

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Monday, 17 January 2022

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

In attendance:
Rev M Vine - Co-opted Member

Apologies: Councillors P Oliver and E Parker-Leonard

OV29/21 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Julie Cruddas declared a non-registerable personal interest in Item 5 - Our North Tyneside Plan update report. She is a Director of Justice Prince Community Interest Company.

OV30/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minute of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 be agreed.

OV31/21 Our North Tyneside Plan update report

The Committee received a report that provided an update on proposed new measures to monitor the performance of the Our North Tyneside Plan (ONT) 2021- 2025.

The proposed measures reflected the policy priorities following the Mayoral Election May 2021, in addition to those of residents, businesses, partners and stakeholders that had been received during both internal and external engagement.

The ONT Plan was structured around the five themes:

- Thriving
- Family Friendly
- Caring
- Secure
- Green

A set of high-level outcome measures that had been developed against most the priorities were appended to the report. It was acknowledged that there were some priorities where written qualitative updates would be more appropriate than performance metrics.

The reporting of the performance of the Our North Tyneside 2021-2025 plan would continue to be received on a 6-monthly basis in the format of a dashboard report with accompanying analysis.

Under the **Thriving Theme** that further information was asked to be provided in relation to the responsibility of updating of the masterplan for North Shields with the inclusion to who would be consulted prior to the update and the spend in delivering it.

Further information was requested in relation to:

- the vacancy rate in shops/properties in the area, the number of business start-ups in the Town centre with a breakdown of the number of business trading one -year after being started and the number of jobs the start-ups.
- reducing the number of derelict properties across the borough it was asked the approach for considering a long-term vacant dwelling.
- to properties deleted from Council Tax Valuation List - property uninhabitable, rationale to the process of selection.

A Member raised that consideration should be made to in relation to a measure for sole trader registration as this was an area where people move from of benefits and onto establishing businesses.

Secure Theme

Under the priority - We will maintain the Council Tax support scheme that cuts bills for thousands of low-income households across North Tyneside. It was asked what the current percentage applications for Local Council Tax Support and what proportion was this in relation to whole borough be provided.

Green Theme

Under the priority - Council environmental hit squads will crack down on littering. It was asked that information be provided on the assumptions/forecast targets for each of the measures fly tipping incidents reported, fixed penalty notices issued for littering, fixed penalty notices issued for fly tipping.

A Member raised that there was no measure with regards to Culture and Heritage. Officers stated there was to be a review of the Cultural Strategy and some metrics may arise from that.

A Member questioned how the Council ensured there was engagement with marginalised groups. Officers informed of the increased partnership working with Voluntary/Community Sector to ensure comprehensive community engagement.

The Committee noted and agreed that the final set of proposed measures be presented at a future meeting.

Agreed that (1) the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 update report be noted; and (2) the final set of proposed measures be presented at a future meeting.

The Committee received the report of the Budget Sub-group that detailed the scrutiny into the Cabinet's initial 2022/26 Financial Planning and Budget proposals.

The group met on 15 December 2021, where officers presented the position of the Authority budget, the Initial budget proposals to deliver a balanced budget.

The Committee was informed that there would be a further meeting of the Budget Sub-group, where it would scrutinise the Cabinets Final Budget Proposals and this would take place on the 1 February 2021. The Committee agreed to delegate the sub-group responsibility to make further comment and any recommendations to Cabinet following this meeting.

Members raised their concern to the delay in receiving the Budget Sub-group report. The Chair acknowledged the delay and proposed that consideration would be given to the timetabling of how future Budget Scrutiny could be conducted that would allow provision of a more reliable period to report the sub-groups findings.

The Chair presented the report, referring to each aspect of the budget where the sub-group expressed comment.

A Member of the Committee who were also Member of the Budget Sub-group expressed that the sub-group had received clear and detailed information for each element of the budget.

A Member stated that the Council should ensure that the precise amount of funding received from Central Government be clearly reported as there was a perceived unawareness for some residents.

It was **Agreed** that (1) the Budget Sub-Group report detailing comments be referred to Cabinet; (2) delegate responsibility to the Budget Sub-group to make further comment and any recommendations to Cabinet following scrutiny of Cabinets 2022/23 Final Budget Proposals; and (3) give consideration to the future timetabling of the Budget Scrutiny.

OV33/21 Technical Services Partnership - Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Update

The Committee received update for partnership performance for the first quarter of the 2021 – 22 financial year.

The Council monitors performance of the Partnership on a monthly basis 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 Committee received a presentation from Partnership Director to the service delivery performance and was attached to the report.

Agreed that the Technical Services Partnership Q1 report be noted.

OV34/21 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.

OV35/21 Technical Services Partnership - Further Information

Agreed that the Financial update 2021/22 Quarter1 be noted.