

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 28 June 2021

Title: Council Plan Refresh

Portfolio(s): Corporate Strategy

Cabinet Member(s): Deputy Mayor

Report from Service Area: Corporate Strategy and Customer Service

Responsible Officer: Jackie Laughton (Tel : 0191 643 7075)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks Cabinet's approval to initial proposals for an updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan following the mayoral election in May 2021. It also seeks Cabinet's approval to carry out engagement with residents and other key stakeholders on these initial proposals.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approve

(1) the proposed updated content for the Our North Tyneside Council Plan as set out in paragraphs 1.5.3 and 1.5.4 below

(2) that engagement is undertaken with residents and other key stakeholders on the proposed updated content as set out in paragraphs 1.5.5 to 1.5.8 below

1.3 Forward Plan:

It has not been practicable to give twenty-eight days notice of this report. However, it is required to be considered without the twenty eight days notice being given because of the need to approve a refreshed Council Plan following the mayoral election in May 2021 and in advance of Cabinet's consideration of budget proposals in the autumn this year.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report sets out proposals to update the 2020-2024 Our North Tyneside Plan. The Council Plan is a 'local choice' plan under the Budget and Policy Framework as set out in the Council's Constitution.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 The current Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2020-2024 was approved by full Council on 18 February 2021 (see appendix 1). Following the Mayoral election on 6 May 2021 the Council Plan needs to be updated to reflect the policy priorities of the incoming administration. As per the Council's Budget and Policy Framework as set out in the Council Constitution, the Council Plan requires final approval by full Council. If approved by Cabinet, there will be internal and external engagement on these initial proposals during July 2021 (including consideration by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee at its meeting on 7 July) and then Cabinet will consider its final proposals on 2 August following further consideration by Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development. These will then be submitted to Council for approval at its meeting on 23 September.

1.5.3 Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-24 Proposals

It is proposed that the Our North Tyneside Council Plan is refreshed and updated to reflect the current policy priorities following the Mayoral election on 6 May 2021 and in the context of the impact which the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the borough.

The proposed refreshed Council Plan is around a vision of building a better North Tyneside looking to the future. Throughout all that the Council does, there will be a clear focus on listening to and working with residents, businesses, the community and voluntary sector and all other stakeholders to ensure that things are delivered in partnership and in line with the different needs of the borough.

The Council Plan future vision is of a North Tyneside in the following five themes

- thriving
- family-friendly
- caring
- secure
- green

1.5.4 It is proposed that each of these five themes has a clear set of policy priorities and outcomes as set out below

A thriving North Tyneside

- We will regenerate the high streets of North Shields and Wallsend and will bring forward Master Plans for Wallsend and Whitley Bay town centres. 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 cultural and leisure offering;
- 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; and
- We will reduce the number of derelict properties across the borough.

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; and
- 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 health and well-being working conditions of our care heroes;
- 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; and
- 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 secure North Tyneside

- Council wardens will work with Northumbria Police to tackle 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 take a holistic view to tackling health and socio-economic inequalities across the borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty;
- We will provide 5000 affordable homes.
- We will review the supply chain of services delivered on behalf of the Council to maximise value for money and environmental sustainability

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 households to install low-carbon heating;
- We will increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling, including providing a segregated cycleway at the coast; and
- 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.

1.5.5 Engagement Approach

North Tyneside Council is committed to being an organisation that works better for residents and to ensure that it listens and cares, is ambitious and provides good value for money. This commitment includes giving residents and other key stakeholders an opportunity to be involved in setting the key priorities for what it will deliver as set out in the Council Plan. This will be done through a comprehensive engagement approach.

1.5.6 The aim of the engagement approach is to reach different parts of the borough's population including residents, customers/users of council services, businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations as well as other key stakeholders as well as particular groups of people, including those with protected characteristics. The approach also ensures reach with particular interest groups such as carers, older people, children and young people, council housing tenants and people from black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities. The approach comprises targeted activity with both internal and external stakeholders as set out below.

1.5.7 In line with the Authority's corporate engagement strategy the approach will be consistent with the following principles

- Inclusive – making sure that everyone can engage in the process;
- Clear – being clear on the aims of the engagement activity at the outset and the extent to which residents and others can be involved;
- Integrated – ensuring that engagement activities are joined up with the relevant decision-making processes;
- Tailored – aiming to better understand our audience and using different methods appropriately to enable and encourage people to be involved;
- Feedback -giving feedback through agreed channels when engagement activity is completed; and

- Timely – aiming to give enough notice to make opportunities available to all and taking into account those times when it is more appropriate to engage depending on the target audience.

1.5.8 Engagement activity on the proposed Our North Tyneside Council Plan will comprise

- publishing information about Cabinet’s initial Council Plan proposals from the end of June and throughout July. This will be published online via the Council’s website and at front line locations including the Community Conversation corners in the four Customer First Centres, where these are available in line with Covid-19 restrictions. Feedback will be able to be provided by residents and others via a questionnaire either on-line or at these front-line locations. This will be supported by communications activity via the media and social media to ensure that people know they can get involved in this way; and
- there will also be engagement sessions for the following internal and external stakeholder groups
 - staff
 - businesses
 - schools
 - children and young people
 - trade unions
 - North Tyneside Strategic Partnership
 - older people
 - carers
 - Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic Communities Task Force
 - groups representing people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet

Option 1

To approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above

Option 2

To not approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- this will allow for engagement to be carried out on the initial proposals for the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan during July with a final set of proposals to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 2 August.

1.8 Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jackie Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service, tel. (0191) 643 7075

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

Claire Emmerson, Senior Manager Financial Strategy and Planning, tel. (0191) 643 8109

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) [2020-2024 Our North Tyneside Plan](#) report to Council on 18th February 2021
- (2) [Our North Tyneside Corporate Performance Report](#), Report to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 15th March 2021
- (3) [Equality Impact Assessment Our North Tyneside Plan](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

- 2.1.1 Any financial implications arising from the delivery of priorities in the Our North Tyneside Council Plan will be met from existing budgets.

2.2 Legal

The Council has agreed that the Council Plan is part of the policy framework (as a “local choice” plan and as such it must be agreed in accordance with the rules of procedure relating to the Budget and Policy Framework (Part 4.7 of the Authority’s Constitution).

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team. The proposals will be scrutinised as set out in the Authority’s Constitution and Budget and Policy Framework Procedure rules.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The engagement approach as set out in paragraphs 1.5.5 to 1.5.8 in this report sets out the process by which residents and other stakeholders will be involved.

2.4 Human rights

- 2.4.1 There are no human rights implications from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

2.5.1 In undertaking the process for the refresh of the Council Plan the Authority's aim will at all times be to secure compliance with its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty under that Act. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the engagement approach. The aim is to remove or minimise any disadvantage for people wishing to take part in the engagement activity. The Authority will make direct contact with groups representing people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 to encourage participation and provide engagement in a manner that will meet their needs.

2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 Relevant risks have been identified regarding this report, they are currently held on strategic and corporate risk registers and are being reviewed and managed as part of the Authority's normal risk management process".

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 The proposals for the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan include a priority theme to build a secure North Tyneside, and in particular to focus on anti-social behaviour.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 The proposals for the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan include a priority theme to build a green North Tyneside.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service X