the summer breathing new life into the historic conservation area.
- Work would commence on the development of new housing at the former Unicorn House site.
- Improvement works would also commence on The Exchange building in North Shields as part of our plans to develop a cultural quarter
- The Authority would also see private sector investment into 97 Howard Street and 131 Bedford Street which would be brought forward for cultural type activity following the decision to take these properties to market.

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- Works would also commence bring 11/12 Northumberland Square forward for new housing to complement the new housing delivered at 14-16 Northumberland Square completed in 2020.
- At the coast the Authority would continue works to the Northern Promenade between the Rendezvous Café and the subject to funding, and in line with Our North Tyneside Plan, would install a permanent segregated cycleway at the coast.
- The Authority would also prepare masterplans for Wallsend and Whitley Bay as well as our settlements in the North West of the borough.

Resolved that (1) the progress made in delivering the overall plan since November 2018, be noted;
(2) the projects planned to be delivered in 2022 and beyond, be noted; and
(3) the 'Ambition for North Tyneside' continue to be monitored by the Investment Programme Board and progress reports regularly to Cabinet, be agreed.

CAB101/21 Aligning Child Arrangements Order Allowances, Adoption Order Allowances and Special Guardianship Allowances

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval of the Aligning Child Arrangements Order Allowances, Adoption Order Allowances and Special Guardianship Allowances.

Child Arrangements Orders (which replaced Contact Orders and Residence Orders) secured a child's living arrangement with a connected person and would provide the holder with parental responsibility to be shared with anyone else who held parental responsibility such as birth parents. These orders were an alternative to adoption and long-term foster care or residential care and allowed the child to have contact with their birth family.

Special Guardianship Orders secured a child's living arrangement with a connected person, and primary parental responsibility was given to the Special Guardians however, parental responsibility would be retained by anyone else who held it. These orders were an alternative to adoption and long-term foster care or residential care and allowed the child to have contact with their birth family. Special Guardianship Orders were accompanied by an additional support plan for which the Authority is responsible for.

Adoption Orders allowed a child to legally become part of the adoptive family, with parental responsibility removed from birth parents and given to the adoptive parents. From a legal perspective, the Authority had a duty to financially assess Special Guardians and 'may' assess carers in receipt of Child Arrangements Order Allowances or Adoption Order Allowances. There was therefore no legal requirement to revise the allowances however, there was no legal barrier to doing so either. The current method for assessing Child Arrangements Order Allowances and Adoption Order Allowances was dependent on the specific qualities / needs of the child, which could be a subjective assessment. For example, in the case of trauma resulting in the need for ongoing therapeutic support, or how a disability impacted the child and family.

Unequal provision of financial support, coupled with an additional support plan, was likely to result in increased applications for Special Guardianship Orders, where a Child Arrangements Order would be more appropriate to meet the needs of the child and maintain

shared parental responsibility. Delivering extra support plans would have both a financial and resource impact on the Authority. To ensure financial equality between carers and children subject to Child Arrangements Orders and Adoption Orders in North Tyneside, the Authority required a clearly defined assessment process which aligned allowances and strengthens support given to carers and adoptive parents by revising criteria to ensure it was based upon a means tested calculation.

The Authority's current policy *Residence Orders and Residence Order Allowances Operational Guidance (April 2011)* was out of date as Child Arrangements Orders had now replaced Residence Orders. This allowance was means tested against the cost of an average family taken from the National Family Expenditure Survey. Any allowance paid by the Authority was up to two-thirds of the recommended rate for a child suggested by Fostering Network (which was the equivalent of the assessment of the cost of caring for a child within a family) and was payable on a sliding scale dependent on the outcome of the financial assessment. Child benefit would be taken into account. The allowance would be age related in the same age bands as the fostering allowance and will be appropriately increased at significant birthdays.

The current policy *Financial Support & Initial Information for Adoptive Parents 2016-17* states that the Authority maximum payment is a percentage of the fostering allowance based on the child's age, which is at the discretion of the Service Manager. The Authority utilises several elements to determine the level of support.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) model calculated the family's income and disregards the first 20% of this; it also considered the projected family expenditure. The 'core regular family expenditure' is then added, which was an amount of money the Benefits Agency identifies as the core expenditure for any family. The model then adds an additional 25% to this figure. The model then calculated the amount payable and deducted the Child Benefit and where the final figure was a minus it indicates that there is no financial payment due. Where the final figure was not a minus figure this was the maximum monthly amount payable to the family, not per child.

The Authority's approach to the provision of financial support to carers through Child Arrangements Order Allowances and Adoption Order Allowances was at odds with the approach in use in the majority of Authorities within the region and adjoining regions. A review has revealed that five out of six Authorities within the North East region base all allowances on the age related allowances paid to foster carers, which were means tested and benefits deducted. The sixth Authority was currently revising its processes in order to adopt the same model.

It was proposed that the Authority adopt the method of calculation as set out in the current policy *Financial Support & Initial Information for Special Guardians 2016-17*. When determining the amount of any Child Arrangements Order Allowance or Adoption Order Allowance, the Authority will have regard to the amount of fostering allowance which would have been payable if the child were fostered. The maximum amount payable by way of Child Arrangements Allowance or Adoption Order Allowance would be equivalent to the fostering allowance (less child benefit and any child tax credit for the child/ren subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Adoption Order) based on the child's age plus any enhancement that would be payable to meet any assessed additional needs of the child or exceptional circumstances which will require such an enhancement which is at the

discretion of the responsible Senior Manager.

The means-testing model calculates assessable income of the Carer's family of which 20% was then disregarded. It then considered the assessable family outgoings, adding an amount of money the Benefits Agency identifies as the 'core expenditure' for any family and then adds an additional 25% to this figure.

A subsequent revision to the current policies, aligning them into a combined *Policy for the Calculation and Payment of Child Arrangements Order Allowances and Adoption Order Allowances* would bring the Authority in line with other Authorities within the region and ensure financial parity for Child Arrangements Order Allowances and Adoption Order Allowances. The required update to the relevant policies would result in a higher level of Child Arrangements Order Allowance and Adoption Order Allowance being payable to affected carers. It was estimated that the pressure on the relevant budgets would be £160,941.13.

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

Resolved that the updated policy which incorporated Child Arrangements Order Allowances and Adoption Order Allowances included proposals, be approved to:

- (i) adopt the calculation used to determine the amount that eligible Special Guardians were entitled to receive as an allowance from the Authority to support permanent care of a child or young person.
- (ii) not include additional payment equivalent to four weeks allowance to cover costs for birthday, relevant main cultural event and, holidays throughout the year, in line with Special Guardianship Order and fostering allowances, as there was no legal requirement to do so.

(Reasons for decision: It will ensure the Authority does not financially disadvantage carers who provide permanent care for children and young people who are subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Adoption Order.)

CAB102/21 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 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

(Councillors Graham and Johnson declared a registerable personal interest in the following item, left the meeting and took no part in discussions)

CAB103/21 North Tyneside Trading Company - Strategic Business Plan 2021-2025

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to the North Tyneside Trading Company – Strategic Business Plan 2021-2025.

The North Tyneside Trading Company was established in December 2012 and through its

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subsidiaries, Aurora Affordable Homes and Aurora Properties, had continued to support the Authority's Strategic Priorities of delivering affordable homes and supporting key regeneration projects across the borough, at no additional cost to the Authority.

A new "Our North Tyneside Plan" was approved in September 2021 and it was important the Trading Company's Strategic Business plan was aligned to this new ambitious Council Plan. The Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report demonstrated how the Trading Company would do this.

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

Resolved that The North Tyneside Company's Strategic Business Plan 2021-2025, be approved.

(Reasons for decision: It will support the delivery of the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's commitments within the "Our North Tyneside Plan" to deliver more quality affordable homes, tackle derelict properties and support the ambition for North Tyneside to be carbon neutral by 2030.)

CAB104/21 131 Bedford Street, North Shields

Cabinet considered report which sought approval for the disposal of the land at 131 Bedford Street, North Shields and to declare the land shown on the plan (within the area in dark outline) attached at Appendix 1 to the report, surplus to the Authority's requirement and agree the sale subject to the main terms detailed in section 1.5.3 of the report.

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

Resolved that (1) the land at 131 Bedford Street, North Shields on the property plan (within the area in dark outline) attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be declared surplus to the Authority's requirements and the sale of it to Bidder 2, subject to the main terms detailed in Section 1.5 of the report, be approved;

(2) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, be authorised to agree any reasonable revisions to the terms of the sale of the Property in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Director of Resources and the Director of Law and Governance;

(3) the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to negotiate a sale contract, together with associated documents and complete the freehold transfer of the Property in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, the Authority's Constitution and Financial Regulations, and;

(4) the Director of Commissioning and Asset Management, be authorised to deal with all ancillary matters arising that are consistent with the preceding recommendations.

(Reason for decision: It is considered to be the best way to ensure that the Property is brought back into a beneficial use which complements the Authority's ambition to create a cultural quarter in this part of North Shields.)

CAB105/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Minutes published on Thursday 24 February 2022.

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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 Thursday 3 March 2022.