

## Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

**Wednesday, 7 July 2021**

Present: Councillor Janet Hunter (Chair)  
Councillors L Arkley, B Burdis, D Cox, J Cruddas,  
M Green, J Kirwin, A Newman, E Parker-Leonard,  
W Samuel, J Wallace and M Wilson

In attendance  
Rev M Vine – Church Representative

Apologies: Councillors J Allan, P Oliver and M Ord – Parent  
Governor Representative

### **OV7/21 Appointment of Substitute Members**

There were no Substitute Members.

### **OV8/21 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **OV9/21 Minutes**

A Member questioned the accuracy of the minute by stating it did not record them voting against agreeing and noting items in relation to the Engie Sub-group report and Cabinet's response to the Children, Education and Skills (CES) sub-group report into children's readiness for school.

The Chair acknowledged that the Member did not vote in favour of the items, however, did confirm that a majority of the Committee did vote in favour and therefore the minute was accurate.

**Resolved** that the minute of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 be confirmed.

### **OV10/21 Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling)**

The Committee received a report in relation to the draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling).

The draft Policy statement was subject to a 6-week consultation which would run from 5 July to 15 August 2021, where the public, the trade, North Tyneside's MP's, Councillors and its Heads of Service would have the opportunity to comment on the Policy statement.

Members questioned the Public Protection Manager to what changes had been made to the Policy and was informed that the only amendments were to ensure changes guidance made by the Gambling Commission had been replicated throughout the Policy. The

Committee heard that there had been no process changes made to the Policy.

It was informed that as the Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) formed part of the Authority's policy framework and the committee would receive the final proposals at its meeting to be held on the 4 October 2021.

**Agreed** to note the Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling).

## **OV11/21 Council Plan Refresh**

The Assistant Chief Executive attended the meeting to present Cabinets initial refreshed proposals of the Our North Tyneside Plan, following the mayoral election in May 2021.

The refresh was required to reflect the policy priorities of the Council with the vision to building a better North Tyneside and looking to the future.

The future vision of the Our North Tyneside Plan would follow the five North Tyneside themes of:

- Thriving
- Family-friendly
- Caring
- Secure
- Green

The report detailed and the Assistant Chief Executive explained the policy priorities and outcomes for each of the 5 themes.

The Committee was informed of the engagement approach that would take place during the consultation phases with both internal and external stakeholders.

As the Our North Tyneside Plan formed part of the Authority's policy framework the final proposals were required to be considered by the Committee prior to final approval from Cabinet and Full Council.

It was proposed that the Committee would establish a sub-group of its membership to receive the final proposals and make any further comment.

Members were given the opportunity to comment on the initial proposals and raised the following:

- Consideration to prioritise how to reduce the mortality rates, with the view to be added to the, A Secure North Tyneside theme.
- Ensure through the engagement process that the views of young people were gathered.
- Further consideration to how the Our North Tyneside Plan would be eventually marketed. There was a view that the priority for environment net-zero should be central priority throughout the plan.
- The need for engagement process to ensure there was an increased voice for the poor.

- The need to ensure the consultation engagement was comprehensive to ensure no individuals or groups were missed.
- The need to have increased integration across the Council/Partners in relation to the Environment.
- There was a suggestion to enhance engagement was to approach and attend, if possible organised voluntary sector events that would occur during consultation period.

The Committee agreed that it would establish a sub-group to consider the final proposal changes prior to the Cabinet meeting 2 August. The sub-group will be open to all members of the Committee and would be held virtually using Teams.

**Agreed** that (1) the Council Plan Refresh be noted, (2) the comments raised be forwarded to the Deputy Mayor as relevant Cabinet Member for consideration; and (3) to establish a sub-group to consider Cabinets final proposed changes to the Our North Tyneside Plan prior to the 2 August 2021.

#### **OV12/21 Efficiency Savings Programme 2020/21 Quarter 4: Progress Report**

The Committee received an update report on the full year outturn 2020/21 project and business cases within the Efficiency Savings Programme.

The overall saving requirement for 2020/21 that had been agreed by Cabinet in February 2020 was £3.622m. It was noted that the delivery of some of the saving proposals had been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report detailed that the projected savings had been fully achieved and showed that:

- £1.754m had been delivered against project activities associated to business cases.
- £0.470m had been achieved directly from management actions
- £1.398m had been met through Covid-19 funding.

A member requested further explanation to the service delivery and savings in relation to the Youth Offending and Early Help target. In response the officer stated that the relevant service area would be contacted to provide a response.

**Agreed** that (1) the Efficiency Savings Programme 2020/21 (Quarter 4) update be noted; and (2) information in relation to the Youth Offending and Early Help target be provided.

#### **OV13/21 Review of Parking Strategy**

The Committee received an update on parking services in North Tyneside.

The Committee was reminded that it undertook its own review of the parking permit system and made several recommendations to Cabinet to improve the system. Cabinet accepted the recommendations and were incorporated in the North Tyneside Parking Strategy that was adopted in September 2017.

The Senior Manager Technical & Regulatory Services, Integrated Transport Manager

informed the Committee that members had continued to raise issues relating to Parking Service delivery and that the Cabinet Member for Environment would carry out a review and would welcome the involvement of members as part of the review, especially those members involved in the original review in 2017.

Members raised their concerns in relation to:

- Strategy for electric charging points
- Safer routes for schools
- Enforcement at schools
- Redundant road signage
- Terms of Reference of the review
- The need to have full consultation prior to any implementation.

It was suggested that the Committee receives the findings of the review upon its completion.

**Agreed** that (1) the report on the Review of the Parking Strategy be noted; and (2) the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee be involved and receive the findings of the review on its completion.

#### **OV14/21      Technical Services Partnership - Capita Performance Update**

The Committee received updates and information in relation to the 2020/21 Service Delivery Performance, the 2020/21 Partnership Annual review booklet, a highlight report and Annual Service Plan.

The Council monitors performance of the Partnership monthly and Capita are required to meet a series of important performance milestones for each service they deliver on our behalf and these are known as Key Performance Indicators ('KPI's).

The KPI's, divided into Category 1 (not linked to the payment mechanism) and Category 2 (linked to the payment mechanism) and each have an explicit target.

Performance scorecards were reported for each of the following service areas:

- Property Services
- Engineering Services
- Regulatory Services

The item had been published on the agenda with information to follow and Members questioned the lateness in receiving the papers to allow them to fully scrutinise.

In explanation the Chair informed the Committee that the date of the meeting had been brought forward and consequently the information required for the meeting had not completed its normal clearance cycle.

The Chair and Deputy Chair agreed that the delay in circulation was acceptable in this case.

It was accepted that the item contained a lot of information and Members were asked if they had any questions, they should forward to Democratic Services who would arrange written

responses.

**Agreed** that the 2020/21 Service Delivery Performance, the 2020/21 Partnership Annual review booklet, a highlight report and Annual Service Plan be noted.

**OV15/21 Exclusion Resolution**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 12A 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.

**OV16/21 Technical Services Partnership - Further Information**

**Agreed** that (1) the Capita Financial Performance for the 2020/21 Outturn be noted; (2) the decision to receive the financial information as an exempt item be reviewed.