

# Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

**Date: 7 July 2021**

**Title: Council Plan Refresh**

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**Service: Corporate Strategy and Customer Service**

**Wards affected: All**

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## 1. Purpose of Report

This report seeks to make Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee aware of Cabinet's initial proposals for an updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan, following the mayoral election in May 2021. It asks the Committee to consider the wording of the proposed plan before giving its recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Committee is also asked to establish a sub-group to provide comments to Cabinet on the final proposed changes to the Our North Tyneside Plan, following the public consultation and prior to Cabinet on 2 August 2021.

## 2. Recommendations

Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee is recommended to:

- 1). consider Cabinet's initial proposed wording for the refreshed Our North Tyneside Plan and make any recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member.
- 2). establish a sub-group to provide comments to Cabinet on final proposed changes to the Our North Tyneside Plan prior to Cabinet meeting on 2 August 2021.

## 3. Details

- 3.1.1 The current [Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2020-2024](#) was approved by full Council on 18 February 2021. 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. There will be internal and external engagement on these initial proposals during July 2021 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.

### 3.1.2 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

3.1.3 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.

### 3.2.1 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.

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 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.

### 3.2.4 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.

## 4. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report:

- (1) [2020-2024 Our North Tyneside Plan](#) report to Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- (2) [Our North Tyneside Corporate Performance Report](#), Report to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- (3) [Equality Impact Assessment Our North Tyneside Plan Consultation](#)