



North Tyneside Council

Cabinet

16 March 2023

Monday, 27 March 2023 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. **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.

3. **Minutes**

5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023.

4. **Report of the Young Mayor**

To receive a verbal report on the latest activities of the Young Mayor and Young Cabinet.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and receive information about it.

North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

For further information about the meeting please email: democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk

Agenda Item	Page(s)
<p>5. 2022/23 Financial Management Report to 31 January 2023</p> <p>To receive the fifth budget monitoring report for the current financial year which reflects the indication of the potential revenue and capital position of the Authority at 31 March 2023.</p>	15 - 76
<p>6. Procurement Plan 2023-2024</p> <p>To receive a report seeking approval for the Authority's Procurement Plan 2023/2024 to proceed with the relevant procurement exercises throughout the financial year and award contracts in accordance with UK public procurement legislation to the most advantageous tenders.</p>	77 - 86
<p>7. Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 Performance Report</p> <p>To receive an update report on progress with delivering the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025.</p>	87 - 130
<p>8. Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy and Corporate Equality Objectives Review</p> <p>To receive a report seeking approval for the Authority's refreshed Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy; and Corporate Equality Objectives for the period April 2023 to March 2025.</p>	131 - 168
<p>9. Building a Better North Tyneside: The Housing Strategy 2023-2028 and Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028</p> <p>To receive a report seeking approval for the Authority's Building a Better North Tyneside: Housing Strategy 2023-2028; and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028.</p>	169 - 220
<p>10. Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 22 May 2023 at 6.00pm.</p>	

Circulation overleaf ...

Circulated to Members of Cabinet: -

N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)
Councillor C Johnson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor C Burdis
Councillor K Clark
Councillor S Graham
Councillor J Harrison
Councillor H Johnson
Councillor A McMullen
Councillor S Phillips
Councillor M Rankin

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

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Cabinet

Monday, 20 February 2023

Present: Dame N Redfearn DBE (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, C Burdis, K Clark, S Graham,
J Harrison, H Johnson, A McMullen and M Rankin

In Attendance: M Godfrey (Young Mayor)
S Rennison (Northumbria Police)
D Hodgson (Business Representative)
V Smith (Voluntary and Community Sector)
D McNally (Age UK, North Tyneside)
R Layton (North Tyneside Joint Trades Union Committee)

Apologies: Councillor S Phillips

CAB96/23 Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

Councillor K Clark declared a non-registerable personal interest in agenda Item 5: Determination of School Admission Arrangements September 2024 (CAB99/23), as her grandchildren attended schools in North Tyneside.

Councillor M Rankin declared a non-registerable personal interest in agenda Item 5: Determination of School Admission Arrangements September 2024 (CAB99/23), as his children attended schools in North Tyneside.

CAB97/23 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the previous meetings held on 23 January (Ordinary), 30 January (Extraordinary), and the 6 February 2023 (Extraordinary) be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB98/23 Report of the Young Mayor

Before the outgoing Young Mayor, Max Godfrey, reported on activities he made the following announcements:

On Friday 17 February 2023, Cameron Quinn from St. Thomas More school, was elected as Young Mayor and their pledge was "To ensure that every young person in North Tyneside has the best possible start in life by creating a safe diverse and nurturing environment." Also, Sharon Zeng from George Stephenson High school, elected as Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), and their pledge was "To raise awareness about the importance of financial education in schools, informing students about their financial choices and career choices."

Max said he wished Cameron and Sharon all the best in working to achieve their pledges and was sure Youth Councillors would support both in achieving them, as they had supported MYP Hannah and me to achieve ours. He also commented that as this may be

his last time at Cabinet thanked everyone for all the opportunities to represent young people and had enjoyed his time in the role.

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

- Many of the Youth Council Environment Committee and Young Mayor had taken part in the tree planting in the Northwest of the borough as part of the North East Community Forest project and attended St Columbus Primary School to help with the planting in the school grounds as part of their Eco Schools Award.
- The Young Mayor's pledge to encourage as many schools as possible to register for the Eco school Award, had now registered fifty-one schools which was a huge increase. Max thanked the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Authority's Sustainable Environment Team for all their support and who visited schools in the borough to raise awareness on recycling and the Eco Schools Award.
- The Young Mayor thanked the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Authority's Head of Environmental Sustainability for attending the last Environment Committee meeting which helped the young people to learn about the work that was being undertaken by North Tyneside Council as part of the Action on Climate Change.
- The fundraising for Walking With had gone well over the year and most money raised had been from the Morrisons request for donations from shoppers during the third fundraiser of the year in Whitley Bay and raised a further £85.81, which 1 and was added to the running total making the final amount of £703.67. The money would be presented to walking With at the March Youth Council meeting. 150 large bags of groceries had also been generously donated which were greatly appreciated.
- Members of the Youth Council, SEND Youth Forum and Children's in Care Council were working with the Independent Scrutineer for the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, in helping to co-produce a video informing young people of the Partnership and how they can get help around young people's safeguarding.
- The SEND Youth Forum had been busy making films around School Nurses and Education, Health, and Care Plans and why it was important to hear the voices of children and young people in these. The videos would be used at staff conferences and on the Authority's SEND Local Offer and website.

The Elected Mayor thanked the Young Mayor for his update and congratulated him and all the young people for their excellent and valuable work over the last year. The Elected Mayor and her Cabinet were proud of Max and MYP Hannah and welcomed them both in their future roles. These accolades were echoed by Cabinet Members and the Authority's partner representatives present.

CAB99/23 Determination of School Admission Arrangements 2024

Cabinet considered a report detailing the proposed admission arrangements for all Community Schools in North Tyneside for the 2024/2025 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 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 2023 for entry into maintained schools in September 2024. 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 sixteen 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 forty-four schools. The governing bodies of these schools were responsible for 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 the three Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools and of the thirteen 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 2024 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 2024/2025 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 2024/25 academic year should these arise.

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

CAB100/23 Review of the North Tyneside Statement of Licensing Policy (Sex Establishments)

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for the adoption of the revised North Tyneside Council Statement of Licensing Policy (Sex Establishments) as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The North Tyneside Council Statement of Licensing Policy (Sex Establishments) was first adopted on 20 January 2011 following the formal adoption by the Authority of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the policy has been regularly reviewed thereafter.

In 2010 the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ('the Act') was amended to include a new category of sex establishment, namely a sexual entertainment venue. The Council adopted Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act in 2011 to enable the Authority

to license sexual entertainment venues as well as the existing categories of sex establishments, namely sex shops and sex cinemas.

Although there was no statutory requirement to have a policy concerning the licensing of sex establishments, it had been long established that it was good practice for Licensing Authorities to adopt various non-statutory policies that assisted in the promotion of consistency in decision-making. It also informed the licensing trade and the public of the approach of the Licensing Authority to sex establishment licensing in its area.

The existing policy included a numerical limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues within a specified area of Whitley Bay, namely the area bordered by Whitley Road, Park Avenue, the Promenade and the Esplanade. That limit had been set as nil. That limit did not preclude an application for a licence being made within the specified area that would take the number of licences in the area above the set limit. However, in such a situation the presumption would be to refuse such an application and the applicant would have to make their case as to why the licence should be granted in that particular location contrary to the policy.

There were some statutory exceptions for the need for sexual entertainment venues to be licensed. For example, if sexual entertainment takes place in a premises that had the benefit of a Premises Licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 on no more than eleven occasions in a 12-month period and no such occasion lasted for more than 24 hours, and there was a month between each occasion, no sexual entertainment licence was required by that premises.

Since Schedule 3 was adopted by the Authority, there had been no applications received for a sexual entertainment venue licence. There were no licences currently issued in relation to sex shops or sex cinemas.

A draft Statement of Licensing Policy had been prepared. The numerical limit of nil for the specified area of Whitley Bay was retained for the purposes of the draft policy and consultees were specifically asked to comment on this aspect of the Policy. The draft Policy had been updated to include the following:

- Updated references to Council Plan
- Reference to Public Sector Equality Duty
- Need for Basic Disclosure Certificate for applicants
- Safeguarding training for applicants.

An engagement period of six weeks had taken place from 10 October to 20 November 2022. An online survey was developed for individuals or businesses to make consultation responses as well as being able to make written responses. Information was made available on the Engagement Hub. At the conclusion of this consultation sixteen responses were received. A summary of the responses was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Of the sixteen responses received, all were in support of the revised Policy. In addition, every response received agreed with the imposition of a nil limit for licences in the Whitley Bay area. Northumbria Police commented that all premises previously providing

adult entertainment on South Parade were no longer trading. In consideration of the responses, no further amendments to the draft Policy were made.

The fees were reviewed annually against any rise or reduction in the cost of administering the licensing regime.

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

Resolved that the adoption the revised North Tyneside Council Statement of Licensing Policy (Sex Establishments) as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision: To ensure that the existing Policy is updated and remains transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent. The Policy has been subject to a six-week consultation exercise and views expressed during that period have been considered in formulating the final draft document.)

CAB101/23 Disability Employment Charter

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the Authority to become a signatory organisation to the Disability Employment Charter.

The Disability Employment Charter ("the Charter") was launched in October 2021 and founded by Disability Rights UK, Disability@Work, the University of Warwick, the DFN Charitable Foundation, Leonard Cheshire, Scope, Shaw Trust Foundation, and UNISON.

The Charter, which was appended to the report, outlined nine areas for the UK Government to consider which would improve disabled people's employment outcomes. The actions were set out to provide the Government with a road map for change as it developed the next phases of its National Disability Strategy. The areas included in the Charter and the work the Authority was undertaking which already met the measures outlined in the Charter were summarised in the report under the following headings:

- Employment and pay gap reporting
- Supporting disabled people into employment
- Reform of Access to Work
- Reform of Disability Confident
- Leveraging Government procurement
- Workplace Adjustments
- Working with disabled people and their representatives
- Advice and support
- National progress on disability employment

Objectives of the Charter were to increase employment opportunities and job satisfaction for disabled people, reduce disability pay gaps, benefit the taxpayer and support the UK's post-pandemic recovery by providing employers with the widest possible talent pool to address skills shortages. 129 organisations within the public, private and voluntary sectors had become signatories to the Charter. Public sector organisations who had signed up to the Charter included Adur & Worthing Councils, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Trust and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. To

date there was no confirmation about if or when Government would consider the Charter from a national perspective.

The Authority had a set of corporate equality objectives that guided the Authority's work on equality, diversity and inclusion, three of which aligned with the aims of the Charter:

Equality Objective 2 was to "Create a more inclusive colleague experience within the Authority". Actions under this objective include the introduction of a Disability Policy, a review the Authority's Attendance Management Procedure to ensure a wider focus on health and wellbeing, and a commitment to make the Authority's workforce more representative of the borough's population through a Workforce Development Plan, delivery of an Equality and Diversity Calendar of events and activities and the delivery of an 'Embedding Equality Programme' to make equality and diversity "everyone's business", including the introduction of staff networks with one for staff with disabilities.

Equality Objective 4: "Improve the collection and use of workforce and external equality data". The actions under this objective were to ensure a corporate approach to the collection, publication and use of employee, customer and resident equality data and to develop, monitor and report equality and diversity performance measures.

Equality Objective 5: "Ensure the Authority's buildings, services and communications are accessible", which includes to the implementation of an action plan based on AccessAble's findings.

The actions under these objectives aligned with the aims of the Disability Employment Charter to support the objective of being a more inclusive employer.

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

Resolved that (1) the Authority becomes a signatory organisation to the Disability Employment Charter be agreed; and
(2) the Director of Resources be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement resolution (1) above.

(Reason for decision: It supports the Authority's statutory duty under The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 and the reporting requirements imposed by the Regulations. It also helps to meet the Authority's corporate equality objectives that guides the Authority's work on equality, diversity and inclusion and its aim to be an inclusive workspace.)

CAB102/23 Land at Centurion Park, Rheydt Avenue, Wallsend

Cabinet received a report which presented public representations that had been made to the Authority in accordance with a statutory advertisement confirming the Authority's intention to dispose an area of land within its ownership at Centurion Park, Rheydt Avenue, Wallsend, part of which was classed as public open space.

The Land shown (within the area in dark outline) on the Plan appended to the report, was declared surplus to the Authority's requirements by Cabinet on 24 January 2022. Approval was also given for it to be made available for disposal by private treaty to

Bellway Homes Limited, for the development of 215 new homes, including fifty-four affordable homes, in respect of which the Authority's Planning Committee gave a "minded to grant" planning approval to the planning application on 17 January 2023, subject to the completion of a Section 106 Planning Agreement.

As the Land was classed as public open space it was subject to the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1972. The Authority must therefore give notice of its intention to dispose of the Land in accordance with Section 123 (2A) of the Act and formally consider any representations made. This must be done by placing notices confirming the proposed disposal for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper. The Authority's intentions were advertised in the Journal newspaper on 7 November 2022, and 14 November 2022, respectively. The closing date for the receipt of representations was set as 2 December 2022.

Prior to the closing date, three representations were made to the Authority all of which were objections to the proposed disposal. These were from a local resident, The Rt Hon Nick Brown, MP, and Wallsend Boys Club. The main points of objection received to the proposed disposal of the land together with officer responses at appropriate intervals were set out in section 1.5.2 of the report.

As part of a strategic review of sport and leisure facilities in the Wallsend area a significant amount of public consultation was undertaken by the Authority prior to the closure and lease of existing facilities to Keeping Inns limited and Wallsend Boys Club. At that time there was a recognised need to replace ageing sport and leisure facilities. This ultimately led to the opening of Hadrian Leisure centre with over £10 million investment in new facilities. This included a state-of-the-art gym, new swimming pools and public access to a new all-weather pitch, multi-use games areas, sports hall, dance studio and a regionally significant climbing wall.

In addition, a new grass football pitch and cricket pitch was provided at Churchill College. The quality and quantity of new facilities available for public use far exceed those closed and subsequently leased out for other use. The new facilities were also built in parts of Wallsend that were much more accessible for the local community. Since that time, the Authority had also supported both Wallsend Boys Club and Wallsend Rugby Club to establish new, quality, facilities in the Wallsend area. Prior to this both clubs did not have a base for match play in North Tyneside.

As part of the disposal of existing facilities at Bigges Main, the Authority leased the existing site of Wallsend Boys Club on a long-term basis for a term of 80 years from 2012. This had enabled the Club, with the Authority's support, to develop the excellent facilities they now had on site including a new artificial grass pitch and new grass pitches as well as changing facilities and car parking.

In addition, land east of St Peters playing fields was leased to Wallsend Rugby Club and support was given to the club to establish two new full size Rugby pitches and a new base for the club was established. At the present time, the Authority was also at an advanced stage to provide a new Sports Hub at St Peters playing fields which would include another new artificial grass pitch as well as changing and other community facilities.

Finally, as part of the upgrade of Richardson Dees Park, new and refurbished recreational facilities were provided. This included tennis courts, bowling facilities, a multi-use games area, an outdoor gym, a skate park and a large children's play site. Following a strategic review of leisure facilities in Wallsend and across the Borough, significant investment was made in sports, leisure and park facilities for the community.

Cabinet having regard to the objections received and the officers' responses to each objection contained in the report **Resolved** that the objections received in relation to the disposal of the Land at Centurion Park, Rheydt Avenue, Wallsend, shown on the plan (within the area in dark outline) attached at Appendix 1 be set aside, and that authorisation for the disposal of the Land be reaffirmed.

CAB103/23 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 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.

CAB104/23 Street Lighting PFI Deed of Variation

Cabinet received a report which sought approval to conclude amendments to the Street Lighting PFI Project Agreement by way of a Deed of Variation to reflect the change to LED lighting.

The Authority's Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract was a joint agreement between the Authority, Newcastle City Council and Tay Valley Lighting (Newcastle and North Tyneside) Limited. It was entered into in 2004 following a European Union compliant competitive procurement process and runs to 2029. As part of the ongoing programme of work to reduce the electricity consumption of the street lighting portfolio and to help deliver the Authority's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan, almost 20,000 street lights were to be retrofitted with modern energy efficient LED lighting.

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

Resolved that (1) the content of the report be noted; and
(2) the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Director of Resources, the Assistant Chief Executive and Cabinet Member for Environment, be authorised to conclude negotiations to the proposed amendments to the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative Project Agreement ("the Project Agreement") entered into by the Authority, Newcastle City Council and Tay Valley Lighting (Newcastle and North Tyneside) Limited, and to enter into the Deed of Variation which amends the Project Agreement to reflect the change to the LED street lighting.

(Reason for decision: It will enable completion of the LED retrofitting project which will further reduce the electricity consumption and costs of the street lighting portfolio and will support the delivery of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.)

Cabinet

CAB105/23 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 27 March at 6.00pm.

Minutes published on Thursday, 23 February 2023.

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 2 March 2023.

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 27 March 2023

Title: 2022/23 Financial Management Report to 31 January 2023

Portfolios: Elected Mayor Finance and Resources	Cabinet Member: Dame Norma Redfearn DBE Councillor Martin Rankin
Report from: Finance	
Responsible Officer: Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources	Tel: 643 5701
Wards affected: All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

- 1.1.1 This report is the fifth monitoring report to Cabinet on the 2022/23 financial position. The intention of the report is to explain the current financial position in the context of the policy priorities in the Our North Tyneside Plan. It provides the fifth indication of the potential revenue and capital position of the Authority at 31 March 2023. The report explains where the Authority continues to face financial pressures and the plans to address these.
- 1.1.2 The 2021/22 financial year was highly complex for the Authority due to the operational response to the pandemic and, like all local authorities, North Tyneside Council is continuing to feel the legacy impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, this report sets out the potential financial impact the pandemic will have on the Authority in 2022/23. The Authority continues to see areas of pressure across Adults' and Children's Social Care, but there are also significant impacts on income particularly across Sport and Leisure Services, Home to School Transport and Catering Services.
- 1.1.3 In addition to pressures seen in previous financial years, a number of global issues have emerged in more recent months including the war in Ukraine, leading to more supply chain issues and adding to rising inflation, especially in utility costs. The impact of these factors is leading to a 'cost of living crisis', further increasing demand on the Authority's services, which is adding significant financial strain to the Authority's budgets.
- 1.1.4 The Authority's finances are complex in any year given the range of services that are delivered; the picture this financial year is even more volatile given these national and global economic challenges. At a Service level, before the application

of planned contingencies and central funding, the gross pressure would be £22.872m, a slight improvement of £0.639m from the previous monitoring report.

- 1.1.5 However, when the Authority set the balanced budget for the year at Council in February 2022, this included contingencies of £6.752m and other central funding of £1.006m (both shown within the Central Items figure in Table 1). As a result, the total forecast year-end pressure for the General Fund, shown in Table 1 reduces to £15.114m.
- 1.1.6 Table 1 includes mitigations from the revised approach to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) calculations of £4.927m, which are included in Central Items. Cabinet will be aware that a change was made towards the end of the previous financial year, with the External Auditors having confirmed in the autumn that there are no issues with this revised methodology, so these can now be factored into in-year budget monitoring.
- 1.1.7 When the Budget was set, the potential impact of some of these additional pressures were foreseen by Cabinet. A number of mitigations through the use of grants and reserves, totalling £6.700m, were set aside in the 2022-2026 Medium-Term Financial Plan to support the 2022/23 financial position, with a further £0.428m release of provisions reported in November. The latest forecast has been updated with a reduction of £0.100m relating to the usage of legacy Covid-19 grants, taking the total amount of mitigations shown in Table 2 to £7.028m, which reduces the overall forecast in-year pressure to £8.086m. This is an overall improvement of £0.539m from the last report to Cabinet.
- 1.1.8 Finance officers are continuing to work with Cabinet, the Senior Leadership Team and other senior officers across the Authority to challenge the projected risks facing the Authority whilst continuing to deliver planned efficiencies. However, and consistent with the messages in the reports to Cabinet and Council when setting the 2023/24 budget, it is inevitable that there will be a general fund overspend at the year-end. As such, a call on the Strategic Reserve will be required. However, the recently set 2023/24 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), includes the planned replenishment of this reserve through to 2026/27.
- 1.1.9 The Mayor and Cabinet will be aware of recent increases in the Bank of England base rate, with an expectation that interest rates will continue to rise in 2023. The Authority drew down £10m of Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) borrowing in August 2022 whilst rates were at the lower end of the interest rate curve and prior to the more recent financial markets volatility seen since September 2022. Whilst there is no immediate need to borrow, future borrowing costs may now be higher than originally forecast. This may lead to additional Capital and Treasury financing pressures in future years. As Cabinet would expect, interest rates continue to be proactively monitored and cash flow management undertaken to secure the maximum return/minimum cost for the Authority in line with the Prudential Code.
- 1.1.10 In terms of the Housing Revenue Account, an underspend of £0.187m is forecast. This position has been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and in particular issues with repairs and maintenance costs, with increased material and contractor costs. In addition, there has been significant increases in energy costs, however, these pressures have been mitigated by an improved rental income position, vacancy savings and a lower forecast for increased arrears and the impact on in-year Bad Debt Provision.

- 1.1.11 The report includes details of the additional grants received by the Authority since the previous report. The report also advises Cabinet of the position so far on the 2022/23 Schools' budgets and Schools' funding. On top of the reported grants for the financial period considered in this report (i.e., to the end of January), Cabinet should also note a more recent announcement of external funding of £1.850m from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities towards public realm improvements in North Shields Town Square. This recent award included commendations for the quality of the bids submitted.
- 1.1.12 In terms of the Investment Plan, work has been undertaken to consider the impacts of supply chain issues and inflation pressures. The focus has been to manage within the current financial envelope across the plan which may lead to a delay in delivery of some planned activity. Any such implications will be considered at the Investment Programme Board and brought to the Mayor and Cabinet for consideration as part of the normal financial management process.

1.2 Recommendations:

- 1.2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (a) notes the forecast budget monitoring position for the General Fund, Schools' Finance and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and as at 31 January 2023 (Annex sections 1, 2 and 3);
 - (b) approves the receipt of £1.192m new revenue grants (as outlined in section 1.5.4 of this report);
 - (c) notes the Authority's Investment Plan spend of £53.366m to 31 January 2023 and the financing of the Plan to the end of the year (Annex Section 4);
 - (d) approves variations of £1.521m and reprogramming of (£6.938m) for 2022/23 within the 2022-2027 Investment Plan (Annex Section 4);
 - (e) Notes the information on the Collection Fund (Annex section 6); and

1.3 Forward Plan:

- 1.3.1 Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 17 February 2023.

1.4 Authority Plan and Policy Framework:

- 1.4.1 The budget is a key strand of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Financial Position

- 1.5.1.1 This report is the fifth monitoring report presented to Members on the Authority's 2022/23 financial position. It provides an indication of the expected revenue and capital financial position of the Authority on 31 March 2023. The view in this report may change over the remaining months of the financial year, as the recovery from Covid-19 continues, the impact of market conditions becomes clearer, further inflationary factors become apparent and management actions continue to take

effect.

1.5.1.2 The report covers:

- The forecast outturn of the Authority's General Fund and HRA revenue budget including management mitigations where issues have been identified;
- The delivery of 2022/23 approved budget savings plans; and
- An update on the Capital Investment Plan, including details of variations and reprogramming, that is recommended for approval.

1.5.2 General Fund Revenue Account

- 1.5.2.1 The Budget for 2022/23 was approved by full Council at its meeting on the 17 February 2022. The net General Fund revenue budget was set at £163.512m, which included £7.257m of savings to be achieved in year.
- 1.5.2.2 The Authority's finances are complex in any year given the range of services that are delivered; the picture this financial year is even more volatile given the national and global economic challenges. At a Service level, before the application of planned contingencies and central funding, the gross pressure would be £22.872m. However, the budget for the year included contingencies of £6.752m and other central funding of £1.006m (both shown within the Central Items figure in Table 1). As a result, the total forecast year-end pressure for the General Fund, shown in Table 1 reduces to £15.114m. Table 1 below sets out the initial variation summary across the General Fund, with a detailed commentary of variances included in Annex 1.
- 1.5.2.3 Included within the position for Central Items is £6.752m of contingencies. Whilst held in Central Items, its use is identified as: £3.116m to offset the pressures in Children's Social Care; £1.301m is supporting the under achievement of savings targets; and £2.325m to support the inflationary pressures being faced by the Authority. In September's report, a £0.316m saving was included reflecting the part year reversal of the national insurance increase along with a £4.927m of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) savings following the conclusion of External Audit work into the methodology change; these items remain in the forecasts. In 2021/22 these savings were set aside in a new MRP reserve, which remains on the balance sheet, but it is likely that the in-year saving will be required to support the bottom-line position in 2022/23, so is currently included in the forecast position. Since the last report to Cabinet, the Authority has received a one-off contribution of £0.405m relating to the Levy Account surplus. This gives a total underspend for Central Items of £13.407m.
- 1.5.2.4 Table 2 adds further detail to the information in Table 1. The top half of table 2 breaks down the forecast £15.114m pressure into the main factors of covid legacy, utility, other inflation, and other pressures. The covid pressures of £7.757m arise primarily from fees and charges income not yet returning to pre-pandemic levels and additional fixed term staff employed to cover increased demand or to enable front-line service provision to continue.
- 1.5.2.5 The lower half of Table 2 includes details of funding set aside to support known pressures. As part of the 2022-2026 Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) agreed by full Council in February, £2.200m was set aside from the Change Reserve to support additional pressures in Home to School Transport (£0.400m), Special Educational Needs (£0.400m), additional children's social care provision (£1.200m)

and for the development of the Customer Relationship Management programme (£0.200m). The £0.400m relating to Home to School Transport has now been allocated to Commissioning & Asset Management and is reflected in the services projected position, with the remaining £1.800m supporting the overall corporate pressure, in Table 2.

- 1.5.2.6 In addition £2.000m was also set aside to create a Covid-19 Reserve as part of the 2022-2026 MTFP, this included £0.650m to support additional caseloads within Children's Services, £0.350m to support Home to School Transport and £1.000m to support reduced fees and charges income following the pandemic. The £0.350m relating to Home to School Transport has now been allocated to Commissioning & Asset Management and is reflected in the services projected position, leaving £1.650m to support the overall corporate pressure in Table 2.
- 1.5.2.7 Within the 2022-2026 MTFP, £0.150m was identified as planned use of the Insurance Reserve to support additional Repairs and Maintenance costs. The use of this funding has been included in Table 2.
- 1.5.2.8 Table 2 includes a further £1.300m of contingencies that has not been applied to specific service areas/central items, so can support the overall corporate position.
- 1.5.2.9 Following the on-going review of provisions, the Authority has been able to release provisions of £0.728m (of which £0.300m relates to Special Guardianship Order costs).
- 1.5.2.10 £1.925m of funding previously reported in July has now been allocated to help cover the cost of the Pay Award, which is now approved at £1,925 for every full-time equivalent employee. Despite this additional allocation, the cost of the pay award is higher than the funding set aside and is reflected in the overall forecast for the year, which is reflected in individual service areas in the top part of Table 2.
- 1.5.2.11 The Authority carried forward £2.962m of Covid-19 related central Government grants from 2021/22. Of this £1.562m has been committed and is reflected in the £15.114m position reported in Table 1. The remaining balance of £1.400m is available to support on-going Covid-19 legacy pressures and is reflected in the revised position shown in Table 2.
- 1.5.2.12 Taking all of the above into account, the result is a forecast year-end pressure of £8.086m, which is an improvement of £0.539m since the previous Cabinet report.
- 1.5.2.13 The main service areas facing forecast overspends are those most exposed to the new, emerging pressures, which are impacting on top of the residual covid-impacts. Environment, which includes Sports and Leisure activities, is experiencing income shortfalls from fees and charges, which continue to be at lower than pre-pandemic levels. That Directorate is significantly affected by energy costs, given it includes streetlighting, leisure centres and customer first centres which are all energy intensive activities. In addition, higher inflation rates are significantly impacting on the waste management contract.
- 1.5.2.14 Children's and Adults' Services are forecasting significant pressures, as the impact of Covid-19 has seen the need to increase staffing levels to manage increases in both the complexity and volume of demand for services. This is also resulting in increased payments to external providers. This is not unique to North Tyneside and is being seen across the region and nationally.

- 1.5.2.15 Commissioning & Asset Management is forecasting overspends in catering supplies and the cost of Home to School Transport, with the cost of supplies and fuel rising rapidly in this period of high inflation.
- 1.5.2.16 The Resources directorate is experiencing overspends in Legal Services, associated with the level of locum solicitors dealing with a combination of increased demand and job vacancies, which is being addressed by a restructure that is underway, with increased resources included as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process. There is also an ongoing impact of the recovery of benefit overpayments in the Revenues and Benefits Service on the directorate position, although this has improved by £0.063m since the last report.
- 1.5.2.17 Finance officers are continuing to work with Cabinet, the Senior Leadership Team and other senior officers across the Authority to review Business as Usual activity as well as challenging and reviewing the current projected risks the authority is facing in a number of key areas:
- Children's Services – need and cost assumptions;
 - High needs/SEND pressures;
 - Adults Social Care – need and cost assumptions;
 - Unachieved savings targets;
 - Commissioning & Asset Management – Impact of schools' service level agreement reductions;
 - Law & Governance Structure – use of locums; and
 - Revenues & Benefits position – review of the level of benefits overpayments and subsequent recovery.
- 1.5.2.18 The aim of this work will be to ensure actions are in place to bring the outturn forecast for normal activities in on balance and it is anticipated the position will continue to improve over the remaining months of the financial year as planned remedial actions begin to impact on both expenditure and income. However, at this stage of the year it is certain that some level of overspend will need to be supported from the Strategic Reserve, significantly reducing the level of un-ringfenced reserves the Authority has available. The recently agreed 2023/24 budget and MTFP included the replenishment of this reserve in the period through to 2026/27.

1.5.2.19 Table: 1 2022/23 General Fund Revenue Forecast Outturn as at 31 January 2023

Services	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults Services	56.840	60.632	3.792	5.233	(1.441)
Children's Services	22.453	37.088	14.635	13.477	1.158
Public Health	1.882	1.882	0.000	0.000	0.000
Commissioning & Asset Management	6.943	12.867	5.924	5.801	0.123
Environment	38.698	40.196	1.498	1.554	(0.056)
Regeneration & Economic Development	10.767	10.960	0.193	0.282	(0.089)
Corporate Strategy	1.358	1.882	0.524	0.500	0.024
Chief Executive Office	(0.069)	(0.143)	(0.074)	(0.027)	(0.047)
Resources	3.588	5.244	1.656	1.585	0.071
General Fund Housing	2.154	2.527	0.373	0.350	0.023
Central Items	(1.283)	(14.690)	(13.407)	(13.002)	(0.405)
Support Services	20.181	20.181	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Authority	163.512	178.626	15.114	15.753	(0.639)

1.5.2.20 Table: 2 2022/23 Adjusted General Fund Revenue Forecast Outturn Position as at 31 January 2023

	Covid Legacy £m	Utility Inflation Pressures £m	Other Inflation Pressures £m	Other Pressures £m	Total £m	Nov £m	Change £m
Adults Services	4.300	0.281	2.324	(3.113)	3.792	5.233	(1.441)
Children's Services	2.361	0.324	1.132	10.818	14.635	13.477	1.158
Public Health	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Commissioning and Asset Management	0.710	0.216	3.310	1.688	5.924	5.801	0.123
Environment	0.386	2.623	0.182	(1.693)	1.498	1.554	(0.056)
Regeneration and Economic Development	0.000	0.013	0.000	0.180	0.193	0.282	(0.089)
Corporate Strategy	0.000	0.000	0.011	0.513	0.524	0.500	0.024
Resources and Chief Executive	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.582	1.582	1.558	0.024
General Fund Housing	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.334	0.373	0.350	0.023
Central Items	0.000	(1.480)	0.000	(11.927)	(13.407)	(13.002)	(0.405)
Grand Total	7.757	1.977	6.998	(1.618)	15.114	15.753	(0.639)
Planned use of Change Reserve	0.000	(0.000)	(1.800)	0.000	(1.800)	(1.800)	0.000
Planned use of Covid-19 Reserve	(1.650)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(1.650)	(1.650)	0.000
Planned use of Insurance Reserve	0.000	(0.000)	(0.150)	0.000	(0.150)	(0.150)	0.000
Planned use of Contingencies	0.000	(1.300)	0.000	0.000	(1.300)	(1.300)	0.000
Planned release of Provision	0.000	(0.677)	(0.051)	(0.000)	(0.728)	(0.728)	(0.000)
Planned use of Covid-19 Grants	(1.400)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(1.400)	(1.500)	0.100
Total	(3.050)	(1.977)	(2.001)	0.000	(7.028)	(7.128)	0.100
Revised Pressure	4.707	0.000	4.997	(1.618)	8.086	8.625	(0.539)

1.5.3 Delivery of Budget Savings Proposals

- 1.5.3.1 New savings of £4.720m were agreed as part of the Budget approved by full Council in February 2022 taking the total savings the Authority has had to find in the eleven years following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) to £134.268m.
- 1.5.3.2 The governance structure of the Efficiency Savings Programme includes a monthly review of progress by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). In addition, in-year budget and performance progress meetings are held between officers and Cabinet Members to consider progress and actions being taken to deliver savings. The variations in relation to the savings are outlined in the sections below, with more detail included in the regular reports on this topic to Overview Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.
- 1.5.3.3 The new savings of £4.720m are combined with £2.537m of brought forward targets that still required a permanent solution from previous years, meaning the overall target to achieve in 2022/23 is £7.257m. These savings are factored into Tables 1 and 2 above but are shown separately in this section for transparency.

1.5.3.4 **Table 3 – Efficiency Savings Programme 2022/23**

Service	B/F Balances £m	2022/23 Business Cases £m	2022/23 Target £m	Projected Delivery £m	In Year Actions £m	Yet to be achieved £m
Adults	0.000	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.000	0.000
Children's	2.373	0.850	3.223	0.025	0.598	2.600
Environment	0.000	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.000	0.000
C&AM	0.164	0.582	0.746	0.232	0.150	0.364
Resources	0.000	1.563	1.563	1.563	0.000	0.000
Central	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	2.537	4.720	7.257	3.545	0.748	2.964

- 1.5.3.5 Adults Services are projecting to achieve the full £0.950m target. Within the Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL) pressure of £14.635m reported earlier, £2.600m relates to the non-achievement of savings targets. In the previous financial year these savings have been significantly impacted by Covid-19 and as such, achievement has been supported by Central Government Covid-19 grants. With these grants not available in 2022/23 and on-going demand-led pressures already impacting the service, current projections are for these CYPL savings to remain unachieved in 2022/23.
- 1.5.3.6 Within Commissioning & Asset Management, £0.400m of cross-cutting 2022/23 savings are held with £0.100m projected to be achieved and £0.100m of the Procurement saving projected to be achieved to date by in year actions, with work on-going across the Authority to achieve the balance by the year end. The unachieved savings are included in the forecast pressure in Table 1.
- 1.5.3.7 All savings in the other service areas are forecasted to be achieved.

1.5.4 New Revenue Grants

- 1.5.4.1 The following revenue grants have been received during December 2022 and January 2023.

1.5.4.2

Table 4 – Revenue Grants Received December and January 2022/23

Service	Grant Provider	Grant	Purpose	2022/23 value £m
Adults	Department for Health & Social Care	ICB Discharge Funding	ICB equivalent of the ASC Discharge Funding to be managed and reported via Better Care Fund arrangements	0.893
Children's	Department for Work and Pensions	Reducing Parental Conflict Local Grant	Reducing Parental Conflict Workforce Development Programme	0.015
Commissioning and Asset Management	European Social Fund (via DWP)	Step to Employment	To support residents aged 29 and over along a journey into employment / self-employment	0.137
Commissioning and Asset Management	European Social Fund (via DWP)	Building Steps for Young People to a Brighter Future	To support residents aged 18-29 and over along a journey into employment / self-employment	0.118
Public Health	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Hub and Spoke Funding	To deliver and oversee an effective 1:1 service for high harm, high risk and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse over the funding period	0.014
Public Health	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Supporting Victims of ASB Fund	To commission victim services and award grants from the Police and Crime Commissioners funding	0.005
Environment	Trees for Climate	Trees for Cities	Following a successful planting season last year (2021/22) which saw Trees for Cities support a suite of projects across the North East Community Forest (NECF) in its launch year, TfC is delighted to again be supporting the NECF. Through this partnership with NTC, TfC will support 1,200 whips across three sites encompassing both Authority led and community driven projects.	0.003

Service	Grant Provider	Grant	Purpose	2022/23 value £m
Environment	Trees for Climate	North East Community Forest – Seaton Burn Scheme	Following a successful planting season last year (2021/22) which saw Trees for Cities support a suite of projects across the North East Community Forest (NECF) in its launch year, TfC is delighted to again be supporting the NECF. Through this partnership with NTC, TfC will support 1,200 whips across three sites encompassing both Authority led and community driven projects.	0.004
Environment	Trees for Climate	North East Community Forest – Wideopen Scheme	Following a successful planting season last year (2021/22) which saw Trees for Cities support a suite of projects across the North East Community Forest (NECF) in its launch year, TfC is delighted to again be supporting the NECF. Through this partnership with NTC, TfC will support 1,200 whips across three sites encompassing both Authority led and community driven projects.	0.003
Total				1.192

1.5.5 School Funding

- 1.5.5.1 Schools are required to submit their rolling three-year budget plan by 31 May each year and as reported previously the total planned in-year deficit for 2022/23 is £5.533m. Cabinet will be aware that the Authority has been working with schools for a number of years with regard to the long-term strategic issue of surplus secondary places and the associated financial pressures, which continue to be compounded by rising employment costs.
- 1.5.5.2 The first set of monitoring for the 2022/23 year is complete, with schools overall showing a £1.145m improvement against budget plans prior to the impact of pay award on staffing costs. The position with the pay award costs included is a deficit of £7.453m. This represents a decrease in balances of £1.920m.
- 1.5.5.3 Cabinet will recall that the High Needs Block ended 2021/22 with a pressure of £13.511m. The forecast of the Budget position for 2022/23 indicates an anticipated in-year pressure of £4.416m reflecting continued demand for special school places, producing a cumulative deficit balance of £17.927m.
- 1.5.5.4 The Authority submitted a final DSG Management Plan on 3 February 2023 to the Department for Education (DfE). This was to agree a package of reform for the Authority's high needs system that will bring the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) High Needs overspend under control. The Authority was required to demonstrate lasting sustainability, effective for children and young people, which included reaching an in-year balance within five years.

- 1.5.5.5 The Authority engaged with partners across SEND to co-create the DSG Management Plan. On 16 March 2023 the Authority received confirmation that the submission had been successful and an award of £19.5m of additional funding will flow over the next 5 years subject to compliance with specific conditions set out in the Safety Valve Agreement (link included within background papers). This includes the requirement for the High Needs Block to move into an in-year surplus by 2026/27. £7.8m of additional DSG will be received in the current financial year, reducing the cumulative deficit on the High Needs Block, with the remainder paid over the period to 2027/28 if those conditions are met.
- 1.5.6 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
- 1.5.6.1 The HRA is now forecast to have year-end balances at 31 March 2023 of £3.316m. This reflects an in-year improvement against the budget of £0.248m, with £0.187m relating to a forecast under-spend against the budget which was set at £0.371m, and £0.061m relating to an improvement in brought-forward balances.
- 1.5.6.2 Universal Credit was fully implemented across North Tyneside on 2 May 2018. As of the end of January 2023, 4,086 North Tyneside Homes tenants have moved on to Universal Credit and a team is working proactively with tenants to minimise arrears. This position continues to be closely monitored to identify adverse impacts on the Budget position.
- 1.5.7 Investment Plan
- 1.5.7.1 The approved 2022-2027 Investment Plan totals £332.385m (£92.733m in 2022/23) and is detailed in table 20 of the Annex. The Annex to this report also sets out in Section 4 delivery progress to date, planned delivery for 2022/23, reprogramming and other variations identified through the Investment Programme Governance process.
- 1.5.7.2 An officer led review of the Investment Plan has resulted in proposals for variations of £1.521m and reprogramming of £6.938m in 2022/23, of which more details are set out in Section 4 of the Annex to this report. After total adjustments of £18.963m, the revised Investment Plan stands at £351.348m (£87.316m for 2022/23) and to the end of January 2023 spend of £53.366m had been incurred which represents 61.12% of the revised plan.
- 1.5.7.3 The Investment Plan continues to face significant inflationary pressure and Senior Officers within the Authority have undertaken a review of the expected financial impact on approved schemes with the relevant project managers. The review has confirmed that for the majority of schemes there has been an ability to re-profile planned works to future years given supply issues and rising costs. However, in some cases it is proposed to utilise the Authority's contingency allocation within the Investment Plan in order to maintain delivery plans. The use of the contingency is managed as part of the Investment Programme Board governance arrangements. The corporate risk register includes risks for such inflationary pressures to the investment plan and the position is monitored on an ongoing basis.
- 1.5.8 Performance against Council Plan
- 1.5.8.1 The 2021-2025 Our North Tyneside Plan (Council Plan) sets out the overall vision and policy context within which the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Budget are set. The Council Plan, "Building A Better North Tyneside", has five key themes as set out below;

- A caring North Tyneside;
- A thriving North Tyneside;
- A secure North Tyneside;
- A family-friendly North Tyneside; and,
- A green North Tyneside.

- 1.5.8.2 For each theme there is a set of policy outcomes which the Authority is seeking to deliver; these are detailed in the Council Plan. The Authority has plans in place to deliver all elements of the Plan and performance against delivery is carefully monitored.
- 1.5.8.3 An update report on the progress of delivering the 2021-2025 Our North Tyneside Plan is included on the agenda for this meeting as a separate item.

1.6 Decision Options:

- 1.6.1 The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

1.6.2 Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

1.6.3 Options 2

Cabinet may decide not to approve to recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

1.7 Reasons for Recommended Option:

- 1.7.1 Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:
- 1.7.2 Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposals set out in section 1.2 of this report as 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.

1.8 Appendices:

Annex : Financial Management Report to 31 January 2023
Appendix 1: Investment Plan Summary

1.9 Contact Officers:

Jon Ritchie – Corporate Finance matters – Tel. (0191) 643 5701
Claire Emmerson – Corporate Finance and Schools matters – Tel. (0191) 643 8109
David Dunford – Corporate Finance and General Fund matters – Tel. (0191) 643 7027
Jane Cross – Corporate Finance and General Fund matters
David Mason – Investment Plan matters - Tel. (0191) 643 5747
Darrell Campbell – Housing Revenue Account matters – Tel. (0191) 643 7052

1.10 Background Information:

- 1.10.1 The following background papers and research reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the offices of the author:

- (a) Revenue budget 2022/23

https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/NTC%20Revenue%20Budget%202022_23.pdf

- (b) Investment Plan 2022-27
<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s7911/Appendix%20D%20i%20-%202022-2027%20Investment%20plan%20-%20FINAL.pdf> (Agenda reports pack 17th February 2022 - Appendix D(i))
- (c) Reserves and Balances Policy
<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s7919/Appendix%20G%20-%202022-23%20Reserves%20and%20Balances%20Policy.pdf> (Agenda reports pack 17th February 2022- Appendix G)
- (d) Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Performance Report
<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/documents/s7921/Appendix%20I%20-%202022-23%20Report%20of%20the%20Overview%20Scrutiny%20and%20Policy%20Development%20Committee%20Jan%202022.pdf> (Agenda reports pack 17th February 2022 – Appendix I)
- (e) North Tyneside Safety Valve Agreement
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1142857/North_Tyneside_Safety_Valve_Agreement_2022-2023.pdf

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and Other Resources

- 2.1.1 As this is a financial report, implications are covered in the body of the report. This report will also be presented to the Authority's Finance Sub-Committee at its meeting on 28 March 2023.

2.2 Legal

- 2.2.1 The Authority has a duty to ensure it can deliver a balanced budget. The Local Government Act 2003 imposes a duty on an authority to monitor its budgets during the year and consider what action to take if a potential deterioration is identified.

2.3 Consultation/Community Engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Members, the Senior Leadership Team and Senior Finance Officers.

2.3.2 External Consultation / Engagement

The 2022/23 budget was completed after widespread consultation and community engagement in line with the Authority's approved Budget Engagement Strategy.

2.4 Human Rights

- 2.4.1 The proposals within this report do not have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and Diversity

2.5.1 There are no direct equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk Management

2.6.1 Potential future financial pressures against the Authority are covered in this report and registered through the Authority's risk management process.

2.7 Crime and Disorder

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

2.8 Environment and Sustainability

2.8.1 There are no direct environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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

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2022/23 Financial Management Report Annex

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SECTION 1 – SERVICE COMMENTARIES

- 1.1 Meetings have been held between finance officers and budget managers to review the forecast position for 2022/23, with the forecast being prepared on a prudent basis to give sight of the overall challenges at this stage in the financial year. In addition, challenge sessions are planned to review the quarterly financial position and service performance with the Elected Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, and other relevant Cabinet Members. Service Directors and their senior teams also attend these challenge sessions to discuss plans in progress to mitigate any pressures.

1.2 Adults Services

- 1.2.1 Adults Services is showing a forecast variance of £3.792m against its £56.840m net controllable expenditure budget.

1.2.2 Table 1: Forecast Variation for Adults Services as at 31 January 2023

	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Central, Strategy and Transformation	1.214	1.078	(0.136)	(0.064)	(0.072)
Social Work and Associated Activity	7.833	7.438	(0.395)	(0.141)	(0.254)
Integrated Services	3.390	1.949	(1.441)	(1.346)	(0.095)
Business Assurance	0.322	0.342	0.020	0.015	0.005
Sub-total Operations	12.759	10.807	(1.952)	(1.536)	(0.416)
Commissioned Services – Wellbeing and Assessment	12.270	15.189	2.919	3.621	(0.702)
Commissioned Services – Learning Disability	26.864	28.238	1.374	1.492	(0.118)
Commissioned Services – Mental Health	3.607	5.586	1.979	2.210	(0.231)
Commissioned Services - Other	1.340	0.812	(0.528)	(0.554)	0.026
Sub-total – Commissioned Services	44.081	49.825	5.744	6.769	(1.025)
Total Adult Services	56.840	60.632	3.792	5.233	(1.441)

Main budget pressures across Adults Services

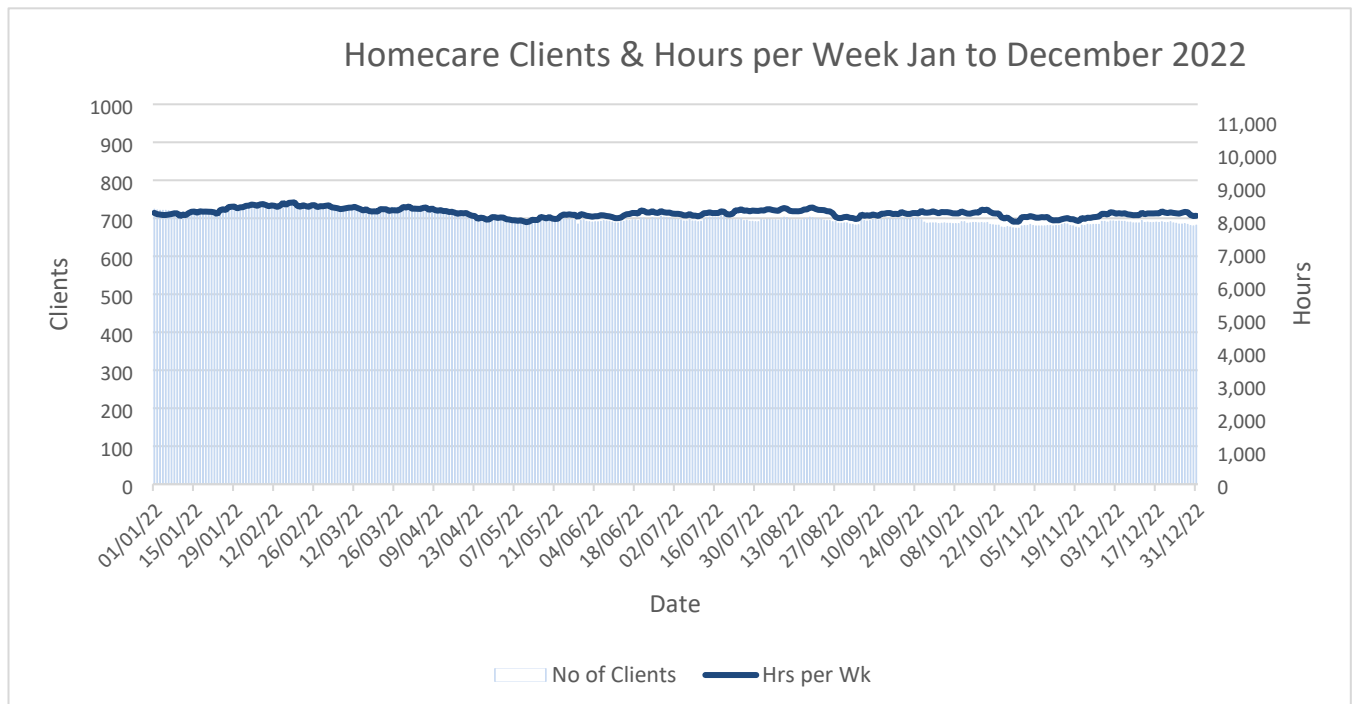
- 1.2.3 Adults Services continues to have residual impact from the aftereffects of the Covid-19 pandemic and has put in place a range of responses to support existing clients and other residents directly affected. Support includes new packages required to be put in

place on discharge from hospital as well as those to prevent hospital admission. Work is also ongoing to support social care providers to maintain their vital services.

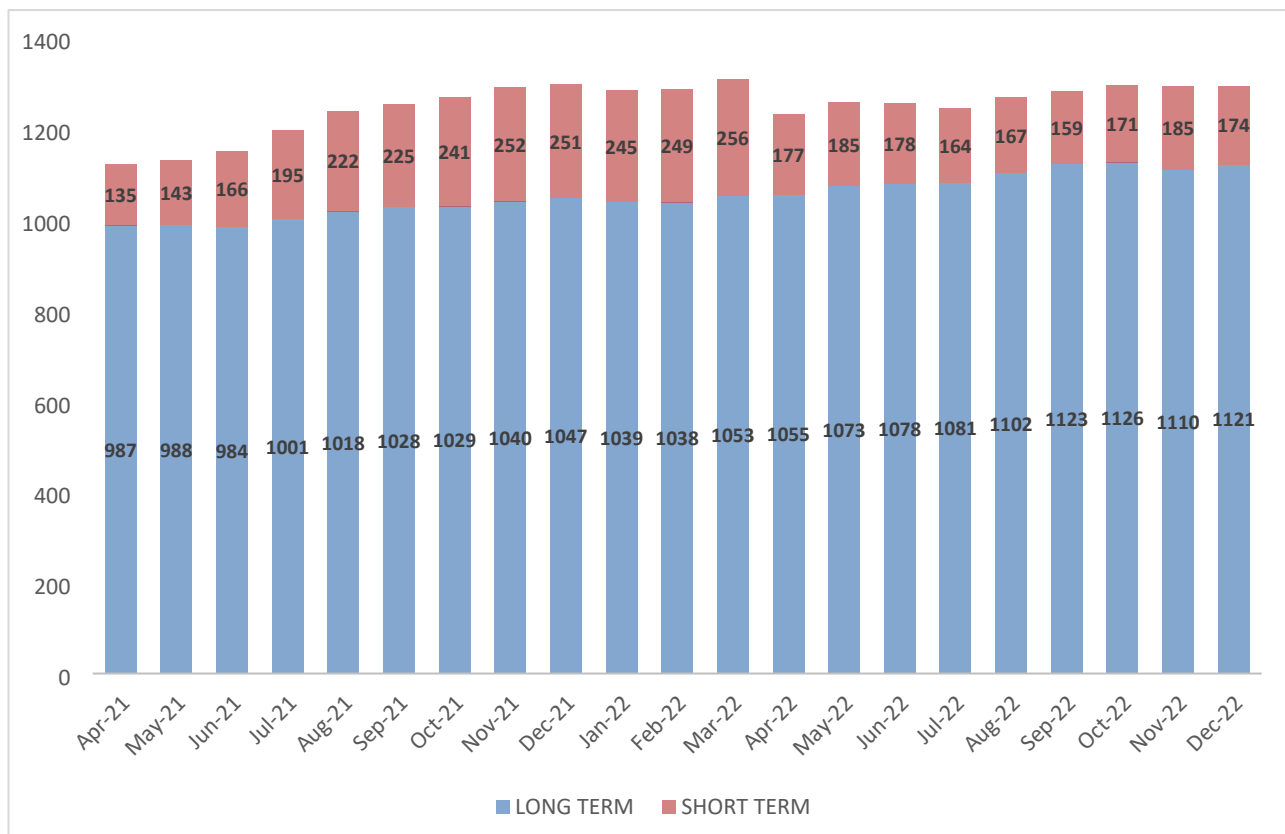
- 1.2.4 Adults Services continues to manage a complex budget and is required to deal with a combination of funding arrangements, pressures, and national policy changes. There are continuing upward pressures on care providers' fees partially resulting from the National Living Wage but also from the cost-of-living increases currently being experienced across the country. The 2022/23 fee uplift included an additional in-year temporary uplift agreed with providers of £0.280m (additional 1.2%). Dialogue around the 2023/24 pressures and fee uplift continues and is linked to the national debate around Charging Reform and Fair Cost of Care, which has been delayed once more.
- 1.2.5 The analysis of sub service areas is reported to show the split between the operational aspects of the service and the externally commissioned care costs.
- 1.2.6 The operational costs of the service are forecasting an underspend of £1.952m. This position represents an improvement of £0.416m from the previously reported position and continues to reflect a large number of vacant posts because of the ongoing difficulty in recruitment and retention of staff. The in-house home care service has been utilised in response to winter and hospital discharge pressures. This has been supported by additional Adult Social Care Discharge funding distributed via the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- 1.2.7 There has also been a further review in light of increasing wider pressures to reduce agency forecasting and non-pay related staffing costs.
- 1.2.8 Commissioned Services are reporting a pressure of £5.744m, a decrease of (£1.025m) on the previous reported pressure. This pressure still reflects the ongoing legacy of Covid as well as significant levels of inflationary pressures being experienced by external providers. There has however, as mentioned in paragraph 1.2.6, been additional Adult Social Care Discharge Funding received to help offset some of measures implemented earlier in the autumn around winter pressures and hospital discharge.
- 1.2.9 There has also been an increase in the amount of funding received from the ICB for S117 mental health after care services. However, there continues to be pressure around funding from the NHS for clients with shared care and to support mental health infrastructure originally established in relation to clients resettled from long stay NHS hospitals; the Authority works closely with the ICB to ensure funding contributions for clients with these health needs continue on an equitable basis.
- 1.2.10 Whilst the pressure within Adult Services continues, there has been on-going work around maximising resources and reducing costs. 2022/23 savings targets were achieved with additional Extra Care placements being utilised and reablement flats helping with the transition from hospital, allowing more clients to receive community-based care. These initiatives have worked extremely well across the winter to help maintain hospital flow and prevent delayed discharges and have helped reduced reliance on short term residential care placements whilst partially mitigating capacity issues within the home care market. However, reliance on residential care to meet the needs of a higher number of clients with increasingly complexity, particularly within our older residents, continues to contribute to the pressures seen within Wellbeing and

Assessment and Mental Health. The trends within demand for services can be seen in the two charts below.

1.2.11 Chart 1: Number of Clients and Total Hours purchased for Homecare



1.2.12 Chart 2: Overall Numbers of Clients in Residential and Nursing Care



1.3 Children's Services

1.3.1 Children's Services is showing a forecast variance of £14.635m against its £22.453m net controllable expenditure budget. This forecast position excludes the application of contingency budgets £3.116m, set aside in Central Items for pressures in Children's Services. The Children's Services budget has increased by £1.090m since the November position to reflect the 2022/23 pay award increase.

1.3.2 Within Children's Services there is a continuing high level of activity resulting from a combination of Covid related and household finance pressures impacting on family stability. Work is on-going as part of the 2023/24 budget allocations to address this key area of financial pressure, allocating the additional social care resources identified in the Local Government Finance Settlement on 19 December 2022 and incorporated into the budget set on 16 February 2023.

1.3.3 Table 2: Forecast Variation for Children's Services as at 31 January 2023

	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Corporate Parenting & Placements	16.612	28.955	12.343	10.970	1.373
RHELAC Service	0.013	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.000
Child Protection, Independent Assurance and Review	0.620	0.619	(0.001)	0.002	(0.003)
Early Help & Vulnerable Families	1.830	1.624	(0.206)	(0.098)	(0.108)
Employment & Skills	0.655	0.644	(0.011)	(0.046)	0.035
Integrated Disability & Additional Needs Service	2.413	4.990	2.577	2.581	(0.004)
School Improvement	0.478	0.411	(0.067)	0.068	(0.135)
Regional Adoption Agency	(0.168)	(0.168)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Children's Services	22.453	37.088	14.635	13.477	1.158
Contingency Budget	3.116	0.000	(3.116)	(3.116)	0.000
Total Children's Services after contingency budget applied	25.569	37.088	11.519	10.331	1.158

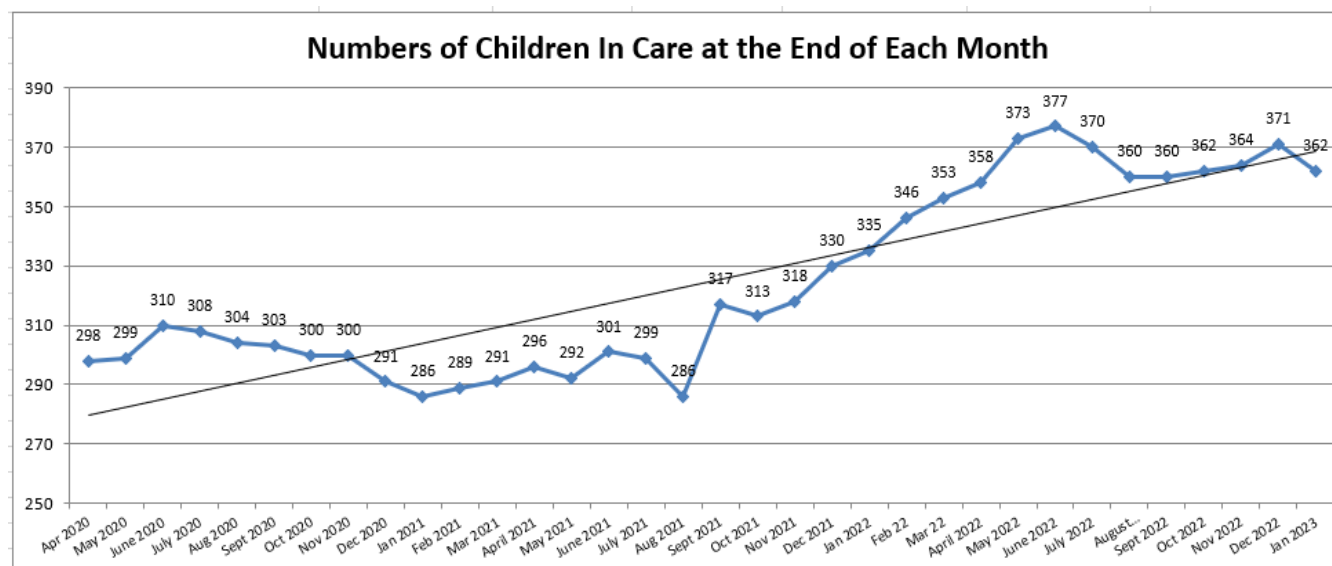
Main budget pressures across Children's Services

- 1.3.4 Children's Services continues to manage a complex budget and is required to deal with a combination of funding arrangements, pressures, and national policy changes. The £14.635m forecast pressure relates mainly to pressures meeting increasing need of £12.343m in Corporate Parenting and Placements and £2.577m in Integrated Disability and Additional Needs.
- 1.3.5 Some of the pressures were foreseen by Cabinet and backed by £3.116m of centrally held contingencies which, when transferred into Children's Services, will reduce the forecast pressure to £11.519m. The ongoing impact of rising need impacted by Covid, and the cost-of-living crisis has led to additional challenges in delivering savings targets and there are £2.600m of savings targets yet to be delivered.
- 1.3.6 The main factor behind the overall forecast position is the significant pressure within Corporate Parenting and Placements in relation to care provision for children in care and care leavers. There is also a pressure relating to services for children with additional needs. In addition to care provision pressures, there are also on-going pressures in the workforce arising from staff retention and recruitment costs and a pressure resulting from savings targets not yet achieved.
- 1.3.7 The increased pressure of £1.158m since the November position is a result of new and extended external residential care placements. There is an increased pressure being experienced in the external residential care market which is seeing unprecedented weekly costs for externally commissioned care packages.
- 1.3.8 Table 3 below shows the CYPL position split between operational and commissioning pressures. This further illustrates the pressure the service is facing is within the increased need for externally commissioned services, reflecting the services on-going work to bring more capacity to in-house provision.
- 1.3.9 **Table 3: Forecast Variation for Children's Services Split between Operational & Commissioned Care Costs**

	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Externally Commissioned Services	3.480	11.087	7.607	5.679	1.928
In-house Service Provision	9.854	13.145	3.291	4.022	(0.731)
Staffing & Operations	9.287	13.024	3.737	3.776	(0.039)
Regional Adoption Agency	(0.168)	(0.168)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Children's Services	22.453	37.088	14.635	13.477	1.158

- 1.3.10 The current Children's Services system was resourced to meet the statutory needs of approximately 1,400 children. However, the service has recently been dealing with more than 1,700 children who reach the threshold for support. Referrals had increased by 25% compared to pre-Pandemic levels. This level of activity is leading to a requirement for additional staff and contributes to significant pressure on budgets providing care for the children in most need.
- 1.3.11 The Authority is starting to see a slight reduction in the numbers of children being supported, however the intensity and complexity of packages required to support children is increasing, as well as the increased inflationary and market pressures from the external residential care market.
- 1.3.12 In January 2023, the children in care numbers have reduced to 362, from a peak of 377, although the Authority expects this to further reduce to below 350 once cases are closed off from the system. Numbers are still significantly above the levels seen in previous financial years and the increase in need is largely due to the impact of additional stress on family relationships. The continued aftereffects of Covid-19 has led to increases in parental mental health issues and domestic abuse, which is exacerbated when combined with financial stressors caused by the cost-of-living crisis.
- 1.3.13 Current numbers include 28 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), an increase of 3 since the November position, which the Authority is mandated to take. The net cost to the Authority for the placements and allowances, after applying the UASC grant funding, is forecast to be a pressure of £0.268m.

1.3.14 **Chart 3: Children in Care at the End of Each Month**



Corporate Parenting and Placements

1.3.15 Table 4: Analysis of Pressures in Corporate Parenting and Placements

Type of Service	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Care provision – children in care	9.222	17.598	8.376	7.155	1.221
Care provision – other children	4.027	4.712	0.685	0.701	(0.016)
Management & Legal Fees	(1.434)	0.348	1.782	1.780	0.002
Social Work	4.748	6.243	1.495	1.330	0.165
Safeguarding Operations	0.049	0.054	0.005	0.004	0.001
Total	16.612	28.955	12.343	10.970	1.373

1.3.16 The forecast is based on the children in care at the end of January 2023. As set out in paragraph 1.3.11, the number of children in care was higher than the average of 315 during 2021/22 resulting in the forecast for the total number of care nights also being higher for 2022/23 at 113,103 nights compared to the total number of care nights delivered in 2021/22 which was 108,745.

1.3.17 Table 5: Forecast cost, forecast variance, average placement cost and placement mix

Placement Type	2022/23 Jan Variance £m	Average Annual Placement cost £m	2022/23 Forecast Bed Nights	2021/22 Outturn Bed Nights	Place- ment Mix	No. of children Jan 22	No. of children Nov 22
External Residential Care	3.589	0.265	10,421	8,163	10.5%	38	37
External Fostering	0.394	0.042	10,264	12,068	6.6%	24	28
In-House Fostering Service	1.062	0.027	79,248	68,812	55.0%	199	208
External Supported Accommodation	1.698	0.107	9,709	6,170	10.0%	36	33
In-House Residential Care	1.633	0.206	4,202	**	4.1%	15	14
Other*	0.000	-	-	13,532	13.8%	50	44
Total	8.376		113,844	108,745	100%	362	364

*Other includes Placed for Adoption, Placed with Parents/Parental Responsibility.

** The table has been updated to split out In-House residential Care – therefore no previous years comparison is available.

1.3.18 The number of Children in Care can be volatile and costs for individual children can be very high. There is a potential risk that the forecast could increase if numbers of care nights delivered on complex cases starts to rise above current levels. There is a

concern that there may be future spikes in numbers of children in care as the after-effects of the Covid-19 restrictions and the cost-of-living crisis impact on families.

Care Provision – Children in Care

- 1.3.19 There continues to be an increasing trend nationally in need for children's residential placements but with no corresponding increase in government-funded provision. The trend in North Tyneside is that the overall number of children in care has mirrored the increases being felt nationally. Unit costs for external residential care have also increased significantly. Children's Services have developed a small number of in-house services for children with very complex needs as a way of mitigating against high costs for external provision.
- 1.3.20 A block arrangement of 4 residential placements was commissioned by the Authority from 1 August 2022 and, as of December 2022, the maximum of 4 children have been successfully placed. This has resulted in cost avoidance compared to other external residential placements with a full year effect cost avoidance of up to £0.300m.
- 1.3.21 Cabinet will recall the review and refresh of the Fostering Strategy, which was approved in November, this allowed allowances to follow national uplifts and keep the Authority competitive in the local market. An increased pressure of £0.124m within in-house fostering reflects the increase to allowances however the longer-term aim is to increase the number of foster carers to allow less reliance on other types of care provision.

Care Provision – Children not in care

- 1.3.22 The pressure of £0.685m relating to care provision for children not in the care system relates predominantly to children under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). Cabinet will recall that the Authority's policy for supporting children in SGOs was amended in 2018 and that this brought about additional costs. SGO's are also impacted by the agreed increases to foster care allowances.

Management and Legal Fees

- 1.3.23 This area has a forecast pressure of £1.782m. The pressure within this area is due to savings targets of £1.468m which are yet to be achieved; the increase seen in January is due to increased legal fees. The service is continuing to work on the delivery of planned savings targets and continues to review all budget areas for any other mitigating savings.
- 1.3.24 A managed team of social workers, which was introduced in response to the high numbers of children being supported within the borough, has been extended until just after the end of the financial year. This has resulted in an additional pressure of £0.153m.

Social Work

- 1.3.25 Within the overall pressure of £12.343m for Corporate Parenting and Placements, there are social work-related pressures of £1.495m. There is an additional team in place of six posts costing circa £0.265m and the '14 Plus Team' adds a further £0.243m to the pressure. The Social Worker regrading exercise contributes £0.191m to the position. Cabinet is aware of the challenges faced across the children's social care sector nationally. There are also a number of vacant posts which are currently being offset by agency staff.

Other Service Areas

- 1.3.26 Integrated Disability & Additional Needs Service (IDANS) is forecasting a pressure of £2.577m, net of an over achievement of £0.370m Children's Health Income. Pressures within IDANS should be seen within the national and local context of increasing numbers of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Within North Tyneside, the number of children with an EHCP has risen from 1,102 in January 2018 to 2,133 in January 2023.
- 1.3.27 Within this service area, the main pressures relate to operational staffing costs within in-house residential services and in Educational Psychology relating to an increase in non-chargeable statutory work associated with increased levels of EHCPs for children with additional needs.
- 1.3.28 The IDANS service is continuing to carefully review planned provision to identify any areas of spend which can be reduced without adverse impacts on the children and families receiving support.
- 1.3.29 The School Improvement Service is no longer forecasting a pressure, despite energy inflation. There has been an increase in SLA income and a reduction in staffing costs which have both contributed to the improved position.

1.4 Public Health

- 1.4.1 Public Health is forecasted to outturn on budget, which is the same as the last Cabinet report in November.

1.4.2 Table 6: Public Health Forecast Variation

	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Public Health Ring Fenced Grant	(0.032)	(0.032)	0.000	0.000	0.000
0-19 Children's Public Health Service*	0.273	0.273	0.000	0.000	0.000
Community Safety	0.446	0.446	0.000	0.000	0.000
Public Protection	1.194	1.194	0.000	0.000	0.000
GRAND TOTAL	1.882	1.882	0.000	0.000	0.000

* the 0-19 Children's Public Health Service forms part of the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant

1.4.3 The return of the Public Protection service to the Authority's management, will have no impact and for 2022/23 will be balanced, using central funding, set aside, if required. This includes any pressures in Taxi Licensing, market supplement payments and any other miscellaneous costs incurred as a result of bringing the service back into Authority management from the Technical Partnership.

1.4.4 0-19 Children's Public Health Services and are funded by the Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant and any balances are carried forward and have no impact on the General Fund.

1.5 Commissioning and Asset Management

1.5.1 Commissioning and Asset Management (C&AM) is showing a pressure of £5.924m as set out in Table 7, an increase of £0.123m since the November Cabinet report.

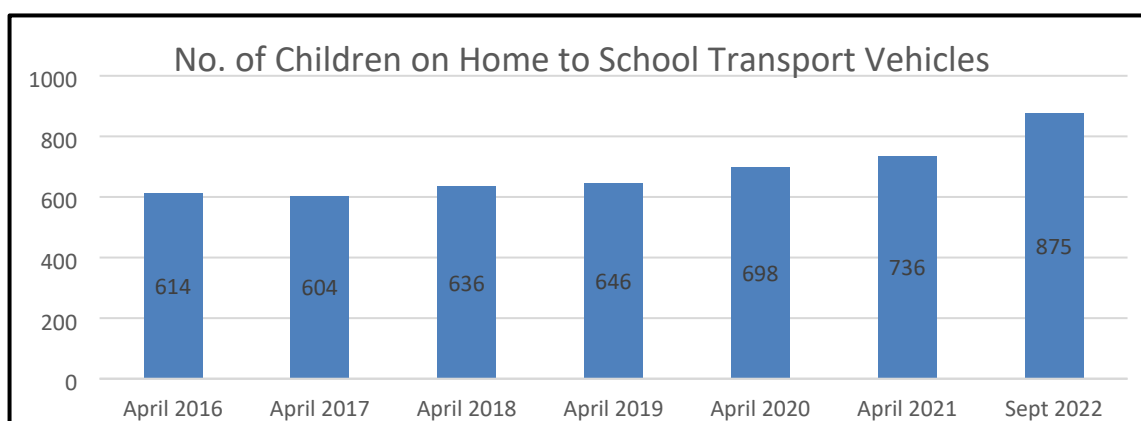
1.5.2 C&AM has also been heavily impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic, particularly in relation to supporting schools and in relation to lost income with details shown in Section 2.

1.5.3 Table 7: Commissioning and Asset Management (C&AM) Forecast Variation

	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
School Funding & Statutory Staff Costs	5.561	5.420	(0.141)	(0.109)	(0.032)
Commissioning Service	0.493	0.477	(0.016)	0.032	(0.048)
Facilities & Fair Access	0.921	6.584	5.663	5.144	0.519
Strategic Property & Investment	0.861	1.150	0.289	0.545	(0.256)
Property	(0.979)	(0.979)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Commissioning & Asset Management & Support	0.169	0.172	0.003	0.004	(0.001)
Procurement	(0.083)	0.043	0.126	0.185	(0.059)
GRAND TOTAL	6.943	12.867	5.924	5.801	0.123

- 1.5.4 The main 'business as usual' budget issues relate to Facilities and Fair Access which is showing a forecast pressure of £5.633m (November forecast pressure of £5.144m). The Home to School Transport position is showing a pressure of £2.220m which relates to the sustained increase in children with complex needs attending special schools of £0.792m and inflationary pressures of £1.428m. Demand pressures in High Needs is a known issue nationally and is also impacting on the High Needs budget within the Dedicated Schools Grant. As a result of the increase in need for home to school transport for children with additional needs, the number of children in vehicles has risen from 614 in April 2016 to 875 in September 2022 as shown in the performance data and 56.14% of the reported pressure relates to Special Schools. Work is continuing on route rationalisation using the new QRoute system as well as looking at new options about transport delivery.
- 1.5.5 There is a pressure on the catering service of £3.366m due to paid school meals and other catering income not forecast to return to pre Covid levels, £0.609m and inflationary pressures of £1.821m. There are pressures on wages of £0.453m from the cumulative effect of additional hours worked and no pay rise being allocated in the budget for additional hours required to cover sickness, maternity leave and deep cleaning days. Current and previous years paid school meals and SLA income target savings will not now be achievable due to the number of schools that have left the SLA adding £0.164m to the pressure. The service is currently reviewing all costs associated with SLA provision to mitigate the loss of income. The management & central establishment element of the catering SLA cannot now be recovered from the schools that have left the SLA adding a further £0.319m to the position.
- 1.5.6 Cleaning has a pressure of £0.143m which results from inflationary pressures of £0.077m, sickness/maternity cover of £0.054m and other non-staffing costs of £0.012m. There are also salary savings and additional income on the Access Service of (£0.066m).

- 1.5.7 There is a pressure on Strategic Property and Investment of £0.289m which relates primarily to energy charges; £0.200m, of which £0.164m relates to the Killingworth site. The service has, and continues to, undertake several initiatives to minimise energy consumption and costs at the Killingworth site by the decommissioning of Block C and solar panel installations. There are pressures on the Procurement service of £0.126m due to a cross-cutting savings target of £0.200m and other operational pressures £0.026m, which is partially offset by additional income of £0.100m from a one off KPI failure in the Technical Partnership.
- 1.5.8 There are pressures on car parking income of £0.101m in relation to charges at Quadrant being removed and a corporate sustainability savings target of £0.100m. These are partially offset by other operational savings of £0.112m.
- 1.5.9 The main movements from November 2022 are an increase in the Home to School Transport forecast, £0.145m, due to an increase in the number of routes and other costs for academic year 2022/23 for children with complex needs, £0.076m, and the effects of inflation of £0.069m on those routes. There is also an increase in the catering forecast pressure, £0.374m, due to inflation through supplier price rises since October 2022 of £0.351m and increase in wages forecasts due to additional hours for deep cleaning and sickness cover and no pay rise allocated to the budget for additional hours, £0.137m. This increase is being reported in January following a further officer led review of inflationary pressures following receipt of quarter 3 information. This is partially offset by an increase in forecast income (£0.114m). There is a reduction in the Strategic Property & Investment forecast (£0.256m) due to an increase in Killingworth site running costs forecast, £0.012m, which is offset by a reduction in forecast energy costs due to more actual cost information being available and revised information from NEPO (£0.268m). There is also an increase in contract penalty income allocated to procurement income of (£0.050m).
- 1.5.10 **Chart 4: Increase in Numbers of Children Accessing Home to School Transport**



1.6 Environment

- 1.6.1 Environment is forecasting a pressure of £1.498m against the £38.698m budget, as set out in Table 8 below, a decrease of £0.056m since the November report.
- 1.6.2 The main cause of the pressure is increased energy costs, though Sports & Leisure income is still to recover back to pre-pandemic levels.

1.6.3 Table 8: Forecast Variation in Environment

Service Areas	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Fleet Management	0.998	0.958	(0.040)	(0.050)	0.010
Head of Service Environment & Leisure	0.148	0.110	(0.038)	(0.036)	(0.002)
Local Environmental Services	8.384	8.942	0.558	0.431	0.127
Sport, Leisure & Community	9.189	10.905	1.716	1.915	(0.199)
Street Lighting PFI	5.123	5.123	0.000	0.000	0.000
Waste Management	14.856	14.158	(0.698)	(0.706)	0.008
GRAND TOTAL	38.698	40.196	1.498	1.554	(0.056)

Local Environmental Services

- 1.6.4 Environmental Services (inclusive of Street Environment, Bereavement Services and Security) is predicting a net forecast pressure of £0.558m. Several variables have contributed to this pressure which include inflated energy and business rate costs, shortfalls in income and operational cost pressures.
- 1.6.5 Of this £0.558m pressure, £0.124m is attributed to energy and business rate costs which are predominantly reflected across Bereavement Services.
- 1.6.6 £0.081m of the pressure is attributed to legacy income shortfalls following the pandemic across the service. A further £0.116m is due to shortfalls in income within Security Services which has lost several contracts (including Nexus). An underachievement of income is forecast from other service areas such as cafes in Parks. In addition, Bereavement Services is forecast to overachieve against its income target, but the level of overachievement is now anticipated to be lower than previously expected due to Whitley Bay Crematorium being closed until July 2022, following an essential upgrade and refurbishment of the crematorium building.
- 1.6.7 £0.237m is due to operational cost pressures which includes inflated prices of fuel, materials, and other resource costs.
- 1.6.8 The variance change, totalling £0.127m from the previously reported position, can be attributed to lower income generation forecasts and increased resource, operational and premises costs across Environmental Services.

Waste Management including Recycling and Disposal

- 1.6.9 The combined underspend is forecast to reduce slightly to (£0.698m), which reflects the following:
- Across Waste and Recycling Disposal Contracts, there are significant expenditure underspends (savings of £0.546m) linked to Kerbside/Home Recycling Disposal costs, reflecting the current market rate for recycled materials and subsequent lower disposal gate fee per tonne. Staffing vacancy underspends (now filled) also contribute to this figure.

- Within Waste & Refuse Management, an improving overachievement on income across Commercial Waste & Special Collections contributes to the forecast of (£0.152m).

Sport, Leisure & Community

- 1.6.10 Sport & Leisure is now forecasting a cost pressure of £1.455m. Included within the variance is a legacy pressure of around £0.250m (an improvement from £0.400m) against the £5.257m income target for sports and leisure centres. This reflects that service income is still recovering to pre-pandemic levels. The balance of this pressure is primarily made up of utility cost pressures.
- 1.6.11 Libraries & Community Centres are forecasting a £0.261m pressure, mainly linked to premises costs. In addition, there are also income pressures across the service.
- 1.6.12 A combined improved variance change of £0.199m is now forecast across this service area, reflecting the improved forecast for income generation in Sports & Leisure (Non Contours). Additionally, a reduction in employee costs is forecast due to the extended use of casual staff covering vacant posts/staff turnover within Libraries & Community Centres.

Street-Lighting PFI

- 1.6.13 The Street-Lighting PFI is expected to have energy inflation pressures of £1.329m. It is assumed, as in previous years, that the impact of energy pressures for this PFI would be taken to the PFI reserve. Officers are continuing to review the position across all PFI contracts and further updates will be included in future financial management reports.

1.7 Regeneration and Economic Development

- 1.7.1 Regeneration and Economic Development (R&ED) has expanded with service areas previously managed under Environment, Housing & Leisure. R&ED is forecasting a pressure of £0.193m, as shown in Table 9 below, which is an improvement of (£0.089m) since the November Cabinet report.

1.7.2 Table 9: Forecast Variation for Regeneration and Economic Development

Service Areas	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Culture	1.588	1.651	0.063	0.156	(0.093)
Business & Enterprise	0.779	0.729	(0.050)	(0.024)	(0.026)
Regeneration	0.430	0.705	0.275	0.243	0.032
Resources & Performance	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.001	(0.001)
Technical Package - Planning	0.296	0.257	(0.039)	(0.039)	0.000
Technical Package - Transport & Highways	7.457	7.401	(0.056)	(0.055)	(0.001)
GRAND TOTAL	10.767	10.960	0.193	0.282	(0.089)

- 1.7.3 Culture is forecasting a pressure of £0.063m which is an improvement of £0.093m since the November Cabinet report. The improvement reflects an improvement in the position around Whitley Bay Playhouse, following confirmation of the Year End Accounts from AMS Global. The remaining pressure is mainly due to events in the Borough (Queens Baton Relay, Platinum Jubilee Activities, National Festival of Archaeology £0.040m). Culture service staffing costs and reduced forecast income across the service makes up the remaining pressure of £0.023m.
- 1.7.4 Transport and Highways is forecasting an underspend of £0.056m which is as a result of client team recharges for work on Section 38 and 278 schemes.
- 1.7.5 The forecast pressure with Regeneration is mainly due to an ongoing issue at the former Swans site in relation to costs and income shortfalls relating to the Centre for Innovation (CFI) building which are expected to continue in 2023/24. Despite the shortfall, the service is still actively marketing vacant units and looking to attract tenants.

1.8 Corporate Strategy

- 1.8.1 Corporate Strategy is forecasting a £0.524m pressure, an increase of £0.024m since the November Cabinet report. The variance reflects a forecast underachievement in a cross-service income target of £0.157m within Corporate Strategy Management, as well as higher forecast employee resource costs as workload and service demand activities are leading to a requirement for additional staffing capacity within Children's Participation and Advocacy.

1.8.2 Table 10: Forecast Variation Corporate Strategy

Service Areas	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Children's Participation & Advocacy	0.369	0.516	0.147	0.159	(0.012)
Community & Voluntary Sector Liaison	0.369	0.369	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate Strategy Management	0.059	0.284	0.225	0.203	0.022
Elected Mayor & Executive Support	0.029	0.039	0.010	0.015	(0.005)
Marketing	0.326	0.384	0.058	0.068	(0.010)
Policy Performance and Research	0.206	0.290	0.084	0.055	0.029
GRAND TOTAL	1.358	1.882	0.524	0.500	0.024

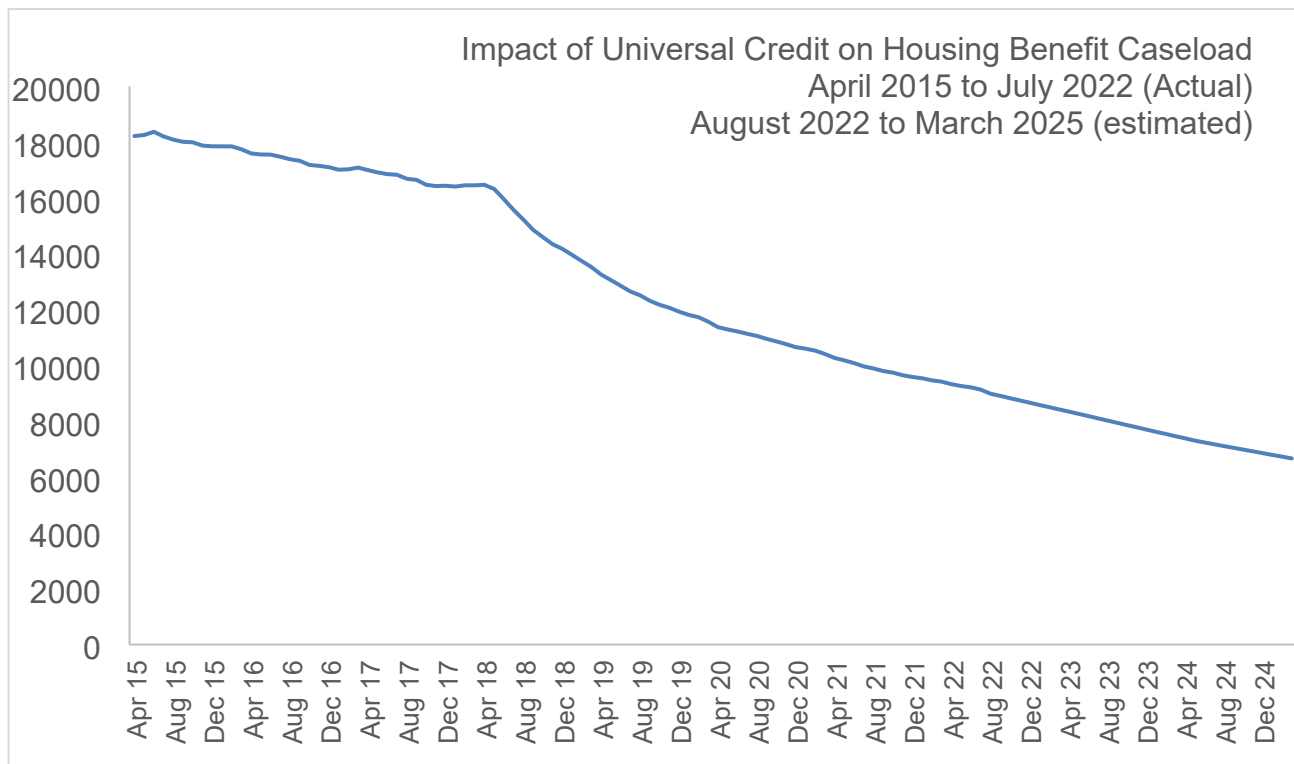
1.9 Resources and Chief Executive Office

1.9.1 This report shows the forecast position for the full Resources directorate and the Chief Executive Office, which is showing a pressure of £1.582m, which is an increase of £0.024m since the last Cabinet report in November.

1.9.2 **Table 11: Forecast Variation Resources and Chief Executive**

Service Areas	Budget £m	Forecast Jan £m	Variance Jan £m	Variance Nov £m	Change since Nov £m
Chief Executive	(0.069)	(0.143)	(0.074)	(0.027)	(0.047)
Finance	(0.684)	(0.906)	(0.222)	(0.161)	(0.061)
ICT	2.572	2.572	0.000	0.001	(0.001)
HR & Organisational Development	0.355	0.373	0.018	0.042	(0.024)
Internal Audit and Risk Management	0.050	0.047	(0.003)	0.007	(0.010)
Revenues and Benefits	0.633	1.143	0.510	0.617	(0.107)
Director of Resources	0.166	0.177	0.011	0.000	0.011
Customer, Governance and Registration	(0.054)	(0.032)	0.022	0.035	(0.013)
Democratic and Electoral Services	0.022	0.118	0.096	0.101	(0.005)
Information Governance	0.036	(0.070)	(0.106)	(0.227)	0.121
Legal Services	0.198	1.120	0.922	0.893	0.029
North Tyneside Coroner	0.294	0.702	0.408	0.277	0.131
GRAND TOTAL	3.519	5.101	1.582	1.558	0.024

1.9.3 **Chart 5: Impact of Universal Credit on Housing Benefit Claims**



1.9.4 Benefits processing has seen a reduction of 50% in caseloads since universal credit (UC) was introduced. By 2024/25 this is expected to drop to a third of original cases. This has a large impact on subsidy grants from the department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in four key areas:

- Benefits subsidy grants for claims paid out has dropped in line with the value of the claims. This has nil impact on the Authority's finances.
- The number and value of overpayment income recovery cases has dropped with caseload, reducing both the grant on eligible overpayment and the amount of overpayments that can be recovered via enforcement activities. This drop in income recovery has a detrimental impact on the forecast position.
- Contrary to this, the drop in overpayment cases reduces the Authority's bad debt liability in relation to housing benefits overpayments. However, any reviews of overpayments requested by the DWP now have a larger proportional impact on the value of bad debts.
- There is a knock-on impact connected to enforcement of bad debt collection. Whilst bad debt enforcement targets have remained static, the drop in caseload and relaxed recovery on specific case types to chase bad debt reduce the ability to hit these targets.

1.9.5 The impact on the current forecast position is expected to manifest as follows:

- Enforcement income is currently forecast to be below target by around £0.500m, based on the outturn and known position at January. This reflects reduced court caseloads whilst the Authority supported vulnerable residents in difficult times by not adding to debt in the borough. The service will continue to work with our partners to review the impact of the service returning to normal protocols.
- Overpayment income recovery is expecting a pressure of £0.378m (down from £0.477m at the last Cabinet report) against targets due the reduction in Housing Benefit claimants caused by the move to Universal Credit (UC). The service is

continuing to review and refresh the profile of change that is anticipated as the roll out of UC continues.

- The overpayment income pressure is partially offset (£0.324m, which is an improvement on the reported £0.261m at the last Cabinet report) by an in-year reduction in the Bad Debt Provision requirement, due to the reduction of overpayment income debt.
- The Benefits subsidy grant is expected to show a net saving of (£0.016m), which is a slight improvement of the position (£0.027m) since the last report. However, the good performance overall for subsidy is masking a situation regarding lost subsidy for Housing Benefit on Bed and Breakfast accommodation for Homeless Persons. This area is forecast to have a pressure of £0.118m for the year due to increased demand and also due to the increased cost of Bed and Breakfast accommodation, which is above the limit subsidy can be claimed on and so therefore the Local Authority has to fund the balance. Discussions are ongoing with Housing regarding more sustainable solutions in the future, such as increased General Needs stock being available where possible.

1.9.6 Finance is showing an underspend of £0.222m compared to £0.161m at the last report. This is due to the allocation of new burdens funding relating to the administration of Covid 19 business grants.

1.9.7 HR & Organisation Development, Director of Resources and Internal Audit are forecast to have slight overspends of £0.026m as a result of pressures on staffing, which are partially offset by a combination of general operational underspends and staffing savings with the Chief Executive's office of £0.074m (an increase of £0.047m since the last cabinet report) due to reduced spend on corporate budgets.

Law and Governance

1.9.8 Within the former Law & Governance service the main budget issues relate to Legal Services, with the variance reflecting forecasted cost pressures in Legal Services of £0.922m relating to the employment of Locums/staff costs in response to staffing pressures and reduced income for legal fees. This has slightly worsened (£0.029m) since the last cabinet report due to a member of staff leaving the Authority and being replaced by a locum. The Legal Service has had difficulty in attracting and retaining permanent staff to meet existing vacancies and additional pressures relating to increased demand for their services from other departments, which senior management in the service are actively looking at resolving, with a restructure process starting in early March.

1.9.9 Democratic and Electoral Services are forecasting a pressure of £0.097m, a slight decrease of £0.004m since the last Cabinet. This includes a forecast cost of £0.045m relating to the decision taken at Full Council on Thursday 24 November 2022 to write to all households in the Borough regarding the new voter ID arrangements.

1.9.10 In addition, there is an expected £0.408m pressure to deliver North Tyneside Coroner Services, an increase of £0.131m, due to increased forecast costs from all areas of the service (NHS, Partner Local Authority, Funeral Directors, Doctors) arising from increased activity levels which are outside of the control of the Authority.

- 1.9.11 Within Democratic support there has been a decrease of £0.120m in the current forecast underspend of £0.107m, which is due to the transfer of part of the team to Corporate Strategy, which included the transfer of vacant posts and their budgets.
- 1.9.12 Other areas within Law and Governance are forecast to mitigate these pressures. There are net savings forecast that can be attributed to an expected overachievement on Information Governance work carried out on behalf of schools under the SLA.

1.10 **General Fund Housing**

- 1.10.1 General Fund Housing is reporting a forecast £0.373m pressure, which is an increase of £0.023m since the last Cabinet report in November. The increase is due to the movement of the Adaptations Client function from Adult Social Services to Housing Property (General Fund) and the current forecast pressure in the service. The remaining forecast reflects the ongoing increased cost pressures of materials and sub-contractors in Repairs and Maintenance of £0.500m, less 2022/23 grant funding of £0.150m. The Repairs and Maintenance pressure is a continuation of the pressure previously identified in 2021/22 due to the impact of higher costs of raw materials required to carry out repairs on the Authority's properties. There has also been a number of one-off high costs repairs which have completed in the period.

1.10.2 **Table 12: Forecast Variation for General Fund Housing**

Service Areas	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
GF Housing	2.177	2.550	0.373	0.350	0.023
Building Control	(0.023)	(0.023)	0.000	0.000	0.000
GRAND TOTAL	2.154	2.527	0.373	0.350	0.023

1.11 **Central Items**

- 1.11.1 Central Items is forecasted to be in surplus by (£13.407m) which is an improvement of (£0.405m) since the September Cabinet report. The surplus figure of (£13.407m) includes the contingency budgets of (£8.677m), of which (£3.116m) relates to the pressure being experienced in Children's Services. Of the remaining contingencies budget (£5.561m) was established in the 2022-2026 MTFP to support the likely impact of inflationary pressures in 2022/23.
- 1.11.2 Included in the position is a pressure of £0.500m relating to a projected increase in the bad debt provision and a £0.329m pressure relating to a projected shortfall on Trading Company income. These pressures are mitigated by (£0.835m) of savings on external interest as the Authority continues to benefit from its robust Treasury Management strategy.
- 1.11.3 The improvement since the previous Cabinet reflects a receipt of the Levy Account surplus (£0.405m).
- 1.11.4 **Table 13: Forecast Variation Central Budgets and Contingencies**

Service Areas	Budget	Forecast Jan	Variance Jan	Variance Nov	Change since Nov
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Corporate & Democratic Core	2.925	2.906	(0.019)	(0.019)	0.000
Other Central Items	(4.208)	(17.596)	(13.388)	(12.983)	(0.405)
GRAND TOTAL	(1.283)	(14.690)	(13.407)	(13.002)	(0.405)

SECTION 2 - SCHOOLS FINANCE

2.1 Update on School Budgets

- 2.1.1 Cabinet will recall that the overall level of school balances at the end of March 2022 was £2.360m compared to £3.721m as at March 2021. This represented a decrease in balances of £1.361m. The schools are still completing the second monitoring reporting, which will be completed by mid-March 2023.
- 2.1.2 The first set of monitoring for the 2022/23 year is complete, with schools overall showing a £1.145m improvement against budget plans prior to the impact of pay award on staffing costs. The position with the pay award costs included is a deficit of £7.453m. This represents a decrease in balances of £1.920m.
- 2.1.3 Table 14 below shows the current movement from budget in 2022/23, also illustrating the pay award pressures. In 2022/23, £0.585m has been received from the Homes for Ukraine Education & Childcare Grant, which has now been allocated to relevant schools and is not yet reflected against school projections below but will be incorporated in the next round of budget monitoring.

2.1.4 Table 14: Schools 2022/23 budget plan/monitoring summary

Phase	Budget Plan 22/23 £m	BUDGETTED 3% PAY AWARD		NEW PAY AWARD/NI		Impact of Changes in Pay Award/NI £m
		Mon. 1 Projected Balance £m	Mon. 1 Projected Variance £m	Mon. 1 Projected Balance £m	Mon. 1 Projected Variance £m	
Nursery	0.004	(0.044)	(0.048)	(0.060)	(0.064)	(0.016)
First	0.814	0.883	0.069	0.628	(0.186)	(0.255)
Primary	4.139	3.956	(0.183)	2.814	(1.325)	(1.142)
Middle	0.716	0.851	0.135	0.685	(0.031)	(0.166)
Secondary/High	(9.907)	(9.189)	0.718	(10.041)	(0.134)	(0.852)
Special/PRU	(1.299)	(0.845)	0.454	(1.479)	(0.180)	(0.634)
Total	(5.533)	(4.388)	1.145	(7.453)	(1.920)	(3.065)

2.2 Update on 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding Allocations

- 2.2.1 On 19 December 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published the initial allocations for each block of the DSG. The DSG will continue to be comprised of four blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services. Each of the four blocks has its own funding formula.
- 2.2.2 The North Tyneside allocation for the DSG in 2023/24 uses the October 2022 census and follows the 2022/23 allocation as it includes funding previously allocated as grants for pay awards and pension increases and the Schools Supplementary Grant is shown in table 15 below with prior year figures for comparison;

Table 15: Schools Block 2023/24 allocation compared with Prior Years

	2017/18 Baseline	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	2022/23*	2023/24*	2022/23 to 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	115.395	116.594	120.926	126.794	137.231	140.373	147.586**	7.213
Central School Services	2.500	2.314	2.343	2.051	1.877	1.724	1.621	(0.103)
High Needs	18.680	19.291	19.818	22.319	26.709	29.784	33.265	3.481
Early Years Block	12.064	12.553	12.514	12.771	13.946	14.673	15.291	0.618
TOTAL	148.639	150.752	155.601	163.935	179.763	186.554	197.763	11.209
Move from 17/18 Baseline £m	-	2.113	6.962	15.296	31.124	37.915	49.124	
Move from 17/18 Baseline %	-	1.42%	4.68%	10.29%	20.94%	25.51%	33.05%	
Change per Year £m	-	2.113	4.849	8.334	15.828	6.791	11.209	
Change per Year %	-	1.42%	3.22%	5.36%	9.66%	3.78%	6.01%	

* Includes pay award and pension grants previously separate to DSG, now rolled into funding formula

** Includes 22/23 Schools Supplementary Grant now rolled into funding formula

2.3 High Needs Block

2.3.1 The £33.265m figure outlined above for the 2023/24 High Needs block reflects the increased DSG funding announced by the DfE and includes funding previously included as separate grants for pay award and pension increases, as in 2022/23. The £3.481m year on year increase is therefore covering these costs going forward. It also includes a deduction of £0.341m made by the Education Skills and Funding Agency for direct funding of places.

2.3.2 Following the Autumn 2022 Spending Review, £400m additional High Needs funding has been allocated, of which North Tyneside's allocation is £1.331m (also included in the High Needs block 2023/24 allocation shown in Table 15 above). This extra funding recognises the additional costs that local authorities and schools will face in the coming year, which were not foreseen when the original High Needs block allocations were calculated. This allocation is on top of the DSG High Needs block allocation calculated

under the NFF. In 2023 to 2024 local authorities are required to pass on a 3.4% funding increase to maintained special and alternative provision (AP) schools, and special and AP academies (including free schools), based on the number of places being funded in 2022 to 2023. This requirement will be a condition of grant attached to the additional DSG high needs funding allocated to local authorities.

2.3.3 Cabinet will recall, the High Needs block outturn for 2021/22 was an overspend of £4.792m. Along with the increase in funding of £3.111m in 2022/23, the pressure within High Needs has continued and has a forecast in-year pressure of £4.416m in 2022/23 and therefore an estimated total cumulative overspend of just over £17.927m.

2.3.4 The latest position on these pressures is shown in table 16

Table 16: Forecasted High Needs Overspend

Provision	Budget £m	Forecast Variance £m	Comment
Special schools and PRU	17.788	2.217	Pressure on places for children with profound, Multiple Learning Difficulties, Social Emotional and Mental Health problems and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Includes High Needs Additional Funding.
ARPs/Top ups	4.705	0.859	Pressures in mainstream pre 16 top ups
Out of Borough	3.316	1.285	Increased number of children placed outside North Tyneside Schools
Commissioned services	3.974	0.055	
Sub-total	29.783	4.416	
2021/22 B/Fwd		13.511	
Total		17.927	

2.4 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Management Plan

2.4.1 The Authority submitted a final DSG Management Plan on 3 February 2023 to the Department for Education (DfE). This was to agree a package of reform for the Authority's high needs system that will bring the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) High Needs overspend under control. The Authority was required to demonstrate lasting sustainability, effective for children and young people, which included reaching an in-year balance within five years.

2.4.2 The Authority engaged with partners across SEND to co-create the DSG Management Plan. On 16 March 2023 the Authority received confirmation that the submission had been successful and an award of £19.5m of additional funding will flow over the next 5 years subject to compliance with specific conditions set out in the Safety Valve Agreement (link included within background papers). This includes the requirement for the High Needs Block to move into an in-year surplus by 2026/27. £7.8m of additional DSG will be received in the current financial year, reducing the

cumulative deficit on the High Needs Block, with the remainder paid over the period to 2027/28 if those conditions are met.

SECTION 3 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Forecast Outturn

- 3.1 The forecast set out in Table 17 below is based on the results to January 2023. Currently the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting an underspend of £0.187m. Throughout the year, costs have been monitored closely across all areas with additional focus on Rent Arrears and the effect this has on the bad debt provision. In addition, changes to prudent assumptions around Rental Income, Council Tax voids, Contingency and staffing vacancies have been monitored which have led to some improvement in the forecast position. The main area of pressure is in the Repairs budget where the impact of inflationary increases, higher than anticipated pay awards, increasing difficulty in recruiting certain trades and an increased reliance on sub-contractors allied to supply chain issues in accessing key materials are driving the pressure.

3.1.1 Table 17: Forecast Variance Housing Revenue Account

	Budget £m	Current Forecast £m	Variance £m
Management – Central	2.535	2.259	(0.276)
Management – Operations	4.958	4.911	(0.047)
Management – Strategy & Support	3.756	3.809	0.053
Capital Charges – Net Effect	12.484	12.484	0.000
Contingencies, Bad Debt & Transitional Protection	0.990	0.766	(0.224)
Contribution to Major Repairs Reserve – Depreciation	13.741	13.740	(0.001)
Interest on Balances	(0.050)	(0.075)	(0.025)
PFI Contracts – Net Effect	2.094	2.094	0.000
Rental Income - Dwellings, Direct Access Units, Garages	(62.891)	(63.063)	(0.172)
Rental Income – HRA Shops and Offices	(0.356)	(0.421)	(0.065)
Revenue Support to Capital Programme	10.311	10.301	(0.010)
Repairs	12.799	13.379	0.580
Total	0.371	0.184	(0.187)

Rental Income

- 3.2 Rental Income overall across all areas including general dwelling rent, service charges, garage rents and income from shops and other premises is currently forecast to be performing slightly better than budget (£0.172m). This is helped by the level of Empty Homes continuing to trend at well below 1% which increases the level of rent that is collectable. However, Right to Buy (RTB) levels have still been trending at higher than anticipated levels which has eroded this forecast position slightly. The impact of Universal Credit on arrears and the bad debt provision also continues to be closely monitored.

Management Costs

- 3.3 Management Costs are currently forecast to come in £0.270m better than budget. There have been some additional pressures relating mainly to the increased final flat rate pay award for 2022/23, as well as in relation to increased energy costs, but these have been more than absorbed by improvements due to vacancy savings and other underspends across various service areas. In addition, there have been some underspends attributed to the delays in contract signature and recruitment attached to the Unified Systems project including backfilling internally seconded staff.

Bad Debt Provision and Contingency

- 3.4 Current trends in rate of increase in arrears suggest that this will be contained within the Bad Debt Provision budget for the year, and a underspend is now forecast (£0.149m). In addition, Contingency is also being forecast to underspend (£0.071m), plus a small, improved position in the transitional protection forecast (£0.004m), all of which is helping to absorb the pressures elsewhere in the budget such as in the Repairs budget as explained below caused by increased supply chain costs and the increased costs of the pay award for 2022/23.

Repairs

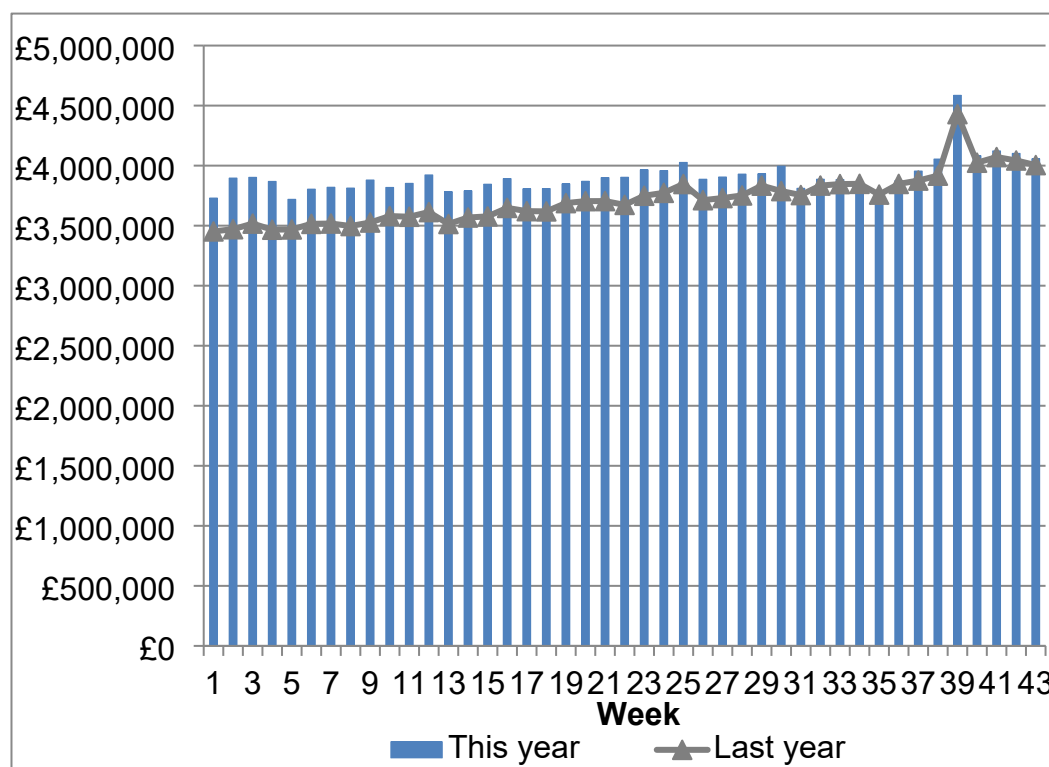
- 3.5 The Housing Repairs budget continues to feel pressure from a number of sources, mainly caused by the current economic turbulence being experienced across the world. The current rates of inflation in material and sub-contractor prices, plus difficulty accessing certain materials and services within the supply chain are providing several challenges. There are difficulties recruiting to certain trades which then places more reliance on sub-contractors and agency staff. In addition to this, the Authority is dealing with the implications of the Housing White Paper which arose from the Grenfell Disaster, which is placing a whole range of additional responsibilities on Landlords e.g., the need for carbon monoxide detectors to be placed in all properties, and more frequent periodic electrical testing. The Authority has also absorbed a pay award for 2022/23 which averaged out above the 2% budgeted for. All of which means most of the in-year contingencies are already committed to known spend. This results in a forecast pressure on this budget for 2022/23 of £0.580m, which is an increase of £0.219m on the November position reported to Cabinet, and this position will be closely monitored to ensure the situation does not get worse before year-end.

Rent Arrears

- 3.6 Current Rent Arrears have risen albeit gradually in the first ten months of 2022/23 as compared to 2021/22, with an increase of £0.388m being seen in this period since the start of April 2022. Chart 6 below shows the value of current rent arrears in 2022/23 compared to the same period in 2021/22. A team is working proactively with tenants to minimise arrears, and this is being closely monitored as the year progresses to identify any adverse impacts on the budget position. Last year saw a significant under-spend against the bad debt provision for the second year in a row, which has led to a reduction in the budgeted provision made for 2022/23, so the position will need to be monitored closely to maintain confidence that the overall forecast increase in arrears can be contained within the budgeted provision made. This will also be potentially impacted by the amount of debt being written off, which the Authority will

seek to identify as quickly as possible. This will not only help inform the in-year monitoring position but will also be pivotal in helping to refreshing the HRA Business Plan as part of the next budget round. Of course, as always, the impact of Universal Credit (UC) continues to be monitored, as significant increases in numbers on UC could adversely affect the rate at which arrears grow.

3.6.1 **Chart 6: Rent Arrears in Weeks 1-43 (April-January) 2022/23 compared to 2021/22**



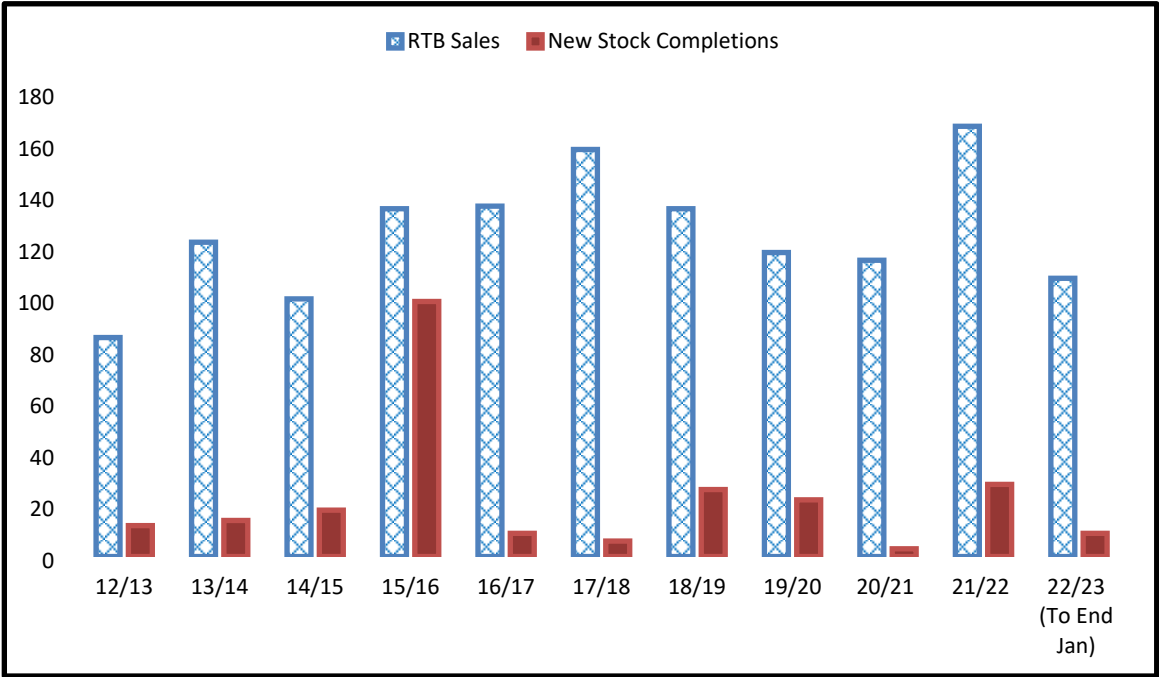
- 3.7 UC was fully implemented across North Tyneside on 2 May 2018. The Authority continues to work with residents to provide ICT support to help them make applications and to provide personal budget support to help residents manage their household finances. As of the end of March 2022, there were 3,712 tenants of North Tyneside Homes on UC, with arrears totalling £2.934m. At the end of January 2023 there were 4,086 tenants on UC (an increase of 374 tenants) with related arrears of £3.324m (an increase of £0.390m). For wider comparison, as at the beginning of 2021/22, there were 3,297 tenants on UC with arrears of £2.680m, which increased during the 2021/22 financial year to 3,712, an increase of 415 tenants with an increase in arrears of £0.254m.

Right to Buy (RTB) Trends

- 3.8 The impact of RTB is critical to long-term planning for the HRA. Prior to the introduction of self-financing in 2012, average RTB sales had dropped to around 25 per annum, mainly due to the capped discount (£0.022m) which had remained static as property values had increased, making RTB less attractive financially to tenants. Shortly after self-financing began, Central Government announced a change to RTB significantly increasing the maximum discount, initially to £0.075m and then subsequently annual inflation was added to the maximum. Chart 7 below shows the

trend in RTB sales since that time. The first ten months of 2022/23 saw 108 completed RTB sales, which continues the increased trend from 2021/22 where the Authority saw the highest number of RTB sales at 167 since the changes were introduced in 2012. These trends will need again to be closely monitored as they may impact not only on in-year forecasts, but significantly on future refreshes of the HRA 30-year Business Plan.

3.8.1 Chart 7: Yearly RTB Sales v New Stock Additions



SECTION 4 - INVESTMENT PLAN

Review of Investment Plan

- 4.1 The Authority's Investment Plan represents the capital investment in projects across all Service areas. Officers will continue to review the delivery of those key projects included within the 2022/23 Investment Plan, with significant challenges due to inflationary cost pressures and supply chain issues.
- 4.2 There remains worldwide inflationary cost pressures across all industries and sectors which continues to impact the Investment Plan. The Authority continues to manage project expenditure within existing budgets where possible; reprofiling spend, undertaking value engineering or reducing scheme scoping where the impact is minimal or can be managed. Any request to utilise contingencies to meet unavoidable additional costs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Variations to the 2022-2027 Investment Plan

- 4.3 Variations of £18.963m to the 2022-2027 Investment Plan have been identified as part of the ongoing monitoring of the Investment Plan as well as the annual review undertaken as part of the budget setting process and these are summarised in tables 18 and 19 below. Further details of the key changes impacting on the current financial year are provided in paragraph 4.4 and 4.5. The variations relating to future years are primarily relating to the refresh of the Investment Plan, set out in the report to Council on 16 February 2023.

4.3.1 Table 18: 2022 - 2027 Investment Plan changes identified

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Approved Investment Plan – Council 17 February 2022	64.632	51.594	49.829	47.561	51.358	264.974
Previously Approved Reprogramming/Variations						
2021/22 Monitoring	9.654	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.654
2021/22 Outturn	39.629	8.832	1.071	0.252	0.252	50.036
2022/23 Monitoring	(21.182)	27.104	0.935	0.104	0.760	7.721
Approved Investment Plan	92.733	87.530	51.835	47.917	52.370	332.385
January 23 Monitoring Variations						
Reprogramming	1.521	8.636	4.463	2.288	1.805	18.713
	(6.938)	5.869	1.869	(0.150)	(0.400)	0.250
Total Variations	(5.417)	14.505	6.332	2.138	1.405	18.963
Revised Investment Plan	87.316	102.035	58.167	50.055	53.775	351.348

- 4.4 The proposed significant variations to the Investment Plan in 2022/23 are shown below:

- (a) **BS026 Asset Planned Maintenance (£0.104m)** - financial contributions have been re-allocated from BS026 Asset Planned Maintenance Programme to support the delivery of planned works at the Northern Promenade (DV067 £0.045m) and Wallsend Customer First Centre (BS029 £0.059m).
- (b) **CO094 Lawn Tennis - Improvements to Tennis Courts £0.081m** - additional LTA funding has been awarded to support full resurfacing across an additional 6 courts (9 in total).
- (c) **ED075 Devolved Formula Capital £0.265m** - Additional grant funding has been received for Schools to undertake energy efficiency improvement works.
- (d) **EC094 North Shields Transport Hub £1.000m** – Additional DLUHC funding has been secured relating to the delivery of public realm improvements.
- (e) **EV095 Active Travel Fund 1 & 2 Rake Lane £0.175m** – A budget adjustment has been made of £0.175m to reflect the final grant funding award.
- (f) **GEN03 Contingencies (£0.577m)** – Resources have been reallocated to address inflationary pressures on committed schemes. This includes £0.377m for EV076 Operational Depot Accommodation Review to support the delivery of existing works and £0.200m for EV083 Street Lighting LED following the negotiations on the deed of variation to continue the delivery of the LED installations.

4.5 The proposed significant reprogramming of planned investment to future years from the 22/23 Investment Plan includes the following:

- (a) **DV066 Investment in North Tyneside Trading Co (£0.285m)** – Reflecting the anticipated property acquisitions during the remainder of 2022/23.
- (b) **DV071 Section 106 Contributions to Set Up Health Facilities £0.013m** - Reprogramming of resources relating to Bewicke Medical Centre to reflect the proposed timing of the payment.
- (c) **DV073 Ambition for North Tyneside (£1.147m)** – Reprofile to future years to develop specific investment proposals for the continued delivery of priority schemes as part of delivering Our Ambition for North Tyneside.
- (d) **DV077 Tyne Brand Development Site (£1.300m)** – Reprofile to future years as negotiations around site assembly continue.
- (e) **ED120 Basic Need (£0.200m)** - Reprofile to future years linked to the review of the school estate.
- (f) **EV083 Street Lighting LED (£1.769m)** - Reprofile to future years to reflect the delivery plans following the negotiations around the deed of variation.
- (g) **EV094 Transforming Cities Fund - NT02 North Shields Transport Hub (£2.250m)** - Reprofile to reflect the latest cash flow information following delays linked to utility works.

4.6 The impact of the changes detailed above on capital financing is shown in table 19 below.

4.6.1 **Table 19: Impact of variations on Capital financing**

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Approved Investment Plan	92.733	87.530	51.835	47.917	52.370	332.385
Council Contribution	(2.023)	1.944	4.869	3.100	2.850	10.740
Grants and Contributions	(3.394)	12.104	1.869	0.000	0.000	10.579
HRA Capital Receipts	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.500)	0.000	(0.500)
HRA Grants & Contributions	0.000	1.567	1.145	1.178	1.209	5.099
HRA Major Repairs Reserve	0.000	(1.110)	(1.551)	(1.640)	(2.654)	(6.955)
Total Financing Variations	(5.417)	14.505	6.332	2.138	1.405	18.963
Revised Investment Plan	87.316	102.035	58.167	50.055	53.775	351.348

Capital Receipts – General Fund

4.7 General Fund Capital Receipts brought forward at 1 April 2022 were £3.017m. The capital receipts requirement for 2022/23, approved by Council in February 2022, was £0.317m (2022-27 £0.317m). To date £0.020m of capital receipts have been received in 2022/23. The receipts position is shown in table 20 below.

4.7.1 **Table 20: Capital Receipt Requirement – General Fund**

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Requirement reported to 17 February 2022 Council	0.317	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Receipts Brought Forward	(3.017)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Total Receipts received 2022/23	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Receipts used to repay capital loans	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Net Useable Receipts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Surplus Receipts	(2.720)	(2.720)	(2.720)	(2.720)	(2.720)

Capital receipts – Housing Revenue Account

4.8 Housing Capital Receipts brought forward at 1 April 2022 were £10.094m. The housing receipts are committed against projects included in the 2022-2027 Investment Plan. The approved Capital Receipt requirement for 2022/23 was £2.104m. To date, receipts of £5.771m have been received in 2022/23 of which £nil has been pooled as part of the quarterly returns to Central Government as these are now payable on an annual basis. In total, subject to future pooling, this leaves a surplus balance of £14.761 to be carried forward to fund future years.

4.8.1 Table 21: Capital Receipt Requirement - Housing Revenue Account

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Requirement reported to February 2022 Council	2.104	1.584	1.700	1.851	1.956
Variations to be reported to January 2023 Cabinet	(1.000)	1.696	0.470	0.302	(0.896)
Revised Requirement	1.104	3.280	2.170	2.153	1.060
Receipts Brought Forward	(10.094)	(14.761)	(11.481)	(9.311)	(7.158)
Receipts Received 2022/23	(5.771)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Receipts Pooled Central Government	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
(Surplus)/ Balance To be generated to fund future years (subject to further pooling)	(14.761)	(11.481)	(9.311)	(7.158)	(6.098)

The final figure for useable receipts and pooled receipts in year will depend on the final number of Right to Buy properties sold during 2022/23.

Investment Plan Monitoring Position to 31 January 2023

4.9 Actual expenditure for 2022/23 in the General Ledger was £53.366m; 57.55% of the total revised Investment Plan at 31 January 2023.

4.9.1 Table 22: Total Investment Plan Budget & Expenditure to 31 January 2023

	2022/23 Revised Investment Plan £m	Actual Spend to 31 Jan 2022 £m	Spend as % of revised Investment Plan %
General Fund	60.702	35.572	58.60
Housing	26.614	17.794	66.86
TOTAL	87.316	53.366	61.12

SECTION 5 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT & CASH POSITION

Current Cash Position

- 5.1 The Authority's current available cash balance as at the end of January 2023 is £13.315m, with £24.300m invested externally with other UK Local Authorities or institutions. All investments are made in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

5.1.1 Table 23: Investment Position as at 31 January 2023

Counterparty	Type	Amount (£m)	Maturity
DMO	Term	12.000	1 February 2023
Barclays	Call	1.315	n/a
Other LA	Fixed	20.000	09 February 2024
Fixed Deposits	Fixed	4.300	July 2023

**This is the last maturity of this tranche.*

- 5.2 The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the Bank Rate for the tenth consecutive meeting in December 2022. An increase of a further 0.50%, to 3.50%, taking it to the highest in over 14 years. The inflation rate has begun to fall, but in December prices were still 10.5% higher than they were a year ago. To help return the inflation rate target to 2%, the MPC increased the interest rate by a further 0.50% to 4.00% at the meeting on 2 February 2023.
- 5.3 The impact of raising base rate had an immediate impact to the cost of borrowing. Table 24 below demonstrates the increase in rates both in the temporary space and longer-term PWLB rates.
- 5.4 The Authority is currently monitoring interest rates, and whether the Authority should look to lock in rates as part of managing risk. This process considers the Authority's underlying need to borrow, Investment Plan priorities and commitments as well as the profile of existing loan arrangements.
- 5.5 Investment rates have also seen an increase in line with the increases in base rate, delivering better returns on investments.

5.5.1 Table 24: Summary of Borrowing Levels

Temporary Market*		PWLB**	
Tenor	Level	Tenor	Level
1 week	3.40%	2 years	4.44%
1 month	3.66%	5 years	4.30%
3 months	3.80%	10 years	4.45%
6 months	3.88%	20 years	4.80%
9 months	4.00%	30 years	4.74%
12 months	4.10%	50 years	4.52%

**Please note these levels are from 30/01/2023*

***PWLB rates do not include certainty rate reductions,*

- 5.6 Any shortfalls in cashflow are covered by in year temporary borrowing, which may be a quick and cost-effective method of cash management in the current climate. As year-end approaches and cash flow tightens, the Authority may look to utilise such borrowing.

Borrowing Position

- 5.7 Table 25 shows the Authority's current debt position, with total borrowing maturing in 2022/23 of £5.000m.

5.7.1 Table 25: Current Debt Position

	PWLB (£m)	LOBO (£m)	Temp (£m)	Total (£m)
Total Outstanding Borrowing Debt	387.443	20.000	0.000	407.443
Debt Maturing 2022/23	(5.000)	0.000	0.000	(5.000)

- 5.8 The Authority was under-borrowed to the value of £102.011m as at 31 March 2022. Whilst the Authority cannot borrow to fund this revenue pressure, it can look to utilise reserves, unwind its under-borrowed position, and externalise borrowing.
- 5.9 In August 2022 the Authority took £10m of long-term PWLB loans, this was for a combination of refinancing existing debt, de-risk the Authority's under-borrowed position, as well as take advantage of relatively low long-term rates.
- 5.10 Table 26 below shows the latest interest rate forecasts as provided by the Authority's treasury advisors Link. Rates remain uncertain over the next 2 years, forecasting to peak at 4.40% for 50 year borrowing in March 2023 before tracking back to lower levels by September 24.

5.10.1 Table 26: Link Interest Rate Forecasts

Link Group Interest Rate View 07.02.23													
	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26
BANK RATE	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.30	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.40	4.50	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.20	2.90	2.80	2.80	2.60	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.20	3.80	3.60	3.10	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB	4.60	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.10

SECTION 6 – COLLECTION FUND: COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES RECOVERY

Council Tax and Business Rates Collection

- 6.1 The budgeted Council Tax debit for 2022/2023 is £124.729m, of which the retained share for the Authority is £109.720m. For Business Rates (NNDR) the opening net debit for 2022/2023 is £46.559m, following adjustment for the previous year's deficit position on NNDR, the budget retained share for the Authority for 2022/23 is £22.814m. Business Rates income is supplemented by a top up grant from Government of £20.505m, providing an anticipated combined budgeted income from Business Rates to the Authority of £43.319m. Tables below set out the in-year collection performance against the Council Tax and Business Rates net debit.
- 6.2 As at 31 January 2023, the actual current year Council Tax net liability has increased to £126.634m. The Authority has collected 87.56% (£110.881m) compared to 87.48% (£105.767m) at the same point in 2021/22. This relates to 101,033 dwellings administered.
- 6.3 Collection is slightly ahead of 2021/22 but behind against the percentage collected pre-pandemic in 2019/20 at the same point. All working age Council Tax Support claimants received additional support of up to £150.00 again this year to help pay their Council Tax and this meant around 57% had no liability for 2022/23 to pay. This reduced the liability to collect by around £1.462m. Long-term rate of collection is expected to be maintained at the budgeted level of 98.5%.
- 6.4 In relation to Business rates, as at 31 January 2023, the Authority had collected 87.88% (£52.384m) of the current net liability compared to 83.862% (£44.314m) at the same point in 2021/22. A total number of 6,278 properties have been administered.

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			Year	Period of Change				Total £000
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
Fund	Project	Financing Type						
General Fund								
BS026 Asset Planned Maintenance								
Council Contribution			2,128	2,800	3,100	1,750	1,500	11,278
Section 106			9	0	0	0	0	9
Contribution from Reserves (Insurance)			772	0	0	0	0	772
BS026 Asset Planned Maintenance Total			2,909	2,800	3,100	1,750	1,500	12,059
BS029 Wallsend Customer First Centre								
Council Contribution			64	0	0	0	0	64
North of Tyne Combined Authority			250	0	0	0	0	250
BS029 Wallsend Customer First Centre Total			314	0	0	0	0	314
BS030 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme								
Council Contribution			317	0	0	0	0	317
Low Carbon Skills Grant			444	0	0	0	0	444
BS030 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Total			761	0	0	0	0	761
BS031 Childrens Home Capital Programme								
Dept for Education - Childrens Home Capital Fund			201	0	0	0	0	201
BS031 Childrens Home Capital Programme Total			201	0	0	0	0	201
BS032 Spirit of NT Commemoration Project								
Council Contribution			175	0	0	0	0	175
Section 106			25	0	0	0	0	25
BS032 Spirit of NT Commemoration Project Total			200	0	0	0	0	200
BS033 Changing Places Facilities								
Changing Places Grant MHCLG			100	0	0	0	0	100
BS033 Changing Places Facilities Total			100	0	0	0	0	100
BS034 Parks Sports Centre - Security Measures								
Council Contribution			350	0	0	0	0	350
BS034 Parks Sports Centre - Security Measures Total			350	0	0	0	0	350
CO079 Playsites								
Section 106			50	91	0	0	0	141
CO079 Playsites Total			50	91	0	0	0	141
CO080 Burradon Recreation Ground								
Section 106			6	0	0	0	0	6
CO080 Burradon Recreation Ground Total			6	0	0	0	0	6
CO081 Gosforth Nature Reserve Grey Squirrel Control and Enhancements								
Section 106			2	0	0	0	0	2
CO081 Gosforth Nature Reserve Grey Squirrel Control and Enhancements			2	0	0	0	0	2
CO082 Sport and Leisure Facility Improvements								
Contribution from Reserves (Leisure)			18	0	0	0	0	18
CO082 Sport and Leisure Facility Improvements Total			18	0	0	0	0	18
CO083 Whitley Bay Crematoria								
Council Contribution			613	0	0	0	0	613
CO083 Whitley Bay Crematoria Total			613	0	0	0	0	613
CO085 Northumberland Park Labyrinth								
Section 106			5	0	0	0	0	5
CO085 Northumberland Park Labyrinth Total			5	0	0	0	0	5
CO086 North West Library Improvements								

			Year	Period of Change				Total £000
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
Fund	Project	Financing Type						
		Section 106	129	0	0	0	0	129
	CO086 North West Library Improvements Total		129	0	0	0	0	129
	CO087 Contours Gym Improvements							
		Section 106	84	0	0	0	0	84
		Contribution from Reserves (Leisure)	93	0	0	0	0	93
	CO087 Contours Gym Improvements Total		177	0	0	0	0	177
	CO088 Gateways to the Boroughs							
		Council Contribution	100	0	0	0	0	100
	CO088 Gateways to the Boroughs Total		100	0	0	0	0	100
	CO089 S106 Raleigh Drive Allotment Extension							
		Section 106	30	0	0	0	0	30
	CO089 S106 Raleigh Drive Allotment Extension Total		30	0	0	0	0	30
	CO090 Wallsend Park Machinery							
		Revenue Contribution (HLF Reserve 9841 128)	95	0	0	0	0	95
	CO090 Wallsend Park Machinery Total		95	0	0	0	0	95
	CO091 Neighbourhood Parks							
		Section 106	65	75	90	100	0	330
	CO091 Neighbourhood Parks Total		65	75	90	100	0	330
	CO092 Wallsend Park Bothy Toilet							
		Revenue Contribution (HLF Reserve 9841 128)	60	0	0	0	0	60
	CO092 Wallsend Park Bothy Toilet Total		60	0	0	0	0	60
	CO093 Rising Sun Country Park S106 Ecology							
		Section 106	0	13	0	0	0	13
	CO093 Rising Sun Country Park S106 Ecology Total		0	13	0	0	0	13
	CO094 Lawn Tennis - Improvements to Tennis Courts							
		LTA Grant Funding	175	0	0	0	0	175
	CO094 Lawn Tennis - Improvements to Tennis Courts Total		175	0	0	0	0	175
	CO095 S106 Willington Quay Community Garden							
		Section 106	0	13	0	0	0	13
	CO095 S106 Willington Quay Community Garden Total		0	13	0	0	0	13
	CO096 St Peters Sports Pavilion and AGP Pitches							
		Football Foundation Grant	0	1,879	0	0	0	1,879
		Section 106	0	838	0	0	0	838
		Northumberland FA	0	50	0	0	0	50
		National FA	0	323	0	0	0	323
		Rugby Football League	0	50	0	0	0	50
		Section 106 - Not Received	0	140	0	0	0	140
		Section 106 - Future Agreement	0	782	0	0	0	782
	CO096 St Peters Sports Pavilion and AGP Pitches Total		0	4,062	0	0	0	4,062
	DV064 Council Property Investment							
		Council Contribution	559	300	0	0	0	859
		North of Tyne Combined Authority - Brownfield Housing Fund	338	0	0	0	0	338
	DV064 Council Property Investment Total		897	300	0	0	0	1,197
	DV066 Investment in North Tyneside Trading Co							
		Council Contribution	500	2,959	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,459
		Section 106	1,695	1,549	0	0	0	3,244
	DV066 Investment in North Tyneside Trading Co Total		2,195	4,508	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,703
	DV067 Northern Promenade							

Fu nd	Proj ect	Financing Type	Year Period of Change					Total £000
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
		Council Contribution	183	0	0	0	0	183
		Dept for Transport Active Travel Fund Tranche 3	269	0	0	0	0	269
		DV067 Northern Promenade Total	452	0	0	0	0	452
		DV071 Section 106 Contributions to Set Up Health Facilities						
		Section 106	262	0	0	0	0	262
		DV071 Section 106 Contributions to Set Up Health Facilities Total	262	0	0	0	0	262
		DV073 Ambition for North Tyneside						
		Council Contribution	0	1,479	2,000	0	0	3,479
		Capital Receipts	0	317	0	0	0	317
		Historic England - Heritage Action Zone	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Revenue Contribution (08252)	0	444	0	0	0	444
		Revenue Contribution (08252 Reserve)	0	576	0	0	0	576
		DV073 Ambition for North Tyneside Total	0	2,816	2,000	0	0	4,816
		DV074 North Shields Heritage Action Zone (Ambition)						
		Council Contribution	423	87	0	0	0	510
		Historic England - Heritage Action Zone	0	86	0	0	0	86
		DV074 North Shields Heritage Action Zone (Ambition) Total	423	173	0	0	0	596
		DV076 Getting Building Fund (North Shields Public Realm)						
		NELEP - Getting Building Fund	882	0	0	0	0	882
		DV076 Getting Building Fund (North Shields Public Realm) Total	882	0	0	0	0	882
		DV077 Tyne Brand Development Site						
		North of Tyne Combined Authority - Brownfield Housing Fund	99	3,950	190	0	0	4,239
		DV077 Tyne Brand Development Site Total	99	3,950	190	0	0	4,239
		DV078 Bedford Street / Saville Street						
		Council Contribution	73	0	0	0	0	73
		DV078 Bedford Street / Saville Street Total	73	0	0	0	0	73
		DV079 Howard Street The Exchange						
		Council Contribution	139	0	0	0	0	139
		Historic England - Heritage Action Zone	187	0	0	0	0	187
		Notca Cultural & Creative Zone Funding	231	0	0	0	0	231
		DV079 Howard Street The Exchange Total	557	0	0	0	0	557
		DV080 Segedunum Roman Museum MEND						
		Council Contribution	0	150	0	0	0	150
		Revenue Contribution (08252)	0	56	0	0	0	56
		Arts Council Grant (MEND)	75	424	0	0	0	499
		Revenue Contribution (08252 Reserve)	0	50	0	0	0	50
		DV080 Segedunum Roman Museum MEND Total	75	680	0	0	0	755
		DV081 North Shields Cultural Quarter						
		Revenue Contribution (08252)	120	0	0	0	0	120
		Notca Cultural & Creative Zone Funding	119	450	0	0	0	569
		DV081 North Shields Cultural Quarter Total	239	450	0	0	0	689
		DV082 Wallsend Town & High Street Programme						
		Wallsend Town & High Street Fund (Notca)	130	1,360	0	0	0	1,490
		DV082 Wallsend Town & High Street Programme Total	130	1,360	0	0	0	1,490
		ED075 Devolved Formula Capital						
		Education Funding Agency (Devolved)	1,138	2,110	610	610	610	5,078
		ED075 Devolved Formula Capital Total	1,138	2,110	610	610	610	5,078

Fu nd	ect	Financing Type	Year					
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
		ED120 Basic Need						
		Education Funding Agency (Basic Need)	37	2,200	0	0	0	2,237
		ED120 Basic Need Total	37	2,200	0	0	0	2,237
		ED132 School Capital Allocation						
		Section 106	83	166	0	0	0	249
		Education Funding Agency (SCA)	5,148	3,868	3,868	3,868	3,868	20,620
		ED132 School Capital Allocation Total	5,231	4,034	3,868	3,868	3,868	20,869
		ED190 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation						
		Education Funding Agency (High Needs)	2,360	2,060	0	0	0	4,420
		ED190 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Total	2,360	2,060	0	0	0	4,420
		EV034 Local Transport Plan						
		Dept for Transport LTP ITA	719	958	958	958	958	4,551
		Dept for Transport LTP Maint	1,532	1,566	1,566	2,000	2,000	8,664
		Section 106	487	0	0	0	0	487
		Public Transport Funding	28	28	28	28	28	140
		Department for Transport Traffic Signal Income	150	0	0	0	0	150
		Dft Pothole Funding	306	0	0	0	0	306
		EV034 Local Transport Plan Total	3,222	2,552	2,552	2,986	2,986	14,298
		EV055 Surface Water Improvements						
		Environment Agency Grant	723	0	0	0	0	723
		EV055 Surface Water Improvements Total	723	0	0	0	0	723
		EV056 Additional Highways Maintenance						
		Council Contribution	2,195	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,195
		DFT National Productivity Fund	58	0	0	0	0	58
		Dft Pothole Funding	1,382	1,253	1,253	0	0	3,888
		EV056 Additional Highways Maintenance Total	3,635	3,253	3,253	2,000	2,000	14,141
		EV069 Vehicle Replacement						
		Council Contribution	779	1,248	1,676	1,123	3,000	7,826
		EV069 Vehicle Replacement Total	779	1,248	1,676	1,123	3,000	7,826
		EV076 Operational Depot Accommodation Review						
		Council Contribution	1,591	0	0	0	0	1,591
		ERDF	1,040	225	0	0	0	1,265
		EV076 Operational Depot Accommodation Review Total	2,631	225	0	0	0	2,856
		EV083 Street Lighting LED						
		Council Contribution	1,200	1,860	1,495	0	0	4,555
		EV083 Street Lighting LED Total	1,200	1,860	1,495	0	0	4,555
		EV084 A189 Improvements Haddricks Mill to West Moor						
		DFT National Productivity Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EV084 A189 Improvements Haddricks Mill to West Moor Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EV091 Other Initiatives Climate Change						
		Council Contribution	274	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,274
		EV091 Other Initiatives Climate Change Total	274	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,274
		EV094 Transforming Cities Fund - NT02 North Shields Transport Hub						
		Council Contribution	0	1,376	0	0	0	1,376
		Transforming Cities Fund	7,000	10,810	0	0	0	17,810
		DLUHC	1,000	850	0	0	0	1,850
		EV094 Transforming Cities Fund - NT02 North Shields Transport Hub Total	8,000	13,036	0	0	0	21,036
		EV095 Active Travel Fund 1 & 2 Rake Lane						
		Dept for Transport Active Travel Fund Tranche2	1,137	0	0	0	0	1,137

Fu nd	Proj ect	Financing Type	Year					Total £000
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
		EV095 Active Travel Fund 1 & 2 Rake Lane Total	1,137	0	0	0	0	1,137
		EV096 Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund - Tanners Bank						
		Dept for Transport LTP Maint	103	0	0	0	0	103
		Dept for Transport - Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund	522	300	0	0	0	822
		EV096 Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund - Tanners Bank Total	625	300	0	0	0	925
		EV097 Weetslade & Westmoor Roundabouts, Great Lime Road (S106 Bellway Homes)						
		Section 106	3,250	0	0	0	0	3,250
		EV097 Weetslade & Westmoor Roundabouts, Great Lime Road (S106 Bell	3,250	0	0	0	0	3,250
		EV098 Transforming Cities Fund - NT08 Four Lane Ends Bus Priority						
		Transforming Cities Fund	1,893	1,190	0	0	0	3,083
		EV098 Transforming Cities Fund - NT08 Four Lane Ends Bus Priority Total	1,893	1,190	0	0	0	3,083
		EV099 Transforming Cities Fund - NT10 Links to Metro						
		Dept for Transport LTP ITA	234	157	0	0	0	391
		Transforming Cities Fund	514	3,261	0	0	0	3,775
		EV099 Transforming Cities Fund - NT10 Links to Metro Total	748	3,418	0	0	0	4,166
		EV100 Active Travel 3 - Permenant Seafront Scheme						
		Dept for Transport Active Travel Fund Tranche 3	0	3,231	0	0	0	3,231
		EV100 Active Travel 3 - Permenant Seafront Scheme Total	0	3,231	0	0	0	3,231
		EV101 Transforming Cities Fund – Intelligent Transport Systems						
		Transforming Cities Fund	179	0	0	0	0	179
		EV101 Transforming Cities Fund – Intelligent Transport Systems Total	179	0	0	0	0	179
		GEN03 Contingencies						
		Council Contribution	623	1,800	2,000	1,000	1,000	6,423
		GEN03 Contingencies Total	623	1,800	2,000	1,000	1,000	6,423
		GEN12 Local Infrastructure						
		Council Contribution	127	100	100	100	100	527
		GEN12 Local Infrastructure Total	127	100	100	100	100	527
		GEN13 Project Management						
		Council Contribution	75	100	100	100	100	475
		GEN13 Project Management Total	75	100	100	100	100	475
		HS004 Disabled Facilities Grant						
		Better Care Fund	2,578	1,869	1,869	0	0	6,316
		HS004 Disabled Facilities Grant Total	2,578	1,869	1,869	0	0	6,316
		HS051 Private Sector Empty Homes						
		Council Contribution	159	205	205	206	0	775
		Homes & Communities Grant	111	0	0	0	0	111
		HS051 Private Sector Empty Homes Total	270	205	205	206	0	886
		HS053 Green Homes Local Authority Delivery						
		Green Homes Grant (LAD1b) - Dept for BEIS	950	0	0	0	0	950
		Green Homes Grant (LAD2) - Dept for BEIS	776	0	0	0	0	776
		Green Homes Grant (LAD3) - Dept for BEIS	3,700	0	0	0	0	3,700
		HS053 Green Homes Local Authority Delivery Total	5,426	0	0	0	0	5,426
		IT020 ICT Strategy						
		Council Contribution	1,747	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,250	6,247
		Revenue Contribution (Security Grant Reserve 9841 107)	150	0	0	0	0	150
		IT020 ICT Strategy Total	1,897	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,250	6,397

			Year	Period of Change				Total £000
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
Fund	Project	Financing Type						
General Fund Total			60,702	68,082	28,108	19,093	20,414	196,399
HRA								
HS015 Refurbishment / Decent Homes Improvements See HRA Financing			22,954	25,479	24,250	25,535	26,620	124,838
HS015 Refurbishment / Decent Homes Improvements Total			22,954	25,479	24,250	25,535	26,620	124,838
HS017 Disabled Adaptations See HRA Financing			1,220	1,583	1,599	1,315	1,328	7,045
HS017 Disabled Adaptations Total			1,220	1,583	1,599	1,315	1,328	7,045
HS039 ICT Infrastructure Works See HRA Financing			444	761	210	112	113	1,640
HS039 ICT Infrastructure Works Total			444	761	210	112	113	1,640
HS044 HRA New Build See HRA Financing			1,996	6,130	4,000	4,000	3,500	19,626
HS044 HRA New Build Total			1,996	6,130	4,000	4,000	3,500	19,626
HS054 HRA Vehicle Replacement Programme See HRA Financing			0	0	0	0	1,800	1,800
HS054 HRA Vehicle Replacement Programme Total			0	0	0	0	1,800	1,800
HRA Total			26,614	33,953	30,059	30,962	33,361	154,949
Total £000			87,316	102,035	58,167	50,055	53,775	351,348

		Year	Period of Change				
		2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
Fun d	Category						
General Fund							
	Council Contribution	14,394	18,464	17,676	11,529	12,950	75,013
	Council Contribution - Capital Receipts	0	317	0	0	0	317
	Grants & Contributions	45,000	48,175	10,432	7,564	7,464	118,635
	Revenue Contribution	120	500	0	0	0	620
	Contribution from Reserves	1,188	626	0	0	0	1,814
General Fund Total		60,702	68,082	28,108	19,093	20,414	196,399
HRA Financing							
	HRA Capital Receipts	1,104	3,280	2,170	2,153	1,060	9,767
	HRA Revenue Contribution	10,281	11,589	13,592	14,137	16,259	65,858
	HRA MRR	13,940	18,219	14,167	14,592	14,112	75,030
	HRA Grants & Contributions	919	450	0	0	0	1,369

Fund	Project	Financing Type	Period of Change					Total £000
			Year 2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	
		HRA Contribution from Reserves	370	415	130	80	1,930	2,925
		HRA Financing Total	26,614	33,953	30,059	30,962	33,361	154,949
		Total£000	87,316	102,035	58,167	50,055	53,775	351,348

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North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 27 March 2023

Title: Procurement Plan 2023/2024

Portfolio: Finance and Resources		Cabinet Member: Councillor Martin Rankin
Report from Service Area:	Commissioning and Asset Management	
Responsible Officer:	Mark Longstaff Director of Commissioning and Asset Management	Tel: (0191) 6438089
Wards affected:	All wards	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Authority undertakes a wide variety of duties and delivers a vast range of services to the people of North Tyneside via third parties. In turn, this means that the Authority continues to spend a significant proportion of its budget on goods and services.

In accordance with Contract Standing Order 8(5), as the procurements identified in Appendix 1 will exceed individually £500,000, this report seeks approval to proceed with relevant procurement exercises for the procurements identified throughout the 2023/24 financial year. It also seeks delegated authority to be given to relevant Directors to award contracts in accordance with UK public procurement legislation to the most advantageous tenders. This will ensure contracts are procured efficiently and at the same time ensure value for money is achieved.

1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) approve the procurement of the goods and services as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report;
- 2) delegate authority to the relevant Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, Director of Resources and the Head of Law to commence the procurements identified and award contracts to those bidders who submit the most advantageous tenders in accordance with UK public procurement legislation;
- 3) receive and note the Social Value Update for the period April 2022 to March 2023 attached to this report at Appendix 2.

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 20 January 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021 - 2025 Our North Tyneside Plan. The plan features five themes that reflect priorities aimed at creating a North Tyneside that is thriving, family-friendly, caring, secure and green. The thriving policy priority includes:

- We will review how the Council purchases and contracts for goods and services to maximise value for money, social value and environmental sustainability.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Authority continues to spend a considerable sum on third party goods and services. The Authority's Constitution requires that prior to any procurement commencing which exceeds £500,000 Cabinet approval must be obtained. Once the Authority's budget was approved by full Council on 16 February 2023 the third-party requirements of the Authority became known. The procurement exercises which will commence in the financial year 2023/2024 have been identified and are set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

When procuring services, the Authority is obliged to consider how what is being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the borough and how it might secure that improvement as part of the procurement process. This is what is meant by 'Social Value'.

The Authority has sought Social Value within its procured contracts since the implementation of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. However, by its adoption of the Procurement and Commercial Strategy the Authority has strengthened how it works with its suppliers in the joint delivery of Social Value. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) suppliers are already obliged to deliver Social Value so as to minimise the impact they have on the environment and maximise benefits to the local economy. Through its Procurement and Commercial Strategy, the Authority ensures that it aligns itself with the private sector and by doing so ensures the joint delivery of Social Value within the Borough.

Following the adoption of the Council Plan for 2021-2025, the Authority updated its Social Value priorities in March 2022 and these priorities are contained within the Authority's Procurement and Commercial Strategy for 2022-2025. A pilot exercise is being undertaken to help develop a process utilising the contract management toolkit as part of the procurement and contract management activity. The Authority's Social Value priorities and subsequent outcomes used to measure Social Value follow the priorities within the Our North Tyneside Plan: Thriving, Family Friendly, Secure, Caring and Greener.

1.5.2 Procurement Process

The Authority adopted its Procurement Strategy in March 2022. Utilising the Social Value principles within the Procurement and Commercial Strategy, the Authority will continue to

gain commitments from suppliers which align with the policy priorities of the Mayor and Cabinet. This will include a greener target embedded approach to support the Authority's target to be carbon net-zero by 2030. The Authority's tendering process will be streamlined, and better information will be provided to the market. Where appropriate, lower value tenders will be issued. The Authority is seeing an increase in the number of Small and Medium Enterprise's (SME's) and local suppliers that it procures with. The procurement exercises due to commence in 2023/24 will continue to give SME's and local suppliers the chance to work with the Authority, again enabling and encouraging smaller businesses. Working with the Business Forum and the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), bespoke workshops will be developed to support SME's. The principles set out in the Authority's Responsible Procurement Charter will be embedded in the tender requirements.

The relevant service area will develop tender packages and robust specifications to ensure that the Authority is protected in terms of financial and commercial risk. The duration of the contract will be considered to help shape new and emerging markets; lessons learned from any previous contracts will be considered when developing the tender package. Relevant existing frameworks will be explored if appropriate to the contract. Collaborative regional working will be explored if appropriate to the contract. The contract award criteria will be developed considering social value as appropriate.

1.5.3 Consultation

Consultation prior to commencing a procurement with the relevant Cabinet Members is key, as this will ensure that the Authority's priorities are achieved through its contracting arrangements. The Authority's finance team will be engaged to identify any budgetary risks associated with the delivery of the service and any potential mitigations. Its legal team will review the terms and conditions for each procurement to ensure the Authority mitigates any commercial risk. Consultation and engagement with the market and any relevant associations will take place to ensure that the offer to the market is attractive and that a market exists to deliver the goods and services.

1.5.4 Award of contracts

An evaluation team consisting of subject matter experts and the procurement team will evaluate each bid received against the published award criteria and in accordance with UK public procurement legislation. Prior to award of any contract the evaluation result will be provided to the relevant Director of Service to approve the award together with financial assurance that the contract value will remain within existing budgets.

1.5.5 Social Value

The Authority updated its Social Value priorities in March 2022. Work is ongoing to develop a process utilising the contract management toolkit as part of the procurement and contract management activity. The Authority's Social Value priorities and subsequent outcomes used to measure social value follow the priorities within Our North Tyneside Plan: Thriving, Family Friendly, Secure, Caring and Greener.

Social Value requirements have been an important aspect of the procurement process since the implementation of The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, and this has directly resulted in benefits for communities across the borough. It has proven a challenging task however, to ensure that the commitments made through the procurement process are upheld throughout the contract period. Work is currently being undertaken to ensure that Social Value is monitored and measured effectively through

the Authority's contract management toolkit. The Authority's contracted suppliers will each have their own corporate social responsibility approaches; through contract management the Authority will work with them to help shape their social value objectives towards policy priorities of the Mayor and Cabinet.

Social Value gained for the Borough will be monitored and reported to Cabinet as a minimum on an annual basis. Appendix 2 of the report provides Cabinet with a Social Value Update for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

1.5.6 Social Value Commitments

Social Value commitments made by contractors and suppliers have been closely reviewed this year. Initially, historic Social Value offers were discussed with the Authority's suppliers and contractors, specifically where due to the pandemic, Social Value commitments had been delayed or cancelled. The Procurement/Commercial Team worked closely with both North Tyneside VODA and the North Tyneside Learning Trust to identify voluntary groups, schools and local organisations who could benefit as a result from the supply chain social value commitments.

Since March 2022, the updated Social Value Matrix has been piloted in 35 procurement projects across all service areas to ensure the measures are appropriate and enable the Authority to engage with its supply chain and review feedback on the Authority's procurement process. Each of these procurement projects required at least one greener commitment to be made. The commitments made by the successful contractors are monitored across the contract period through a contract management toolkit.

Recently Social Value presentations have been held with suppliers and potential suppliers which has encouraged suppliers to gain further knowledge of Social Value and to identify specific local organisations that they could help whilst potentially improving their Social Value responses when applying for tenders locally and nationwide. The Procurement/Commercial Team will continue to engage with the Authority's Contractors and Suppliers during the 2023/2024 financial year.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 to carry out the necessary procurement exercises during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Option 2

Cabinet may not approve the recommendations and continue to consider individual reports for each package of works and/or services. This may delay implementation of essential services and works being carried out.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority has a duty to obtain value for money. Tendering the opportunities identified in the report will meet the priorities contained within the Procurement Strategy and the Our North Tyneside Plan.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Procurement Plan March 2023-2024

Appendix 2: Social Value Updates March 2023

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Longstaff – Director of Commissioning and Asset Management. Tel 0191 6438089

Sarah Heslop – Head of Commercial and Procurement. Tel 0191 6435456

Rosie Duerdin – Commercial Assistant. Tel 0191 643 7717

David Dunford – Senior Business Partner, Strategic Finance. Tel 0191 643 7027

1.10 Background information:

There are no background papers.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The procurement of suppliers and contractors to complement the Authority's delivery needs is a critical part of the process to enable the successful delivery of key services.

The budgets to pay for the costs of suppliers of goods and services are provided for either via the Housing Revenue Account, the General Fund or the Capital Investment Plan.

2.2 Legal

The procurements shall be carried out in compliance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and all other procurement legislation that may be enacted or in force from time to time, including the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

At the conclusion of the procurement exercise, the bids will be fully evaluated, and the delegated decision to enter into contracts with successful bidders will be taken having regard to the principles of decision-making set out in Article 13 of the Authority's Constitution and such decisions will be properly recorded.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with Cabinet Members and the Senior Management Team.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Consultation will take place with relevant business associations regarding the tender opportunities. Where appropriate market engagement events will be undertaken prior to the tender process commencing.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report. Any potential implications will be considered before a decision is taken.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues which arise directly from this report. Equality and diversity issues will be assessed when developing the individual service specifications and before a decision to award individual contract is taken.

2.6 Risk management

Any risk management issues are included within the Authority's risk register and will be managed by this process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

Where appropriate tenderers will be obliged to commit to social value outcomes including, for example, carbon reduction and recycling to support the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Director of Service | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Chief Finance Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Monitoring Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Assistant Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Title	Description of Service	Service Area	Contract Start Date
Step down in provision in care homes	Contract(s) to support discharge of adults from hospital care	Adult Social Care	01/07/2023
Step down in provision in extra care	Contract(s) to support discharge of adults from hospital care	Adult Social Care	01/07/2023
Advocacy Services	Contract(s) to provide advocacy services (Care act advocacy support, Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy, Independent Mental Health Advocacy and Relevant Persons Representative)	Adult Social Care	01/09/2023
Extra Care Services	Contract(s) for the provision of extra care schemes	Adult Social Care	01/08/2023
Residential Childrens Homes	Contract(s) for children's residential homes aged 0-18	Childrens Services	01/04/2024
Residential Special Schools and Residential Schools	Contract(s) for residential special schools and residential schools aged 0-25	Childrens Services	01/04/2024
Short Break Childrens Homes and Overnight Holiday and Leisure Provision	contract(s) for short break children's homes and overnight holiday and leisure provision aged 0-25	Childrens Services	01/04/2024
Work Based Learning Framework	Contract to establish a framework agreement for Work based learning	Childrens Services	01/10/2023
Frozen Provisions - Catering	Contract(s) for the frequent delivery of Frozen Provisions Predominantly to Schools and Civic Establishments that are operated by North Tyneside Catering Services.	Commissioning and Asset Management	01/07/2023
Advice and Information	To provide advice and information support to residents of North Tyneside.	Commissioning and Asset Management	04/01/2024
Nepe 225 Volume Cut Sized paper	Supply of paper	Cross Cutting	01/09/2023
NEPO 208 Vehicle Parts and Assoc Products	Contract(s) for the supply of vehicle parts and associated products	Environment	01/01/2024
NEPO 307 Liquid Fuel	Contract(s) for the supply of liquid Fuels	Environment	01/11/2023
Housing Programmed Works Frameworks	Contract(s) to provide a range of services to support the housing and repairs team including (but not limited to) heating upgrades and roofing	Housing Property Services	01/04/2024
Housing Specialist Works Frameworks	Contract(s) to provide specialist goods and services to support the Housing and Repairs team including drainage, asbestos and provision of fire doors for tenanted properties	Housing Property Services	01/04/2024
Commercial, Schools & Public Buildings Repairs & Maintenance, Planned Works and Preventative Maintenance Frameworks	Contract(s) to provide a range of services to support the asset management team	Housing Property Services	01/04/2024
Modular Housing	Contract(s) for the provision of modular housing build solutions	Housing Property Services	01/10/2023
New Build Housing	Contract(s) to build and deliver new build housing solutions	Housing Property Services	01/10/2023
Decarbonisation Works	Contract(s) to support the net-zero ambition	Housing Property Services	01/10/2023
Affordable Homes	Contract(s) to build and convert existing properties into new build homes	Housing Property Services	01/10/2023
Nepe 234 Asbestos Management	Contract(s) for survey and removal of asbestos	Housing Property Services	01/04/2024
Nepe Legal Services	Provision of legal advice	Law and Democratic Services	01/09/2023
NTRP Drug and Alcohol Service	Contract for Drug and Alcohol Service	Public Health	01/04/2024
Sexual Health Service	Contract for Sexual Health Service	Public Health	01/04/2024
Insurance Services	Contract for specialist insurances	Resources	01/10/2024
NEPO 514 Training DPS	Contract(s) for external training provisions.	Resources	01/02/2024

Title	Description of Service	Service Area	Contract Start Date
WAN Connections	Contracts for internet connectivity across the borough	Resources	01/04/2023
Nepo 503 Specialist Professional Services	Contract(s) for specialist professional services -vendor neutral managed service solution	Resources	01/10/2023
Nepo 609 Social Care and research and information Tool	Research Tool	Resources	01/04/2023

Social value update: April 2022 - March 2023

Procurement process

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Tenders have included an updated social value question since April 2022, across all service areas within the authority.

Each required at least one greener commitment to be made – working to support the authority's goal to be carbon net zero by 2030.



Over 70% of these tenders asked suppliers whether their staff are paid the real living wage – where this isn't currently the case, targets have been put in place for improvements to be made.

Key achievements



Over £23,000 offered to community projects within North Tyneside.

Several social value events held including litter picking, tree planting and updating community spaces.



Housing and Property Services contractors donated the materials required for Shiremoor Adventure Playground to be repainted.

250 broad leaf whips were donated and planted within the borough by a contractor within Environmental Services.



Adult Social Care contractors donated over £1,300 worth of Christmas gifts for Children in Care across the borough. Suppliers have also donated thousands to local charities, raffle prizes for PRIDE, and tins of paint for renovations.

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North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 27 March 2023

Title: Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 Performance Report

Portfolio(s): Deputy Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Carl Johnson
Report from Service Area:	Corporate Strategy and Customer Services
Responsible Officer:	Jacqueline Laughton, (Tel: (0191) 643 5724) Assistant Chief Executive
Wards affected:	All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report provides Cabinet with an update on progress with delivering the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 as set out in the 'Our North Tyneside Performance Report' attached to this report at Appendix 1.

The Council Plan was refreshed in 2021 following the Mayoral Election on 6th May to reflect the policy priorities of the incoming administration. Following consultation with residents and key stakeholders, Full Council agreed the refreshed Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 on 23rd September 2021.

A refreshed Our North Tyneside Plan Performance Report has been developed to monitor progress against the new priorities and objectives set out in the Council Plan.

This report when read in conjunction with Appendix 1 provides an overview of performance since the start of the plan and identifies the agreed activities that the Authority will pursue in the future. In addition, it provides comparator information, such as national or regional performance, as there are several issues where North Tyneside is facing similar challenges as other parts of the country.

Some of the highlights of the Our North Tyneside Plan Performance Report are:-

- Delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme is on track and a 10-year Delivery Plan was agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. The number of long-term vacant dwellings is currently at its lowest level in seven years.
- In August 2022, Cabinet approved the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan including over 150 actions to decarbonise the Authority's operations and the Borough as a whole.

- £8m funding has been secured from the Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme to install low carbon heating, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems in homes with low-household incomes. To date over 800 measures have been installed in 700 homes so far.
- Regeneration work is well underway in North Shields including public realm improvements, a new integrated transport hub, and new town square. Planning permission has been granted for new family homes at the former Unicorn House Site and works are due to commence later in 2023. £1.7 in grant funding has been secured from the North of Tyne Combined (NTCA) to develop a Cultural and Creative Zone and work has commenced on the new Riverside Embankment Walkway to connect the town centre and Fish Quay. Planning permission for a new Ferry Landing on Western Quay was granted in December 2022. However, the Levelling Up Fund bid by NEXUS for that project was unsuccessful and alternative funding solutions are now being pursued. £19.13m of grant funding has been secured from Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) to fund the capital works at the transport hub, embankment walkway and gateways an additional £1.85m has been secured from DLUHC to fund the new town square.
- In Whitley Bay, improvement works to the Northern Promenade were completed and £4.5m funding from the Active Travel Fund has been secured to provide a continuous segregated walking and cycling route between St Mary's Lighthouse and Tynemouth. In summer 2023, Master Planning activity will commence for Whitley Bay Town Centre.
- In Wallsend, engagement on the draft Masterplan is underway and a final version will be presented to Cabinet for approval in May 2023. £499,000 Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND) funding has been secured for a range of improvements at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum. An expression of interest has been submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund to secure £5m of funding for developments at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum and a decision is expected in June 2023. The Round 2 Levelling Up bid to deliver public realm improvements along the High Street together with transport connections and enhancements to Segedunum was unsuccessful, however, there remains a final submission round in Autumn 2023 for which a revised bid will be submitted. Funding has been secured from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) to fund project activity in and around Wallsend High Street including £1.28m capital grant for public realm and active travel work and £66,000 grant for revenue activity including events which will help drive footfall, shop front grants, business support and resource to be based within the town centre to support businesses to start-up and grow.
- In the North West of the borough, £75,000 of feasibility funding has been secured from NTCA for Northumberland Line Economic Corridor priorities. This includes funding to re-design, scope and map a visitor/ heritage trail using the existing waggonways and heritage assets. Killingworth Lake concept plans have been developed and officers are now working to identify eligible funding streams to progress the proposals. Work is continuing with partners to secure investment and encourage more and better jobs to be delivered at Indigo Park.
- Beaches and warden managed parks in the borough continue to be recognised nationally for their high standards. Three beaches have retained their Blue Flags and Seaside Awards and this year eight parks were awarded Green Flag Awards, including Chirton and Redburn Dene Parks who secured this for the first time in 2022.

- In response to residents feeling increasingly concerned about community safety issues, a multi-agency North Tyneside Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force has been established to develop and deliver a shared plan to tackle anti-social behaviour as a partnership making a difference for residents, communities, visitors and businesses. The trend of anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police is decreasing and the rate per population is now 19.3 per 1,000 residents, which is the lowest level in four years in North Tyneside.
- Support is delivered to low-income households across the borough through the Council Tax Support Scheme and Hardship Support Scheme. As well as a number of initiatives including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Household Support Fund and Poverty Intervention Fund to address health and socio-economic inequalities.
- The education offer in the borough is strong compared to national and regional comparators, however an area of focus remains to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils, which has widened in North Tyneside, as it has regionally and nationally, following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are continuing to meet the social care needs of our residents and have seen an increase in demand for social care. Many residents are presenting with more complex needs as a legacy of Covid restrictions. Our Carepoint Team is integrated with the NHS and has staff based at all local acute hospitals. This team has been key in ensuring that our hospitals have maintained bed availability over the winter and that A&E services have not been overwhelmed. Our Reablement Service continues to be one of the highest performing in the country supporting our residents to regain skills and the confidence to return home after a stay in hospital.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet note the progress that has been made to deliver the updated objectives of the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025.

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 20th January 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to all the priorities of the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 On 23rd September 2021, the refreshed Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 was agreed by Full Council following consultation with residents and other key stakeholders. The Council Plan was updated following the Mayoral Election on 6th May 2021 to reflect the policy priorities of the incoming administration.

1.5.3 A refreshed Our North Tyneside Plan Performance Report has been developed to monitor progress against the new priorities and objectives set out in the Council Plan.

1.5.4 As Cabinet is aware the Authority manages performance at two levels;

1. Strategic objectives, as defined in the Our North Tyneside Plan, are monitored and managed twice a year through regular reports to Cabinet, Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership

This is supplemented by quarterly discussions with Lead Members, which tracks performance and the financial implications.

2. Operational performance is managed on day-to-day basis by service areas, with a regular overview provided to Lead Members on a monthly basis.

1.5.5 At a strategic level, the highlights of this report against each of the priorities are:

A thriving North Tyneside

- ***We will regenerate the high streets of North Shields and Wallsend, and in addition to the Master Plan for North Shields, we will bring forward Master Plans for Wallsend and Whitley Bay town centre areas. We will also bring investment and improvements to the North West area of the borough and ensure that regeneration delivers ambition, opportunity and benefits for all of our residents;***

The Authority has been working closely with a range of partners to unlock local potential and opportunity through the delivery of projects in the three town centres:

- **North Shields:** The former Co-Op building has been demolished and construction of a new integrated transport hub within North Shields Town Centre is well underway. Adjacent to the hub will be a new town square. Works are proposed to complete in late summer 2023.

Work is underway on public realm improvements, building on the success of the Northumberland Square and Howard Street Scheme which was completed at the end of August 2022. £1.85m of additional capital funding has been recently secured to extend works into Bedford Street and tie-in to the new town square which is already under construction.

The former Unicorn House building was demolished in 2021 and received planning permission for new family housing units. The scheme is due to commence on site later in 2023.

Both 131 Bedford Street and the former Globe Gallery will be brought back into use for cultural purposes in the coming year by the new occupiers, further adding to the vitality of the growing cultural offer. The Authority has secured £1.7m of grant funding from NTCA to develop a Cultural and Creative Zone (CCZ), which will be known as North Shields Cultural Quarter. This will be located in and around Howard Street and Saville Street, creating a 'cultural corridor' and stronger connections between the town centre and the Fish Quay.

Work commenced on the new Riverside Embankment Walkway in November 2022 with slope stabilisation works due conclude in Spring 2023. The walkway will provide a step-free route between the town centre and the Fish Quay and works are due to complete by Spring 2024.

A scheme for a new Ferry Landing on Western Quay has been developed and was included in a funding bid from round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund. Planning permission for the new landing was granted to Nexus in December 2022 and whilst the Levelling Up Fund bid was unfortunately unsuccessful, site investigation work continues, and alternate funding solutions are being pursued. The new landing works would include an extension to the recently refurbished protection jetty at the Fish Quay and associated public realm works to tie into the new Riverside Embankment Walkway.

- **Whitley Bay:** All works to the Northern Promenade have now been completed and was open to the public from the end of July 2022.

The Authority has secured £4.5m of funding from the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 3) and Sustrans to commence delivery of the Sea Front Sustainable Route which will provide a segregated walking and cycling route between St Marys and Tynemouth. This scheme also includes public realm improvements along the route and seeks to build-on the success of the quality and design of the completed Promenade works. Further engagement on the proposed Sea Front Sustainable Route will be carried out this Spring with the first phase of the scheme likely to commence following the busy summer period.

It is also proposed to undertake some master planning activity for Whitley Bay town centre in summer 2023. The purpose of the plan will be to improve the provision and connectivity of sustainable transport routes to and around the town centre environment. Together with improvements to the public realm, this will help create a better visitor experience and provide opportunities for new investment as well as supporting existing local business.

- **Wallsend:** Funding of £80,000 was secured from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership to prepare a Masterplan for Wallsend. In March 2022, Cabinet resolved that, for Wallsend, three key themes were identified as policy priorities for inclusion in the plan. These were:
 - Improve the quality of the housing offer in Wallsend; in particular making the area a focus of the Mayor and Cabinet's plans for 5000 affordable homes and tackling some of the poor quality privately rented housing in the masterplan area
 - Make the town centre and the nearby neighbourhoods great places to visit and live; improving the street scene, public spaces and working with partners to make sure people feel safe; and
 - Make sure Wallsend residents are connected to good jobs; using the full range of tools, including adult education, apprenticeships and the capabilities plus the transport infrastructure around the town to make sure people in the community, who need it, are supported to improve their life chances.

The draft Masterplan was approved for public engagement by Cabinet in November 2022. This engagement took place throughout January and February and a final version will be presented to Cabinet for approval in May 2023.

The Authority successfully secured £499,000 of grant funding for a host of improvements at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum. The grant will pay for repairs to the air handling plant and roof, the installation of a new lift, and new emergency lighting. The emergency lighting works have been completed and the other works will be incorporated (subject to approval) with the lottery funded transformation works. The Authority was invited by the National Lottery heritage Fund to progress a Development Phase (1st Phase) bid to secure a multi-million-pound investment in the Museum with its partners, Tyne and Wear Museums. This was submitted on 17 February 2023 and

a decision is due in June 2023 when the Authority will become aware if it is invited to submit a full Delivery Phase application.

Following the Government announcement in January 2023 that the Authority's Levelling Up bid had been unsuccessful on why the bid was unsuccessful is awaited. However, work with stakeholders to develop a Round 3 bid for Wallsend is underway that will focus on:

- the modernisation of public realm along the High Street / retail core and adjacent residential terraces to provide a large high quality and healthier space
- Creating high quality sustainable transport connections into and through the Town retail core area
- Increasing footfall and dwell time,
- Improving connection between Segedunum and the town centre, and
- Enhancing the setting of Segedunum.

Hadrian Health Centre opened in December 2022 providing modern GP services and primary care facilities in the heart of Wallsend Town Centre as part of the regeneration of the town centre.

The Authority continues to work with Swan Hunter site owners Shepherd Offshore Limited to identify opportunities for inward investment in the site to create new employment opportunities. Shepherd Offshore Limited has continued site clearance and a local contractor has been employed to build a new quay wall at the site together with other infrastructure improvements.

The Centre for Innovation continues to provide high quality office accommodation with flexible terms to meet the needs of businesses in the offshore sector.

£1.94m in grant funding has been secured from NTCA to fund project activity in and around Wallsend High Street including capital public realm work and revenue activity including events, shop front grants, business support and resource to be based within the town centre to support businesses to start-up and grow.

- **North West:** Work in the North West of the borough is progressing on a number of priority activities;

£75,000 of feasibility funding has been secured from NTCA for Northumberland Line Economic Corridor priorities. This includes funding to re-design, scope and map a visitor/ heritage trail that will encourage visitors to explore routes from Northumberland Park Station out to the North West of the borough to sites such as Killingworth Lake and Weetslade Country Park using the existing wagonways and heritage assets and will incorporate state of the art augmented reality.

Killingworth Lake concept plans have been developed and officers are now working to identify eligible funding streams to progress the proposals.

- ***We will bring more good quality jobs to North Tyneside – by helping local businesses to sustain and grow, making it attractive for new businesses to set up or relocate in the borough;***

The Indigo Park site remains a strategic employment site and is identified in the adopted Local Plan for employment purposes. The site has been subject of recent interest, and

we will continue to work with partners including developers and other landowners to review funding opportunities to secure investment and refine proposals that will see more and better jobs delivered in the borough.

The number of jobs in North Tyneside in 2021 is showing a good recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic and have returned to similar numbers in 2019. There were 93,000 jobs in 2021, an increase of 4,000 jobs from the previous year, when the number decreased by 5%. The proportion of new businesses surviving the first year remains strong at 94%, which is in line with the North East and England performance. There were 971 small business start-ups during 2021/22, which is similar to the number of start-ups in 2019/20 before the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 983 business start-ups in 2019/20, which increased by 14% in 2020/21.

The Authority has established a Care Academy to support recruitment into social care. This vital sector provides significant economic benefit to the Borough and the Academy will work with the sector to build career progression improving the quality of care jobs

- ***We will invest in adult education and to support apprenticeships to make sure people have the right skills for the job;***

Ensuring that young people in North Tyneside have the right high-level skills to progress and succeed in the jobs market is key to the success of the local economy. In 2020/21, almost nine in ten young people post Key Stage 5 (A Level) were in work, education or training, which is better than the regional and national performance. Only 4.4% of 16-17 years were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), which is better than the national performance. The latest apprenticeship figures for 2020/21 showed the number of intermediate (level 1) apprenticeships decreased in 2020/21 in part due to national changes. However advanced (level 2) and higher (level 3) apprenticeship starts increased during 2020/21.

- ***We will keep our libraries and leisure centres open as part of a vibrant range of cultural and sporting activities to support the health and wellbeing of our residents;***

During 2020/21, libraries and leisure centres were impacted significantly by COVID-19 restrictions and were not fully operational. Figures show that during 2021/22, the number of visits to Customer First Centres and Branch Libraries are showing recovery, but have not achieved the same levels before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic many residents moved to using digital or telephone services rather than face to face interactions at Customer Services and this is a continuing trend. Customer First Centres received 565,000 visits in 2021/22, which is a 55% reduction compared to pre-pandemic levels. Branch Libraries received 70,400 visits during 2021/22, a reduction of 59% compared to pre-pandemic. Sport and Leisure have received two thirds of usual number of visits during 2021/22 compared to the same period in 2019/20.

- ***We will continue to be the destination of choice for visitors through the promotion of North Tyneside's award-winning parks, beaches, festivals and seasonal activities;***

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the number of recorded day visits and overnight stays to North Tyneside reduced to 3.23 million in 2020 and remained low in 2021 at 3.53 million, compared to 7.13 million in 2019.

During 2021/22 King Edwards Bay, Tynemouth Longsands and Whitley Bay beaches retained their Blue Flag international quality mark status by Keep Britain Tidy as well as their Seaside Awards recognising the finest beaches across the UK. These three beaches have achieved the Blue Flag standard every year since 1994 and are among a group of only 60 beaches across the country to win both a Blue Flag and a Seaside award. Eight of the warden managed parks in North Tyneside have also been awarded Green Flag Awards. Chirton and Redburn Dene Parks were given this award for the first time in 2022. Benton Quarry Park, Killingworth Lakeside Park, Northumberland Park, Marden Quarry Park, Wallsend Parks, the Rising Sun Country Park and Preston Cemetery all retained their Green Flag Awards.

Resident satisfaction with beaches is consistent with previous years at 83%. Satisfaction with parks and green spaces has increased to 70% from 66%.

- ***We will reduce the number of derelict properties across the borough; and***

The number of long-term vacant dwellings in North Tyneside has continued to show a decrease since 2018/19 to 1,027 dwellings, which is the lowest level in the last seven years.

- ***We will review how the council purchases and contracts for goods and services to maximise value for money, social value and environmental sustainability.***

The social value requirements included in the Authority's procurement and commissioning processes contribute to how the organisation maximises environmental sustainability and additional social benefits. The procurement team have worked with the voluntary sector and schools to ensure that social value commitments are aligned. Reviewing the Authority's strategic partnerships has led to the transfer of some services and in-house delivery. By 2029 all of the Authority's contracts will incorporate a 'greener target'. The Authority is working with its current suppliers to ensure that the most carbon friendly products are purchased. A dashboard is being developed to track how delivery against these requirements contributes to the delivery of the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities. The dashboard will be reported on annually to Cabinet.

A secure North Tyneside

- ***Council wardens will work in partnership with Northumbria Police to prevent and tackle all forms of antisocial behaviour;***

Resident's perception that anti-social behaviour and crime needs to be improved has increased over time. In 2021, almost half of residents (47%) perceived anti-social behaviour and crime as an area that needs to be improved. That is an increase of 22% since 2016. Residents concern has impacted on the proportion of residents who feel safe outside in their local area after dark. In 2021, 45% of residents felt safe outside their local area after dark, a decrease of 8% since 2019. The proportion of residents feeling safe outside in their local area during the day remains high at 89%.

During 2022 a multi-agency North Tyneside Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force was established to develop and deliver a shared plan to tackle anti-social behaviour. This partnership is making a difference for residents, communities, visitors and businesses across the borough. The trend of anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police is decreasing and the rate per population is at it's lowest level in four years in North Tyneside.

- ***We will invest an additional £2m per year on fixing our roads and pavements;***

The proportion of principal and non-principal roads in the borough where maintenance should be considered following a survey undertaken as part of the Department for Transport's Road Conditions in England (RCE) requirements has shown a decrease year on year. Only 3% of principal roads and 3% of non-principal roads managed by the Authority should be considered for maintenance, which is better than the national benchmark (4% of principal roads and 6% of non-principal roads). On an annual basis, the Authority reviews the current state of the infrastructure on the highway network as part of the Highway Asset Management Plan.

Residents satisfaction with road and pavement maintenance is consistently lower when compared to other Authority services and is identified as most in need of improvement.

- ***We will maintain the Council Tax support scheme that cuts bills for thousands of low income households across North Tyneside;***

The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 introduced an administrative change making it easier for new Universal Credit (UC) claimants to claim Council Tax Support. The Authority will use information that the Department for Work and Pensions provides about customers who have made a new claim for UC and who are also interested in claiming Council Tax Support as an actual claim for Council Tax Support where possible. This procedure will reduce the need for claimants to complete separate claims for UC and Council Tax Support.

Additionally, the Government provided a grant to provide all Council Tax Support claimants with a reduction in their Council Tax bill of up to £25.00. Along with this grant further funding was made available by the Authority in the 2023/24 budget to provide up to £125.00 for all working age claimants on top of the £25.00.

As at the end of January 2023 there were 15,951 claimants receiving Council Tax Support, which was a small reduction of 2.6% against the number of claimants in April 2022

- ***We will tackle health and socio-economic inequalities across the borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty;***

As part of the Health and Well-Being Strategy there is a priority theme around decent standard of living and the Authority has a comprehensive approach in place to support people in relation to the cost of living crisis. This includes:

- the Holiday Activities and Food Programme which provides holiday experiences for children and young people on free school meals, by providing food, nutritional education, physical activities and enriching activities during the easter, summer and Christmas holidays. The Christmas 2022 holidays saw a total of 1,043 primary and 292 secondary age children involved with the programme
 - The provision of vouchers to cover the cost of food during all school holidays provided to all families with entitlement to income at a rate of £15 per child.
 - An expansion of the school uniform project, to support schools to pilot a uniform recycling scheme. The pilot had a focus on being environmentally friendly to reduce stigma and included - swap-shop events, purchasing coats and shoes,

developing school uniform policies, and encouraging schools to take up poverty proofing

- £45 per child given in December 2022 to families of all children on income based Free School Meals to support with the cost of warm winter clothing and shoes.
- Supporting every school in North Tyneside to take part in a Poverty Proofing the School Day audit carried out by Children North-East which involves engaging with every student to understand what poverty looks like from a young person's perspective and using this insight to develop an action plan. Audits have taken place with 30 schools so far and the project is planned to continue until the end of the academic year (July 2023).
- Provision of a network of community-based food pantries, clubs and supermarkets across the borough. Including The Bread and Butter Thing, since April 2022, six food hubs have been operating across the borough at Howdon, Shiremoor, Fordley, Longbenton, Collingwood and Whitley Bay.

The Welfare Assistance Team is located at our social care 'front door' which enables the provision of holistic support to residents including financial assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing a crisis. The Welfare Assistance officers also give advice, guidance and signpost to other sources of support. The team have strong links with local supports, such as Citizen's Advice and the wider voluntary and community sector.

- ***We will provide 5,000 affordable homes.***

Building on the success of the Affordable Homes Programme, a new 2-phased programme to meet the 5,000 affordable homes target was approved by Cabinet in February 2022. This includes a 10-year delivery plan for the Authority's Housing Revenue Account that will deliver at least 350 new council homes and utilise new technologies to reduce carbon emissions and support the Authority's response to the climate emergency in North Tyneside. The programme will also include opportunities to increase delivery by pursuing windfall opportunities for the Authority, exploring new delivery models, and seeking to unlock the potential of brownfield sites in the borough.

A range of specially adapted homes have been developed for residents with additional needs. Two new extra care schemes have opened within the Borough in 2022/23 providing 104 new apartments for older people with care needs. This includes 40 specially designed homes for residents living with dementia.

Delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme is on track to meet the ambitious 5,000 affordable homes target. 2,073 affordable homes have been delivered by the end December 2022.

A family-friendly North Tyneside

- ***We will support local schools, making sure all children have access to a high-quality education with opportunities to catch up where needed after the pandemic;***

96% of primary schools in North Tyneside are rated as good or outstanding by OFSTED, which is significantly higher than the national performance targets. 88% of secondary schools are rated as good or outstanding, which is in line with the national performance targets.

69% of pupils achieved basics in Key Stage 4 for English and Maths during 2021/22, in line with the proportion of pupils nationally which is an increase from 63% in 2018/19.

The gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils widened in 2021/22 compared to results from the pre-pandemic 2018/19 period. The gap is 24.6% in key stage 2 expected level of reading, writing and maths, which compares to 20.7% in the North East and 22.9% nationally. The Progress 8 gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has widened to 0.98 compared to 0.91 in 2018/19, which is in line with the national and regional picture.

- ***We will provide outstanding children's social care services, events and facilities so North Tyneside is a great place for family life;***

The number of children subject to a child protection plan remained high at 257 during 2021/22. The number of children subject to a child protection plan increased during 2020/21 and demand has remained high in 2021/22. The number of contacts to Children's Safeguarding Services increased sharply in 2021/22 to 11,393 from 9,338 in 2020/21, bucking the previous trend of decreasing contacts year on year. 12.1% of children in care have experienced 3 or more placements, which is a significant increase compared to 8.3% in 2020/21, reversing the previous trend of performance improving since 2019.

- ***We will ensure all children are ready for school and that schools have an inclusive approach so that all of our children and young people have the best start in life.***

In 2021/22, 62.7% of pupils reached a good level of development at foundation stage, a decrease from 71.9% in 2018/19 pre-pandemic and slightly lower than North East (64.1%) and England (65.2%) performance.

At the end of quarter 3 in 2022/23, 97.6% of children received a 2-2 ½ year development review and almost 86% met the expected level in all 5 areas of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), which assesses how children are achieving in relation to communication, physical ability, social skills and problem-solving skills. The ASQ-3 identifies where a child may need further support and a referral to health professionals.

Just over a third of (38%) of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are educated in Special Schools, which is showing a decrease over time and is lower than the proportion regionally (44%) and is only slightly higher than the proportion nationally at 35%. However, the number of EHCPs the Authority maintains overall has continued to increase to over 2,000 plans and is high compared to national averages. To address this the Authority has submitted a High Needs Recovery Plan to the Department for Education (DfE) to secure additional funding to improve the position.

A caring North Tyneside

- ***We will provide great care to all who need it, with extra support available all the way through to the end of the pandemic;***

During 2021/22, 86% people who received a short-term service during the year subsequently received either no ongoing support or support of a lower level, which was a slight improvement from the 2020/21 figures and was in line with regional performance and was better than the national performance.

- ***We will work with the care provision sector to improve the working conditions of care workers;***

The Authority:

- Continues to consider increased fees for 2023/24 to external social care providers that take account of the increase in the National Living Wage, this includes services such as care home, day care, supported living, outreach etc.
 - Increase in home care fees continues to be aligned to Real Living Wage increase for home care and extra care
 - Used Local Authority and NHS Discharge Funding to support provision and the market to support recruitment and retention
 - Identified workforce recruitment and retention as a key barrier to market provision in the recently published draft market sustainability plan for care homes for older people and home care
- ***People will be cared for, protected and supported if they become vulnerable, including if they become homeless;***

The number of residents presenting as homeless has increased, however the proportion of residents being accepted as priority homeless remains low, which is a result of the preventative and triage work carried with residents presenting as homeless to support residents to remain in their current homes or find alternative accommodation. Between April and December 2022, 1,848 households presented as homeless, with 95 (5%) being accepted as priority homeless, which was consistent with the previous year.

In North Tyneside, the rate of emergency admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over is significantly higher than the rate across the region and nationally. 3,057 residents per 100,000 in North Tyneside compared to 2,311 across the North-East and 2,023 across England were admitted resulting from falls. Work continues with NHS partners to reduce these admissions. The Falls First Responder service with our Care Call service is working with North East Ambulance Service to provide a more rapid and responsive service for non-injurious falls.

- ***We will support local community groups, carers and young carers and the essential work they do; and***

Assessment of carers' needs has been strengthened by the extension of our strengths based approach, 'Ways to Wellbeing' to carers' assessments. Refreshed training for social workers has been introduced to improve the support for carers and we have linked with Healthwatch North Tyneside to gather feedback from carers through our practice quality review process.

The Authority continues to work with Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) as the North Tyneside Infrastructure Organisation for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations in North Tyneside. Recent cross-sector initiatives include:

- On-going growth and development of Living Well North Tyneside <https://www.livingwellnorthtyneside.co.uk/> an online directory of local services, support and events, which ensures all groups can have a digital presence and residents can find out what is happening across the borough.
- Development of new Practice Standards in consultation with the North Tyneside Carers Centre

- Evaluation of the Health Inequalities Fund is currently being carried out, looking at how the fund has been administered, role of VODA administering the fund and the funds alignment with North Tyneside Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Redesign and launch of the Chief Officers Group within VCSE sector
- New Grow and Eat post filled October 2022
- Minority Ethnic Health Development project, which is funded through Public Health, is being run by VODA

Work continues to link capacity and needs within the business and VCSE sectors via the Sector Connector project and to increase digital skills within the VCSE sector and with beneficiaries. Initiatives about to begin include:

- Looking at further ways the VCSE can support residents with the cost of living crisis
 - VCSE Working With Event, with a host of workshops
 - Winter Pressures programme, ends February 2023
 - Developing a new Grow and Eat post to support VCSE organisations with work around food production and the use of green spaces.
- ***We will work to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination and ensure the social rights of the people of North Tyneside are key to council decision making.***

This priority aligns with the overarching aim of the Authority's Equality and Diversity Policy, which is to ensure 'North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or disadvantage because of their characteristics, background or personal circumstances'. This aim is underpinned by commitments including to:

- proactively embed equality and diversity considerations in everything we do and challenge others to do the same
- meet all our legal equality duties under the [2010 Equality Act](#), the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), and follow codes of practice published by the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)
- not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds, and take action against it. This includes all forms of hatred including those targeting protected characteristics such as anti-Semitism (as defined by the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) definition and supporting guidance](#)) and other religious hatred, racism, sexism, ageism, disablism, religion, homophobia and transphobia (this is not an exhaustive list)
- raise awareness of how to report discrimination, harassment and victimisation and the support that is available
- publish our equality objectives, equality data¹ and report progress in [our Annual Equality and Diversity Review](#)

¹ [Equality and diversity data](#)

Where we ask employees and service users to provide us with personal information, this will only be used to improve access to and the quality of the services we provide.

Collecting equality information helps us to:

- understand the needs of our residents
- design policies and services which are effective and meet those needs
- demonstrate compliance with the 2010 Equality Act, the Public Sector Equality Duty and other statutory duties
- measure more effectively how we are improving as an employer and a service provider.

- undertake and implement the actions from [Equality Impact Assessments](#) on our decisions, policies, plans, practices and procedures
- ensure everyone feels listened to, and has the opportunity to be involved in making decisions about our services, with due regard being shown to those with protected characteristics
- build understanding amongst residents, employees, partners and elected members of the needs of different protected groups across North Tyneside
- celebrate the diversity of our communities and seek to raise awareness of the benefits of diversity and inclusion
- take account of, and respond to, the needs of residents and customers when delivering our services, ensuring due regard is shown to their protected characteristics
- create an environment where elected members, employees, residents and visitors are confident to be themselves
- strive to make our workforce more representative of the borough's population and the residents it serves, by ensuring equal opportunity to access to jobs, training and career progression
- require others providing services on our behalf follow our approach to equality.

These commitments are being delivered through the Authority's Embedding Equality Programme. Since the last One North Tyneside Performance Report in September 2022, the programme has delivered EqIA training to over 200 colleagues including the Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Equality Group. The Authority's policies and procedures continue to be updated to better reflect equalities and diversity considerations, , including the introduction of new hate incident reporting procedures following agreement by Cabinet of the Authority's Hate Crime Policy Statement. Access audits have been undertaken with AccessAble on more of the Authority's facilities including cemeteries and visitor attractions. A successful pilot has been undertaken to introduce live video British Sign Language interpretation into our leisure centres and main libraries and customer service locations. Two new changing places toilet facilities in Whitley Bay and North Shields continue to be installed with a bid successful to create two more in Wallsend and the Rising Sun Country Park. Work has continued to raise awareness of the Authority's Accessible Information Policy.

A green North Tyneside

- ***We will keep increasing the amount of waste that can be recycled and introduce food waste collections and deposit return schemes;***

The recycling rate in North Tyneside remains consistent at 38% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting during 2021/22. The proportion of waste sent to landfill during 2021/22 was just above 4%. Waste management during the COVID-19 pandemic was challenging as the level of waste collected by the Authority during the period increased significantly as residents spent a lot more time at home and there was significantly less waste being generated by businesses and restaurants.

- ***Council environmental hit squads will crack down on littering;***

We will only collect information when it is relevant and will be used by managers to develop an understanding of take up and need. While employees and service users are encouraged to provide equality information, it is their choice whether or not to answer all the questions. Confidential information will be handled in accordance with the strict controls of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the information gathered will be used to inform North Tyneside Council policy and planning, and to report on performance.

The Environmental Hit Squad was established in 2019 to target specific areas where litter and fly tipping were reported. Due to demand, the team has increased capacity. The team is used 4-5 times per day and on average around 900 kg per day in uplift of fly tipping across the borough occurs.

The authority has increased the number of environmental enforcement mobile CCTV vehicles operating across the borough from one to three vehicles focusing on environmental crime issues including litter, dog fouling and fly tipping offences.

The number of fixed penalty notices issued for littering and fly tipping remains consistent compared to the previous year, where there were 68 fixed penalty notices. More than half of all fixed penalty notices issued for environmental issues are in relation to litter and fly tipping offences.

- ***We will secure funding to help low-income households to install low-carbon heating;***

£8m funding has been secured from the Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme to install low carbon heating, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems in homes with low-household incomes. To date over 800 measures have been installed in over 700 homes so far.

- ***We will increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling, including providing a segregated cycleway at the coast; and***

78.6% of adults in North Tyneside walk or cycle at least once a week, which is a significant increase and is slightly higher than the proportion regionally and nationally. However, the proportion of adults in North Tyneside who cycle at least once a week has decreased significantly to 7.3% from 13.1% in 2019/20. This compares to 9.1% of adults in England and 6.7% adults in Tyne and Wear.

- ***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.***

In August 2022, Cabinet approved the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan. This was shaped by a range of consultation activities and aligned to key Government strategies, policies and plans in order to realise the emerging opportunities for decarbonisation and economic growth.

The Action Plan includes over 150 actions to decarbonise the Authority's operations and the borough as a whole. A range of projects are being delivered, including the installation of low carbon heating systems, energy efficiency equipment and renewable energy systems in Authority buildings and resident's homes, the electrification of the Authority's vehicle fleet, converting street lights to LED, investment in sustainable transport and the creation of a North-East Community Forest.

Additionally, the Authority is working with a number of large businesses across the borough to share best practice, collaborate and support other businesses on their carbon net-zero journey.

Cabinet is not being asked to make a decision but rather to note the progress that has been made in delivering the updated objectives of the 'Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025'.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

No recommendation is being made as no decision is required to be taken.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Our North Tyneside Performance Report – 27th March 2022

1.9 Contact officers:

Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service, tel. (0191) 643 5724

Pam Colby, Senior Manager - Policy, Performance and Research, tel. (0191) 643 7252

David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Strategic Finance, tel. (0191) 643 7027

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) [Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025](#)
- (2) [Council Plan Refresh - Report to Council 23 September 2021](#)
- (3) [2021 Residents Survey Report](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Any financial implications arising as a result of project slippage will be reported to Cabinet as part of the regular Financial Management reports to Cabinet.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Deputy Mayor, as Cabinet lead for Performance, along with Cabinet colleagues and the Senior Leadership Team review the latest performance information on a monthly basis and take action as required.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Our North Tyneside Plan was developed following extensive public engagement. The Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership were also consulted on the plan and approach for performance managing the plan.

2.4 Human rights

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Where relevant, actions delivered under the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 seek to ensure that due regard is given to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

2.6 Risk management

The performance management report enables the Cabinet to monitor progress against the Authority's ambitions so that any slippage can be identified and addressed. Individual pieces of work are managed within the Authority's risk management framework.

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 environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report, however a number of environmental and sustainability performance measures are included within the Green North Tyneside section of the performance report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Director(s) of Service | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Chief Finance Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Monitoring Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Assistant Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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Our North Tyneside Performance Report



Produced by Policy, Performance and Research

A Thriving North Tyneside

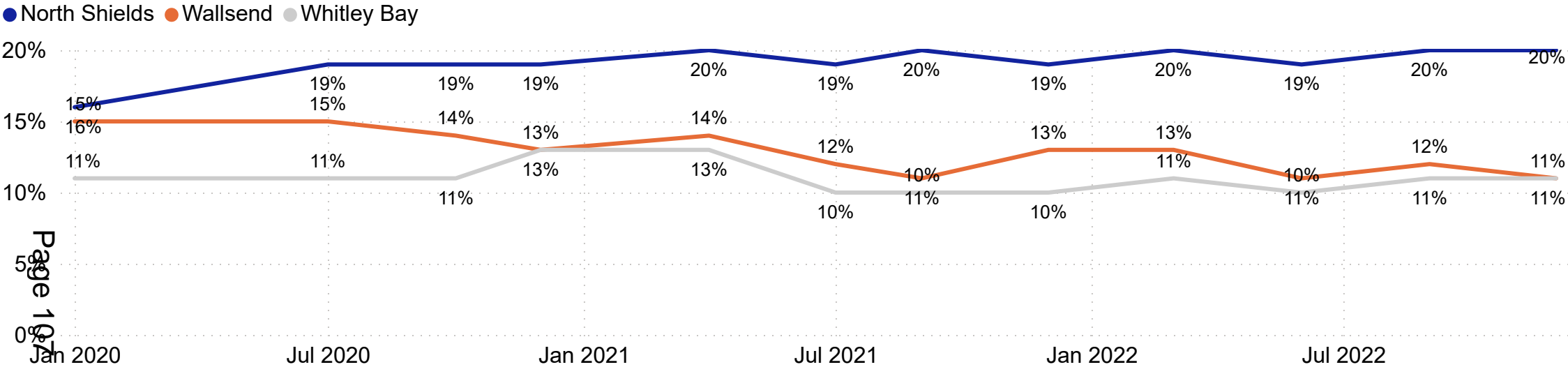
Regenerate High Streets

North Shields vacancy rate
01 December 2022 **20%**

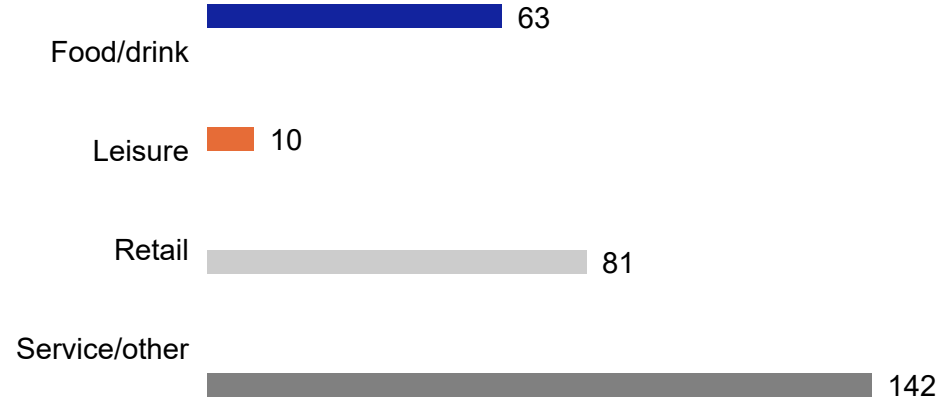
Wallsend vacancy rate
01 December 2022 **11%**

Whitley Bay vacancy rate
01 December 2022 **11%**

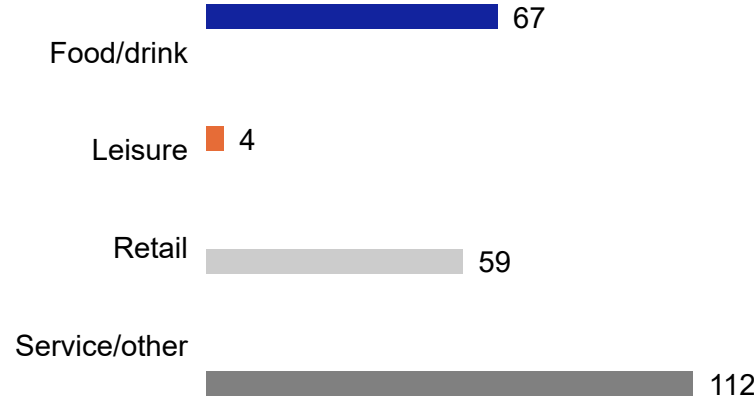
Town Centre Vacancy Rate



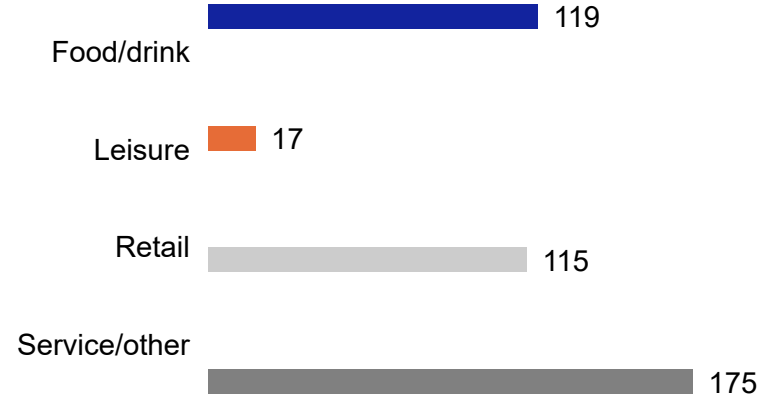
North Shields Town Centre Businesses



Wallsend Town Centre Businesses



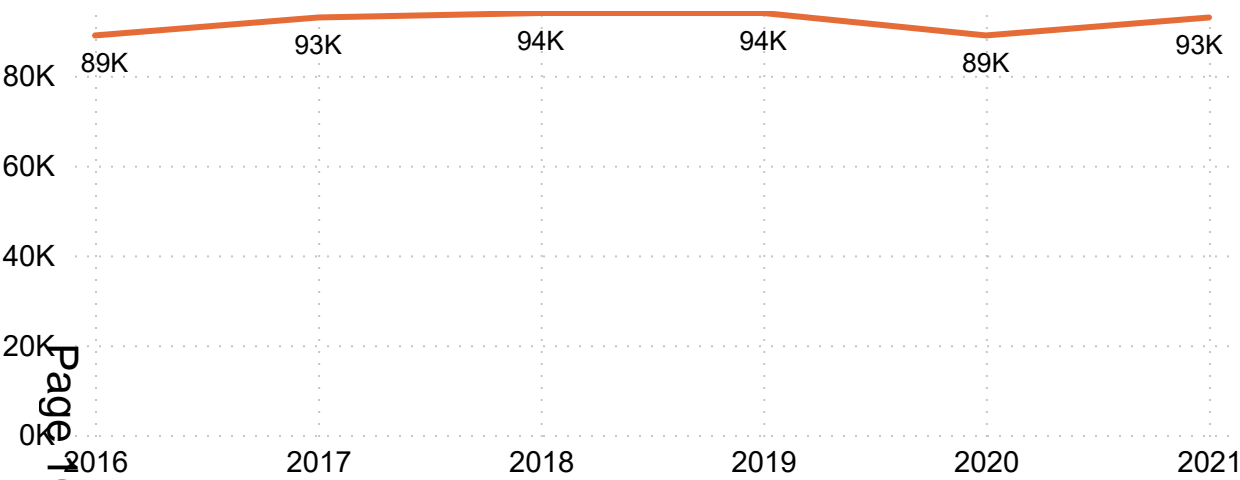
Whitley Bay Town Centre Businesses



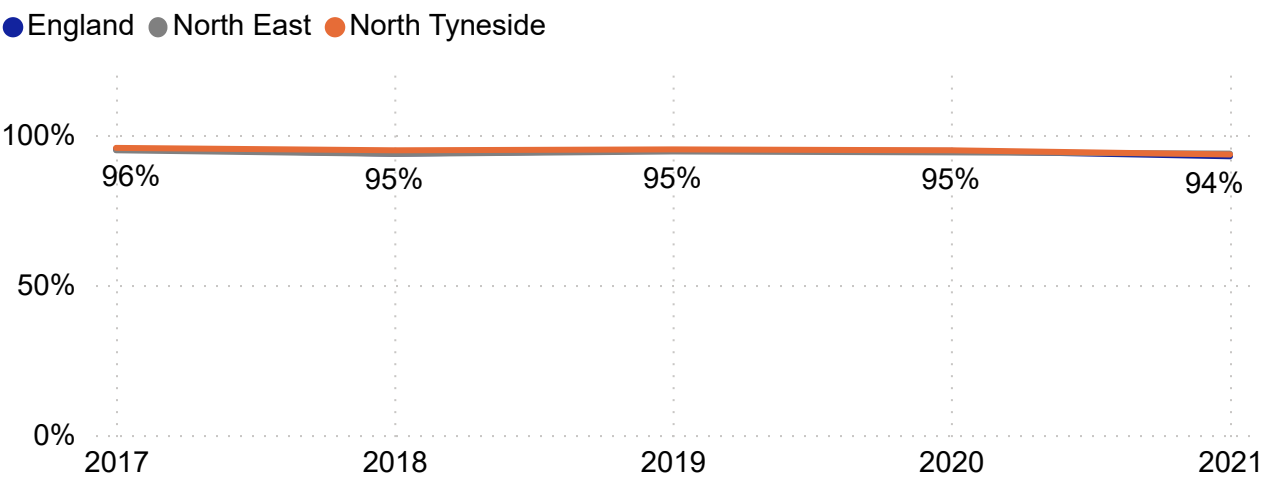
More good quality jobs - help local businesses to grow and new businesses set up

Jobs in North Tyneside	New businesses surviving 1st year	Total small business starts	Sole trader business starts
2021	2021	2021/22	2021/22
93,000	94%	971	297

Jobs in North Tyneside

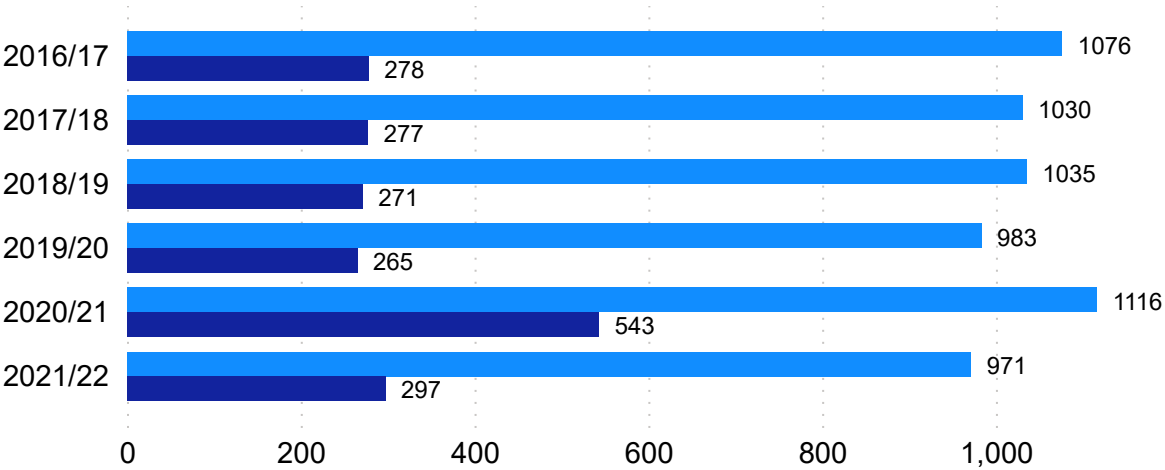


New businesses surviving for one year after being started



Small business starts - annual

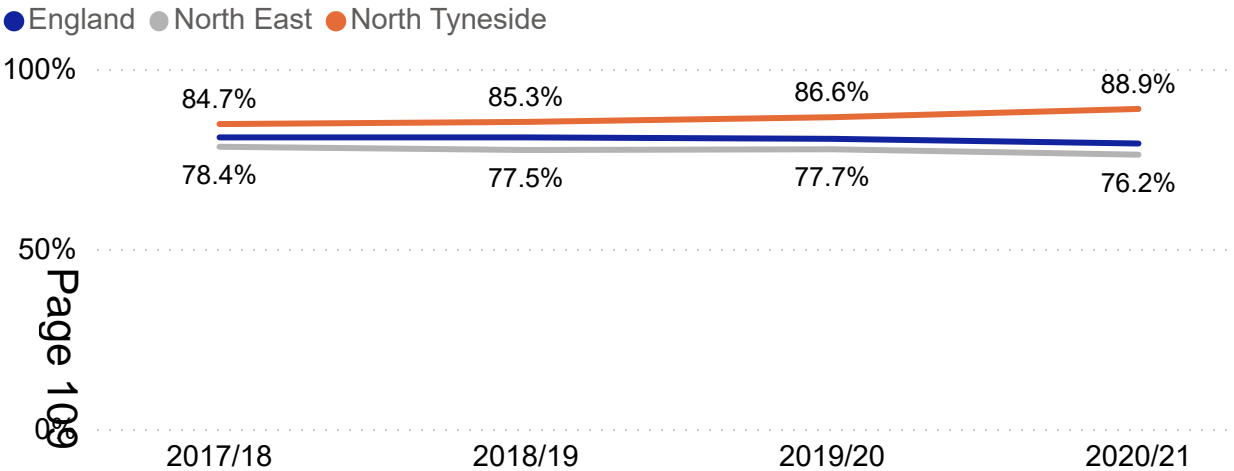
Number of small business start ups - annual Number of sole trader business start ups - annual



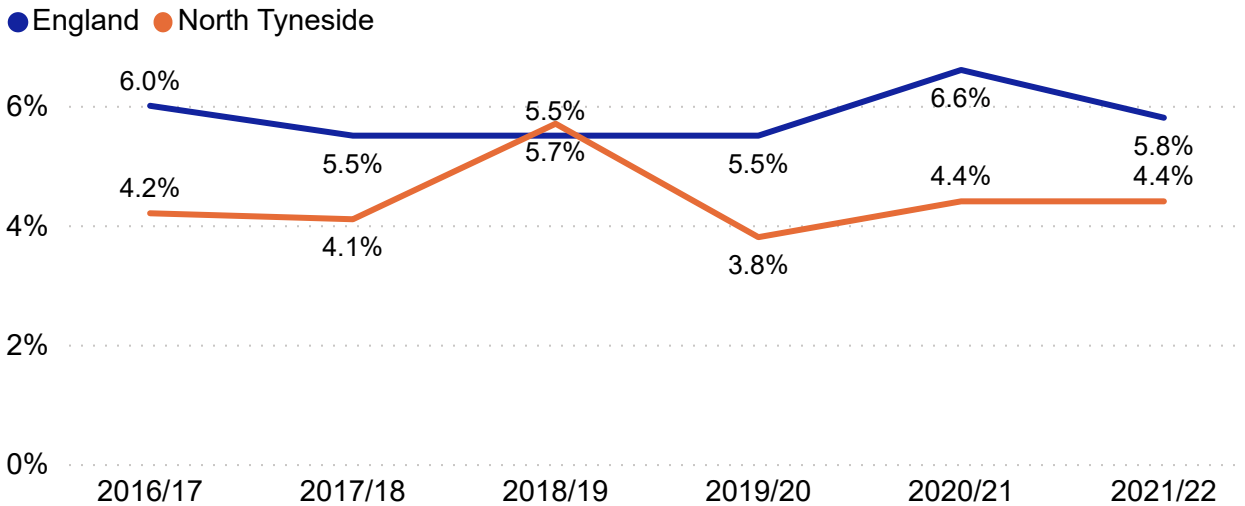
Invest in adult education and support apprenticeships

Post KS5 (A Level) - % work, education or training		% 16-17 year olds NEET		Level 1 (intermediate) apprenticeships		Level 2 (advanced) apprenticeships		Level 3 (higher apprenticeships)		Skills shortage vacancies as a % of all vacancies	
2020/21	88.9%	2021/22	4.4%	2020/21	370	2020/21	700	2020/21	420	2019	12.0%

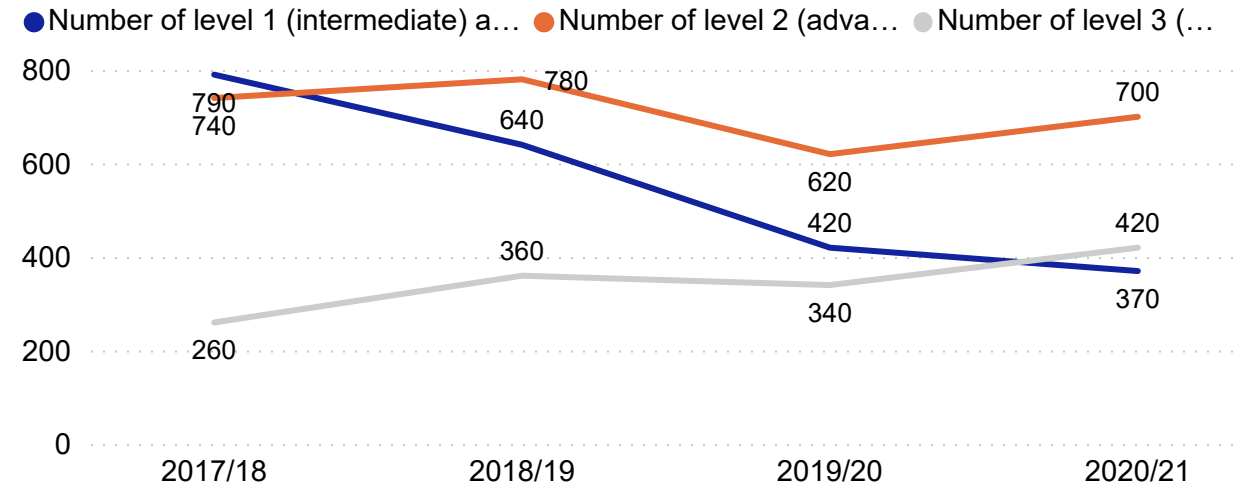
Positive destination, post Key Stage 5 (A level) - proportion in work, education or training



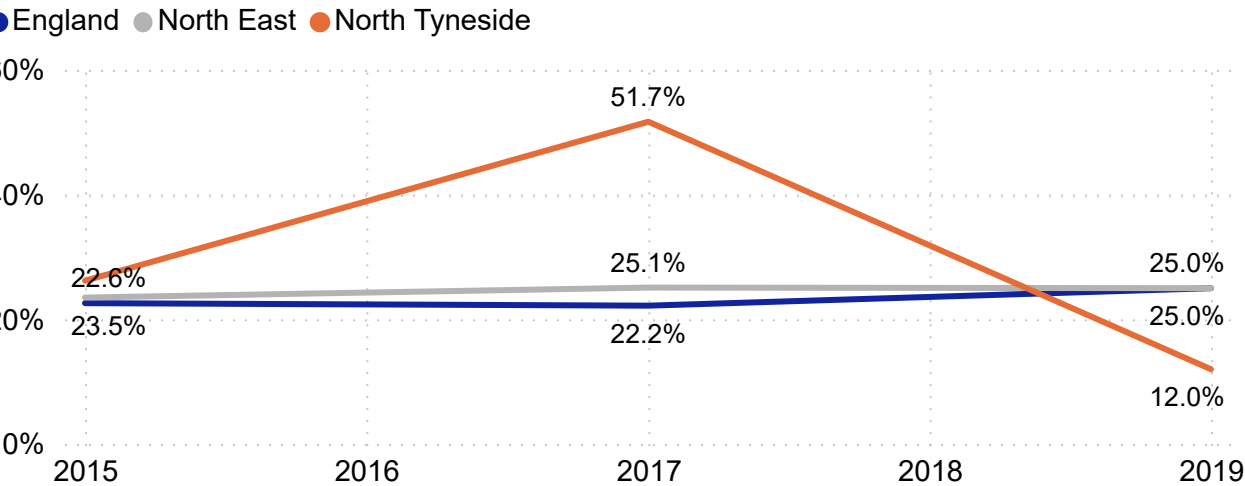
Proportion of 16-17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)



Number of apprenticeship starts in North Tyneside



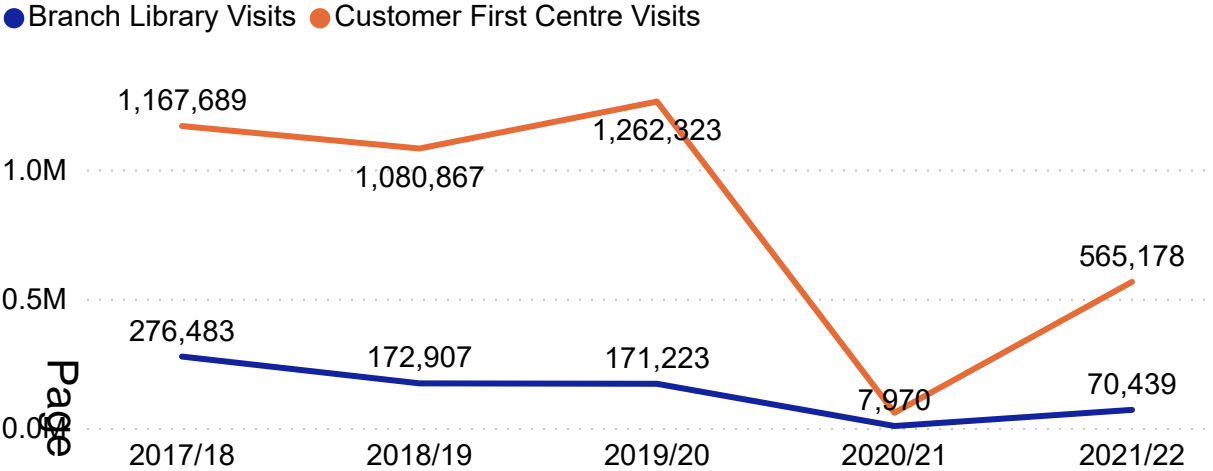
Skills shortage vacancies as a proportion of all job vacancies



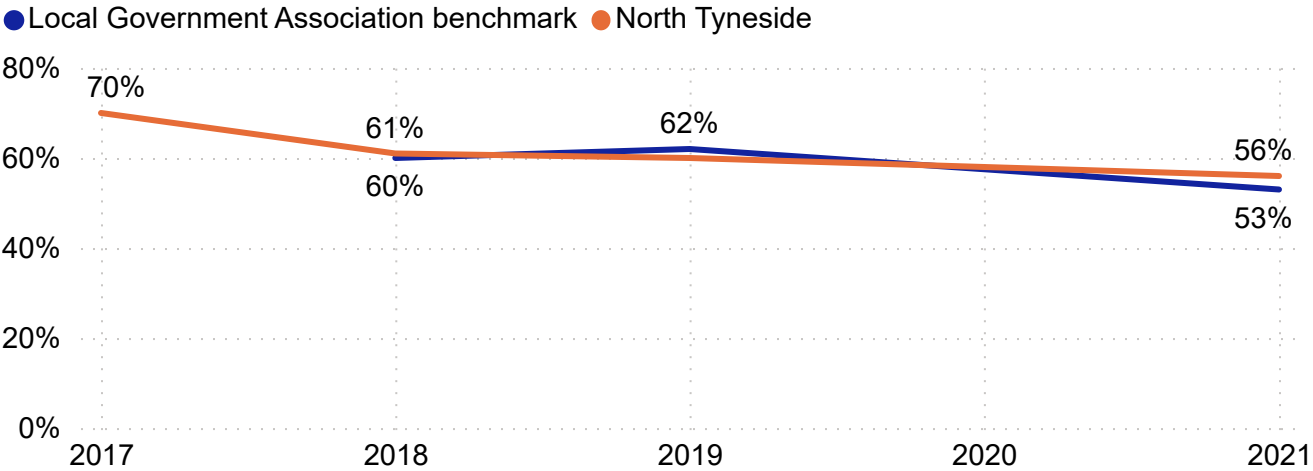
Keep libraries and leisure centres open

Customer First Centre visits	Branch Library visits	Satisfaction with libraries	Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities	Sports and leisure visits
2021/22 565,178	2021/22 70,439	2021 56%	2021 61%	2021/22 1,008,671

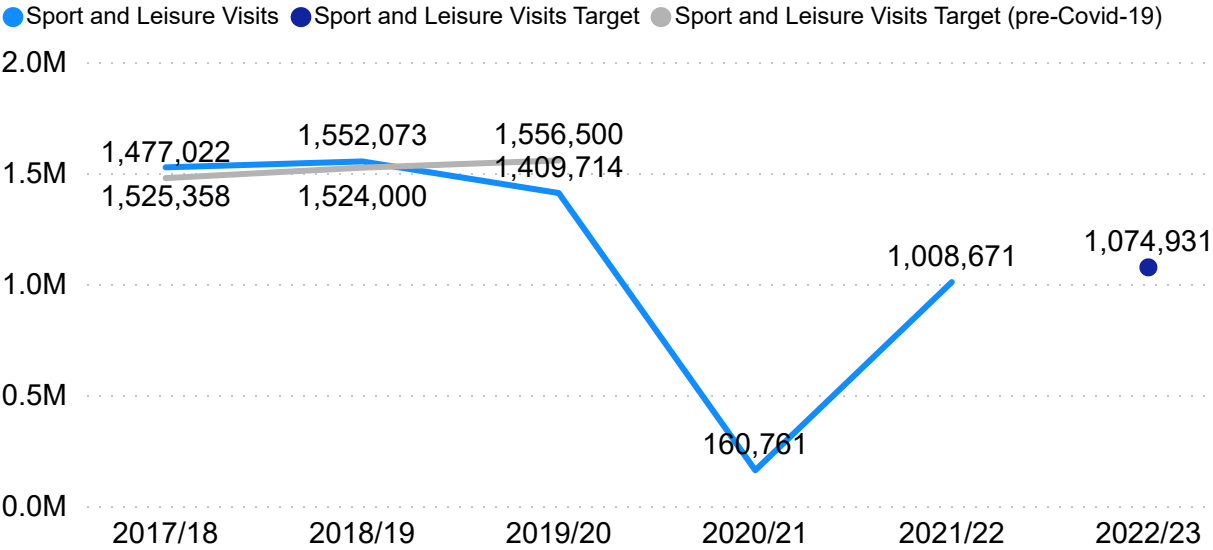
Customer First Centre and branch library visits in North Tyneside



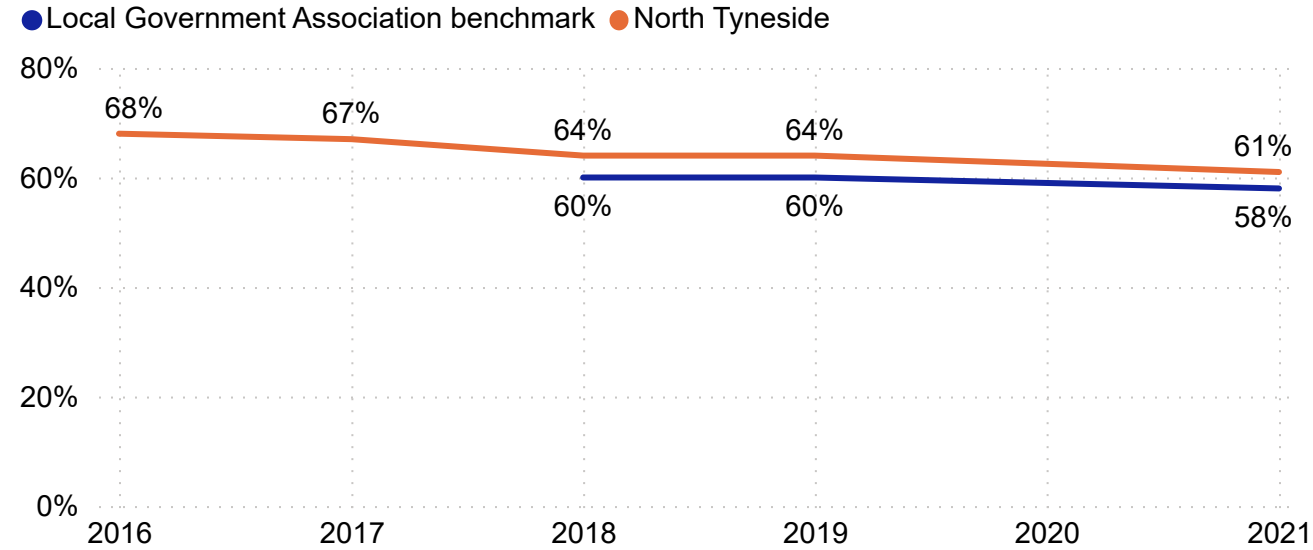
Satisfaction with library facilities



Sports and leisure facility visits in North Tyneside



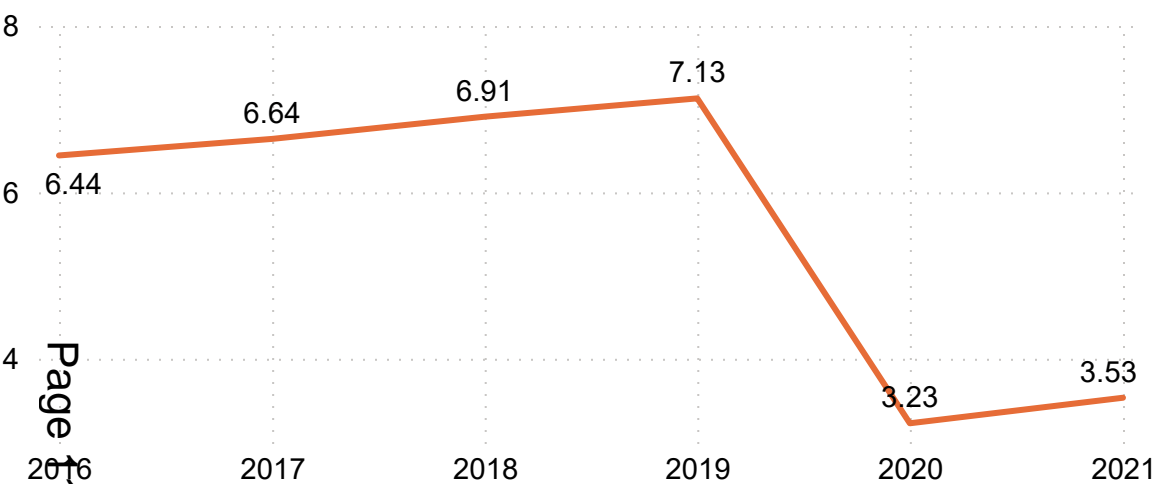
Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities (includes swimming pools)



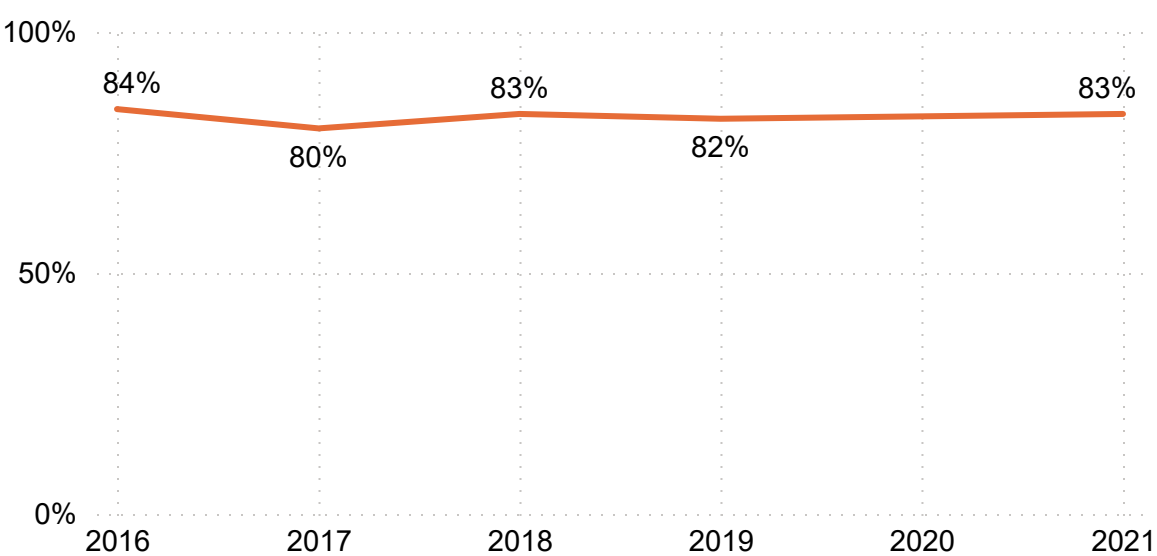
Destination of choice for visitors

Day visits and overnight stays		Visitor satisfaction		Satisfaction with beaches		Satisfaction with parks and green spaces	
2021	3.53 million	2021/22	100%	2021	83%	2021	70%

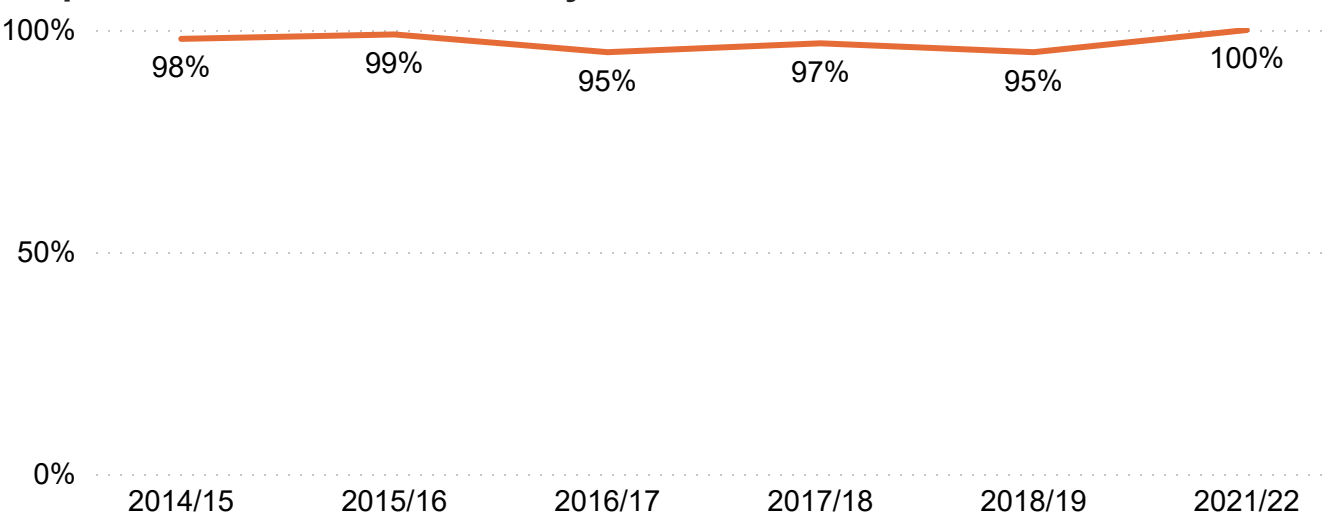
Number of day visits and overnight stays to North Tyneside (millions)



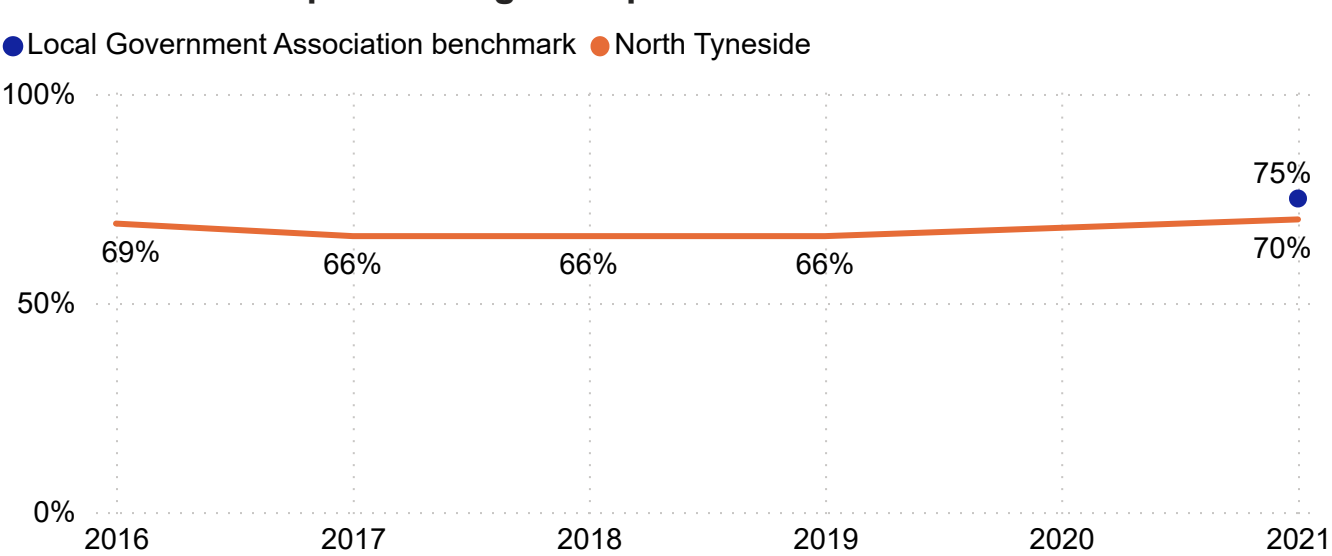
Satisfaction with beaches



Proportion of visitors to North Tyneside who were satisfied



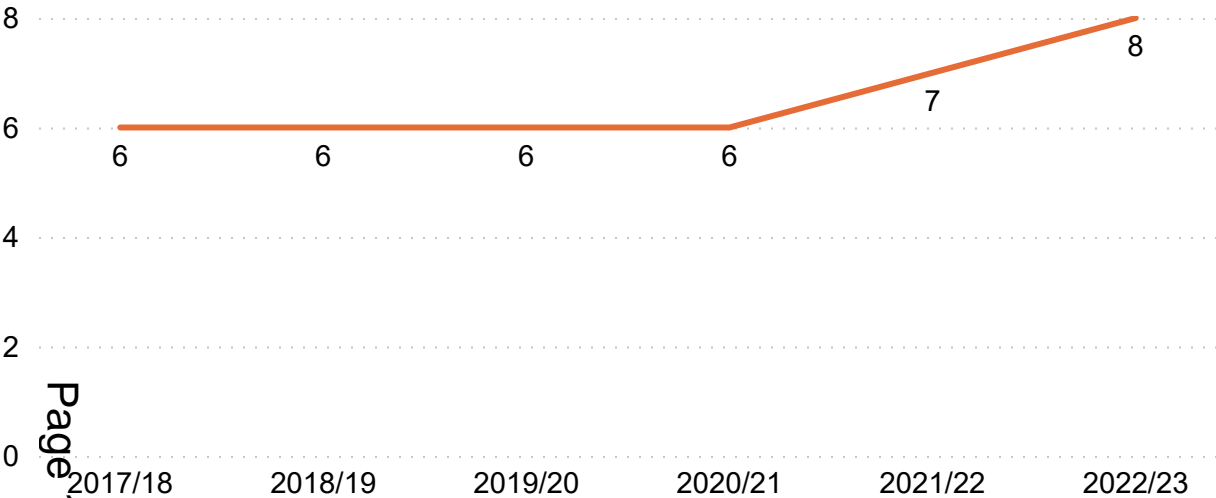
Satisfaction with parks and green spaces



Destination of choice and reduce derelict properties

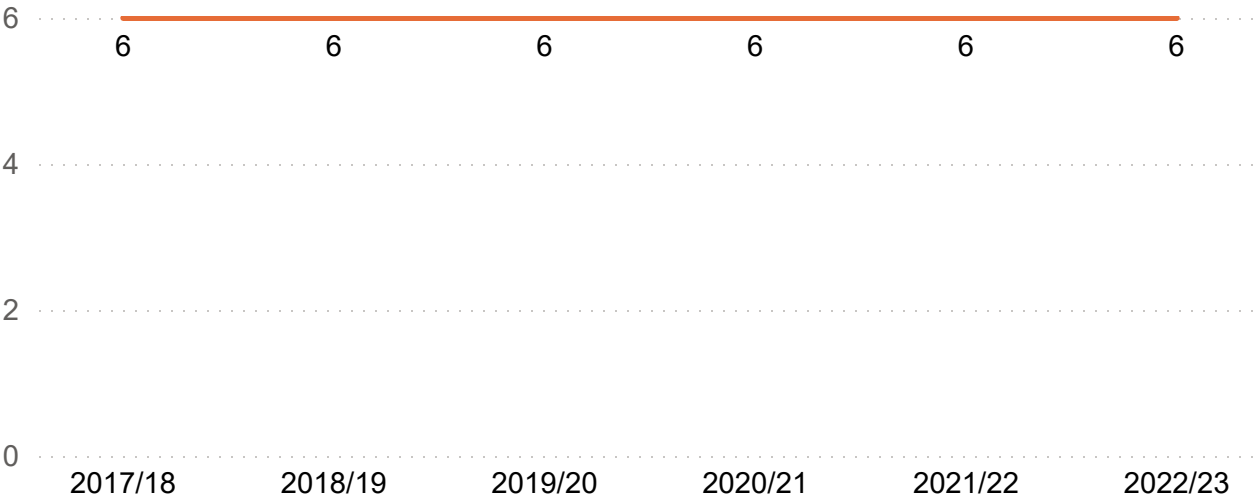
Green Flag Awards
2022/23 8

Green Flag Awards achieved



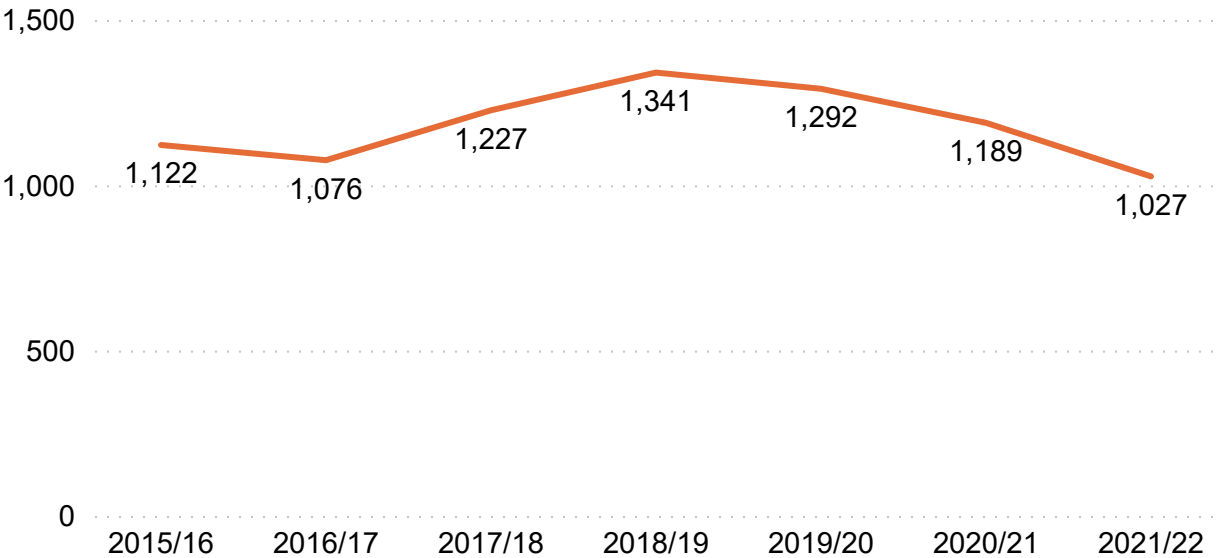
Blue Flag and Seaside Awards
2022/23 6

Blue Flag and Seaside Awards achieved



Long term vacant dwellings
2021/22 1,027

Long term vacant dwellings in North Tyneside

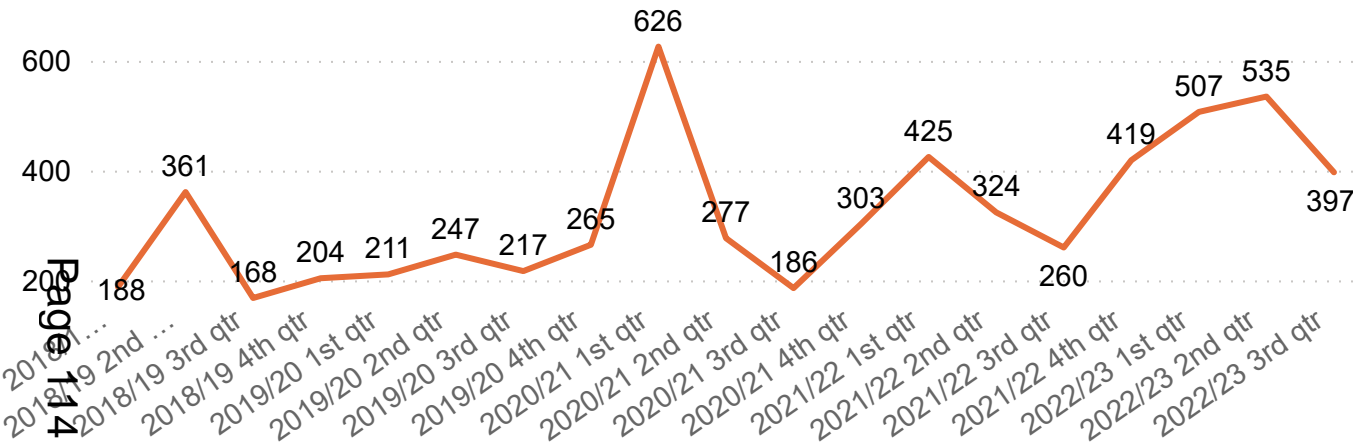


A Secure North Tyneside

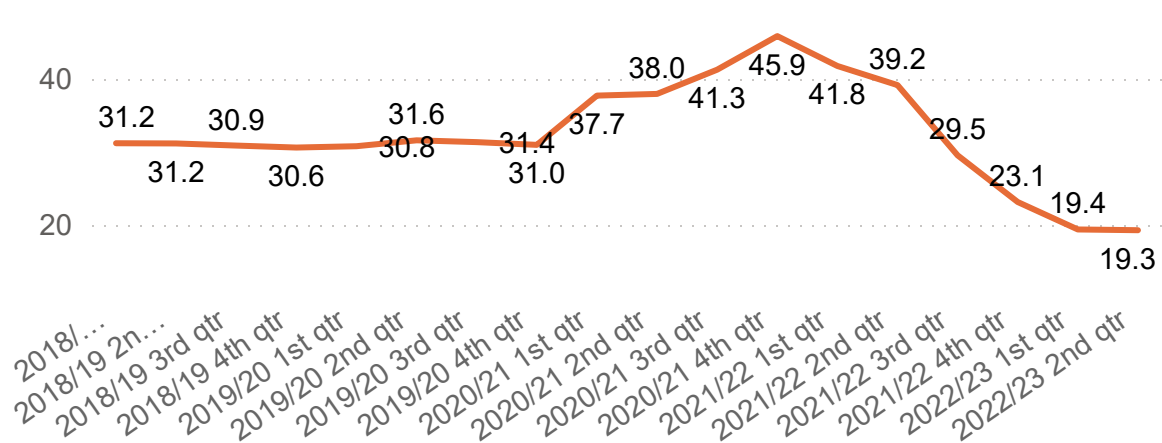
Prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour

ASB reported to Community and Public Space Protection Team		ASB reported to Northumbria Police per 1,000 population		Residents who feel safe outside during the day		Residents who feel safe after dark	
2022/23 3rd qtr	397	2022/23 2nd qtr	19.3	2021	89%	2021	45%

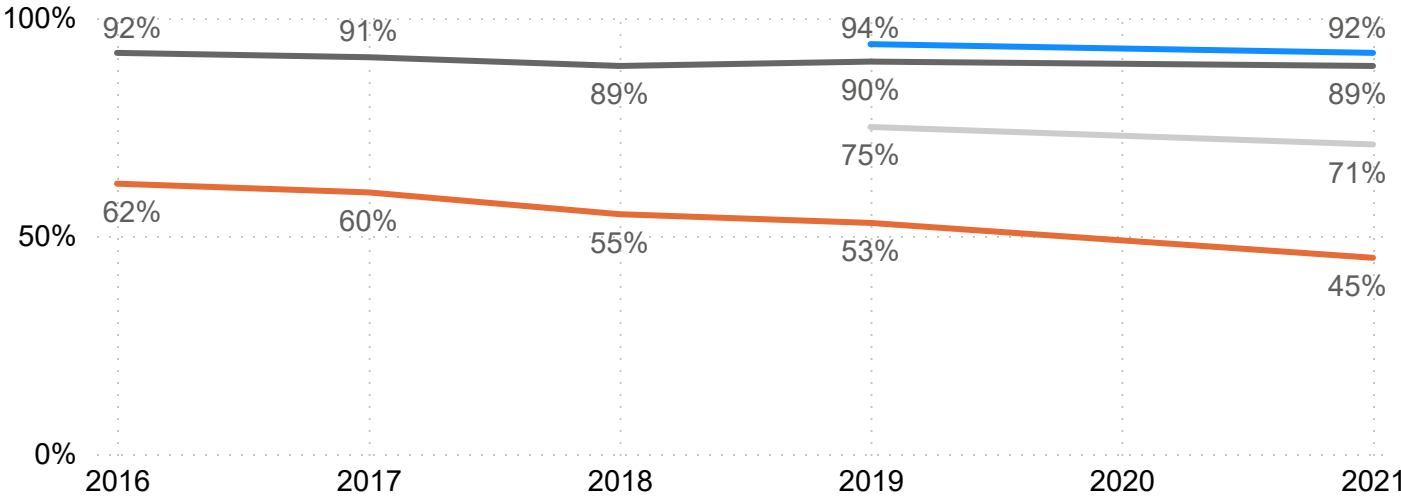
Anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Community and Public Space Protection Team



Anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Northumbria Police per 1,000 population



Proportion of residents who feel safe outside in their local area



residents who feel safe outside during day - LGA benchmark
residents who feel safe outside during day - North Tyneside
residents who feel safe outside after dark - LGA benchmark
residents who feel safe outside after dark - North Tyneside

Invest in roads and pavements

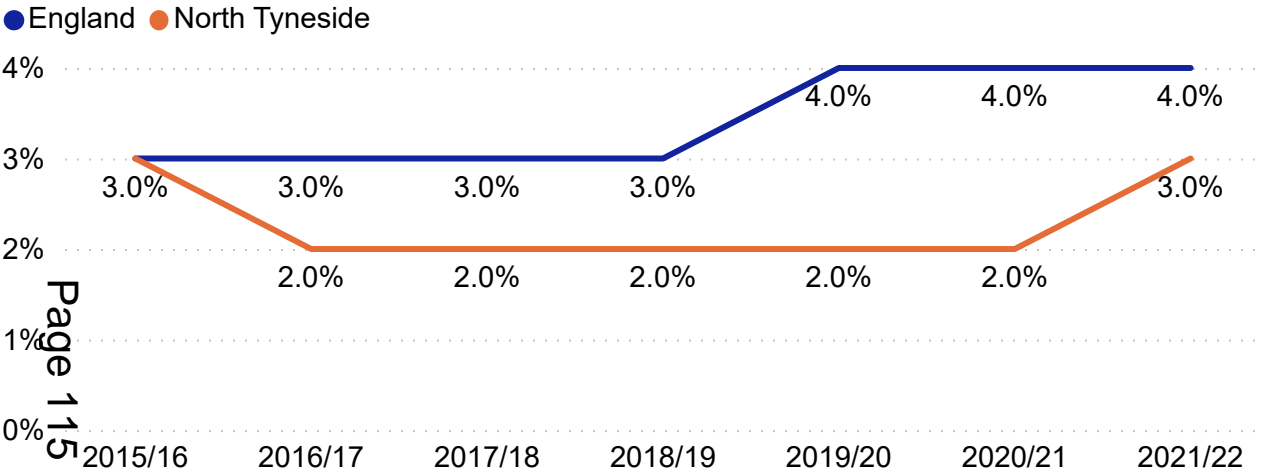
Principal roads where maintenance should be considered

2021/22 3.0%

Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered

2021/22 3.0%

Local authority managed classified roads where maintenance should be considered - principal



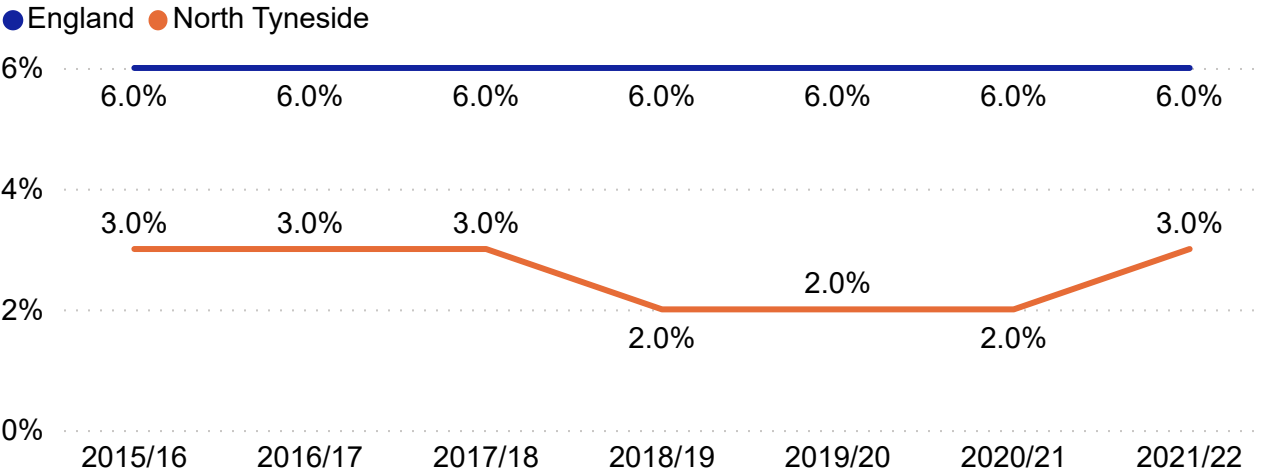
Residents satisfied with road maintenance

2021 28%

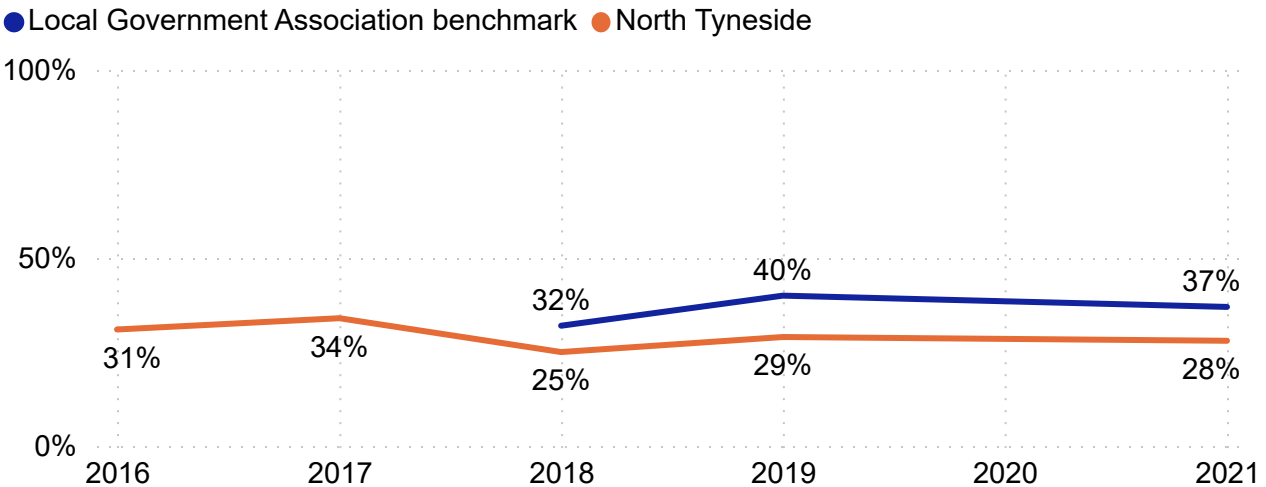
Residents satisfied with pavement maintenance

2021 23%

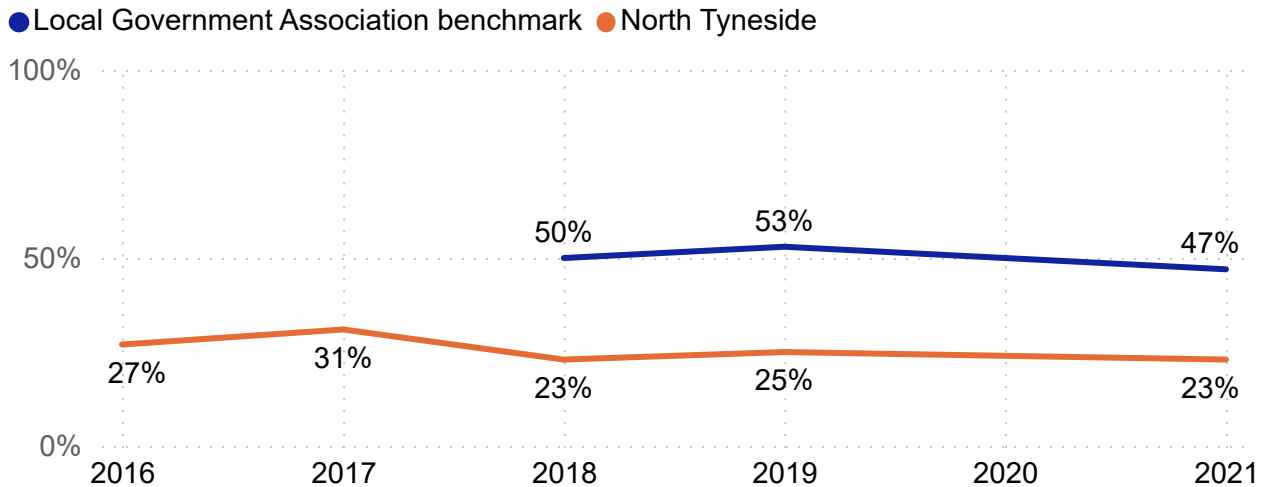
Local authority managed roads where maintenance should be considered - non-principal



Proportion of residents satisfied with road maintenance



Proportion of residents satisfied with pavement maintenance



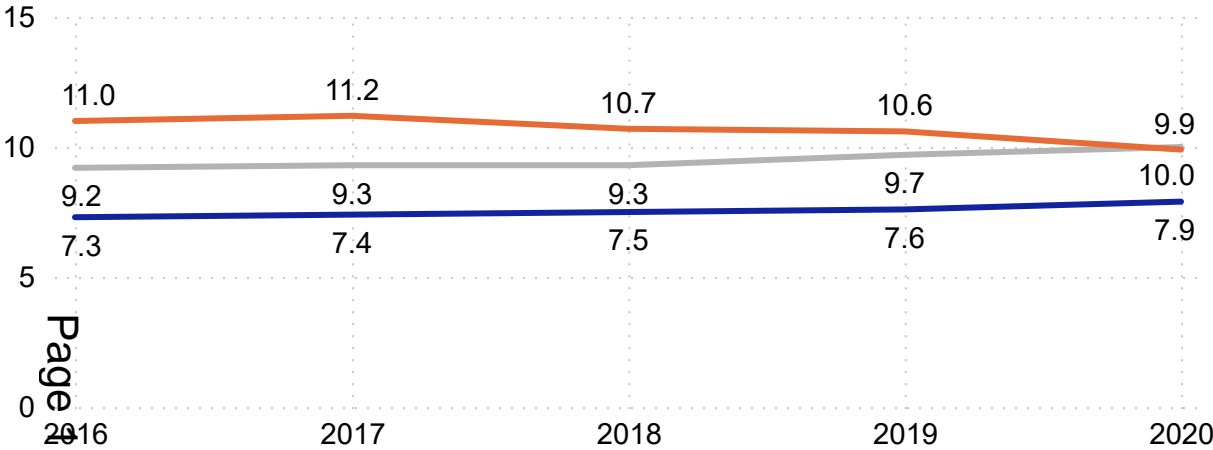
Tackle health & socio-economic inequalities & provide 5,000 affordable homes

Inequality in female life expectancy at birth (years)

2018-20 **9.9**

Inequality in female life expectancy at birth (years)

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside

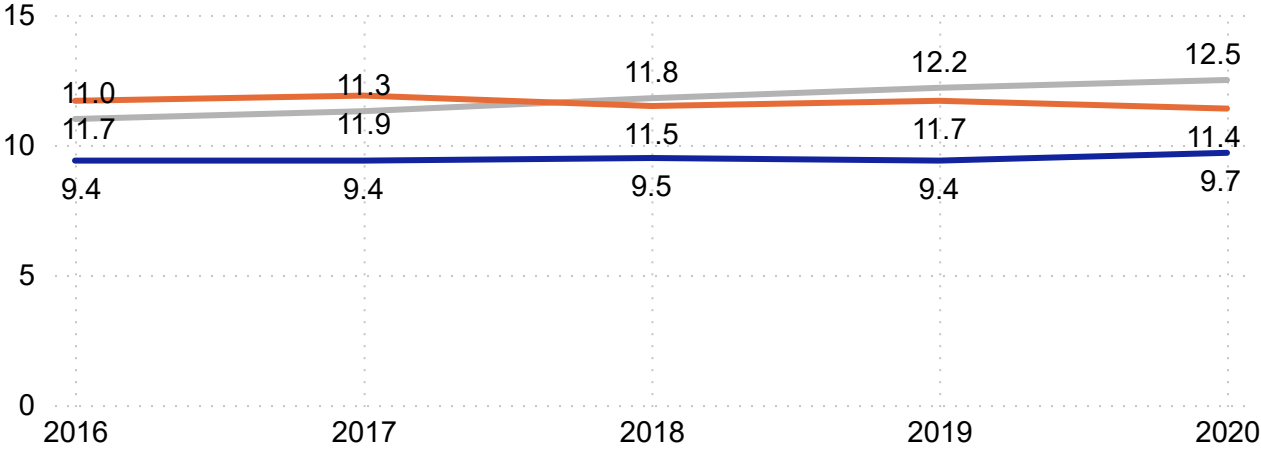


Inequality in male life expectancy at birth (years)

2018-20 **11.4**

Inequality in male life expectancy at birth (years)

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside

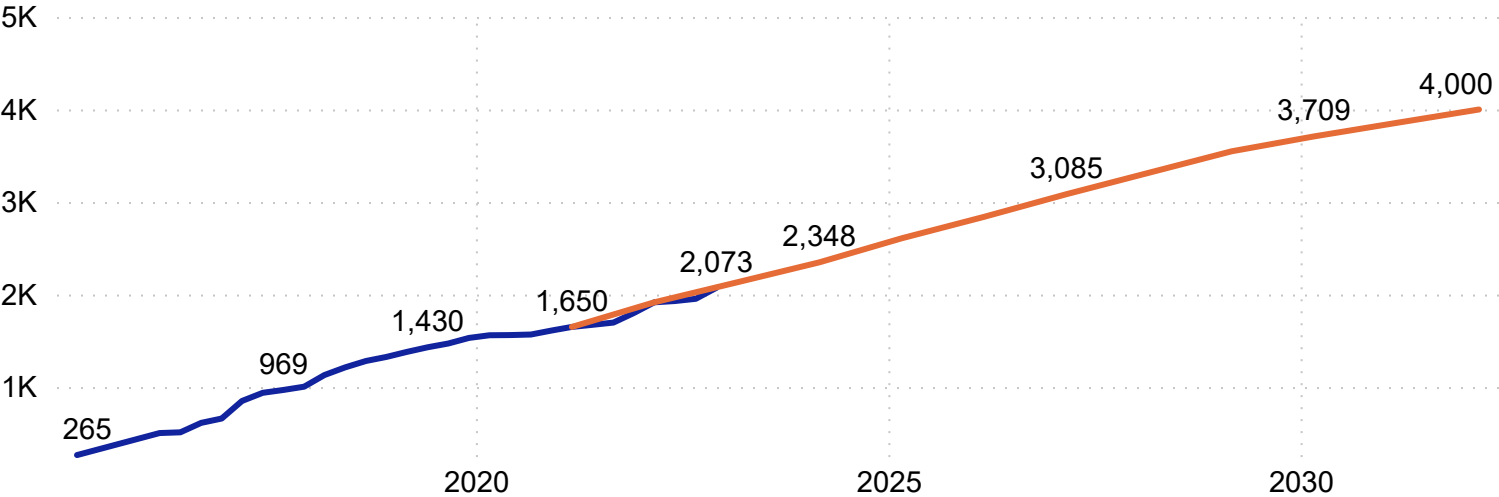


Affordable homes delivered

2022 **2,073**

Affordable homes delivered (cumulative)

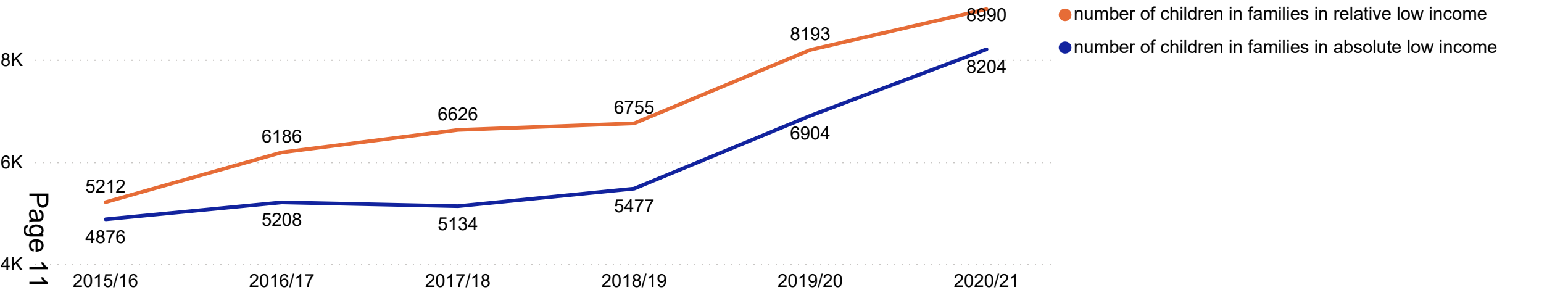
● Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) ● Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) Target



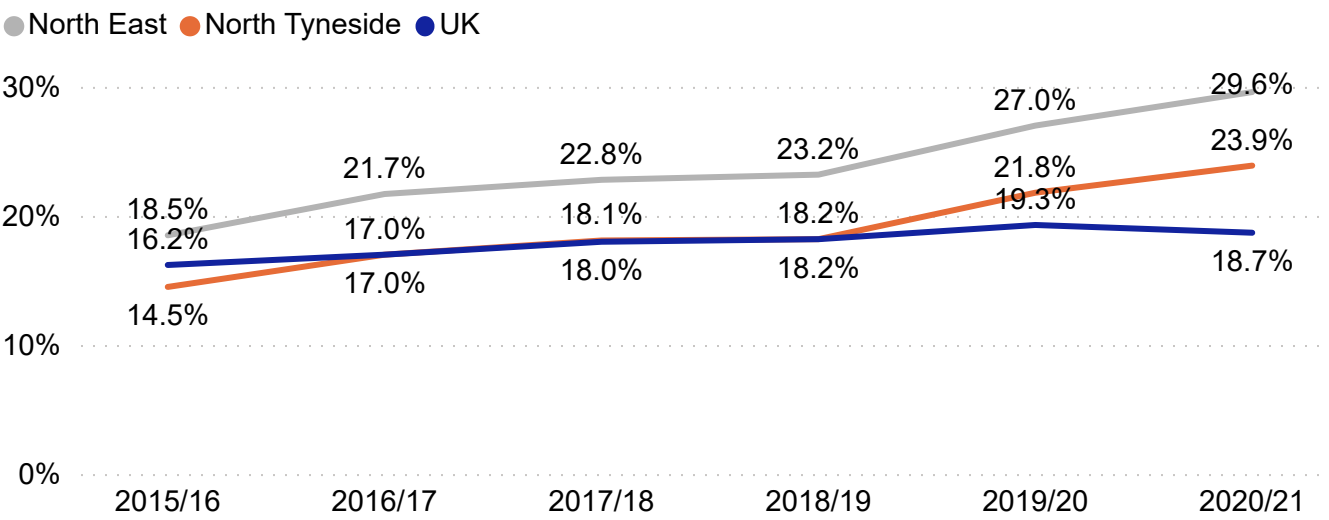
Tackle health & socio-economic inequalities

Number of children in relative low income families		Proportion of children in relative low income families		Number of children in absolute low income families		Proportion of children in absolute low income families	
2020/21	8,990	2020/21	23.9%	2020/21	8,204	2020/21	21.8%

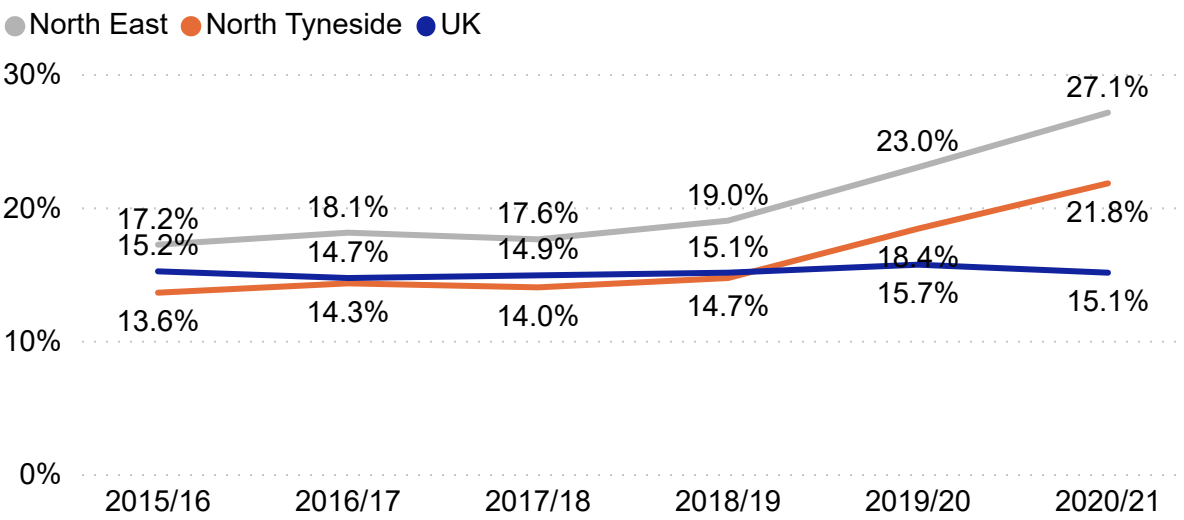
Children in families in low income



Children in families in relative low income



Children in families in absolute low income



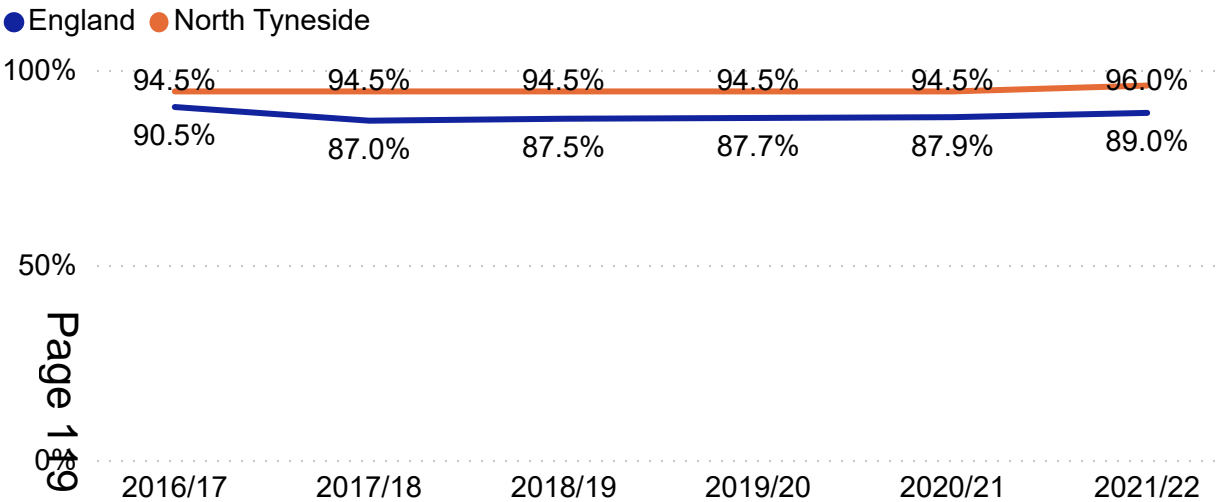
A Family Friendly North Tyneside

Support local schools, making sure all children have access to a high quality education

Primary Schools rated Good or Outstanding by OFSTED

2021/22 96.0%

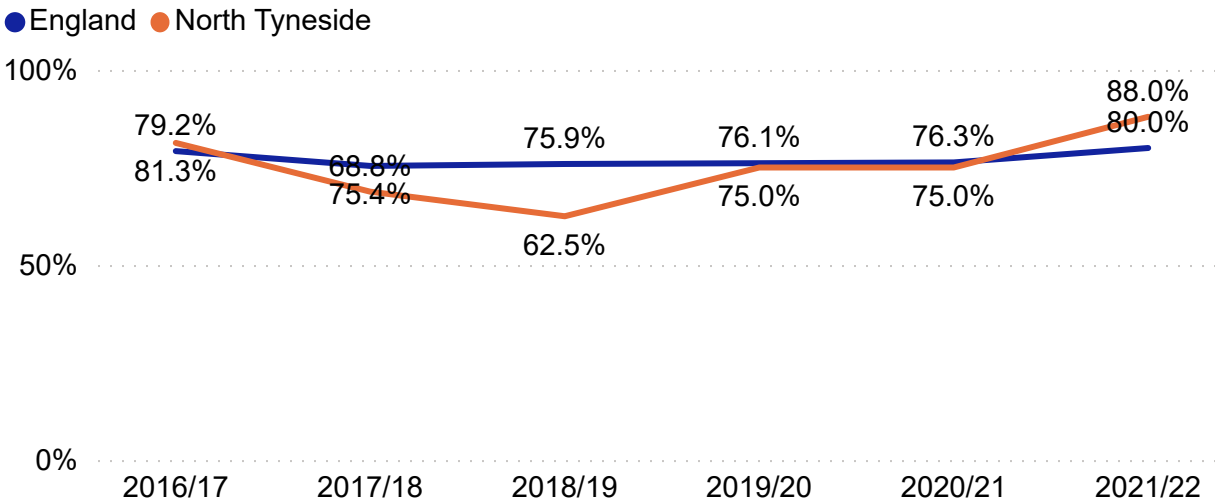
Primary Schools rated Good or Outstanding by OFSTED



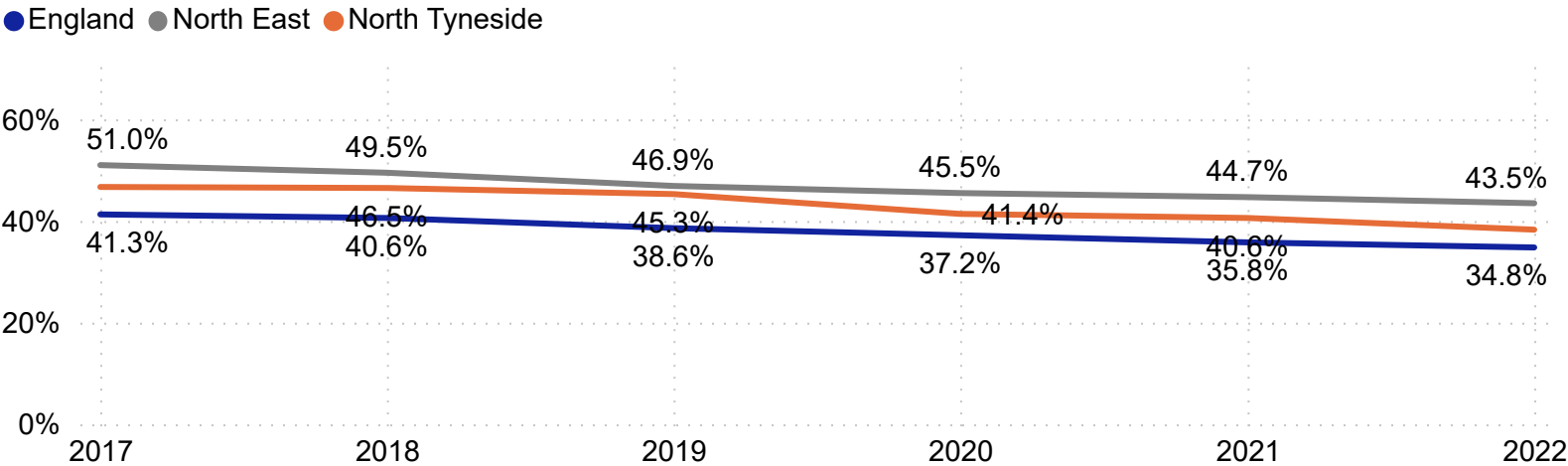
Secondary Schools rated Good or Outstanding by OFSTED

2021/22 88.0%

Secondary Schools rated Good or Outstanding by OFSTED



Pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) educated in Special Schools



Support local schools, making sure all children have access to a high quality education

Key Stage 2 Expected Level of Reading, Writing and Maths gap

2021/22 **-24.6%**

Progress 8 gap between disadvantaged pupils and peers

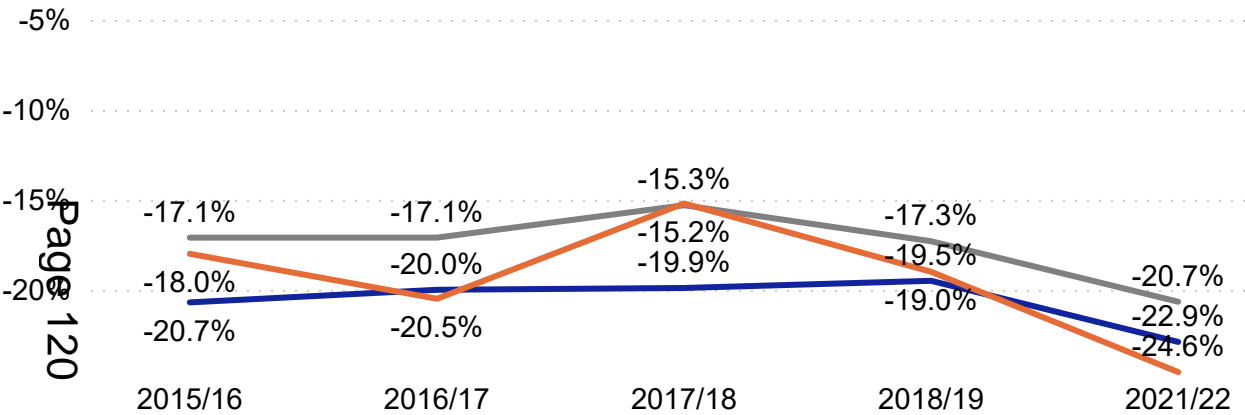
2021/22 **-0.98**

Pupils achieving Basics in Key Stage 4 English and Maths

2021/22 **69.0%**

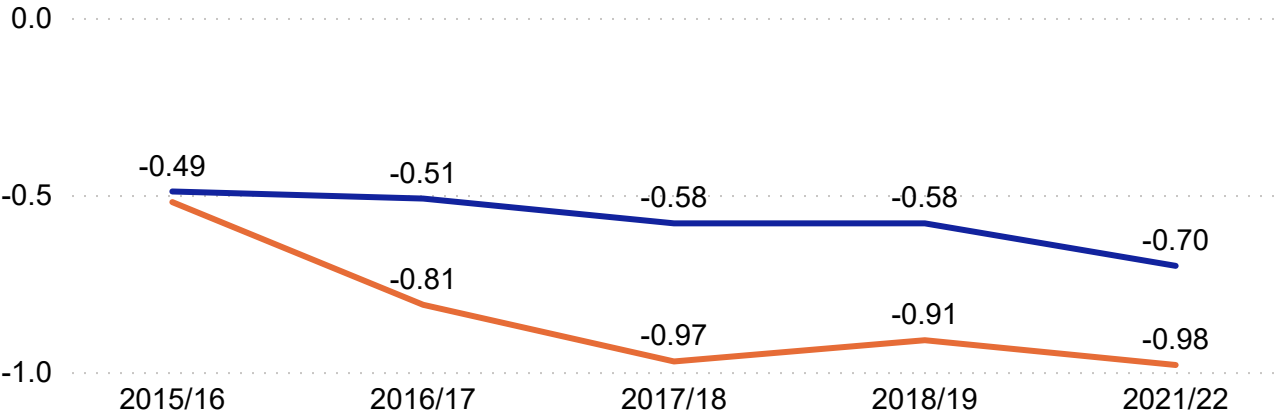
Gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils reaching the Expected Level in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside



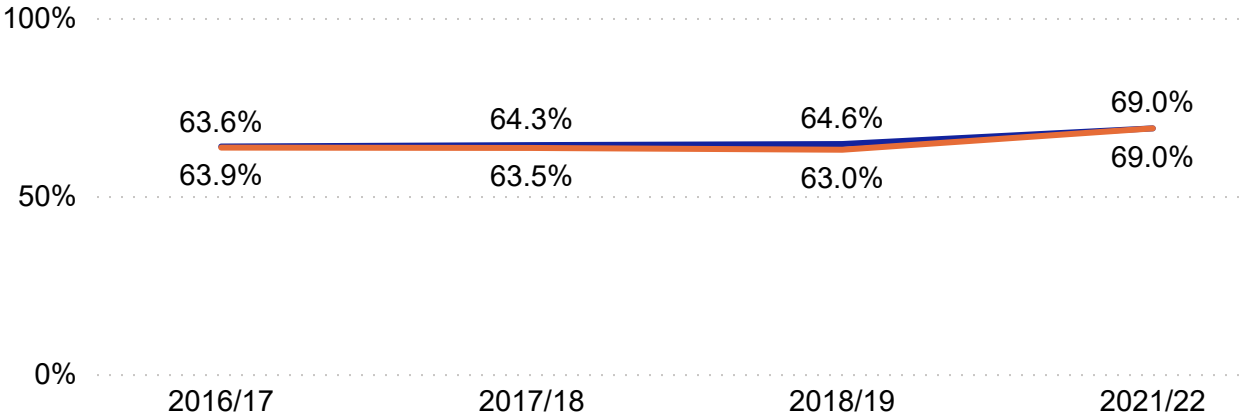
Progress 8 gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers (mean average gap)

● England ● North Tyneside



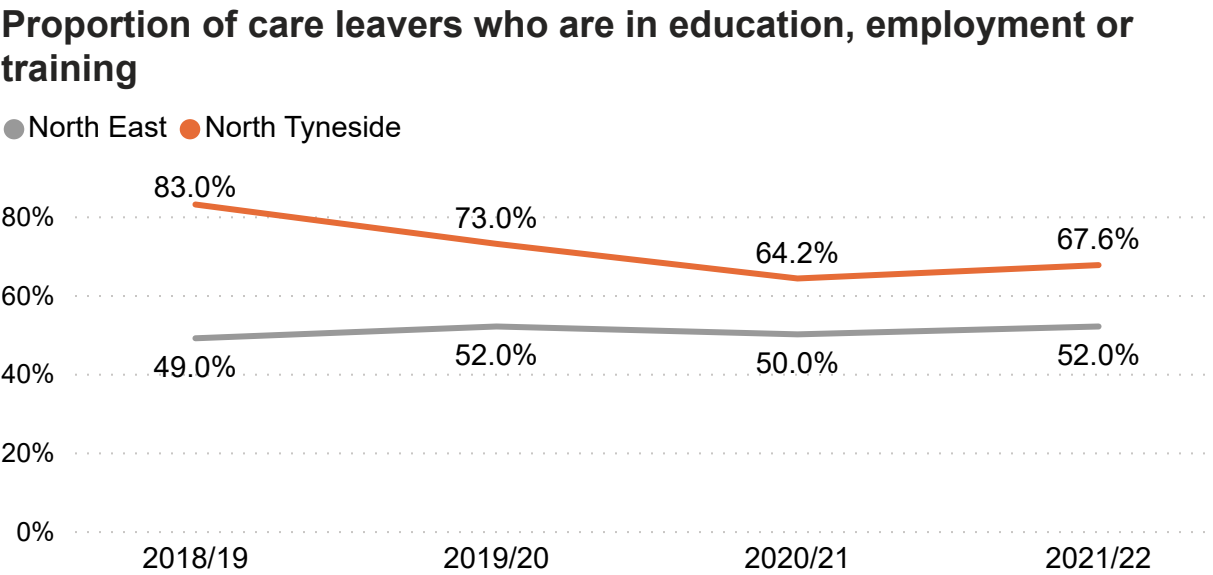
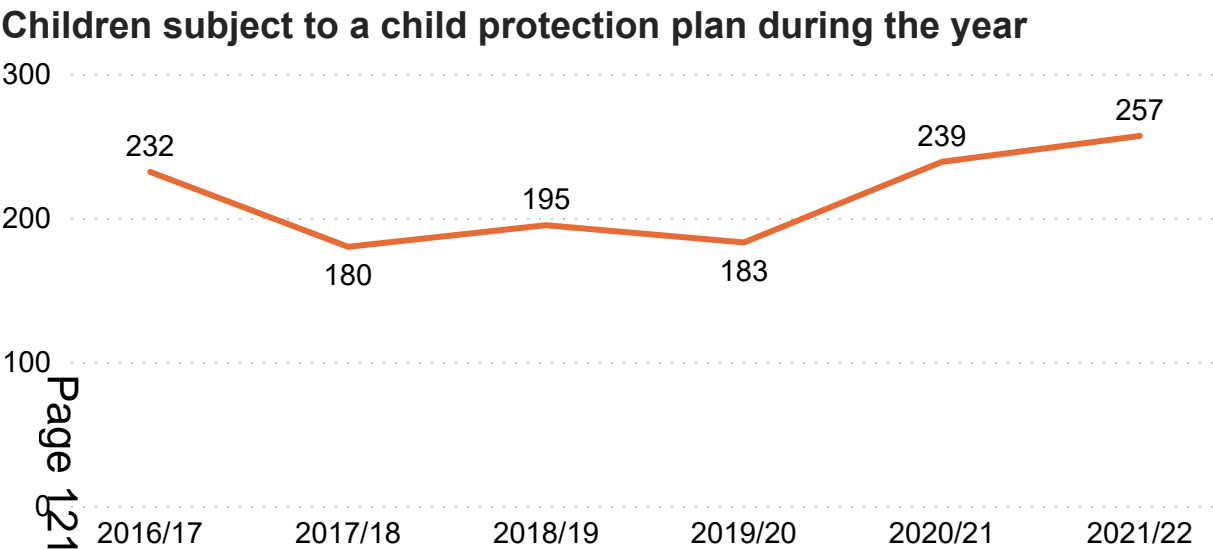
Pupils achieving Basics (A* to C/9 to 4) in English and Maths at Key Stage 4

● England ● North Tyneside

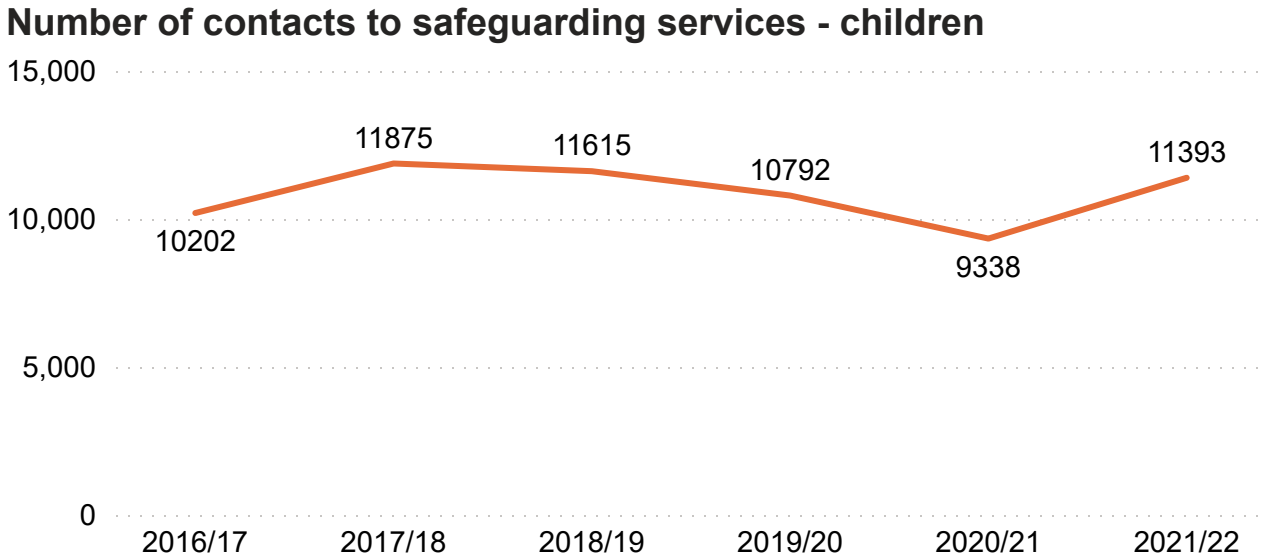
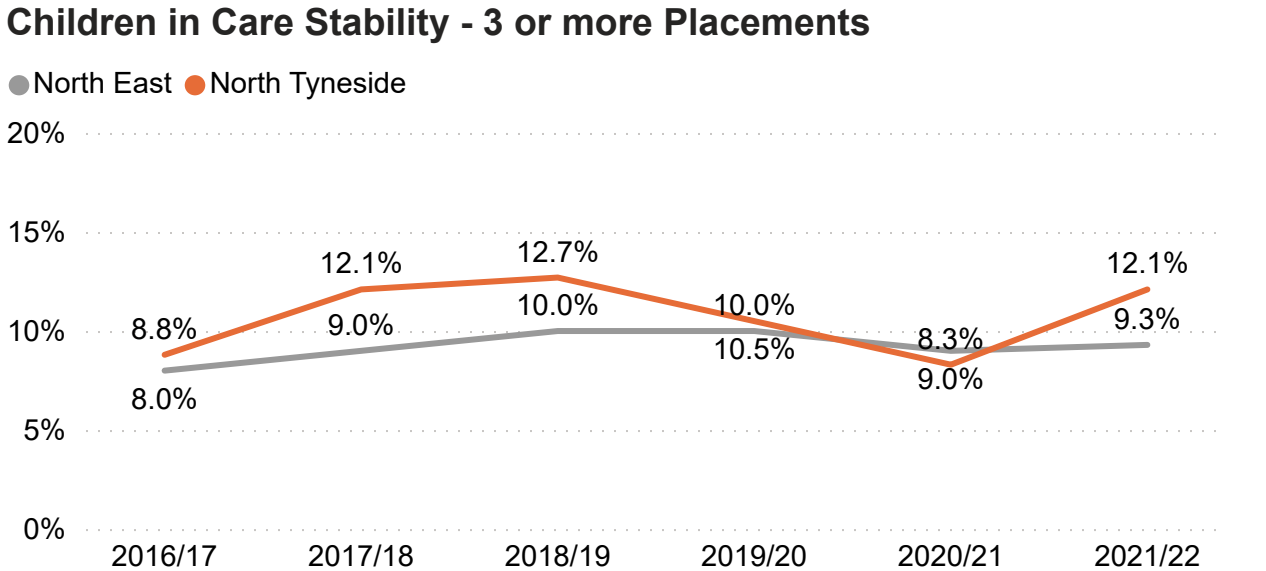


Provide outstanding children's services

Children subject to a child protection plan	Children in Care Stability - 3 or more Placements
2021/22 257	2021/22 12.1%



Care leavers in employment, education or training	Children's safeguarding contacts
2021/22 67.6%	2021/22 11,393

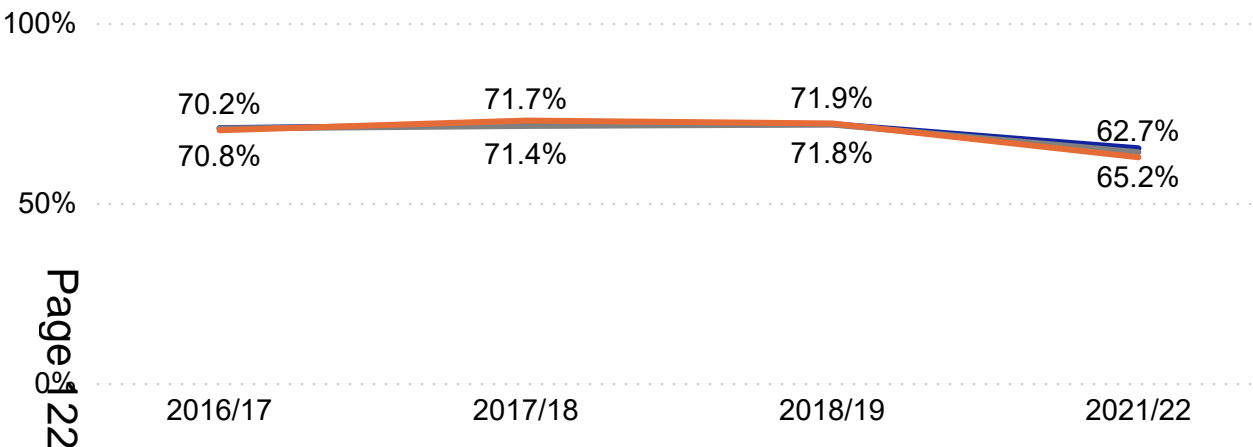


All children are ready for school

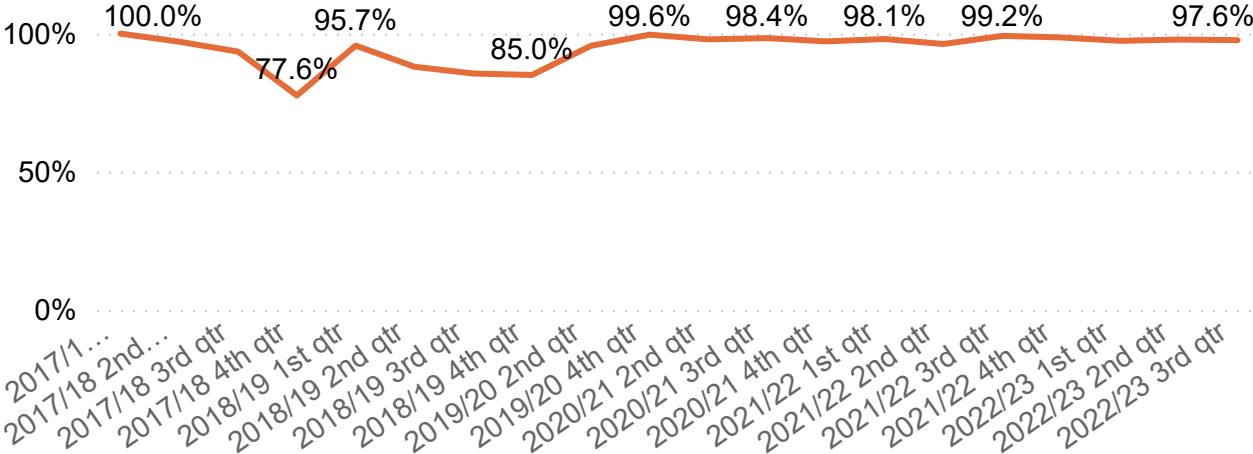
Pupils reaching a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage

2021/22 **62.7%**
Pupils reaching a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside



Proportion of children who received a 2-2½ year review using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)



Children who received a 2-2½ year ASQ-3 review

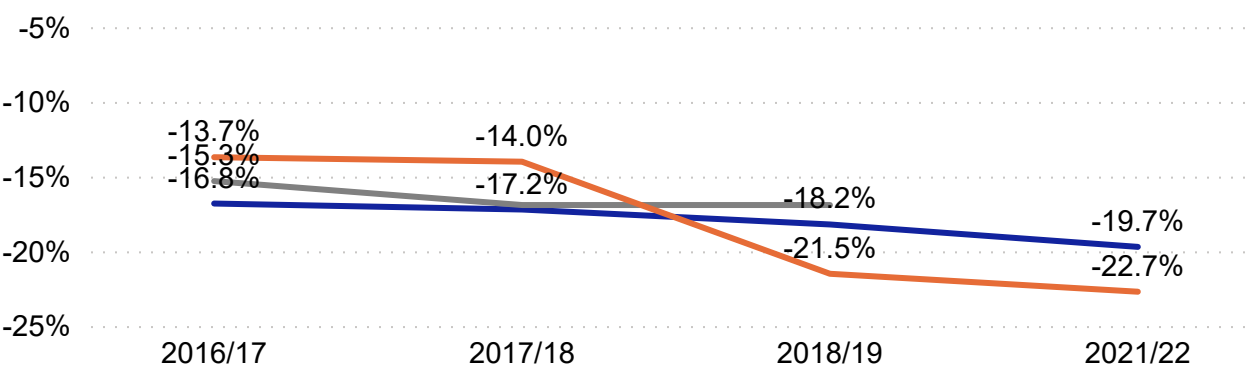
2022/23 3rd qtr **97.6%**

Children meeting the expected level in all 5 areas of the ASQ-3

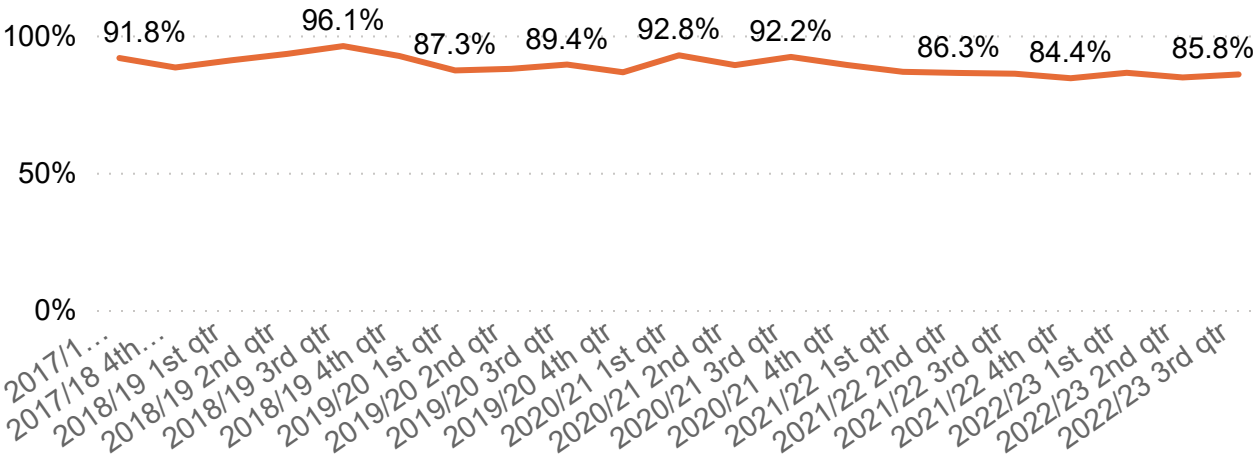
2022/23 3rd qtr **85.8%**

Gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers reaching the expected level at Foundation Stage

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside



Children meeting the expected level in all 5 areas of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)



A Caring North Tyneside

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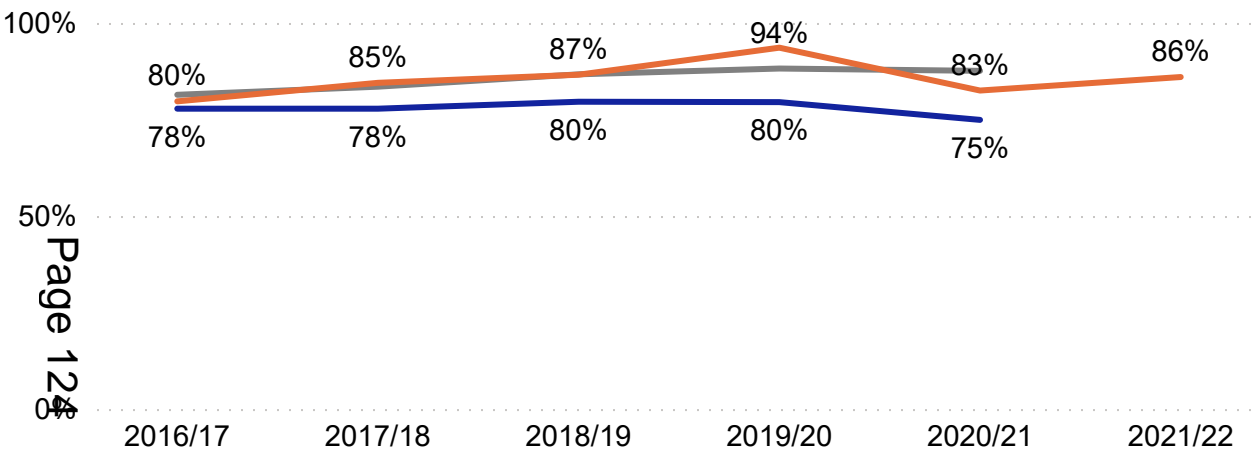
Provide great care to all who need it

People with a short-term service where the sequel was no ongoing support or lower level support

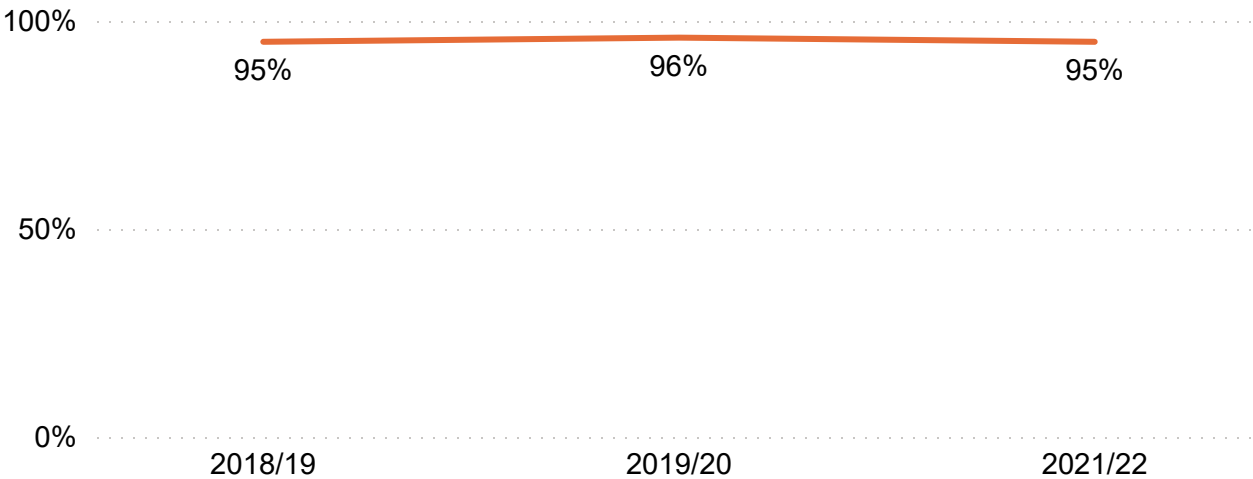
2021/22 **86%**

People who received a short-term service during the year where the sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside



Adult Social Care users who feel safe

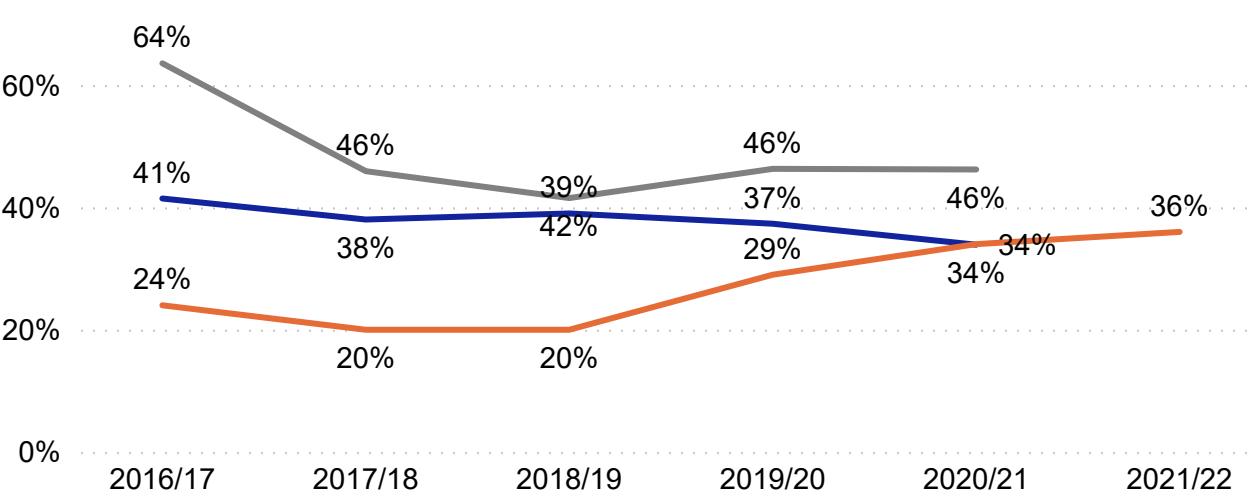


Adult safeguarding contacts progressed to enquiry

2021/22 **36%**

Safeguarding contacts progressed to enquiry

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside

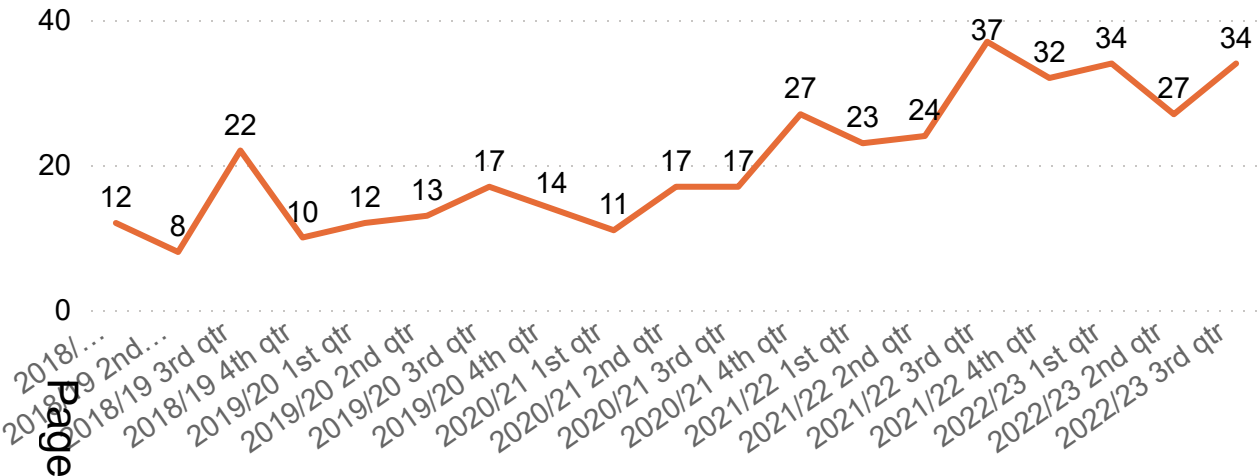


Cared for, protected and supported

Priority homeless acceptances

2022/23 3rd qtr **34**

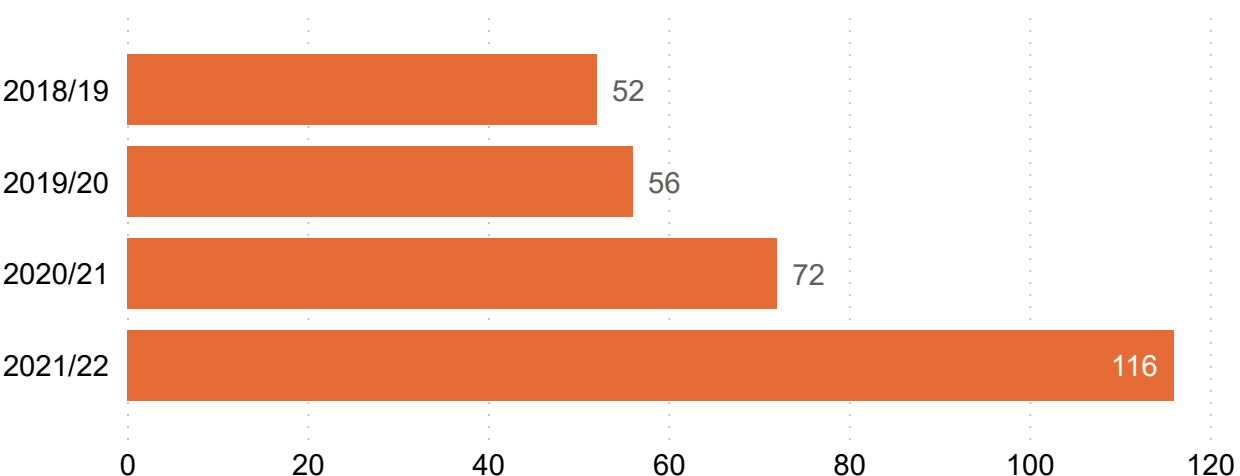
Homeless presentations accepted as priority homeless



Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ - rate per 100k

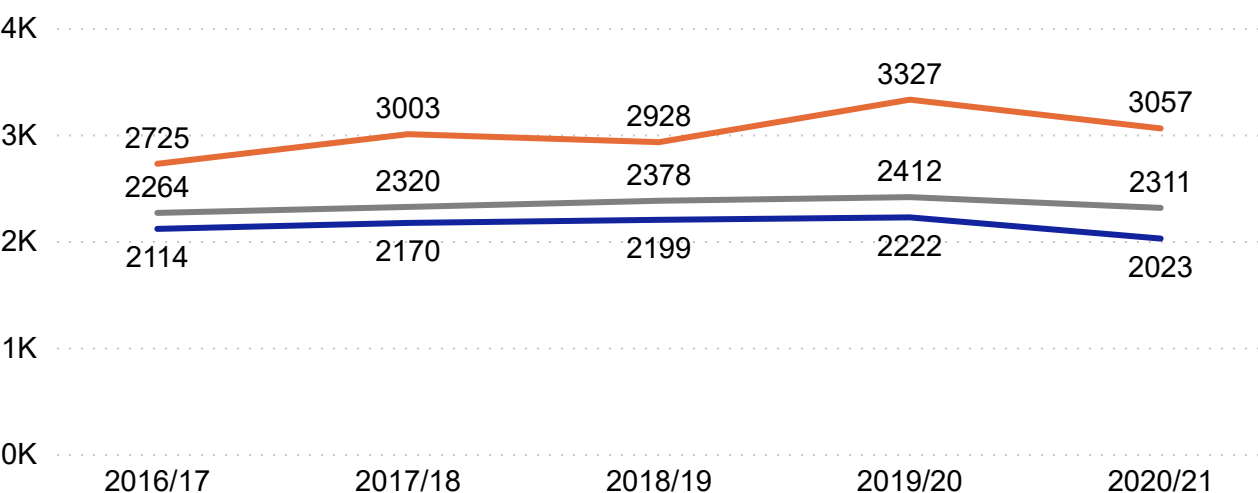
2020/21 **3,057**

Homeless presentations accepted as priority homeless (annual)



Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over - rate per 100,000 people

● England ● North East ● North Tyneside



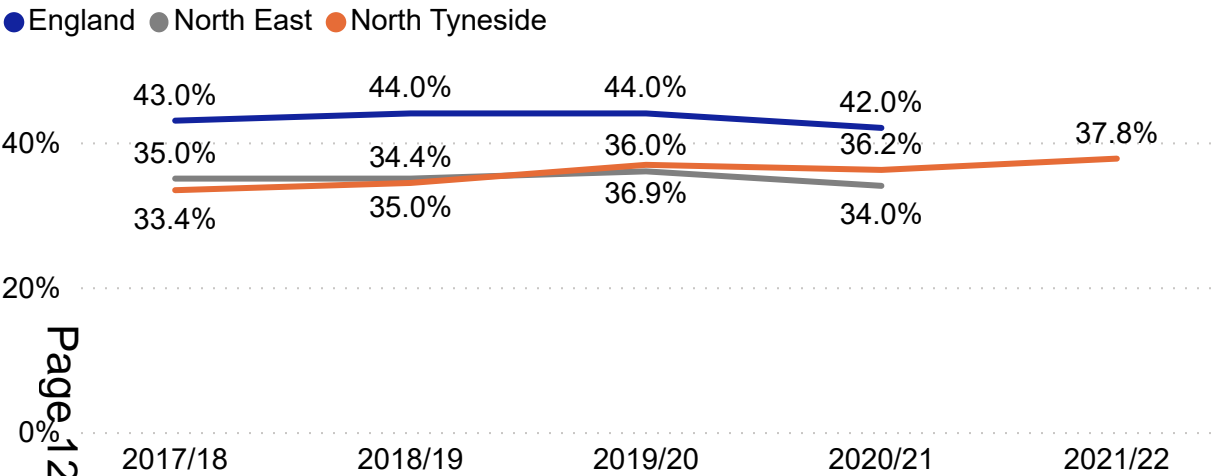
A Green North Tyneside

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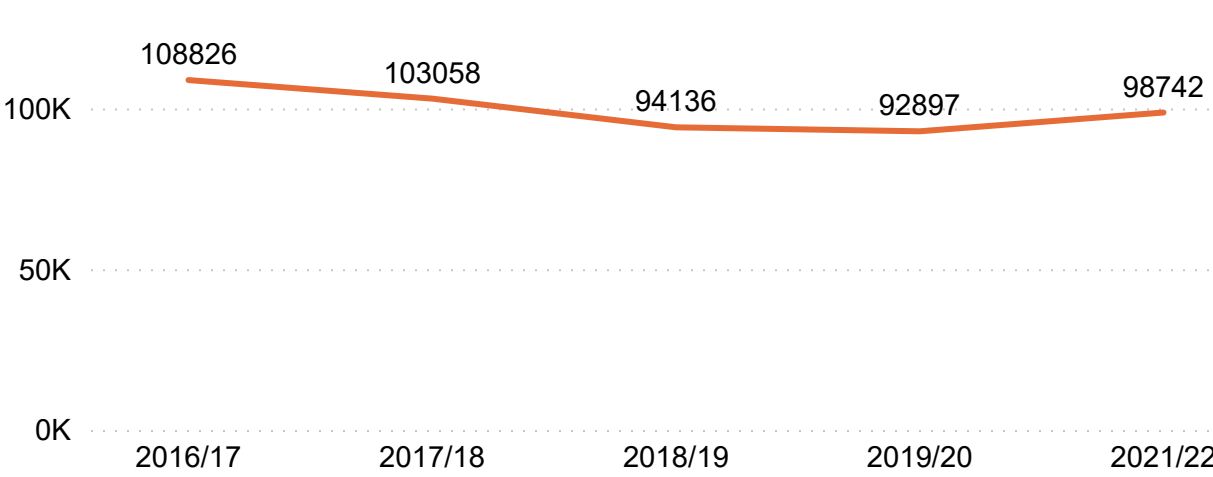
Increase the amount of waste that can be recycled

Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting		Municipal waste sent to landfill		Municipal waste collected (tonnes)		Waste produced per household (Kg)	
2021/22	37.8%	2021/22	4.2%	2021/22	98,742	2021/22	919

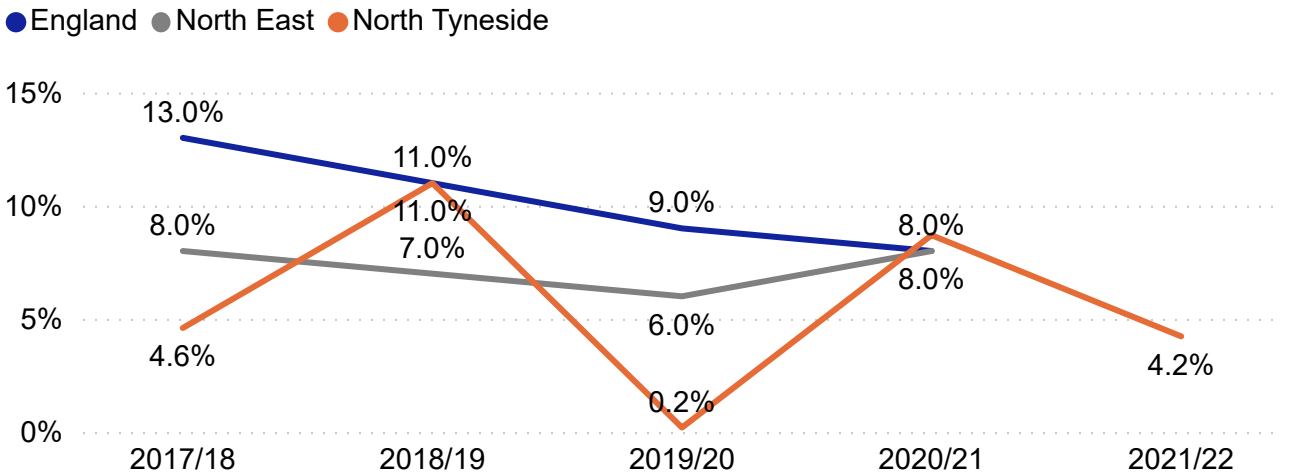
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting



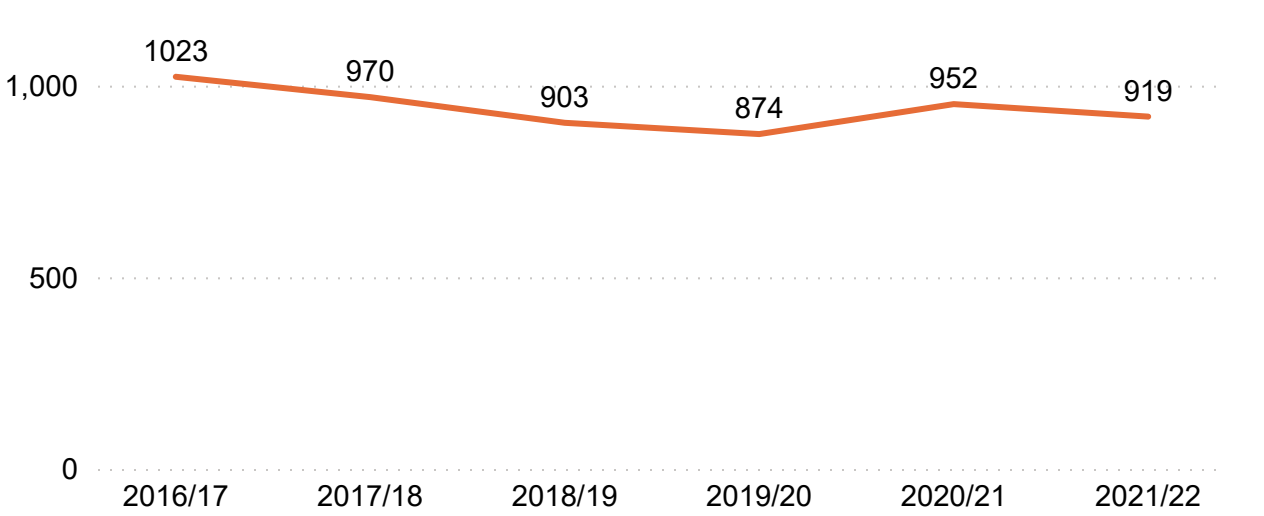
Total amount of municipal waste collected from households and operations (tonnes)



Municipal waste sent to landfill



Total waste produced per household (Kg)



Littering and low carbon heating

Fixed penalty notices issued for littering

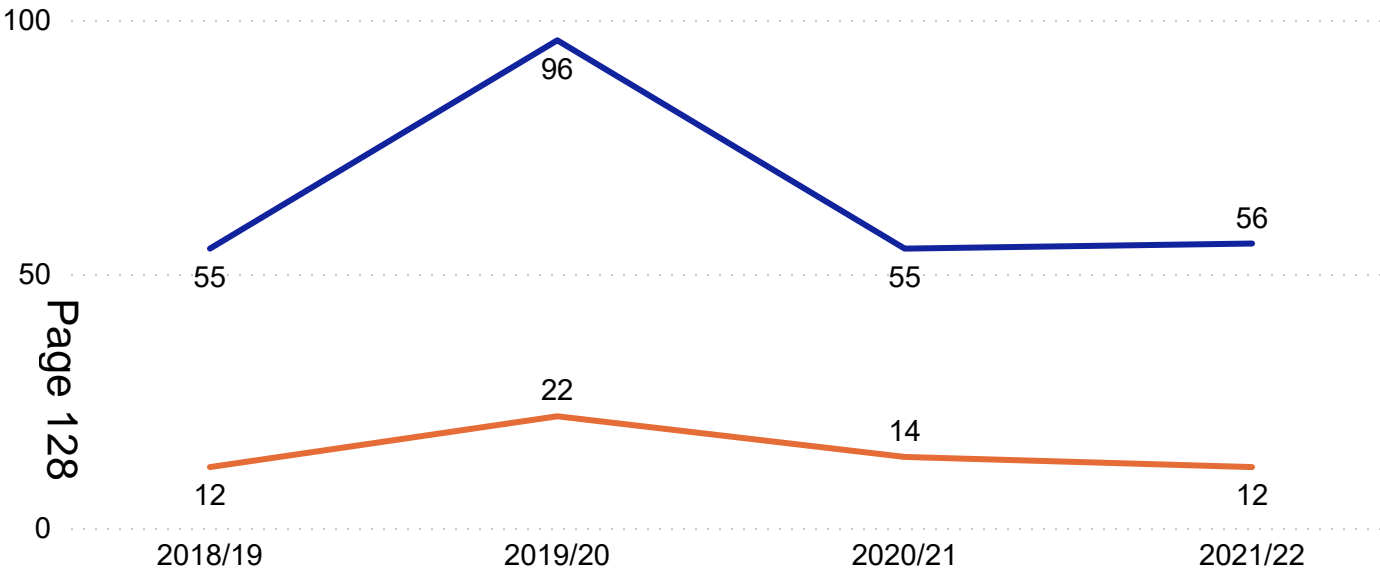
2021/2256

Fixed penalty notices issued for fly tipping

2021/2212

Fixed penalty notices issued for littering and fly tipping

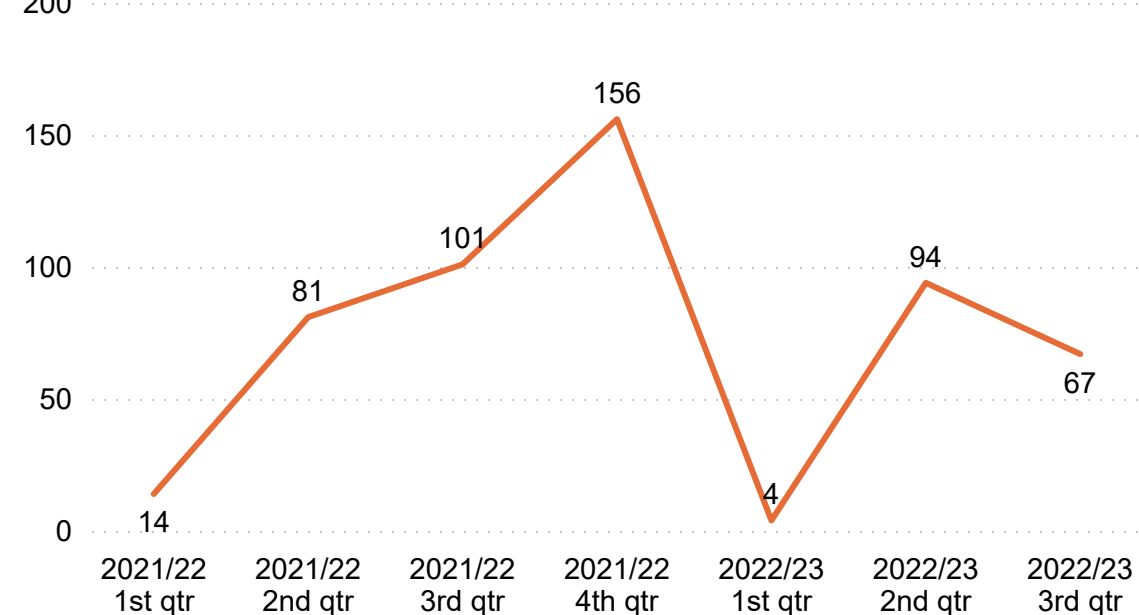
● Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued - Fly Tipping ● Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued - Litter



Green Homes Grants - measures installed

Total to date517

Green Homes Grant - measures installed



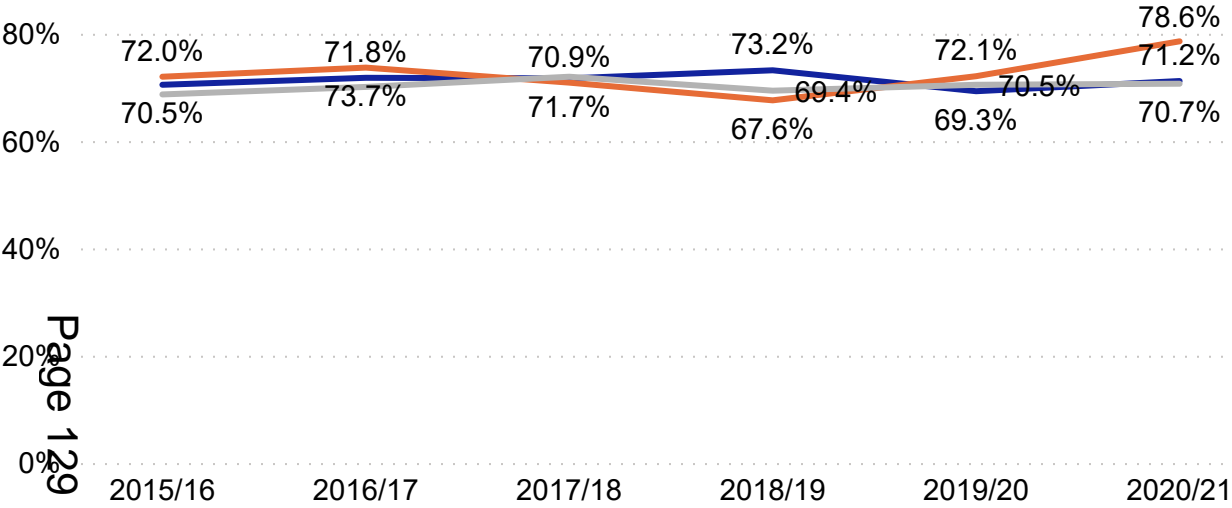
Walking and cycling

Adults who walk or cycle at least once per week

2020/21 78.6%

Adults who walk or cycle at least once per week

● England ● North Tyneside ● Tyne and Wear

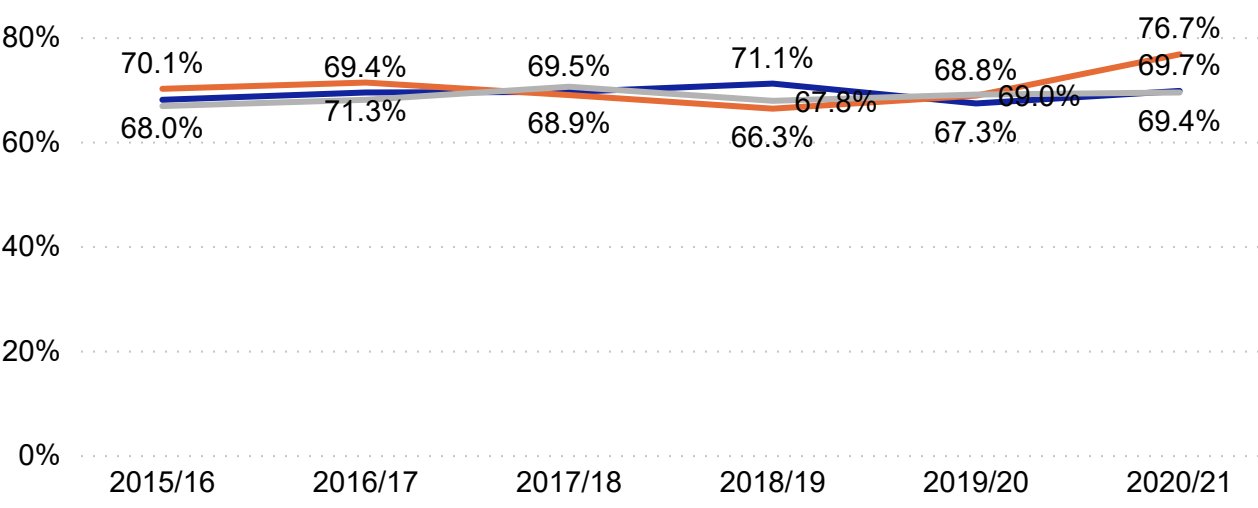


Adults that walk at least once per week

2020/21 76.7%

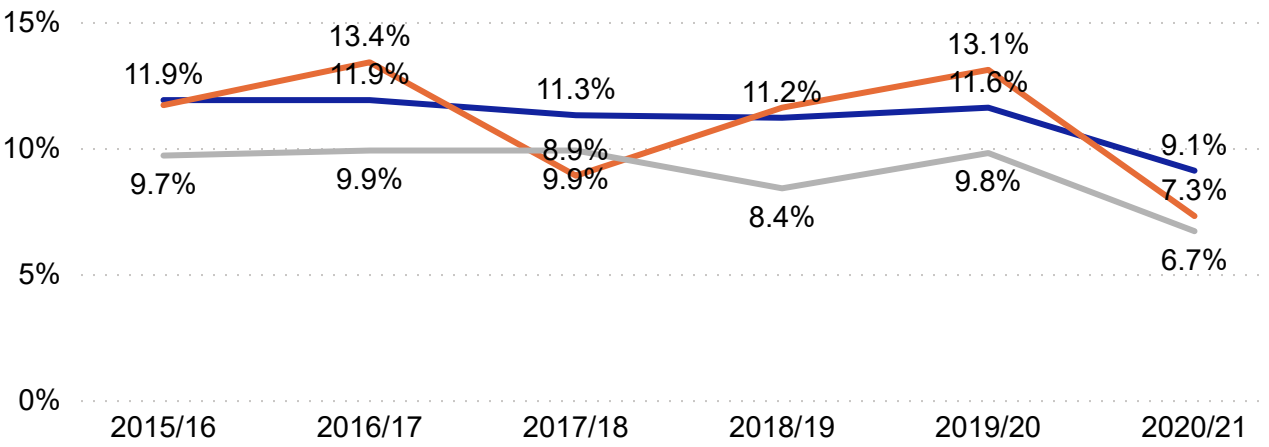
Adults that walk at least once per week

● England ● North Tyneside ● Tyne and Wear



Adults that cycle at least once per week

● England ● North Tyneside ● Tyne and Wear



Net zero by 2030

Reduction in Council operations carbon emissions

2021/2253%

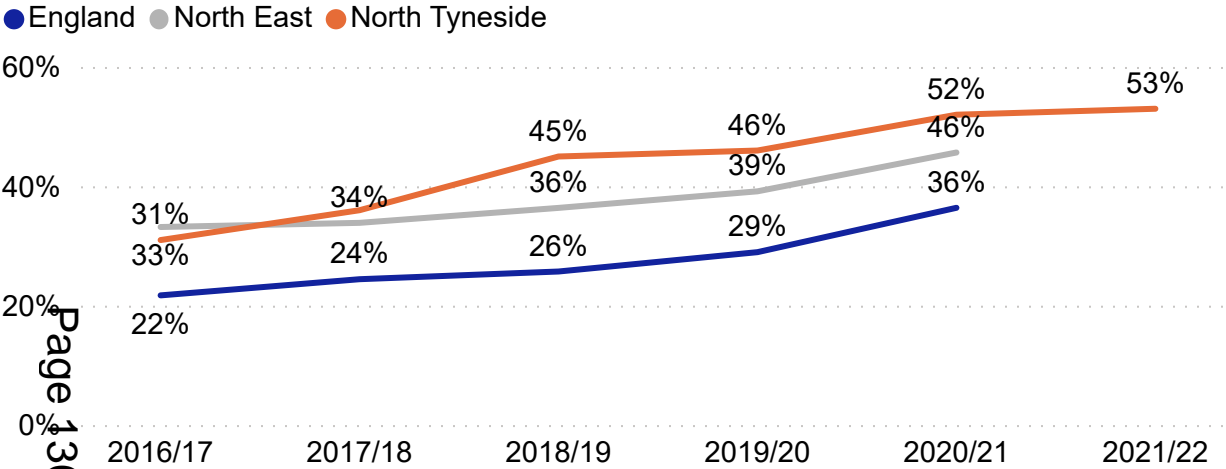
Per capita CO₂ emissions (tonnes)

20203.67

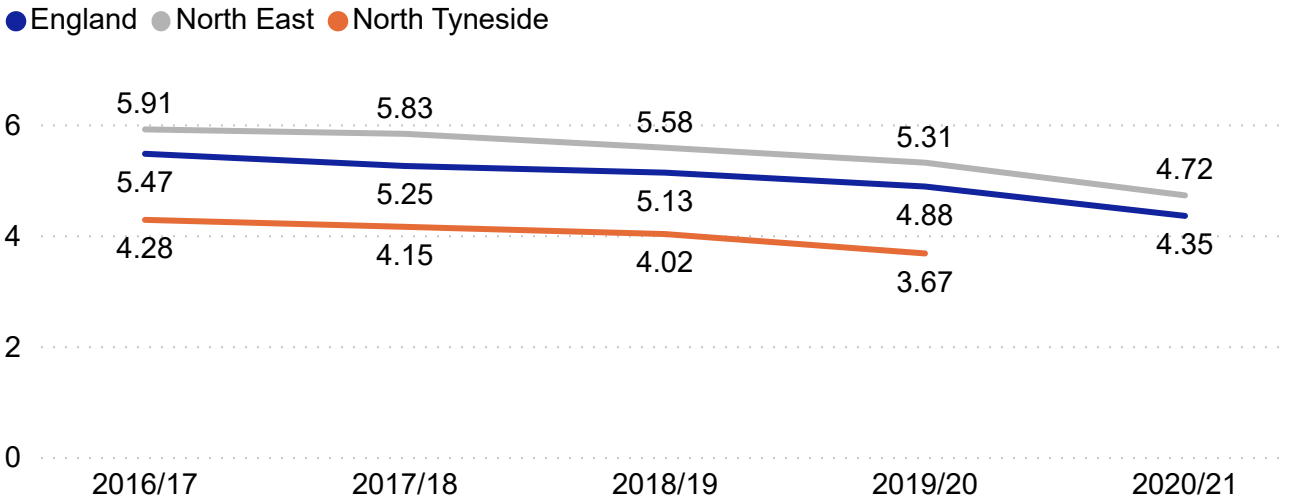
CO₂ emissions for North Tyneside (kilotons CO₂)

2020767

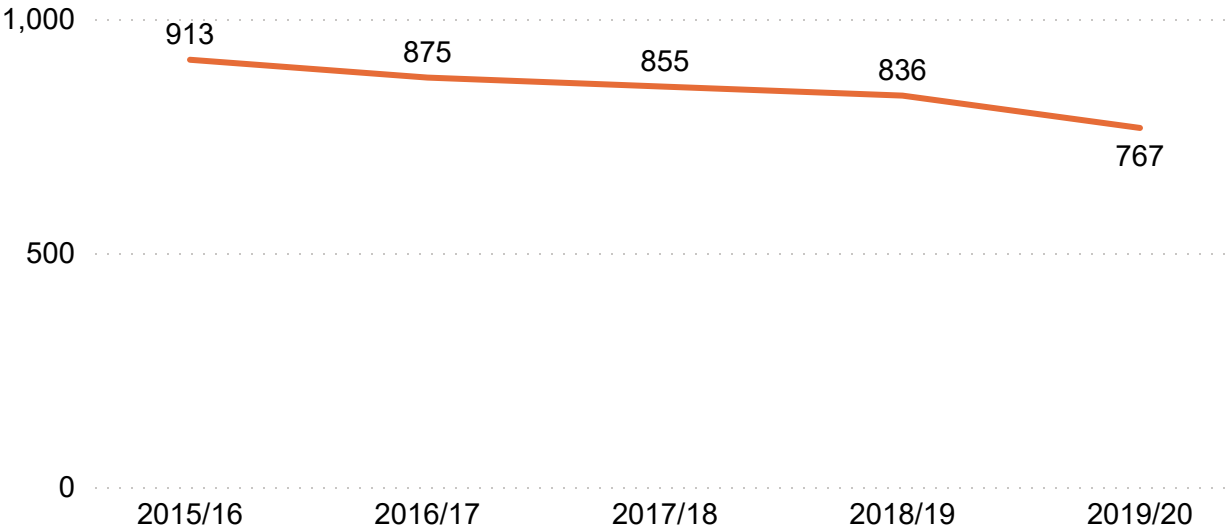
Reduction in carbon emissions in Council operations against base line year 2010/11



Per capita CO₂ emisisions (tonnes)



Total CO₂ emissions for North Tyneside (kilotons CO₂)



North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 27 March 2023

Title: Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy and Corporate Equality Objectives Review

Portfolio(s):	Inclusion, Employment and Skills	Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Hannah Johnson
Report from Directorate:		Corporate Strategy and Customer Service	
Responsible Officer:	Jacqueline Laughton Assistant Chief Executive	Tel: (0191)	643 5724
Wards affected:	All wards		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

North Tyneside Council's Equality and Diversity Policy ("the Policy") sets out its commitment to achieving the aims of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") and how it will seek to demonstrate due regard to these aims in the way the Authority exercises its functions.

In accordance with good practice, the Policy is reviewed every two years. On this occasion the opportunity was also taken to review the Authority's Corporate Equality Objectives – these highlight the priority issues the Authority is seeking to address in relation to the Act. Consultation on the Policy and the review of the Corporate Equality Objectives was undertaken between January and February 2023.

This report updates Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation exercise and provides a refreshed Policy and set of Corporate Equality Objectives for approval.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) agree the Equality and Diversity Policy for the Authority appended to this report at Appendix 1; and
- (2) agree the Corporate Equality Objectives for the Authority for the period April 2023 to March 2025, as set out in paragraph 1.5.3 of the report (with further detail in Appendix 2)

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 3 February 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The Authority's commitment to equality and diversity, as outlined in the updated Equality and Diversity Policy, underpins all of the priorities contained in the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-25.

The commitments made in the Policy are also reflected in the Authority's customer promise and values (Appendices 2 and 3 of the policy).

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Context

The Policy sets out its commitment to achieving the main aim of the Act which is to eliminate discrimination and other prohibited conduct and to demonstrate how the Authority, when discharging its functions, will have due regard to the public sector equality duty and the need to :

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic under the Act and those who do not share such a characteristic; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

A protected characteristic under the Act is any of the following: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Policy was originally agreed in 2017 and in line with good practice is reviewed every two years in consultation with internal and external groups and individuals. As a review of the Policy was due, the opportunity was also taken to review the Corporate Equality Objectives. These objectives enable the Authority to identify and publish the priority issues (in terms of policy making, service delivery and employment) is seeking to address in order to achieve the aims of the Act.

This report sets out the findings from the public consultation on the draft policy and the review of the Authority's Corporate Equality Objectives and actions.

1.5.2 Equality and Diversity Policy consultation findings

Consultation on the Policy ran from 5 January until 21 February 2023. The following external groups were asked to participate in the consultation exercise: AgeUK (including its trans group), Youth Council, Church of England, Catholic Church, North East Sikh Service, Ethnic Diversity Community Taskforce (which includes Black, Muslim and Jewish community representatives, Show Racism the Red Card, Tyne Coast College, North Tyneside Business Forum, Department for Work and Pensions, North Tyneside

Voluntary Organisations Development Agency and Nexus), Deaflink, Becoming Visible, Deaf Awareness North East, North Tyneside Disability Forum, North Tyneside Coalition of Disabled People, Learning Disability North East, North Tyneside Women's Voices, Barnardos, Peary House, the Voluntary and Community sector more generally, North Tyneside Carers Centre, The Pride Centre, North Tyneside Residents Panel and local people.

Engagement within the Authority was undertaken with the Authority's four staff equality networks, the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Employment and Skills, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Corporate Equality Group (CEG), trades unions and employees who were all invited to share their views.

A variety of approaches were used to gather views in ways most appropriate to each stakeholder group. They included an online survey (promoted via the engagement hub, social media, direct mail and the Authority's in-house newsletter Teamwork), a paper survey (available in the Authority's main libraries), in person meetings with the Staff Networks, Cabinet Member, SLT, CEG and trades unions.

62 on-line and e-mail responses were received. These came from Deaf Awareness North East, AgeUK North Tyneside, Education North Tyneside, members of the Corporate Equality Group, Senior Leadership Team, Youth Council, members of North Tyneside Residents Panel, and employees and residents. Social media posts about the consultation reached 2,967 people and resulted in engagement by 126 people.

The feedback received was positive, with the majority of participants stating their support for the Policy. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the responses received during the consultation and shows how they have informed changes to the wording of the policy.

1.5.3 Corporate Equality Objectives

In accordance with the requirements of the specific duties placed on the Authority under the Act the Authority must:

‘prepare and publish one or more objectives that it thinks it needs to achieve to further any of the aims of the general equality duty.... at least every four years’.

The Authority's current Corporate Equality Objectives were agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. Given the good progress made against the key actions that underpinned each objective through delivery of the Authority's Embedding Equality Programme it was timely to undertake a review of the objectives in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Employment and Skills, SLT and Corporate Equality Group.

The proposed objectives for 2023-25 are:

1. Improve North Tyneside Council's Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process.
2. Be a good employer and promote an inclusive workforce that feels valued.
3. Ensure staff and elected members are kept informed about the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
4. Improve the collection and use of both internal and external equality data.
5. Ensure our buildings, services and communications are accessible.
6. Improve engagement with North Tyneside's diverse communities.

Appendix 2 compares the current objectives and those proposed for 2023-25, together with the outcomes identified for each objective.

1.5.4 Implementation of the Policy and objectives

Delivery of the objectives, through the Organisational Business Plan (including Directorate Plans) and Embedding Equality Programme will enable implementation of the Policy. Performance will be reported on an annual basis to Cabinet through the Annual Equality and Diversity Review.

Both the Policy and the Annual Equality and Diversity Review will be published on the Authority's website, and promoted widely.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

To approve the proposed Equality and Diversity Policy, and to the Corporate Equality Objectives.

Option 2

To approve the proposed Equality and Diversity Policy, but not to the Corporate Equality Objectives.

Option 3

To approve the Corporate Equality Objectives, but not to the Equality and Diversity Policy.

Option 4

Not to approve the Equality and Diversity Policy or Corporate Equality Objectives.

Option 5

To request changes to the Equality and Diversity Policy or Corporate Equality Objectives, prior to further consideration by Cabinet.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority's approach to equality and diversity underpins all of its decision-making including key plans and policies. Approval of the recommended option will ensure that the Authority has a current Equality and Diversity Policy that reflects both current legislation and the context within which the Authority is operating.

The proposed Corporate Equality Objectives will enable implementation of the Equality and Diversity Policy and ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

1.8 **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Council's Equality and Diversity Policy 2023

Appendix 2: Corporate Equality Objectives 2023-25 and outcomes

Appendix 3: Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

1.9 Contact officers:

Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive, tel. (0191) 6435724

Anne Foreman, Policy and Performance Manager, Corporate Strategy and Customer Service, tel. (0191) 643 2225

Jessica Madden, Policy Officer (Equality), Corporate Strategy and Customer Service, tel. (0191) 643 1597

David G Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Finance Team, tel. (0191) 6437027

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 Report Equality and Diversity – 22 February 2021](#)
- (2) [Equality and Diversity Review June 2022](#)
- (3) [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
- (4) [Equality Act 2010: Guidance](#) Government Equalities Office and Equality and Human Rights Commission – updated 16 June 2015

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The costs of delivery are included in existing service budgets and no additional costs are anticipated.

2.2 Legal

Publication of the Authority's Equality and Diversity Policy and Corporate Equality Objectives demonstrates the Authority's commitment to equality and diversity and to the need to have due regard to the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when the Authority discharges its functions.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation on the Equality and Diversity Policy ran from 5 January until 21 February 2023. 62 on-line and e-mail responses were received. Social media posts about the consultation reached 2,967 people and resulted in engagement by 126.

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The consultation was undertaken as shown in section 1.5.2 of the report and resulted in amendments being made to the Policy.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The consultation was undertaken as shown in section 1.5.2 of the report and resulted in amendments being made to the Policy.

2.4 Human rights

The 2010 Equality Act created a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. The human characteristics protected by the Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Act is therefore of particular pertinence to the Human Rights of freedom of thought, belief and religion; freedom of expression; the right to marry; and protection from discrimination.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The Policy provides the framework for work undertaken by the Authority to meet its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the need to have regard to the public sector equality duty. This enables the Authority to fulfil its commitment that North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or disadvantage because of their characteristics, background or personal circumstances.

The Policy and corporate objectives demonstrate the Authority's commitment to equality and diversity as a leading local employer, service provider and commissioner. It also makes clear the responsibility that everyone who represents North Tyneside Council or who delivers services on the Authority's behalf has for its implementation.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken to inform delivery of the public consultation undertaken as part of the review of the Policy and is appended to this report at Appendix 4. This helped to ensure an inclusive process was followed, giving a wide range of protected groups an opportunity to influence the content of the Policy.

2.6 Risk management

The effectiveness of the Authority's equality and diversity processes are monitored every quarter as part of North Tyneside Council's risk management processes and are reported via the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report. However, the policy affirms the Authority's commitment to equality and diversity and highlights that it will not tolerate discrimination, harassment or victimisation and will take action against it.

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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Equality and Diversity Policy

Date: February 2023 **Version:** 1 **Author:** Policy, Performance and Research

Document Number	E&DPOL3	Document Revision Number	4
Date last Reviewed	<i>February 2023</i>	Planned Review Date	<i>March 2025</i>
Document Owner	Senior Leadership Team		
Reviewed By	Corporate Equality Group		
Document status	This document does not form part of an em of employment and can therefore be review the discretion of the Council.		



This Equality and Diversity Policy evidences due regard to the aims and requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. The policy consists of ten sections:

1. Purpose
2. Accountability
3. Legal and policy framework
4. Our Commitments
5. Equality and diversity in employment
6. Equality and Diversity in service provision
7. Equality and Diversity in procurement and commissioning
8. Our responsibilities
9. Governance, implementation and monitoring
10. Review

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how North Tyneside Council seeks to:

- ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty, and thereby
- achieve its aim that North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or avoidable disadvantage because of their protected [characteristics](#), background or personal circumstances¹.

The characteristics protected under the 2010 Equality Act are:

- [age](#)
- [disability](#)
- [gender reassignment](#)
- [marriage and civil partnership](#)
- [pregnancy and maternity](#)
- [race](#)
- [religion or belief](#)
- [sex](#)
- [sexual orientation](#)

2. Accountability

The policy is the executive responsibility of Cabinet, and sits within the portfolio held by the Cabinet member for Inclusion, Employment and Skills and with the Assistant Chief Executive.

Oversight of the policy, its implementation and monitoring rests with Senior Leadership Team, supported by [Corporate Equality Group](#) (whose members include representatives from service areas, trades unions and our Strategic Partners). It is chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

However, equality affects and involves everyone and as individuals we are all responsible for own actions and efforts.

3. Legal and policy framework

The content of the policy is determined by the following:

- The [2010 Equality Act](#)
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- Codes of practice published by the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#).

As one of the borough's leading service providers and employers, and in accordance with our corporate values, North Tyneside Council is committed to developing the borough to be an inclusive place in which to live, work, visit and invest to achieve the ambitions set out in the [Our North Tyneside Plan](#).

4. Our commitments

¹ Protected characteristics cover everyone – we are all a mix of multiple visible and invisible protected characteristics.

To achieve our purpose (as set out in section 1) North Tyneside Council will:

- a) proactively embed equality and diversity considerations in everything we do and challenge others to do the same
- b) meet all our legal equality duties under the [2010 Equality Act](#), the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), and follow codes of practice published by the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)
- c) not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds, and take action against it. This includes all forms of hatred including those targeting protected characteristics such as anti-Semitism (as defined by the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) definition and supporting guidance](#)) and other religious hatred, racism, sexism, ageism, disablism, religion, homophobia and transphobia (this is not an exhaustive list)
- d) raise awareness of how to report discrimination, harassment and victimisation and the support that is available
- e) publish our equality objectives, equality data² and report progress in [our Annual Equality and Diversity Review](#)
- f) undertake and implement the actions from [Equality Impact Assessments](#) on our decisions, policies, plans, practices and procedures
- g) ensure everyone feels listened to, and has the opportunity to be involved in making decisions about our services, with due regard being shown to those with protected characteristics
- h) build understanding amongst residents, employees, partners and elected members of the needs of different protected groups across North Tyneside
- i) celebrate the diversity of our communities and seek to raise awareness of the benefits of diversity and inclusion
- j) take account of, and respond to, the needs of residents and customers when delivering our services, ensuring due regard is shown to their protected characteristics
- k) create an environment where elected members, employees, residents and visitors are confident to be themselves

² [Equality and diversity data](#)

Where we ask employees and service users to provide us with personal information, this will only be used to improve access to and the quality of the services we provide.

Collecting equality information helps us to:

- understand the needs of our residents
- design policies and services which are effective and meet those needs
- demonstrate compliance with the 2010 Equality Act, the Public Sector Equality Duty and other statutory duties
- measure more effectively how we are improving as an employer and a service provider.

We will only collect information when it is relevant and will be used by managers to develop an understanding of take up and need. While employees and service users are encouraged to provide equality information, it is their choice whether or not to answer all the questions. Confidential information will be handled in accordance with the strict controls of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the information gathered will be used to inform North Tyneside Council policy and planning, and to report on performance.

- l) strive to make our workforce more representative of the borough's population and the residents it serves, by ensuring equal opportunity to access to jobs, training and career progression
- m) require others providing services on our behalf follow our approach to equality.

5. Equality and Diversity in Employment

This section applies to all employees and people seeking work with us. As outlined in our Human Resources and Organisational Development and Employment and Skills strategies, as a local employer we have a key role to play in tackling inequality and discrimination. We positively promote equality of opportunity and inclusion through all of our employment policies and practices: including recruitment, terms and conditions, learning and development, promotion and when ending employment.

We will:

- a) provide equality of opportunity to all applicants and prospective applicants through fair recruitment and selection procedures
- b) recognise that people with particular protected characteristics, including people with disabilities or ethnic minority communities, may experience discrimination in employment, and we will adopt selection and retention practices designed to eliminate any such discrimination always taking into consideration the duty to appoint on merit
- c) make reasonable adjustments to support colleagues to succeed in their roles
- d) annually publish gender pay gap data and any other pay gap data required by law
- e) use the information and feedback we collect to understand more about, and respond to, employee's experience of working for North Tyneside Council
- f) ensure that all employees are considered for promotion on the basis of their merits, abilities and skill, and are given equal opportunities to progress within the Authority
- g) create an appropriate balance between work and home commitments to maximise equal opportunities for all, including promoting flexible working where possible
- h) aim to give employees the training and development opportunities needed to attain their full potential to the benefit of North Tyneside Council and themselves
- i) ensure that all employees undertake equality training so that they understand its importance in the workplace and in service delivery and know how to challenge any inappropriate behaviour
- j) develop an anti-discriminatory and supportive culture where employees are aware of their rights and enjoy working for North Tyneside Council
- k) respond to any allegations of discrimination, victimisation or harassment through appropriate internal processes, including our [disciplinary](#) and whistleblowing procedures.

6. Equality and Diversity in Service Provision

We and our strategic partners will seek to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services and facilities to all current and potential service users in accordance with our customer promise and corporate values.

We will:

- a) use our equality impact assessment process to help us challenge, review, monitor and improve our services, working practices and resource allocation
- b) ensure all of our customers receive services in accordance with our customer promise and that reasonable adjustments are made
- c) use a range of channels to enable service users to access our services independently and appropriately
- d) ensure that the information we provide can be read or received and understood by the people for whom it is intended
- e) ensure that all buildings, facilities and services are welcoming and accessible
- f) work with our partners to tackle discrimination, ensuring that clear procedures are in place for reporting any such discrimination
- g) use the equality and diversity data we collect to identify and take action to address the needs of under-represented groups, those who are disadvantaged or have particular needs due to their characteristics
- h) involve residents in shaping our services through inclusive engagement and consultation.

7. Equality and Diversity in Procurement and Commissioning

We will ensure that our procurement and commissioning practices (as set out in our [Procurement Strategy and Social Value Priorities](#)) fulfil our equality duties by ensuring that:

- a) contractors, suppliers, and strategic and commissioned partners:
 - i. are aware of the authority's position on equality, we will include a commitment to equality in tender specifications
 - ii. have an equality policy that is compliant with public procurement legislation and understand their obligation to provide services that are free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.
- b) our selection and tendering processes address and include equality considerations
- c) our contract monitoring processes are inclusive of equalities considerations
- d) relevant employees receive guidance on equality issues for procurement.

8. Our responsibilities

Equality, and the implementation of this policy, is the responsibility of all elected members, employees and everyone who represents North Tyneside Council or delivers services on its behalf (including our Strategic Partners – Equans and Capita). More specifically:

8.1 Everyone who works with or for North Tyneside Council

We all have a personal responsibility to:

- ensure our equality training and awareness is up to date
- treat our colleagues and customers with dignity and respect
- promote and deliver equality in the workplace and in serving local communities
- behave in a way that supports this policy and is compliant with relevant legislation and codes of practice
- report, and if you consider it safe to do so, challenge any discriminatory behaviour or practices you encounter in the course of your work.

8.2 As Elected Members

Elected members have a responsibility to:

- lead the equality and diversity agenda of North Tyneside Council
- represent and provide leadership for all groups and communities across North Tyneside
- provide a scrutiny role
- demonstrate ‘[due regard](#)’ to the equality implications of the decisions they make.

8.3 As Leaders and Managers

Leaders and managers are also responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy in their service areas via their service planning process, this includes ensuring:

- the identification and elimination of discriminatory practices
- equality objectives and improvement actions identified in the Annual Equality and Diversity Review are included in service plans and progress is monitored to achieve timely delivery
- processes are in place to systematically collect and report equality performance management data
- effective equality impact assessment of significant decisions, policies, plans, practices and procedures is undertaken
- service delivery demonstrates due regard to the needs of people with protected characteristics
- employees are fully aware of their individual equality responsibilities, and those of the organisation, under the 2010 Equality Act.

8.4 As Trades Unions

Unions have a responsibility to:

- represent the views and concerns of their members on equality and diversity issues
- challenge and address any incidents of discrimination within workforce membership
- support the continuous improvement of equality policy and practice.

8.5 Strategic Partners

Our Strategic Partners have a responsibility to:

- ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act and delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- demonstrate ‘due regard’ to the equality implications of the decisions they make

- support North Tyneside Council to achieve the purpose of this policy – including active participation in the work of the Corporate Equality Group.

8.6 Partnership Boards

The Partnership Boards at which North Tyneside Council is represented are expected to:

- ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act
- demonstrate ‘due regard’ to the equality implications of the decisions they make
- support North Tyneside Council to achieve the purpose of this policy.

8.7 Volunteers and other partners

Volunteers and other partners (defined as those who work alongside the Authority but are not commissioned) are expected to:

- ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act
- support North Tyneside Council to achieve the purpose of this policy.

9. Governance, implementation and monitoring

As set out in Sections 2 and 3 above, this policy is an executive responsibility of Cabinet, and sits within the portfolio held by the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Skills and Employment.

Oversight of the policy, its implementation and monitoring rests with Senior Leadership Team, supported by Corporate Equality Group and which is chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We assess and monitor our progress against the purpose of this policy by:

- regular reports to the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Skills and Employment and the Senior Leadership Team
- the activity of Corporate Equality Group, which leads the equality work of the organisation and co-ordinates a range of activities to help North Tyneside Council fulfil its equality duties in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty
- the inclusion and delivery of actions within our service plans that contribute to the achievement of the commitments made in this policy and the corporate equality objectives and service actions identified in the Annual Equality and Diversity Review
- our equality impact assessment process to ensure we properly consider the potential impact of operational, and Cabinet and Full Council decisions on protected groups
- the identification of the equality and engagement implications of the decisions recommended in our Cabinet and Full Council reports
- managing any potential equality risks through our Risk Management Process
- publication of equality data as required by government, including Gender Pay Gap reporting

- dealing with any complaints³ of discrimination, harassment and victimisation, seriously, promptly and confidentially and ensuring that any person who feels they have suffered any form of discrimination by North Tyneside Council is given guidance in making a [complaint](#)
- publication on our website of our Annual Equality and Diversity Review, which reports progress reports against our Corporate Equality Objectives and service equality actions and is evaluated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to check accessibility and compliance with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years and the outcome of the review will be reported to Cabinet. However, we will be guided by the EHRC if any new guidance or legislation is produced before the next review date.

The next review will be undertaken by March 2025.

³ In relation to specific types of complaints:

- employee complaints - should an employee have any complaint in respect of their treatment in relation to this policy, this should be taken up through internal processes, such as our disciplinary processes
- public complaints - information on how to make a complaint can be found in our libraries, leisure centres, customer first buildings and Quadrant headquarters or [here](#)
- complaints about the behaviour of an Elected Member - information on how to make a complaint about an Elected Member who has not acted in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Council's Customer Promise

We listen, we care: our customer promise to you

We are here to serve you, our residents, businesses and visitors. We provide you with a wide range of vital services, from bin collections to social care, often in complicated and difficult circumstances. We strive to deliver excellent customer service to keep North Tyneside a great place to live, work and visit.

Through listening, we have learned what matters to you, and we have developed this promise.

We listen

- We take time to fully understand and meet your individual needs.
- We are open, honest and use clear language in all our communication.
- Where appropriate, we prefer to serve you via our website, but if this is not right for you, there are different ways to contact us and use our services.
- We use your experiences to design our services and help communities to get involved.

We care

- We put you in contact with the right person and, when possible, tell you how long it will take to solve your query.
- We keep you informed with up to date information and explain what we have done.
- We treat you with courtesy, politeness and understanding.
- We keep your personal data secure and respect your privacy.
- We admit when we are wrong, we say sorry, and make every effort to put it right.
- We give you straightforward and clear advice about the services that are available to you.
- We work together as a team who support and respect each other.

You can help us to keep our promise by:

- Letting us know if you have any specific needs.
- Giving us the information we need to deal with your enquiry.
- Telling us when we have done a good job.
- Treating us politely and with respect.
- Telling us how you feel about our service by giving us feedback so we can learn and improve.

Please tell us how we are doing by:

- Leaving comments at one of our Community Conversation Corners in our Customer First Centres.

- E-mailing your comments to: engagement@northtyneside.gov.uk
- Using our [Video relay service for British Sign Language users](#)

Appendix 2: North Tyneside Council Values

Our values:

We listen.

We listen to our customers and colleagues and understand their needs. We pay attention to messages and respond. We express information clearly, are open, honest and encourage people to have their say.

We care

We care for our customers by understanding their needs, we treat them with respect and safeguard those who are most vulnerable. We care for each other by being a positive role model. We respect each other and work well with colleagues. We care for ourselves by looking after our physical and mental health and asking for help when we need it.

We are ambitious

We are ambitious by always looking for ways to do things better. We are positive and learn from our mistakes and successes. We can be ambitious by reflecting on our performance and acting on feedback to improve. We strive to reduce the carbon footprint in our services by using less energy in our buildings, travelling less in our vehicles and recycling as much as possible.

We are good value for money

We are good value for money by delivering services in line with our customer promise and service standards. We use resources carefully, avoid unnecessary cost, try to get things right first time and share resources with colleagues.

Appendix 2: Corporate Equality Objectives 2023-25 and outcomes

Current objectives	Proposed updated objectives
Objective 1	
Improve North Tyneside Council's Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process	Unchanged
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use/embedding of the new guidance and templates results in better quality, more robust EqIAs, able to evidence due regard and enable more right first-time service delivery and fewer complaints. • Introduction of a new electronic system for EqIAs results in improved quality monitoring and performance reporting through new Equality Dashboards to SLT and individual directorates. 	

Objective 2	
Be a good employer and promote an inclusive workforce that feels valued	Create a more inclusive colleague experience within the Authority
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce diversity data shows increases across underrepresented protected characteristics. • Staff survey results – colleagues feel that the Authority is committed to creating an inclusive culture. There is confidence that harassment and bullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with effectively if an issue arises. • Staff equality networks are satisfied that they are listened to and that they are able to make a difference in the Authority. • The Authority has high satisfaction levels across all staff groups in respect of staff engagement. • EqIAs are in place to ensure HR policy and procedures comply with equality legislation and employment codes of practice. 	

Objective 3	
Ensure staff and elected members are kept informed about the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty	Ensure colleagues and elected members understand the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All colleagues and members use inclusive language and treat everyone with dignity and respect. • Everyone feels welcome and internal and external customers are treated with dignity and respect. • Colleagues have the skills to treat all colleagues and customers with dignity and respect and show due regard to people's protected characteristics and this is reflected in the Staff Survey. 	

Objective 4	
Improve the collection and use of both internal and external equality data	Improve the collection and use of workforce and customer equality and diversity data
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee diversity declaration increases • As customer record systems are renewed/redesigned they include fields to collect standardised equality and diversity data and insight (including data on customer communication needs), this contributes to right first time and improved customer satisfaction/fewer complaints. • Customer satisfaction surveys include standard demographic questions, so engagement and service use can be monitored and action taken, resulting in better quality EqIAs and decision making, and greater awareness and use of services by under-represented groups. • Improvements are made to the provision of equality and diversity data available on the Authority's datastore. This supports improved evidence based EqIAs and effective diversity monitoring. • Workforce diversity data shows increases across under represented protected characteristics. • The Authority reports annually on its gender pay gap and action planning is informed by data insight. • Equality and diversity data is reported to and reviewed by senior leaders via Equality and Diversity Dashboards and influences decision making. 	

Objective 5	
Ensure our buildings, services and communications are accessible	Unchanged
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the accessibility of our buildings is published on our website, in our buildings, and on the AccessAble Directory. As customer record systems are renewed/redesigned they include fields to collect standardised data on customer communication needs, this contributes to right first time and improved customer satisfaction/fewer complaints. Actions identified through both change and business as usual EqIAs are acted upon and monitored resulting in improved accessibility and customer satisfaction. Customer care policies highlight the needs of protected groups and there is evidence that these needs are taken account of. Employees use the guidance in the Authority's Accessible Information Policy to improve service provision and communication (including use of our translation and interpretation services) contributing to more efficient service delivery, more compliments and fewer complaints. Our websites and apps are fully compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard. There are examples of how different customers' experiences and complaints are analysed and acted upon to improve services. Human Rights legislation guidance is available for staff and decision makers have up to date knowledge. 	
Objective 6	
Improve engagement with North Tyneside's diverse communities	Unchanged
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are inclusive engagement mechanisms and structures providing opportunities for communities and service users to be involved in decision making, and service development and delivery, helping to improve engagement with these groups. Residents and service users are consulted effectively before services are developed and the process demonstrates due regard to protected/under-represented groups. Together bullets 1 & 2 will contribute to more effective and efficient service development and delivery. 	

- More shared engagement activities are developed and delivered with partners increasing the Authority's reach into under-represented groups.
- Campaigns and initiatives are developed to increase participation in public life and leadership of people from protected/underrepresented groups, this will help to improve engagement/representation of these groups.

Appendix 3 Summary of Consultation Responses

Responses received during the public consultation:

- understood the challenges associated with delivering the Policy
- asked that the wording of the policy be amended to give more emphasis to diversity and inclusion
- highlighted the importance tackling discrimination and ensuring accessible services and communication¹
- supported the addition of a new commitment to celebrate diversity, in line with the Authority's duty to 'promote good relations'.

This informed the following proposed amendments to the Policy:

Previous wording	Proposed new wording
1. Purpose	
North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or disadvantage because of their protected characteristics, background or personal circumstances.	North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or avoidable disadvantage because of their protected characteristics, background or personal circumstances.
4. Our Commitments	
c. not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds, and take action against it. This includes all forms of hatred including those targeting protected characteristics such as anti- Semitism as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and supporting guidance, racism, sexism, ageism, disablism, religion, homophobia and transphobia (this is not an exhaustive list).	c. not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds, and take action against it. This includes all forms of hatred including those targeting protected characteristics such as anti- Semitism (as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and supporting guidance) and other religious hatred , racism, sexism, ageism, disablism, religion, homophobia and transphobia (this is not an exhaustive list).
g. ensure people with protected characteristics feel listened to, and have the opportunity to be involved in making decisions about our services	g. ensure everyone feels listened to and has the opportunity to be involved in making decisions about our services, with due regard being shown to those with protected characteristics
i. take account of, and respond to, the needs of residents and customers, ensuring	i. take account of, and respond to, the needs of residents and customers when delivering our services, ensuring due

¹ (*As part of this there was a request that the British Sign Language (BSL) Act 2022 be included in the Policy's legal framework. However a detailed review confirmed that this would not give the Authority any new duties or responsibilities. The Authority already recognises BSL as a language and is working to ensure its services and information are accessible to BSL speakers.)

protected characteristics are given due consideration when delivering our services	regard is given to their protected characteristics.
k. strive to make our workforce more representative of the borough's population and the residents it serves, by ensuring equal access to jobs, training and career progression	k. strive to make our workforce more representative of the borough's population and the residents it serves, by ensuring equal opportunity to access to jobs, training and career progression
	Celebrate the diversity of our communities and seek to raise awareness of the benefits of diversity and inclusion.

5. Equality and Diversity in Employment	
We aim to positively promote equality of opportunity through all of our employment policies and practices.	We positively promote equality of opportunity and inclusion through all of our employment policies and practices.
c. make reasonable adjustments to enable the employment and redeployment of employees with disabilities	c. make reasonable adjustments to support colleagues to succeed in their roles
6. Equality and Diversity in Service Provision	
c. use the equality data we collect....	c. use the equality and diversity data we collect
f. work with our partners to tackle any discrimination affecting groups within our communities , ensuring that clear procedures are in place for reporting any such discrimination	f. work with our partners to tackle discrimination, ensuring that clear procedures are in place for reporting any such discrimination

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Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

1. Proposal details		
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed (subsequently referred to as project)	Review of North Tyneside Council's Equality and Diversity Policy	
Purpose of project	To ensure that engagement on the review of the policy is as inclusive as possible.	
Who is the project intended to benefit?	<p>The policy sets out how North Tyneside Council seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty, and thereby • achieve its aim that North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or avoidable disadvantage because of their protected characteristics, background or personal circumstances 	
What outcomes should be achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of people are given the opportunity to share their views on the policy. • The engagement process gives due regard the needs of protected and underrepresented groups. • A range of groups and individuals choose to take part in the engagement and that their feedback informs amendments to the policy. 	
Version of EqlA	EqlA.01	
Date this version created	22/12/2022	
Confidential	no	
Directorate	Corporate Strategy and Customer Services	
Service	Policy, Performance and Research	
	Name	Service or organisation
Principal author	Anne Foreman	Corporate Strategy and Customer Services
Additional authors	Jess Madden	Corporate Strategy and Customer Services

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	There is the potential for all service users to be impacted - medium
Carers or Family of Service Users	yes	There is the potential for all carers and families of users to be impacted - medium
Residents	yes	There is the potential for all residents (209,151 – ONS, 2021 Mid Year Population Estimates) to be impacted - medium
Visitors	yes	North Tyneside attracts up to 6 million visitors per year- there is the potential for all of them to be impacted - low
Staff	yes	North Tyneside Council employs approximately 3,500 people – there is the potential for all of them to be impacted - high
Partner Organisations	yes	North Tyneside Council seeks to work with its partners to deliver its policy vision – this includes VODA, Northumbria Police, health services, etc - low

3. Evidence Gathering and Engagement		
	Internal evidence	External Evidence
What evidence has been used for this assessment?		Engagement on previous versions of the Equality and Diversity Policy.
Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this proposal?	yes	
If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?	Feedback on the engagement draft of the policy has been received from from the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Employment and Skills, Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Equality Group.	
Is there any information you don't have?	yes	
If yes, why is this information not available?	The views of the public and local organisations working with/representing protected groups. This will be gathered in the course of the planned engagement.	

4. Impact on Different Characteristics			
Legally Protected Characteristics	Potential Positive Impact Identified	Potential Negative Impact Identified	Description of the potential impact/s and evidence used
Age	yes	yes	<p><u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.</p> <p><u>Potential negative impact</u> Based on previous experience of engagement and communication we understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people are more likely to need information in accessible formats. • Middle aged people with family/caring responsibilities can also experience barriers to engagement. • Different engagement methods may also be required for young people.
Disability	yes	yes	<p><u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.</p> <p><u>Potential negative impact</u> Based on previous experience of communication and engagement we understand that people with a range of mobility and sensory disabilities and those who are neurodiverse or have learning needs are more likely to have communication and accessibility needs.</p>

Gender reassignment	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Marriage & civil partnership	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Pregnancy & Maternity	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Race	yes	yes	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group. <u>Potential negative impact</u> Based on previous experience we understand that: English may not be someone's first language
Religion or belief	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Sex	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Sexual Orientation	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
Intersectionality	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u> Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on people for whom the intersection of their characteristics results in an equality impact..
Non-legally protected characteristic			
Carers	yes	no	<u>Potential positive impact</u>

			Implementation of the policy and work towards achieving its vision should have a positive impact on this group.
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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	yes	Implementation of the policy will help to raise awareness of, prevent and/or respond effectively to incidents of discrimination, victimisation and harassment
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	Implementation of the policy will help to ensure equality of opportunity for employees, service users and visitors. The engagement will use a range of engagement and communication methods to reduce and remove barriers to involvement. We will respond to stakeholders' communication needs.
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	Implementation of the policy will support the creation of opportunities to bring communities together and to raise awareness of the experiences and needs of different protected groups.

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?
Engagement materials not accessible to people whose first language is not English	yes- reduced	We will include our access statement in written communications and respond appropriately "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 0191 643 2225 or anne.foreman@northtyneside.gov.uk to enable us to identify and respond to stakeholder's communication needs. The accessibility functions available in Microsoft and SNAP will be used to ensure online forms and communications are accessible. We will engage with organisation who work with these stakeholders to promote and support engagement activity.
Engagement materials may not be accessible to people	yes- reduced	Our communication and engagement activities will use a range of communication methods including electronic and paper based materials.

with disabilities including those with sensory impairments or those who are neurodiverse		<p>Written communications will include our access statement “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 0191 643 2225 or anne.foreman@northtyneside.gov.uk to enable us to identify and respond to stakeholder’s communication needs.</p> <p>We will engage with organisation who work with these stakeholders to promote and support engagement activity.</p>
Engagement materials may not be accessible to all age groups	yes- reduced	We will engage with organisation who work with these stakeholders to promote and support engagement activity.

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
We will run the policy review engagement for a minimum of six weeks to provide the opportunity for a range of stakeholders to participate	Anne Foreman		Policy, Performance and Research	21/02/2023	in progress
Actions already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible Officer Name		Responsible Officer Service Area	Impact	
We will offer a range of ways to engage including online questionnaires, paper questionnaires, contact through social media and via telephone and e-mail.	Anne Foreman		Policy, Performance and Research	reduce	
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
All promotion will ask people to get in touch if they need our materials in another format or to access the engagement in another way	Anne Foreman	Policy, Performance and Research	reduce	21/02/2023	in progress
Communications will be shared across social media platforms during and after engagement	Jordan Foley	Communications	reduce	21/02/2023	in progress

including written content, imagery and/or videos					
The Cabinet Report produced when engagement activity ends will include an appendix containing the comments received and the Authority's response, highlighting where changes have been made to the policy in light of the feedback received. This will help to demonstrate how participants comments have been taken into consideration. This feedback will also be published in the Have your say pages of the Authorities' website	Anne Foreman Jess Madden Heather Thrussell	Policy, Performance and Research Participation, Advocacy and Engagement	reduce	28/03/2023	in progress
A range of appropriate communication and engagement methods and materials will be used during the engagement	Jordan Foley Anne Foreman	Communications Policy, Performance and Research	reduce	21/02/2023	
We will include our access statement in written communications "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 0191 643 2225 or anne.foreman@northtyneside.gov.uk " to enable us to identify and respond to stakeholder's communication needs.	Anne Foreman	Policy, Performance and Research	Reduce	21/02/2023	
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	
We will share good news stories via our communication channels	Jordan Foley	Communications	Ongoing		
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	
The questionnaires will gather information on participant's demographic/protected characteristics. This will be analysed and, if numbers	Jess Madden	Policy, Performance and Research	22/02/2023	in progress	

permit will be compared to population data.				
We will collate a list of organisation working with/representing people with protected characteristics who have contributed to the engagement	Anne Foreman	Policy, Performance and Research	28/02/2023	
Date review of EqIA to be completed	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area		
27/02/2023	Anne Foreman Jess Madden	Policy, Performance and Research		

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>The policy seeks to ensure compliance with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty, and thereby achieve its aim that North Tyneside becomes a place where people feel safe and no one experiences discrimination or avoidable disadvantage because of their protected characteristics, background or personal circumstances.</p> <p>Mitigating actions have been identified and will be acted upon to reduce any potential negative impacts arising from the engagement process.</p>

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	Ashley Bell
Date	22/12/2022

10. Director approval	
Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree
If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Director	Jackie Laughton
Date	Click or tap to enter a date.

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North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 27 March 2023

Title: Building a Better North Tyneside: The 2023-28 Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

Portfolio(s): Housing		Cabinet Member(s): Councillor John Harrison
Report from Service Area:	Housing and Property Services	
Responsible Officer:	Peter Mennell Director Housing and Property Services	(Tel: (0191) 643 6395)
Wards affected:	All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

Following extensive consultation with a wide range of residents, service users and stakeholders, a refreshed Housing Strategy and refreshed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy have been developed. The strategies support the delivery of the 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan and provide a strategic direction to the delivery of homes in the borough and the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping.

There is not a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce a Housing Strategy, but the Strategy plays an important role in providing direction for a wide range of cross-cutting related services and shows that due regard has been given to the duties and responsibilities relating to housing and homelessness imposed on the Authority. The Housing Strategy for 2023-2028 will facilitate the strategic coordination of the Authority's activities that directly impact on current and projected housing need and support the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes in the Borough.

In contrast with the Housing Strategy, the Authority does have a statutory obligation to produce The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This updated Strategy for 2023-2028 has been developed having regard to the Council Plan.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- The Housing Strategy for 2023-2028 appended to this report at Appendix 1; and
- The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy for 2023-2028 appended to this report at Appendix 2.

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 20th January 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021-2025 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
- We will tackle health and socio-economic inequalities across the borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty
- Create safe and welcoming communities by tackling antisocial behaviour
- We will maintain the Council Tax support scheme that cuts bills for thousands of households across North Tyneside

A Caring North Tyneside:

- Provide support and advice to residents and tenants
- We will support local community groups and the essential work they do
- People will be cared for, protected, and supported if they become vulnerable, including if they become homeless

A Green North Tyneside:

- Deliver low carbon homes and secure funding for low-income households to achieve this.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Housing Strategy 2023-28

Background

This strategy builds on the success of the Authority's previous Housing Strategy for 2017-21 'A Great Place to Live'. It is informed by current and emerging national and local policies; it considers the Authority's Equally Well Strategy, and the emerging policy aims from the most recent Housing White Paper. It also references evidence of housing need and demand from the 2021 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

Our Priorities

The vision to 'Build a Better North Tyneside' and the 5 delivery themes were developed following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, partners, and residents. Within each theme, a set of actions are identified, and a detailed action plan will be developed and reviewed by Cabinet and the Housing Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

1. Deliver more Affordable Homes and Support Regeneration Plans

The Authority's Affordable Homes Programme has already delivered over 2,100 affordable homes since 2014 and this theme directly supports the delivery of the 5,000 homes target in the Our North Tyneside Plan. It highlights where the Authority will work with its partners and actively seek new opportunities to deliver affordable homes. It also recognises the important role of housing in regeneration and the Authority's Master Plans.

2. Prevent Homelessness and Improve our Specialist Housing Offer

It is well established that demand for supported housing is increasing, and this theme focuses on the Authority's approach to tackling homelessness and ensuring that its homes and services meet the needs of everyone in the Borough.

To prevent homelessness and support residents, the Authority has introduced specialist support roles to assist with preventing rough sleeping, providing support to those with mental health issues and those experiencing domestic abuse. There has been an increase in the amount of temporary accommodation on offer including an additional 5 properties in the rough sleeper's accommodation programme (RSAP). The Authority will continue to review its approach to rough sleeping, improve its accommodation offer and strengthen its partnerships.

The Authority will refresh its Housing Market Positions statements for older people, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental health to ensure that there is enough supply and demand for the growing population and specific client groups. In the last 5 years the Authority has delivered 329 specialist housing units for a variety of client groups including a specific extra care scheme for dementia. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment 21 (SHMA) states that there is a projected need for 2,675 additional units of specialist older persons' accommodation by 2039.

3. Improve the Private Rented Sector and Tackle Derelict Properties

Poor quality housing can have a damaging effect on people's health and this theme focuses on driving up standards in the private rented sector and working with landlords to increase the quality of private rented housing. The theme also recognises the impact that empty and derelict properties can have to communities.

The Authority has had significant success to date reducing the number of empty homes and has seen the number reduce from 1,326 in 2019 to 846 in February 2023. This theme sets out the Authority's ambition to continue to target and reduce empty and derelict properties and where possible return them into use as affordable homes.

4. Lead the Way – Greener Homes to Support Carbon Zero by 2030

The Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has set ambitious targets to further reduce its carbon footprint. The Authority has already made significant progress and has successfully attracted £9.4m in inward investment to deliver energy efficiency measures to over 800 homes across the Borough.

This theme builds on the Authority's successes to date by recognising the important role that the built environment and housing plays in supporting its ambition for the future. It details that the Authority will continue to build homes free from fossil fuel and actively attract further inward investment to support landlords improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

5. Support our Tenants and Residents and Improve Our Communities

This theme recognises the importance that housing, and the Authority's services play in creating and sustaining communities that are healthy, safe, clean, and green. This theme focuses on how the Authority can support tenants and residents through the current cost of living crisis as well as maintaining their independence in their homes. The Authority will continue to ensure that the Authority's housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard and that it will work with private landlords to drive up quality standards in the private rented sector. The Authority will also focus on tackling issues related to damp and mould across homes in the Borough.

This theme is aligned to the potential housing regulation changes that are currently being consulted on through the Housing White Paper. It sets out clearly the Authority's commitment to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes, and have access to redress when things go wrong. The Authority will continue to engage with its tenants, residents, and service users to ensure that its homes and services are received with a high level of satisfaction.

1.5.2 Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

Background

The Homelessness Act 2002 places a statutory duty on all local housing authorities to carry out a homelessness review for their area. This should be done in consultation with local partners and stakeholders, with the published homelessness strategy based on the results of that review and carried out at least every five years. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced new legal duties for housing authorities focusing on the prevention and relief of homelessness, regardless of priority status.

The Authority recognises that it has a moral duty to tackle homelessness as it can have a detrimental effect on health, well-being, and community cohesion, as well as potentially increasing service costs for the Authority. Evidence demonstrates that investment in local homeless prevention services reduces the cost of mainstream homelessness services, which can cut across housing, health, criminal justice, and community safety.

The Authority's Priorities

The Authority's new strategic priorities have been identified following engagement and consultation with its Homelessness Forum and a wide range of stakeholders, Elected Members, officers, and third sector organisations who support people when they experience a 'housing crisis'.

Following a review of its achievements, outcomes and future challenges that have been identified throughout the lifespan of the previous strategy, the refreshed strategy has been produced to align with recent legislative changes.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough sleeping Strategy 2023-28 continues the vision to support the ambition to 'Build a Better North Tyneside' through three key themes:

1. End Rough Sleeping

This priority focuses on rough sleeping in North Tyneside, with the aim being no-one is bedded down outdoors. The Authority will continue to improve its interventions to prevent rough sleeping in the first instance wherever possible.

The last rough sleeper count in November 2022 identified one rough sleeper in the Borough. The Authority's offer includes specialist support, which is available to the most vulnerable via a support officer. There were 173 referrals resulting in seven rough sleepers recorded in 2021/22. The Authority will continue to identify where rough sleeping is occurring, and review and revise its response accordingly.

The accommodation offer for rough sleepers has been enhanced with the introduction of five properties through the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP). The Authority will consider any interim accommodation offers to achieve its aim of no rough sleeping in the Borough.

2. Our Accommodation Offer

This priority focuses on temporary, supported, and permanent housing solutions to continue to prevent rough sleeping and support people facing homelessness.

There has been an increase in the number of people accessing temporary accommodation since 2020. The Authority is committed to continuing to improve its offer and have expanded its current accommodation pathways to include a 'Somewhere Safe to Stay' service, the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme and the 'Sit-Up Service' to provide support to people who are rough sleeping.

3. Collaborative Partnerships

The Authority will continue to tackle homelessness within the Borough by strengthening its existing relationships with partner agencies and all organisations that contribute to early intervention to prevent homelessness within the Borough. This will include working regionally with other local authorities and exploring joint funding initiatives to further prevent homelessness.

the Authority will also continue to work in collaboration with a wide range of partners to effectively communicate information to aid those in need and provide signposting to other organisations who can provide help.

Monitoring our Performance

The Authority will continue to work closely with its partners to develop an annual delivery plan that will be formed from the key actions within this Strategy. The plan will be reviewed and revised each year to ensure any legislative changes are included. The North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Partnership will be responsible for monitoring delivery with annual updates on the Authority's performance that will be shared with the Housing Sub-Committee and Cabinet.

1.5.3 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

A HIA is a structured, solution-focused and action orientated approach to maximising the positive and minimising the negative health impacts of new initiatives. It aims to identify and where feasible strengthen, the ways in which the proposal can promote and enhance health.

The Housing and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping strategies provide high level strategic frameworks to 'Build a Better North Tyneside'. The impact of housing and homelessness on health are well established and the strategic actions will undoubtedly provide the opportunities for better health outcomes across the borough.

A HIA was undertaken in consultation with Public Health colleagues, and this identified two actions that will be taken forward onto the scoping phase. The two key areas for further assessment are:

- Building 5,000 affordable homes
- Improving the private rented sector and tackling derelict properties

Further work will be undertaken to assess these areas in detail, specify the health impact to be assessed and the causal associations and develop a workplan to ensure delivery and identify the possible evidence required to help inform the recommendations and future action plans for our strategies.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Cabinet may decide not to approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

This option will directly support the delivery of the Our North Tyneside Council Plan by providing a clear, strategic direction for housing and homelessness prevention activity within the borough for the next 5 years along with fulfilling our statutory duties around homelessness.

1.8 **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Housing Strategy Plan on Page 2023-2028

Appendix 2: Housing Strategy 2023-2028

Appendix 3: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy Plan on Page 2023-2028

Appendix 4: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2003-2028

Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment on the Housing Strategy 2003-2028 and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2003-2028

1.9 Contact officers:

Richard Brook, Housing Growth Manager tel. 07540 182 225
Liz Archer, Head of Housing Need tel. 07970 955 316
Julia Orton, Strategic Housing Officer tel. (0191) 643 6220
Darrell Campbell, Senior Business Partner (Interim) tel. (0191) 643 7052

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) [Housing Sub Committee – Consultation on the emerging Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy presentation September 2022](#)
- (2) [Housing Strategy 2017-21](#)
- (3) [Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-21](#)
- (4) [Strategic Housing Market Assessment \(SHMA\) 2021](#)
- (5) [The Homelessness Act 2002](#)
- (6) [The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#)
- (7) [The Housing Act 1985](#)
- (8) [The Housing Act 1996](#)
- (9) [The Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, should any implications arise owing to the actions or projects described within the Housing Strategy or Homelessness Strategy they will be presented to Cabinet in a future report.

2.2 Legal

In accordance with section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 the Authority has a duty to assess the housing conditions and needs of the Borough.

The Authority is also obliged by section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002, to review its Homelessness Strategy within 5 years from the date of publication of the last such Strategy. It is also required to keep the Strategy under review and the Authority may modify it from time to time and publish the modifications or Strategy as modified as considered appropriate and to take the Strategy into account when exercising its functions relating to homelessness.

The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) requires local housing authorities to take “reasonable steps” to either maintain or secure accommodation for eligible applicants who are threatened with homelessness or are homeless.

In exercising its functions relating to homelessness the Authority must have regard to the Homelessness Code of Guidance published by the Secretary of State. Failure to have an updated Homelessness Strategy may impact the Authority’s ability to defend challenges to decisions made under the homelessness legislation.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Housing and with other Elected Members through attendance at Housing Sub Committee on 20 September 2022. The Sub Committee were presented with a wide range of information relating to the Strategic Housing Market Needs Analysis to inform discussions relating to housing need and demand and homelessness in North Tyneside. The draft priorities within both strategies were discussed with the Committee providing feedback which has been incorporated within the review process.

The Strategic Property Group which comprises of the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Members for Finance and Resources, Housing, and Regeneration as well as the Directors for Housing and Property, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Environment were consulted on the draft priorities in October 2022 with officers being engaged in the development of both Strategies as part of the consultation process, through completion of surveys and service priority discussions.

A Health Impact Assessment screening session was held on both Strategies in February 2023. Attended by both Housing and Public Health officers, the session supports the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 'Equally Well' in its aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the population. Following the initial screening, further assessments will be undertaken on actions arising from the strategies to consider further opportunities to protect the health of residents.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

A comprehensive programme of consultation has been undertaken to support the development of the proposed Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy. Consultation was undertaken using a range of methods ensuring that it was accessible to all.

A public online consultation ran from the 15 December 2022 until 2 February 2023 offering residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on both strategies. 74 responses were received in total with most responders agreeing with the proposed priorities and themes. There were several suggestions made by responders that were incorporated into the final documents and additional actions will be included in future action plans. Our consultation identified that respondents recognised the progress the Authority has made to date and the future challenges that facing the Authority with regards to funding and land availability.

A focus group was held to discuss the strategies with tenants, residents and stakeholders on the 31 January 2023. The attendees were supportive of both strategies and agreed with the proposed themes. The attendees provided valuable contributions on the language used to describe our rough sleeping provision and resulted in amendments to the proposed actions in the final version of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

The priorities within the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping strategy were discussed at our Homelessness Forum with a range of stakeholders that provide services to reduce homelessness. The stakeholders were all supportive of the aims of the proposed strategy.

Our strategies have been informed by the Residents Survey that was conducted in 2021. 39% of respondents felt that affordable, decent housing was an important factor in making a place somewhere good to live, which represents an increase of 8% on 2019. This supports the theme within the strategy to deliver more affordable homes. 64% of residents indicated they were satisfied with the choice and quality of housing available in North Tyneside, however satisfaction with the choice and quality of private rented homes is significantly lower. Continuing to improve the private rented sector in the borough remains a key priority within our Housing Strategy.

2.4 Human rights

Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights, (the Convention) which is incorporated into the Human Rights Act 1998, states that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life and their home and correspondence.

Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Convention relates to the protection of property and states that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions.

Both the Housing Strategy and the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy were developed having regard to the human rights of those who would be affected by the implementation of each Strategy.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment covering both strategies has been completed and confirms that no negative impacts are identified, this can be found in Appendix 3 of this report. Individual Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out on all potential projects and policies resulting from the Strategies.

The Strategies were developed having due regard to the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

2.6 Risk management

Risks associated with the Housing Strategy 2022-28 and Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2028 have been considered.

2.7 Crime and disorder

Both strategies emphasise the need to prevent homelessness and end rough sleeping, although rough sleeping numbers remain low, the perception is that rough sleeping and street activity can make areas feel unsafe. There is also a commitment to continue to tackle anti-social behaviour to improve communities.

The Housing Strategy supports the delivery of high-quality homes and improving communities and the built environment. This includes designing homes and communities that consider the impact of crime and disorder through planning requirements and ensuring that homes are sustainable and safe.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

The Authority declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and the Housing Strategy 2023-2028 encompasses a theme around greener homes to support carbon zero by 2030. Housing is one of the main producers of greenhouse gases, so commitments have been put in place such as new council homes to be free from fossil fuels from 2025, having a fabric first approach on retro fittings and continue to maximise grant funding. These will also contribute to the wider Authority carbon zero 2030 plan.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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

A Housing Strategy for North Tyneside 2023-2028

Our housing strategy will support the Council's ambition to **Build a Better North Tyneside** by delivering the following key priorities:

- Provide 5,000 affordable homes
- Support regeneration of the Borough
- Reduce derelict and empty properties
- Low carbon homes
- Continue to improve standards in the private rented sector
- Prevent homelessness and meet specialist housing needs
- Provide support and advice to tenants and residents
- Create safe and welcoming communities and tackle anti-social behaviour

Our themes and actions

Deliver more affordable homes and support regeneration plans

- Deliver 5,000 affordable homes
- An affordability plan to increase low-cost home ownership
- Increase delivery through the North Tyneside Trading Company
- Identify new opportunities to accelerate housing delivery
- Work with our strategic partners to access Brownfield Funding and other grant opportunities to support the delivery of new homes
- Develop housing-led regeneration plans and focus on opportunities in our town centres

Prevent homelessness and improve our specialist housing offer

- Review our approach to end rough sleeping
- Improve our accommodation offer in the Borough
- Strengthen our collaborative partnerships to tackle homelessness
- Increase support for the mental health & wellbeing of our residents
- Refresh the Market Position Statement to identify future specialist need

Improve the private rented sector and tackle derelict properties

- Continue to reduce the number of long-term empty homes
- Target derelict homes and commercial properties
- Continue to work with private landlords to drive up quality in the private rented sector
- Develop new, innovative solutions to reduce the number of derelict properties
- Explore options for a new Landlord Accreditation and Licensing Schemes

Lead the way - greener homes to support carbon net-zero by 2030

- Ensure all new Council homes are built to 2025 standards and free from fossil fuel
- Improve energy efficiency of our existing stock
- Promote a fabric first approach and explore retrofit options for Council homes
- Maximise grant funding to deliver energy efficiency measures in homes across the Borough
- Work with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to develop a framework for low carbon energy installers
- Explore finance models to provide greener energy measures in homes

Support our tenants and residents and improve our communities

- Provide support and advice to tackle fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis
- Continue to meet the decent homes standard in all Council homes
- Ensure our communities are kept clean, safe and welcoming
- Continue to target and tackle anti-social behaviour
- Support our Armed Forces veterans
- Increase support and advice to residents to maintain their independence and remain in their homes
- Continue to develop our approach to tenant, resident and service user engagement

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Housing Strategy 2023–2028

Building a Better
North Tyneside



North
Tyneside
Council

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce our new Housing Strategy, Building a Better North Tyneside. This Strategy outlines our vision of aspiring to provide high quality homes that meet the needs and requirements of all our residents.

North Tyneside is a fantastic place to live, work and visit and it is unsurprising that demand for all types of homes remains high. I recognise the importance of diversity of tenure and my ambition is to deliver real housing choice for all.

We will continue our progress to deliver 5,000 affordable homes and through this Strategy will focus on driving up standards in the private rented sector, encouraging developers to build quality homes for sale and recognising the need for low-cost home ownership.

We recognise that there are substantial challenges. The global pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis has impacted everyone. We know that fuel poverty is increasing, and we have seen more people present as homeless than ever before. All these challenges continue to lead to a high demand for affordable homes.

Our demographics are changing, and this Strategy will ensure that we continue to provide homes that meet a range of health and age-related needs and reaffirm our commitment to supporting our most vulnerable residents access the right type of homes and support that they need.

I am proud that the Council continues to lead the way in working towards a zero-carbon Borough and this Strategy provides a platform for the long-term role that housing can play in supporting this ambition and meeting the climate emergency.

Our Strategy recognises the importance of creating and sustaining communities. It is aligned to our regeneration and economic ambitions within the Our North Tyneside Plan and supports our drive to reduce derelict and empty properties in the Borough.

Finally, I believe that good quality housing supports people and families to thrive and can drive economic prosperity. Our Strategy makes it clear that quality housing is more than 'bricks and mortar' and is essential to providing a secure foundation for good health, wellbeing, education and access to employment.

Cllr John Harrison
Cabinet Member responsible for Housing
North Tyneside Council



Introduction

Homes are a basic human need and a vital part of people's lives. Everyone deserves to have a safe, secure, affordable, and comfortable home to live in. Housing directly impacts our health, and our ability to access education, employment, and health services. Quality housing provides a sense of security and a stable environment for our children to grow up in, whilst helping to build strong communities.

Building on our successes to date, our Strategy sets out the range of activities that the Council and our partners will undertake over the next five years.

It recognises the challenges that we face and is set within the context of national policy changes affecting housing, social care, and planning.

We know the importance of listening to our residents and we have developed this Strategy by using feedback from the Residents' Survey, and consulted with our tenants and stakeholders to develop key themes that provide a consistent approach to our strategic housing delivery.

It is our ambition that through this Strategy we will *build a better North Tyneside* and ensure that our residents can enjoy housing of good quality, that meets their needs irrespective of the tenure they live in.



Key Strategic Drivers

Our Strategy is informed by current and emerging national and local policies including:

National

- Social Housing White Paper
- Health & Social Care White Paper
- A Fairer Private Rented Sector White Paper
- Levelling up Agenda
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Homelessness Reduction Act

Local

- North of Tyne Combined Authority Devolution
- North Tyneside Local Plan
- Climate Emergency Declaration
- North Tyneside's Equally Well Plan
- Emerging Fuel Poverty Plan

Our North Tyneside Plan

2021 TO 2025 | BUILDING A BETTER NORTH TYNESIDE

The Our North Tyneside Council Plan outlines a vision of building a better North Tyneside looking to the future; and listening to and working better for residents.

The plan features five themes that reflect your priorities aimed at creating a North Tyneside that is thriving, family-friendly, caring, secure and green. Each of these five themes has a clear set of policy priorities.

A thriving North Tyneside



We will regenerate the high streets of North Shields and Wallsend, and in addition to the Master Plan for North Shields, we will bring forward Master Plans for Wallsend and Whitley Bay town centre areas. We will also bring investment and improvements to the North West area of the borough and ensure that regeneration delivers ambition, opportunity and benefits for all of our residents;



We will bring more good quality jobs to North Tyneside – by helping local businesses to grow and making it attractive for new businesses to set up or relocate in the borough



We will invest in adult education and to support apprenticeships to make sure people have the right skills for the job



We will keep our libraries and leisure centres open as part of a vibrant range of cultural and sporting activities to support the health and wellbeing of our residents;



We will continue to be the destination of choice for visitors through the promotion of North Tyneside's award-winning parks, beaches, festivals and seasonal activities



We will reduce the number of derelict properties across the borough



We will review how the council purchases and contracts for goods and services to maximise value for money, social value and environmental sustainability

A secure North Tyneside



Council wardens will work in partnership with Northumbria Police to prevent and tackle all forms of antisocial behaviour;



We will continue to invest £2m per year in fixing our roads and pavements



We will maintain the Council Tax support scheme that cuts bills for thousands of households across North Tyneside



We will tackle health and socio-economic inequalities across the borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty; and



We will provide 5000 affordable homes

A family-friendly North Tyneside



We will support local schools, making sure all children have access to a high-quality education with opportunities to catch up where needed after the pandemic



We will provide outstanding children's services, events and facilities so North Tyneside is a great place for family life



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

A caring North Tyneside



We will provide great care to all who need it, with extra support available all the way through to the end of the pandemic



We will work with the care provision sector to improve the working conditions of care workers;



People will be cared for, protected and supported if they become vulnerable, including if they become homeless



We will support local community groups and the essential work they do



We will work to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination and ensure the social rights of the people of North Tyneside are key to council decision making

A green North Tyneside



We will keep increasing the amount of waste that can be recycled and introduce food waste collections and deposit return schemes



Council environmental hit squads will crack down on littering



We will secure funding to help low income households to install low-carbon heating;



We will increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling, including providing a segregated cycleway at the coast



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



**Building a better North Tyneside:
A Housing Strategy 2023–28**

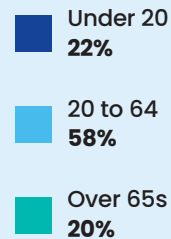
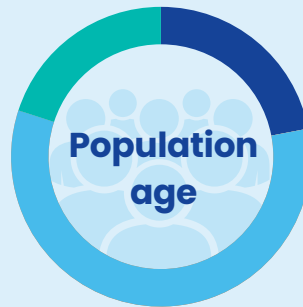
**Homelessness Prevention and
Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–28**

Our North Tyneside

Our People

Population

2011 Census	200,800
2021 Census	209,900
2031 projected	219,200



Source: ONS, 2021



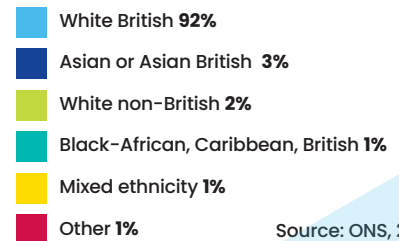
Average life expectancy is
79 years
in North Tyneside

Source: ONS, 2021



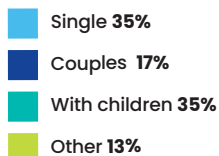
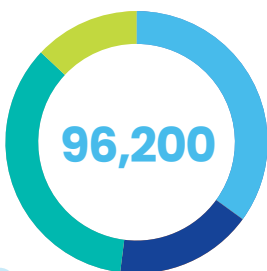
Average income
in the Borough is
£25,700

Source: CAMEO UK 2021



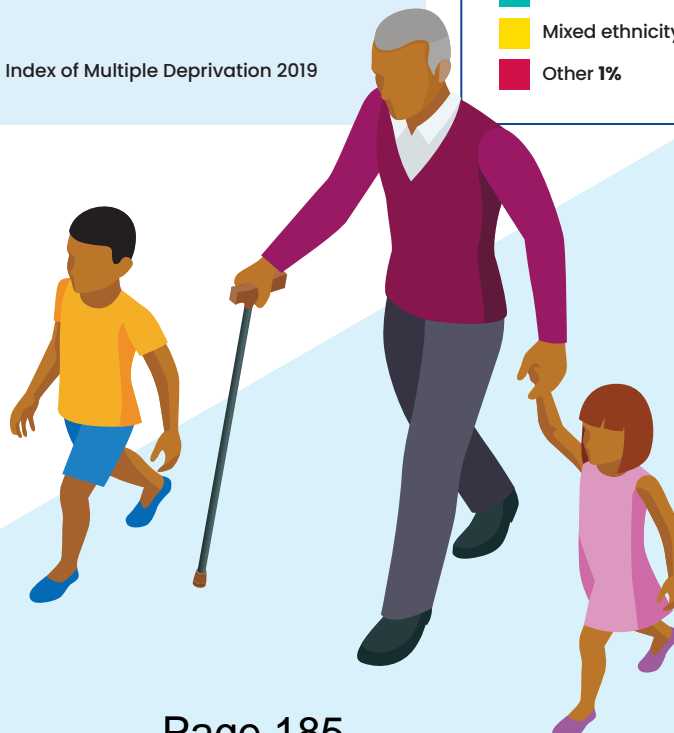
Source: ONS, 2021

Number of households



North Tyneside is
128th most deprived
of 317 UK authorities

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

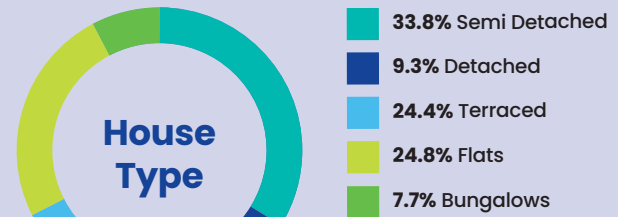
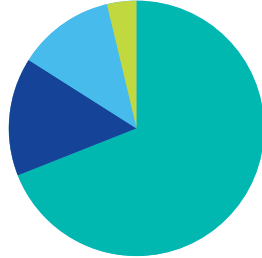


Our Homes

Tenure

100,000 homes in North Tyneside, of which:

- 64%** Owner-occupied
- 20%** Social rent
- 15%** Private rented
- 1%** Shared ownership



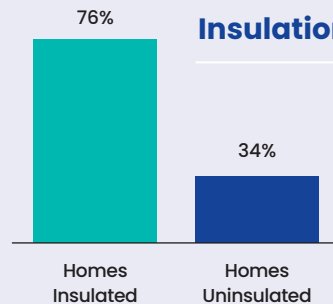
Source: Home Analytics Housing Stock Database, 2022

Property Age

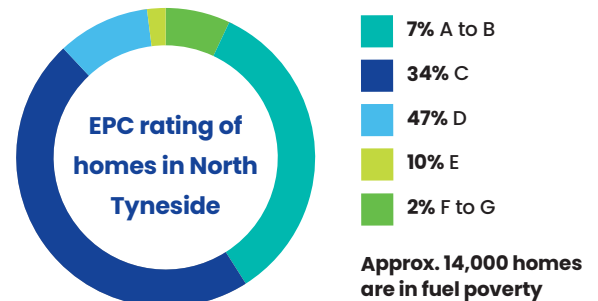
Pre-1900	5%
1900 to 1949	34%
1950 to 1995	51%
Post 1996	10%

Source: Home Analytics Housing Stock Database, 2022

Insulation



EPC rating of homes in North Tyneside



Source: Home Analytics Housing Stock Database, 2022

Housing Market & Affordability

Average price of a home £240,000

Detached	£375,000
Semi Detached	£244,000
Terraced	£246,000
Flat / Apartment	£131,000

Source: Land Registry price-paid data, Q2 2022

Average private rent £608

1 bed	£462
2 bed	£560
3 bed	£721
4 bed	£1,016

Source: VOA, 2022

The **average house price** is **5.8 times** the average annual income in North Tyneside

Source: ONS 2021

In 2021/22, **624 new homes were built**, of which **266 were affordable**

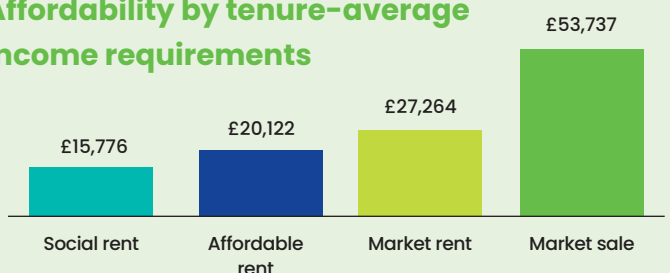
Source: Planning and affordable homes programme data, 2021

Long term empty homes have decreased from **1,256 since 2019 to 853**

Source: Council Tax data, 2022



Affordability by tenure-average income requirements



Source: SHMA, 2021

Housing Need

4,946

households are registered on the Council's Choice Based Letting scheme

Source: Homefinder, 2021

Each Council home, on average, attracts

34 bids

477 affordable homes are required each year

2,675 specialist homes for older people are required by 2039

Source: SHMA 2021

799 new homes

are required each year until 2039

Source: SHMA 2021



Homelessness

In 2021/22, there were **2,007 homelessness presentations**, compared to **1,786 the previous year**

Source: Housing Options data

411 cases of homelessness were prevented in 2021/22

341 people were placed in temporary accommodation in 2021/22, compared to 304 in 2020/21

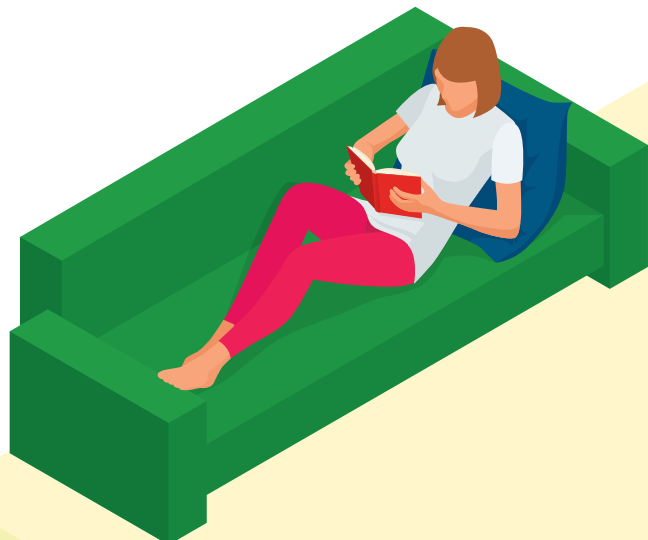
Source: Housing options teams data

7 rough sleepers

in the Borough during 2021/22

Main reason for homelessness from 2019–22 was being asked to leave by family and friends

Source: Housing options teams data



Building a Better North Tyneside

– Delivery Themes

Our vision is to '**Build a Better North Tyneside**' by aspiring to provide high quality homes that meet the needs and requirements of all our residents. The policy context, evidence and consultation have led us to identify five key themes of the Strategy.

1. Deliver Affordable Homes and Support Regeneration Plans
2. Prevent Homelessness and Improve our Specialist Housing Offer
3. Improve the Private Rented Sector and Tackle Derelict Properties
4. Lead the Way – Greener Homes to Support Carbon Net-Zero by 2030
5. Support our Tenants and Residents and Improve Our Communities



1. Deliver Affordable Homes and Support Regeneration Plans

Our population continues to grow, and demand is high for all types of housing. With the rising cost of living and an increase in house prices, the Council has set an ambitious target of delivering 5,000 affordable homes.

Land availability remains a challenge and options to use brownfield sites will continue to be explored. We will work with a wide range of partners, including our wholly owned subsidiary housing companies, and will consider innovative new models for delivery.

Our plans recognise the importance that housing plays in regeneration, and we will ensure that housing will be central in the Council's regeneration master plans.

How will we achieve this?

- Deliver the Affordable Homes Programme
- Implement an affordability plan to access low-cost home ownership
- Work with our strategic partners to access brownfield funding and other grant opportunities to support the delivery of new homes in the right places
- Increase delivery and innovation through the North Tyneside Trading Company
- Deliver housing growth through the Local Plan and accelerate delivery of pipeline sites
- Develop housing-led regeneration plans and focus on opportunities in our town centres



2. Prevent Homelessness and Improve our Specialist Housing Offer

Homelessness is a complex issue that can have a detrimental effect on people and families for many years. Our Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–28 recognises the challenges and provides a whole system approach to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, providing support to our residents.

This strategy recognises the need to plan strategically to provide a wide range of accommodation that meets the needs of different client groups, both now and in the future.

Care and support needs change over a person's life and demand for supported housing is increasing. This includes planning for an ageing population and those with more complex needs relating to homelessness, mental health, learning disabilities and autism.

How will we achieve this?

- Review our approach to ending rough sleeping
- Improve our accommodation offer in the Borough
- Strengthen our collaborative partnerships to tackle homelessness
- Increase support for the mental health and wellbeing of our residents
- Refresh the Market Position Statement to identify future specialist need



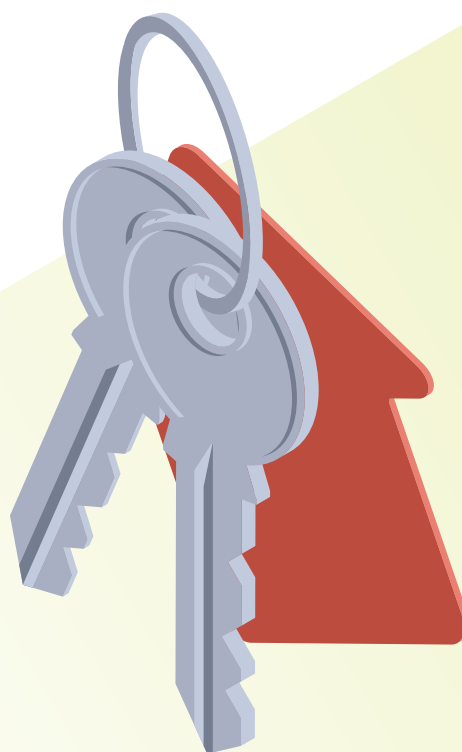
3. Improve our Private Rented Sector and Tackle Derelict and Empty Properties

There are many wider social, economic and environmental benefits of tackling empty properties. We will continue to target derelict and empty properties, work with private landlords and owner-occupiers to further reduce the number in the Borough. Where possible, bring them back into use as affordable homes.

Poor quality private rented housing can have a damaging effect on people's health. Through this Strategy, we will focus on improving landlord relationships and exploring new schemes to drive up standards in the private rented sector.

How will we achieve this?

- Continue to reduce the number of long-term empty homes
- Target derelict homes and commercial properties
- Continue to work with private landlords to drive up quality in the private rented sector
- Develop new, innovative solutions to reduce the number of derelict properties
- Explore options for a new Landlord Accreditation and Licensing Schemes



4. Lead the Way – Greener Homes to Support Carbon Net-zero by 2030

North Tyneside Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and ambitious targets have been set to reduce our carbon footprint.

We know that 22% of carbon emissions come from the way homes are powered and heated. In North Tyneside, 13% of homes are in fuel poverty and 59% of homes have a lower energy efficiency rating of D-G. Owner occupiers and private rented properties have higher levels of fuel poverty. The Council will continue to lead the way and build new homes free from fossil fuel and use new, modern methods of construction to deliver energy efficient homes.

How will we achieve this?

- Ensure all new Council homes are built to 2025 standards and free from fossil fuel
- Improve energy efficiency of our existing stock
- Promote a fabric first approach and explore retrofit options for Council homes
- Maximise grant funding to deliver energy efficiency measures in homes across the Borough
- Work with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to develop a framework for low carbon energy installers
- Explore finance models to provide greener energy measures in homes



5. Support our Tenants and Residents and Improve our Communities

Housing plays a major part in the appearance, quality, and attractiveness of neighbourhoods and the overall wellbeing of our communities. This Strategy will support our work to create safe, healthy, sustainable places and communities as outlined in our Equally Well Plan 2021-25.

The Strategy recognises the impact that the rising cost of living is having on many of our residents, and continuing to provide advice and support for people in need is a clear priority.

We know that our residents prefer to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes for as long as safely possible. To support this, we will continue to focus on providing advice and support and, where possible, provide aids and adaptations to achieve this.

The Social Housing White Paper clearly sets out a commitment to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to and live in good quality homes. We will continue to engage with our tenants, residents, and service users to ensure that our homes and services are to a high level of satisfaction.

How will we achieve this?

- Provide support and advice to tackle fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis
- Continue to meet the Decent Homes Standard in all Council homes
- Ensure our communities are kept clean, safe and welcoming
- Continue to target and tackle anti-social behaviour
- Support Veterans of our Armed Forces
- Increase support and advice to residents to maintain their independence and remain in their homes
- Continue to develop our approach to tenant, resident and service user engagement



Tracking our Progress

To contribute to the success of the Strategy we will develop an annual action plan with our partners. Within each of the five themes of the Strategy, a set of actions are identified, and a more detailed action plan or measures will be developed to clearly set out how these can be achieved, linking it back to the Our North Tyneside Plan.

Our progress will be reported on an annual basis to Housing Sub Committee and be reviewed by Cabinet. An annual review will be published on our website, and we will continue to consider feedback from all our residents to develop the next annual action plan.



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 call (0191) 643 6202.

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A Homelessness Strategy for North Tyneside 2023-2028

Our Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy will support the Council's ambition to **Building a Better North Tyneside** through contribution to the following Council Plan priorities:

- We will maintain the Council Tax support scheme that cuts bills for thousands of households across North Tyneside
- We will tackle health and socio-economic inequalities across the Borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty
- People will be cared for, protected, and supported if they become vulnerable, including if they become homeless
- We will support local community groups and the essential work they do
- We will work to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, and ensure the social rights of the people of North Tyneside are key to Council decision making

Our themes and actions

End Rough Sleeping

- Complete a review of our rough sleeping support offer
- Introduce a new approach to data collection to inform our response to rough sleeping
- Research and introduce new approaches to prevent rough sleeping
- Explore accommodation pathways for rough sleepers

Our Accommodation Offer

- Deliver an improved accommodation offer
- Introduce new options to support tenancy sustainment
- Review our outreach support offer to ensure we continue to meet our clients' needs
- Work with specialist housing commissioners to identify further service needs
- Continue to improve the private rented offer and work collaboratively with landlords and tenants

Collaborative Partnerships

- Continue to strengthen our local and regional partnerships to tackle homelessness
- Work with our partners to identify further funding opportunities
- Actively promote homeless related services and signposting to partners
- Review our service information and ensure that it is accessible to all

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North Tyneside

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2028



North
Tyneside
Council

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce our latest five-year Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Over the last three years we, along with our partners, have faced increased challenges in supporting some of our most vulnerable residents, none more so than throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We can be proud of our response to Government-led initiatives during this time, particularly 'Everyone In', ensuring everyone rough sleeping or at risk of rooflessness was offered and provided with emergency accommodation. Our partners also deserve recognition as they worked tirelessly to maintain their service delivery within safe environments.

The priorities that shape this Strategy build on our progress over the last few years. We will strengthen our funding successes and invest in services and provision that contribute to preventing homelessness and minimise the risk of rough sleeping. Our accommodation pathway out of homelessness has already been enhanced, with the introduction of safe bed spaces to assist someone off the street and self-contained properties to support the transition through to independence.

We cannot deliver services in isolation. Our partners' contribution to supporting people through a very complicated period of their lives cannot be underestimated. We will continue to work with a wide range of organisations and agencies to provide a transparent approach to our homelessness response.

Finally, North Tyneside is a great place to live, and this opportunity must be available to all our residents. This Strategy links to the Our North Tyneside Plan and other Council strategies. Its introduction will support our ambition to achieve those priorities and ultimately ensure that everyone has the chance to live in their own safe and affordable home, within a sustainable community, and have access to services that promote and encourage health, wellbeing and training and employment prospects.

Cllr John Harrison
Cabinet Member responsible for Housing
North Tyneside Council



1. Introduction

The **Homelessness Act 2002** places a statutory duty on all local housing authorities to carry out a homelessness review for their area and, in consultation with local partners and stakeholders, formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years.

The **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** introduced new legal duties for housing authorities, making amendments to the Housing Act 1996 Part 7 (Homelessness). This focuses on the prevention and relief of homelessness, regardless of priority status and providing personal housing plans. This is reflected in our Strategy and our ways of working.



2. National Policy

Our last Strategy was published in 2019. Since then, there have been changes to national policy and legal context that may have an impact on how local authorities deliver housing and homelessness services. These include:

The Tenants Fee Act 2019: Applies to new or renewed tenancies from 1 June 2019. The aim of the Act is to reduce the upfront fees and ongoing tenancy costs, with responsible payment transparency from the start for tenants.

The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper 2020: Sets out the actions that Government will look to introduce to ensure that social housing is safe to live in, residents are listened to, the provision of good quality homes, and there is opportunity for change when things go wrong.

Building Safety Act 2022: Gives homeowners and residents more rights, powers, and protection so homes are safer.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021: Enacted January 2022, it is the first Act to include a legal definition of domestic abuse and recognises all the forms that domestic abuse can take. It introduces a statutory duty on local authorities to support survivors of domestic abuse.

Fairer Private Rented White Paper 2022: Aims to redress the balance between landlords and private renters, through support for cost-of-living pressures and new measures to tackle unfair rents.

Ending Rough Sleeping 2022: Building on the progress made since the introduction of the Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, this Strategy sets out how Government will take action to end rough sleeping, with key themes being prevention, intervention, and recovery.

Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation. Children's Social Care Reform 2023: Provides context to the barriers faced by care leavers in securing and maintaining affordable housing and places them at greater risk of homelessness. Alongside the Joint Housing Protocols for Care Leavers 2020, the Strategy focuses on increasing the number of care leavers in safe, suitable accommodation and reducing care leaver homelessness.

3. North Tyneside Context

The **Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021–2025** has five themes to help create a North Tyneside that is thriving, family-friendly, caring, secure and green. The plan builds on the success of previous ones and recognises the challenges faced both now and in the future. 'We listen, we care' is our **Customer Promise** and has been developed based on what our residents have told us. This sets out what customers can expect from the Authority, as well as providing direction to give feedback across all of our services, including Homelessness.

Our work around homelessness is complemented by a number of strategies and policies within Housing Services, which include:

North Tyneside Tenancy Strategy 2021–2025: Provides guidance to registered providers operating in the Borough, including our own landlord function. The Strategy emphasises the need to make best use of the housing stock to meet local housing need, maintain and create successful, sustainable communities and prevent homelessness.

North Tyneside Allocations Policy 2019 and 2021 review: Explains how people can access secure, suitable and affordable social sector homes within North Tyneside. A banding structure is in place, that includes recognition for North Tyneside residents, including those who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness.

North Tyneside Environmental Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Policy 2020: Sets out how, in partnership, the Authority will respond to low level environmental crime and tackle anti-social behaviour.

North Tyneside Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy (refreshed 2021): Details our response to domestic abuse disclosures.

4. Review of the North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019–2021

4.1 Achievements

The Authority has continued to work with its partners within the Borough and the wider region to deliver new initiatives, create specialist roles, promote continuous engagement, and strengthen working relationships and partnerships. This includes:

Specialist roles

- A Homelessness Support Officer to work with current and former rough sleepers, and those at risk of rough sleeping.
- A Single Person Support Officer to provide support to individuals to resolve their housing crisis.
- A Mental Health Officer to provide guidance to both officers and clients.
- A Domestic Abuse Housing Outreach Officer to work with both officers and families.
- A Private Rented Officer, whose offer has been expanded to support customers to access and sustain accommodation.

Services

- A Homeless Response Service, including outreach to locate and engage with rough sleepers and deliver brief interventions.
- Provision of a sit-up service in a local resource hall for rough sleepers during periods of severe weather.
- A multi-service drop in/hub facility for current and former rough sleepers, those at risk of rough sleeping or living in insecure accommodation.
- Delivery of homelessness and housing educational sessions by a partner into schools and colleges.
- Introduction of an intensive support package for rough sleepers, linked with an accommodation offer.

Accommodation

- Proactive engagement with bed and breakfast and hotel establishments to increase the number of businesses who will accept homeless households.
- Introduction of Somewhere Safe to Stay bedspaces to improve the housing pathway with an immediate offer off the streets or to avoid rough sleeping.
- Funding through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) to increase the number of dispersed properties available to homeless households.
- Enhanced the accommodation pathway offer with the introduction of five properties through the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP).
- Supported a partner's funding application to purchase properties in North Tyneside to assist with move-on from supported housing.
- Recommissioned supported housing provision for 16–24 year-olds and over-25s.

And...

- Accessed funding to assist people off the streets and into temporary accommodation, travel costs to reconnect to their home area if safe to do so, and basic provisions.
- Extended our membership with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, accessing tools and resources to support the delivery of services.
- Received recognition from Government advisors for our web pages on homelessness and the information provided to assist those in need of housing advice, which have been cited as best practice.
- Transferred the homelessness out of hours service to an in-house contact centre.
- The introduction of a 0800 Freephone number for those with limited finances and at risk of homelessness to contact the local authority on.

4.2 Current picture

4.2.1 Housing Options (homelessness)

The Housing Options Team (homelessness) is the first point of contact for any resident in need of free, independent advice regarding their current housing situation. A triage system identifies and prioritises those who require an appointment and have any queries that can be resolved through the provision of advice. Roofless presentations are dealt with the same day.

Located within the team are several specialist posts that support the delivery of a seamless and integrated service.

4.2.2 Access to homeless services

We collect and analyse data across our homeless service. Some of the outcomes of our work are reflected in the data and it also helps inform our priorities.

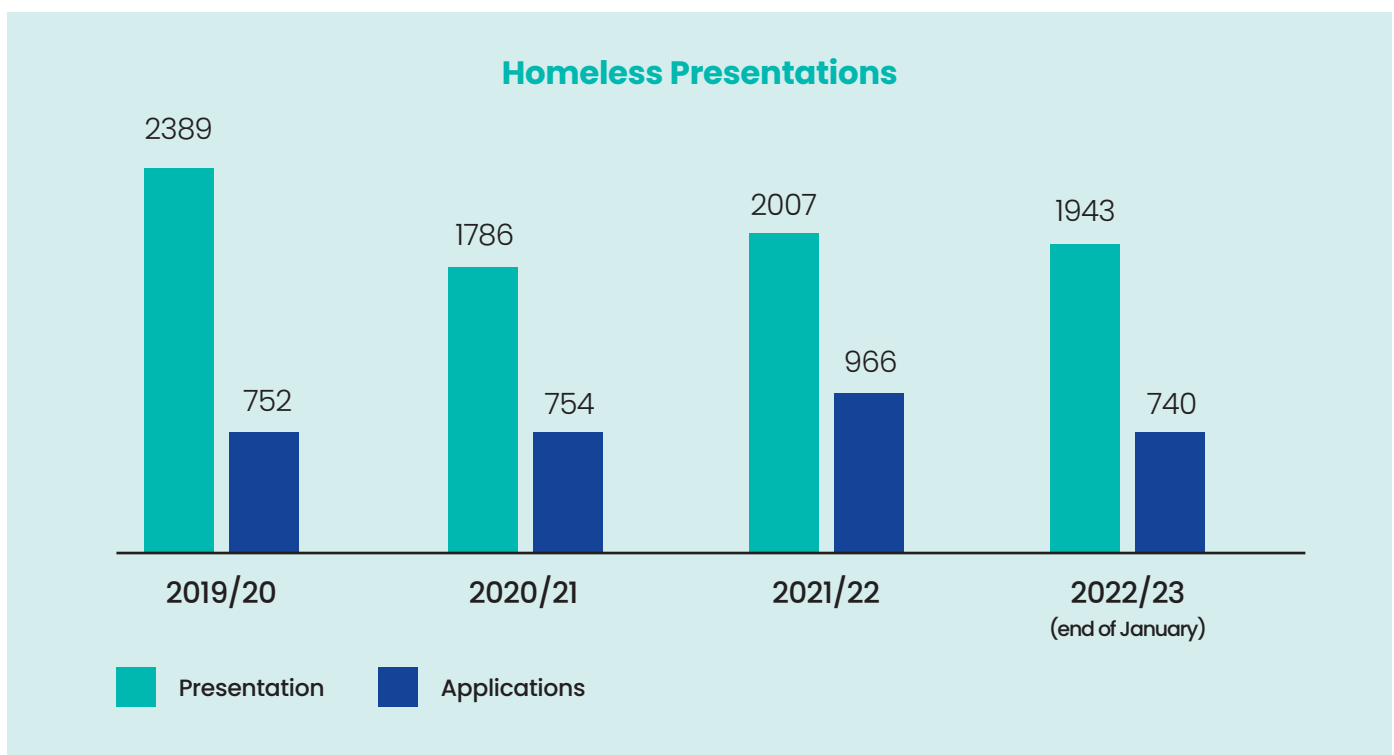
4.2.3 Homeless presentations

We offer housing advice to our customers who are at risk of homelessness, threatened with homelessness, or believe they currently are homeless, all of which are represented as a homeless presentation.

The response to a homeless presentation is tailored to individual circumstances and follows relevant legislation and code of guidance. The majority of cases are resolved with housing advice, with a fewer number of cases progressing to a full homeless application.

The main reason for presentations were:

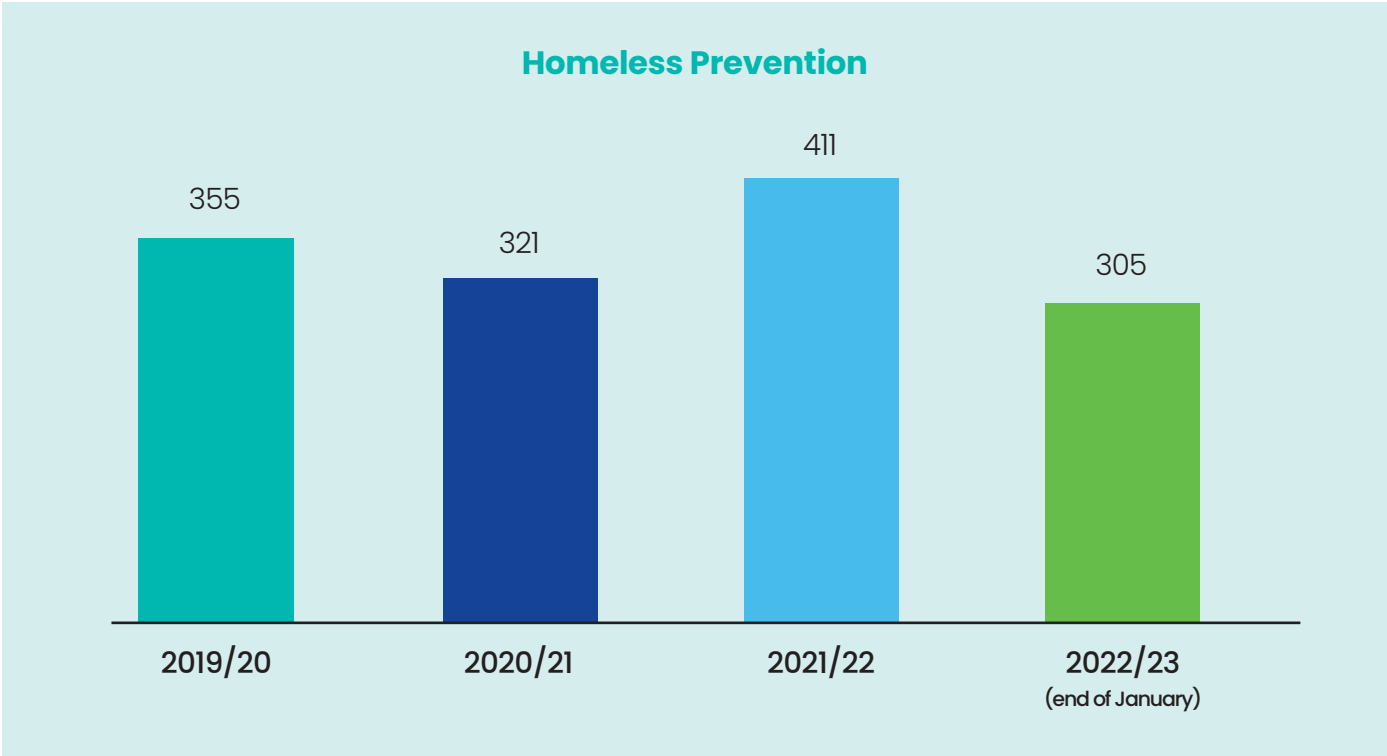
- 2019/20 – End of assured shorthold tenancy
- 2020/21 – Asked to leave by family
- 2021/22 – Asked to leave by family
- 2022/23 – End of assured shorthold tenancy



4.2.4 Prevention

We encourage early presentations to the service, as this helps support the prevention of homelessness. Prevention is the first option we explore with our customers.

We use a range of measures such mediation with family members, financial support or negotiation with private landlords to help sustain current accommodation.



4.2.5 Temporary accommodation

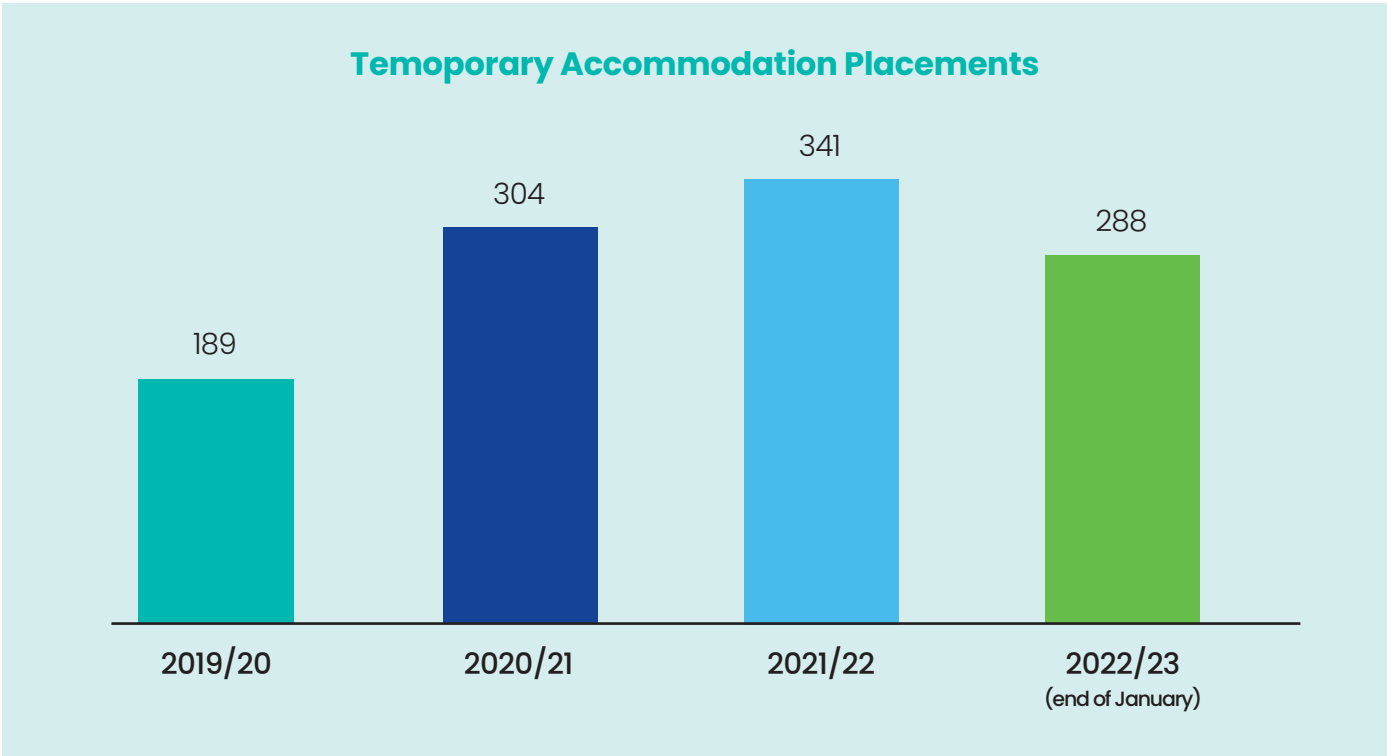
A specialist temporary emergency accommodation team is responsible for arranging emergency and temporary accommodation and providing support for the duration of the placement.

Households are placed in temporary accommodation if there is a duty to do so, i.e. they are believed to be eligible, homeless and likely to be in priority need while their application is dealt with, or it has not been possible to prevent or relieve their homelessness and they have been accepted as homeless and in priority need.

Temporary accommodation is provided until the Council’s statutory duty comes to an end, normally through a household moving into a permanent home.

Temporary accommodation is provided through our existing social housing stock, with furnished homes dispersed throughout the Borough. Only in exceptional circumstances is bed and breakfast or hotel accommodation used for homeless applicants. If there is no provision available in North Tyneside, or it is not safe to remain in the area, then a placement is secured out of area. The household is moved back to North Tyneside as soon as it is possible to do so, where it is appropriate.

The Covid-19 pandemic and Government initiative of ‘Everyone In’, which ensured no one was left on the streets or without a roof over their head during periods of national and local lockdowns, resulted in an increase in the number of households placed in temporary accommodation. Numbers have since fallen, but remain higher than prior to 2020.

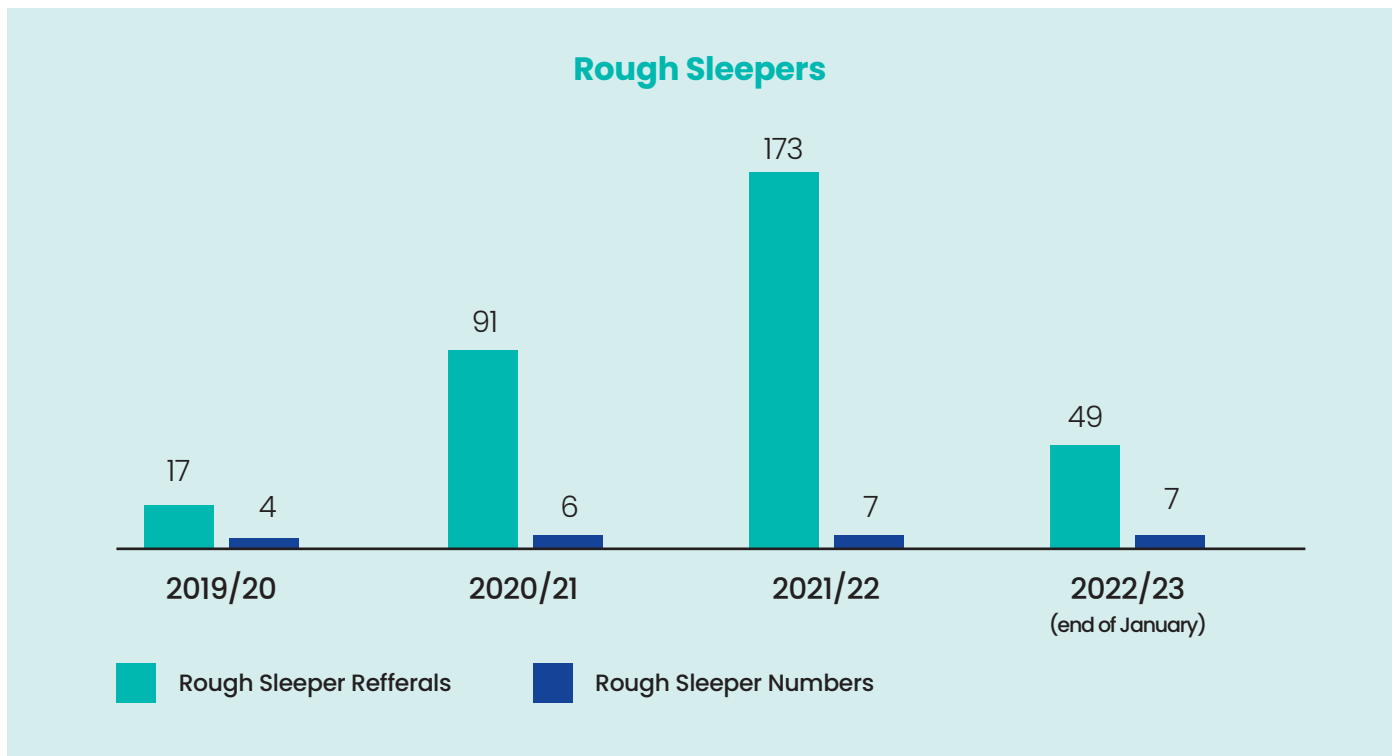


4.2.6 Rough sleeping

North Tyneside Council provides an immediate response to reports of rough sleepers, working in partnership with commissioned services.

The service offers a personalised approach to current and former rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. This has ensured there is a specialist service available to some of our most vulnerable residents when they need it most. This has resulted in no rough sleepers currently reported in North Tyneside.

A bi-monthly rough sleeping count, or estimate, takes place to monitor levels of rough sleeping and identify hotspots. This work is supported by the Government requirement to submit an annual figure to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) indicating the number of people sleeping rough on an agreed typical night. This is carried out between 1 October and 30 November.



4.2.7 Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

There are no legal requirements placed on local authorities to provide shelter to rough sleepers during periods of severe weather. This includes extreme cold, high winds, heavy rain, and heat. However, providing shelter to rough sleepers in these conditions feels the right thing to do and our Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) sets out the arrangements that we implement to ensure that rough sleepers, or those at risk of rough sleeping, can access a safe shelter when the protocol is activated.

5. Our Priorities

Homelessness is more than not having a home. The associated underlying issues and complexities can have a detrimental effect that can stay with someone for several years.

Our priorities have been shaped and agreed by recent legislative changes, review of our achievements, outcomes and challenges identified throughout the lifespan of the previous Strategy.

Engagement has also taken place with organisations that deliver and/or support the preventing homeless agenda, residents and – most importantly – customers of the services to gather their views.

Consideration has also been given to the economic crisis, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lessons learned from service delivery.

Priority one: Ending rough sleeping

This priority focuses on ending rough sleeping in North Tyneside, with improved intervention to prevent rough sleeping in the first instance.

People living in unsuitable accommodation, sofa surfing or hidden households continue to mask the risk of individuals ending up rough sleeping or intermittently rough sleeping.

The commissioning of dedicated rough sleeping services and the personalised approach to working with current and former rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, has ensured there is a specialist service available to some of our most vulnerable residents when they need it most.

To support our commitment to ending rough sleeping, we need to know where people are, why they are falling into rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping, and review and revise our response and any interim accommodation offer.

Key actions:

- Complete a review of our rough sleeping support offer
- Introduce a new approach to data collection to inform our response to rough sleeping
- Research and introduce new approaches to prevent rough sleeping
- Explore accommodation pathways for rough sleepers

Priority two: The accommodation offer

This priority focuses on temporary, supported, and permanent housing, for all of our customers, including specialist groups such as care leavers, young people and survivors of domestic abuse.

If there is reason to believe that a homeless applicant may be in priority need, then temporary accommodation will be offered and provided.

The demand for social and affordable homes continues to exceed supply. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2021 confirms that there is an annual need of 477 affordable homes.

Suitable, affordable housing for under 35-year-olds continues to be a pressure. The lack of one-bedroom properties and the local housing allowance rates applied to private properties restricts housing options for this cohort.

Some vulnerable client groups are at a greater risk of homelessness and/or repeated housing instability. Therefore, a housing pathway including various options needs to be available to them. Some of our most vulnerable groups may include:

- Young people, including care leavers
- Substance misusers
- Those with an offending history
- Survivors of domestic abuse
- Those with a mental health issue
- Those with complex needs, including one or more of the above

In addition to the supported housing schemes for single person households delivered through our commissioned partnerships, the accommodation pathway has expanded to include somewhere safe to stay bed spaces and self-contained supported housing for current and former rough sleepers.

The somewhere safe to stay beds introduce an immediate offer to help someone off the streets or prevent being on the streets. They provide a safe, supported place for an agreed period until suitable move-on accommodation can be sourced.

The self-contained supported properties for rough sleepers are available for up to two years and enable someone to develop their life skills and sustain a home, in preparation for moving on into their own permanent independent property.

The commissioned partnerships also deliver outreach support to help someone through the first few weeks of their tenancy, or provide targeted intervention work to prevent someone from losing their home.

When the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is activated, the accommodation offer is a 'sit-up service' delivered through community volunteers. There is no night shelter provision at other times of the year, therefore this will be explored.

The private sector housing market has been increasingly competitive. Engagement with the sector will be strengthened to support both landlords and tenants, through the provision of timely advice to prevent a housing crisis and increase successful housing outcomes.

Key actions:

- Deliver an improved temporary accommodation offer
- Introduce new options to support and sustain accommodation
- Review our outreach support offer to ensure we continue to meet our clients' needs
- Work with specialist housing commissioners to identify further service needs
- Continue to improve the private rented offer and work collaboratively with landlords and tenants

Priority three: Collaborative partnerships

To improve how we tackle homelessness within North Tyneside, we recognise the importance of strengthening our existing relationships with partner agencies and all organisations that contribute to early intervention to prevent homelessness within the Borough.

We will also continue our regional work with local authority colleagues to collectively support ending rough sleeping, joint funding initiatives and preventing homelessness.

Linked to collaborative partnerships is effective communication and access to information for those in need of assistance. Ensuring information is easy to find and accessible to all may help prevent a housing crisis and someone becoming homeless. We promote our services and offer, so it is easy to know who to contact and where to signpost to.

Key actions:

- Continue to strengthen our local and regional partnerships to tackle homelessness
- Work with our partners to identify further funding opportunities
- Actively promote homeless-related services and signposting to partners
- Review our service information and ensure that it is accessible to all

6. Implementation of the Strategy

We will work with our partners to develop a delivery plan. This will be formed from the key actions in our priorities. The plan will be reviewed and revised each year to ensure any legislative changes are included.

The North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Partnership will monitor delivery of the plan.



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 call (0191) 643 6202.

Change Equality Impact Assessment's (EqIAs)

1. Proposal details		
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed (subsequently referred to as project)	Housing Strategy 2023-28 Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 Consultation for both strategies.	
Purpose of project	<p>North Tyneside Council's Housing Strategy 2023 – 2028 and The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy establish a plan for housing and homelessness over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The Homelessness Act 2022 places a statutory duty on local authorities to review their homelessness strategies at least every five years.</p>	
Who is the project intended to benefit?	These strategies will positively benefit all residents of North Tyneside. They consider the diverse needs of current and potential residents across all tenures and types of housing.	
What outcomes should be achieved?	<p>Each Strategy has key themes and actions to achieve. The Housing Strategy has 5 key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver more Affordable Homes and support regeneration plans 2. Prevent Homelessness and Improve our Specialist Housing Offer 3. Improve the Private Rented Sector and Tackle Derelict Properties 4. Lead the Way – Greener Homes to Support Carbon Zero by 2030 5. Support our tenants and residents and improving our communities <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy has 3 key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End Rough Sleeping 2. Our Accommodation Offer 3. Collaborative Partnerships 	
Version of EqIA	1	
Date this version created	15/12/2022	
Confidential	no	
Directorate	Housing and Property Services	
Service	Housing Strategy & Support	
	Name	Service or organisation
Principal author	Julia Orton	Housing Strategy
Additional authors	Richard Brook Rob Peach Fiona Robson Nicola Ross	Housing Strategy Housing Strategy Property Services Housing Options (homelessness)

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	North Tyneside's population is 200,800 (ONS 2021). Access to housing is open to all, people could be in any of the listed groups at some point in their lifetime and could have a high impact.
Carers or Family of Service Users	yes	As above
Residents	yes	As above
Visitors	no	
Staff	no	
Partner Organisations	yes	As above

3. Evidence Gathering and Engagement		
	Internal evidence	External Evidence
What evidence has been used for this assessment?	Our North Tyneside Plan Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2021 and its reviews Housing Strategy 2017-22 Affordable Homes Delivery Specialist Housing Market Position Statement Housing Register Data	Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Census Data Relevant National Legislation
Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this proposal?	yes	
If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?	Online survey consultation with residents (paper versions in libraries/customer first centres) Face to face focus group with residents Homelessness Service user questionnaire via our stakeholders Stakeholders survey Elected Members	
Is there any information you don't have?	no	
If yes, why is this information not available?		

4. Impact on Different Characteristics			
Legally Protected Characteristics	Potential Positive Impact Identified	Potential Negative Impact Identified	Description of the potential impact and evidence used
Age	yes	no	<p>The Housing strategy helps in planning for future housing need, Population of the borough has increased by 4% since 2011. The number of residents aged over 65 years and over has increased by 21% since 2011. As the population grows there will be an increased pressure to provide the right types of homes in the right places for our residents. Young people are finding increasingly difficult to access the housing market, people are living longer, the ageing population will need more accommodation options.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy aims to prevent homelessness and assist adults of any age.</p> <p>Consultation was carried out both online and face to face to capture different age groups. The focus group was held on an evening to accommodate working adults.</p>
Disability	yes	no	<p>North Tyneside Council's Specialist Housing Market Position statement identified the demand for the provision of specialist homes in the Borough in the coming years. By establishing actions within the Strategy to support the development of such homes we will be able to suitably house vulnerable people in accommodation which suits their specific needs.</p> <p>Questionnaires were available in different formats on request and the needs of anyone who attended the focus group with a disability were met.</p>
Gender reassignment	no	no	There is no specific impact to gender reassignment for these strategies.
Marriage & civil partnership	no	no	N/A to these strategies
Pregnancy & Maternity	no	no	N/A to these strategies
Race	no	no	There is no specific impact to race for these strategies.
Religion or belief	no	no	There is no specific impact to religion or belief for these strategies.
Sex	no	no	There is no specific impact to sex for these strategies.
Sexual Orientation	no	no	There is no specific impact to sexual orientation for these strategies.
Intersectionality	no	no	There is no specific impact to intersectionality for these strategies.
Non-legally protected characteristic			
Carers	no	no	

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	yes	Society's perception of a homeless person and how they are often responded to can have a detrimental effect. The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy priorities aim to improve services and opportunities to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	<p>Our Housing and Homelessness Strategies aims to improve housing stock and housing options for all. They set out our strategic ambitions to better understand housing needs for all types of housing, across all tenures and groups of people. It sets out an aim to improve support, advice and assistance to all people across a range of housing services.</p> <p>The Housing and Homelessness Strategies are strategic documents and there will be further opportunities for engagement on specific issue and policies/plans that will sit underneath it, which will also be subject to an EqIA.</p>
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	<p>The Housing Strategy seeks to support, improve and regenerate our communities to thrive together. The Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy aims to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>One of the themes aims to improve our specialist housing offer this will aid community integration increasing awareness of our diverse population but and improving the quality of life of vulnerable people.</p> <p>Opportunities to foster good relations between groups will be achieved through specific policies and plans which will deliver the objectives of the housing strategy, which themselves will be subject to consultation and EqIA.</p>

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
Consultation opportunities for residents, stakeholders, service users, employees to comment on the proposed strategies.	J Orton		Housing Strategy	02/02/2023	yes
Consultation available in a range of formats to promote inclusivity.	J Orton		Housing Strategy	02/02/2023	yes
Actions already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible Officer Name		Responsible Officer Service Area	Impact	
To produce EqIA for any project or policy resulting from the Housing Strategy or Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2023-28 which will have an impact on anyone who identifies with one of the protected characteristics.	J Orton/ F Robson		Housing	remove	
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
There are no negative impacts identified.					
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
To promote positive impacts and success via annual strategy updates.	J Orton/ F Robson	Housing		31/03/2028	no
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
The themes within the strategies have action plans alongside them that will be monitored to ensure that they remain inclusive.	J Orton	Housing		quarterly	in progress

Date review of EqlA to be completed	Responsible Officer Name	Responsible Officer Service Area
31/03/2028	J Orton	Housing

8. Outcome of EqlA	
Outcome	Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion:
The proposal is robust, no major change is required	The strategies are inclusive to all.

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	Toby Hartigan-Brown
Date	17/01/2023

Section 10 Guidance

10. Director approval	
Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree
If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Director	Peter Mennell
Date	06/02/2023