

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 2 August 2021

Title: Council Plan Refresh

Portfolio(s): Deputy Mayor

Cabinet Member: Cllr Carl Johnson

Report from Service Area: Corporate Strategy and Customer Service

Responsible Officer: Jackie Laughton,
Assistant Chief Executive Tel :0191 643 7075

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks Cabinet's approval of an updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan, in light of the findings from engagement with residents and other key stakeholders. This engagement is being undertaken in accordance with the approach agreed by Cabinet on 28 June 2021.

As the engagement process is not due to conclude until 15 August 2021, it may be necessary to provide supplementary information regarding the engagement findings following the publication of the Cabinet agenda for 2 August, and possibly following the meeting itself.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan as set out in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of feedback received throughout the engagement process.

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 25 June 2021.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report sets out the proposed updated 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 previous 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 needed 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.

1.5.3 At its meeting on 28 June 2021 Cabinet approved a plan for internal and external engagement on the initial proposals for an updated Council Plan (see Appendix 1). Engagement began on Friday 2 July 2021 and will continue until 15 August (including consideration by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee at its meeting on 7 July). Following Cabinet's consideration of this report, and any supplementary information received, approval of the updated Council Plan will be sought from Council at its meeting on 23 September.

1.5.4 Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-24 Engagement

1.5.5 In accordance with the engagement plan agreed by Cabinet in June, the following has been undertaken:

- publication of information about Cabinet's initial Council Plan proposals from the end of June and throughout July. This has been achieved online via the Council's website and at front line locations including the Community Conversation corners in the four Customer First Centres, where these have been available in line with Covid-19 restrictions. Feedback from residents and others is in the process of being gathered via a questionnaire either on-line or at these front-line locations (to date 165 responses have been received, the vast majority agreeing with the Council Plan proposals). This engagement process has been supported by communications activity via the media and social media to raise awareness of opportunities to take part;
- the views of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee were sought on 7 July and are outlined in Appendix 2.
- in addition to the opportunity to respond to the questionnaire, engagement sessions have been offered to 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
 - low income households
 - groups representing people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

1.5.6 Interim findings based on the engagement responses received up until the publication of the Cabinet agenda are shown in Appendix 2.

1.5.7 As the engagement process is not due to conclude until 15 August 2021, it may be necessary to provide supplementary information regarding the engagement findings following the publication of the Cabinet agenda for 2 August, and possibly following the meeting itself. Any such supplementary information may also include feedback from a subgroup of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee. Any supplementary information will be published alongside the previously published Cabinet agenda for 2 August.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet

Option 1

To approve the recommendation as set out in paragraph 1.2 above

Option 2

To not approve the recommendation 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 reason:

- The contents of the updated Council Plan have been informed by the findings of a comprehensive engagement approach delivered in line with Covid-19 restrictions
- Approval of the updated Council Plan will enable a report to be taken to Council on 23 September 2021, in advance of the Council's budget setting process beginning.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2020-2024

Appendix 2: Interim Our North Tyneside Council Plan Engagement Findings

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) [Council Plan Refresh](#) report to Cabinet on 28 June 2021

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 have been 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 has been conducted in accordance with the process set out in paragraphs 1.5.4 to 1.5.7 of this report.

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 has at all times been 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 was carried out on the engagement approach, with the aim of removing or minimising any disadvantage for people wishing to take part in the engagement activity. The Authority has made 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
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X

Appendix 1: Updated Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2020-2024

The Council Plan has 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

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 invest an additional £2m per year on 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.

Appendix 2: Interim Our North Tyneside Council Plan Engagement Findings

Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee suggested:

- considering mortality rates within the secure North Tyneside theme
- giving higher prominence to the Authority's carbon net zero aims
- ensuring green issues are cross-cutting

The Committee affirmed plans contained in the engagement process to engage with young people, those on low incomes and community and voluntary sector organisations. It also agreed to create a sub-group, prior to Cabinet on 2 August, to consider any proposed changes to the Our North Tyneside Council Plan in light of engagement feedback received.

The **North Tyneside Strategic Partnership** has had initial discussions on the high level themes of the Council Plan and the opportunity for further discussion and engagement has been offered.

During the first week since the publication of the **on-line questionnaire** 165 responses have been received. Of these:

- 83.5% strongly agree/agree with the proposed thriving North Tyneside priorities
- 84% with those for a family friendly North Tyneside
- 87% with the caring North Tyneside priorities
- 81% with the secure North Tyneside priorities
- 79% with the green North Tyneside priorities.

The opportunity to take part in the Council Plan engagement process, either via the questionnaire or internal and external stakeholder engagement sessions, will be promoted throughout the engagement process until it closes on 15 August 2021. The findings from this engagement activity will be published as supplementary information following the publication of the Cabinet agenda for 2 August, and possibly following the meeting itself. The updating of the Our North Tyneside Council Plan will consider all feedback received during the engagement process.