

# CABINET



Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 4.30 pm

Meeting to be held in a Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

<b>Membership Councillors:</b>	Forbes, McCarty, Dunn, Kingsland, Murison and Stephenson
	Faulkner, Lower (Observers)

## AGENDA

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1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

(If any Member has a personal/prejudicial interest please complete the appropriate form and hand this to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting. A blank form can be obtained from the DSO at the meeting).

Members are reminded to verbally declare their interest and the nature of it and, if prejudicial, leave where appropriate at the point of the meeting when the item is to be discussed.

### Leader of Council

3. **A Co-operative Council** 1 - 6
4. **Chuggers/Street Fundraising** 7 - 12

### Deputy Leader of Council

5. **Socio-economic equality assessment** 13 - 18

### Quality of Life

6. **Your Homes Newcastle proposed rent increase**

Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

**An induction loop system is available on request for meetings in the Committee Suite at the Civic Centre. Anyone wishing to use this facility should ring the Contact Officer.  
Contact Officer: Linda Couch, Democratic Services. Tel: 0191 211 5121  
linda.couch@newcastle.gov.uk**

7.	<b>Public Space CCTV Update</b>	<b>19 - 22</b>
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<b>Adult Services</b>		
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<b>Other Business</b>		
14.	<b>Delegated Decisions Schedules</b>	
	(a) <b>Cabinet Member Decisions</b>	<b>77 - 78</b>
	(b) <b>Officer Decisions</b>	<b>79 - 96</b>
15.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings held on:-</b>	
	(a) <b>23 November 2011</b>	<b>97 - 104</b>
	(b) <b>7 December 2011</b>	<b>105 - 106</b>
16.	<b>Notes of the Policy Cabinet meeting held on 11 January 2012</b>	
	Members are requested to note the intention to circulate the above report on a supplemental agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	
17.	<b>Exclusion of Press and Public</b>	
<b>Confidential Items</b>		
18.	<b>Confidential Minutes of the meetings held on:-</b>	
	(a) <b>23 November 2011</b>	<b>107 - 108</b>
	(b) <b>15 December 2011</b>	<b>109 - 112</b>
19.	<b>Confidential Delegated Decisions</b>	
	(a) <b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>113 - 114</b>

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**20. Disposal of land at Field Close, Shieldfield.**

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## Portfolio: Leader of Council

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

### A Cooperative Council

Report by: **Director (Policy, Strategy and Communications)**

Ward Implications: **All**

For Decision		
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### Recommendation

#### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The City Council's Cabinet have set out an aspiration for Newcastle City Council to be a "Co-operative Council". This paper sets out the steps already in place, identifies the principles which encapsulate what it means to be a Co-operative Council, and proposals for future developments which extend this approach further.

#### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Endorse the aspiration for Newcastle City Council to be a Co-operative Council.
- Note, and comment upon, the development of a Co-operative Council approach, nationally and within Newcastle.
- As a next step, bring forward proposals for Co-operative approaches to schools, housing and procurement.
- Identify the main opportunities and risks of this approach, and comment on areas where Co-operative approaches could contribute to better outcomes for the people of Newcastle.

- Consult the public on priorities for a Co-operative Council, through the Let's Talk Newcastle programme.
- Publish a Co-operative Newcastle consultation document later this year, setting out how the Council will promote co-operative activities within the Council and city.
- Invite the Chief Executive to lead the necessary cultural changes within the City Council, and with our partners, to secure Newcastle's position as a Co-operative Council over time.

2.2 Cabinet will of course have further opportunities to discuss and develop Cooperative Council proposals as this agenda moves forward.

### 3. **What is a Co-operative Council?**

3.1 The United Nations has designated 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives, bringing cooperatives across the globe together to campaign for cooperation.

3.2 Co-operative Councils will be defined by their culture, values and principles, as well as the development of particular initiatives. The essence of a Co-operative Council is that services are delivered in cooperation with communities, as close as possible to their needs and aspirations, and with the maximum degree of community ownership. At a time when councils are under financial pressure, the concept of a Co-operative Council helps to inform choices about priorities, how services can be delivered into the future, and how to achieve a balance between universal and targeted services.

3.3 Across the local government sector, different councils are taking different decisions about how they work and what they do. The local government sector has long been characterised by diversity in different models of delivery, and there is a long history of involvement by the private, voluntary and community sectors, as well as examples of arrangements with mutuals and social enterprises. The financial position faced by all local authorities is prompting a national debate about which of these forms of delivery is best suited to maintaining or enhancing services to communities, while also delivering efficiency and cost reduction.

3.4 Some councils have placed most emphasis on the outsourcing of services, in practice to significant national commercial organisations able to secure cost reductions by larger scale operations, reducing their own capacity to a small core focused almost exclusively on commissioning, procurement and contract management. The Co-operative Council approach is to some extent a reaction against this model. It highlights the risk that an excessive reliance on outsourcing could lead to services being delivered remotely from communities. But the Co-operative Council approach is also an alternative to models which focus exclusively on internal delivery, in which council services are delivered on an authority-wide basis by the council directly, but insufficiently tailored to the needs of individuals or their communities. These traditional models of council service delivery have often been seen as unresponsive to the needs of different communities.

### 3.5 Co-operative Councils will in contrast emphasise:

- A radical extension of community leadership of services. This should go beyond community engagement and involvement (though that remains important), to a transfer of assets, power and responsibility from the Council to people and communities that use services.
- A commitment to mutual models of service delivery, where the ownership moves from the Council itself, to ownership with roots in the community. This will vary in range and scale, from major housing developments to micro-scale neighbourhood initiatives.
- An active approach to procurement policy, with a greater emphasis on non-financial factors alongside value for money assessment.
- Support for mutual models led by front-line staff, including – where appropriate - arrangements through which groups of staff are able to take over service delivery with greater independence from the Council as a whole.
- Values and Principles drawn from co-operative experience that can guide staff development and working relationships with the public, and develop a positive organisational culture.
- Where services continue to be directly managed by the Council, a greater differentiation of services between different communities, based on their different needs and aspirations, greater involvement of democratic representatives at ward level, and a much greater opportunity for individuals and communities to influence service delivery.
- Promotion and support for the co-operative sector and cooperative enterprises.

3.6 Newcastle City Council is part of a national network of councils, founded in July 2011, and which meet regularly to develop new approaches and share perspectives. Newcastle is hosting a meeting of the network in March 2012. The Co-operative Councils network is in the process of developing a common set of principles and values, recognising that a single approach is neither practical nor desirable. The network is also identifying solutions to practical barriers, for example arising from national and European procurement regulations.

## 4. **Risks, Issues and challenges**

4.1 The Co-operative Council approach is not without its critics and councils face significant challenges in making it a reality.

4.2 National government has encouraged local authorities to consider community-led approaches, and the localism agenda is encouraging communities to take more local responsibility for service design and delivery. But there are tensions with other objectives of national government policy, including the emphasis on more individualised service delivery, and

continued pressure to deliver lowest-cost outsourced solutions. For example, there are concerns that provisions in the Localism Act, aimed at improving opportunities for community ownership, might actually be exploited by commercial interests without a strong basis in the community.

4.3 Not all communities are in a position to respond to the challenge, and Co-operative Councils recognise that - without investment in community capacity - community-led services may be hardest to deliver where the need is greatest. Councils also need to be alive to the risk that community interests can be “captured” by unrepresentative groups or individuals. This implies an important role for the council, not as a passive commissioner of services, but in actively supporting communities to make the most of service-delivery opportunities, and through “market making” activities.

4.4 The Council will use its influence to engage in ‘market shaping’ that creates a space for co-operatives to be considered and to grow. This will involve challenging assumptions and ingrained habits that can result in co-operatives being overlooked when procurement and new developments are initiated. Raising awareness of the co-operative model, both within and outwith the City Council, will be especially important so that there is more immediate understanding of co-operative options, as well as their distinctiveness in relation to democratic governance, membership and protections such as the ‘asset lock’ than can safeguard co-operative assets from privatisation.

4.5 The trade union movement, while generally supportive, have concerns that in some parts of the country community-led approaches might risk undermining job security, terms and conditions of council staff. In practice, genuine Co-operative arrangements are unlikely to be associated with significant cost reductions.

4.6 These risks suggest an approach which aligns Co-operative arrangements alongside other values of the Council, encouraging not just specific delivery mechanisms, but embedded in a wider culture of collaboration and fairness.

## **5. Implementation in Newcastle**

5.1 Newcastle City Council is already at the forefront of the Co-operative Council approach, and is delivering initiatives in each of the areas identified in paragraph 3.5. Newcastle has had a strong involvement with the Co-operative and mutual movement since its roots in the Victorian era. Newcastle also has a strong voluntary and community sector, with a long history of active collaboration with the Council. The Byker Community Trust is one of the best examples in the county of a significant asset transfer to a community. There is a good track record of neighbourhood level working on which to build; including through ward committees and specific initiatives such as Greening Wingrove, and the Jesmond and Fenham Pools. There are some small scale examples where staff-led mutuals have been developed in the past, for example the schools music service – although the Council recognises that these can only be developed in specific circumstances and with strong commitment from the relevant staff group.

5.2 The 2012 Budget also proposes a number of new initiatives which respond to the challenge to be a Co-operative Council, summarised in section 13 of “A

Fair Budget for A Fairer City”. These include the proposal to significantly increase ward-level budgets, alongside an increase in the responsibilities to be funded at ward level, and new opportunities for volunteers to play a more extensive role in supporting additional services beyond the core support from the council, for example through partnership libraries.

5.3 The most significant next steps will be the development of the **Co-operative Schools** initiative, whereby the council and the school community develop new arrangements, with strong ownership by schools, and ensuring strong links and a basis for shared support services across Newcastle. The Council will also support the development of **co-operative housing**, as part of the council’s programme to expand the number, quality and diversity of Newcastle’s housing stock. The Council will also bring forward further proposals to establish **Fair Procurement**, building on the first round of procurement reforms already proposed. The council is also pursuing opportunities to develop more active **Civic Enterprise**, and will report further on this in the near future.

5.4 The Council will seek further opportunities to extend its Co-operative Council programme, and would welcome proposals from staff, partners and residents about areas of specific service delivery which would benefit most from new approaches.

## 6. Resource and legal implications

### 6.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, there may be cost implications arising from the application of this policy in the future that will need to be identified as part of the normal decision making process. The Director of Finance & Resources has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

### 6.2 Legal

The legal implications of proposals for amendment of procurement policy and practice will be considered by the Council’s Procurement Committee as part of the policy review. The Head of Corporate Law has considered this report and has nothing to add.

### Background papers

“A Fair Budget for a Fairer City”, budget consultation.

Information on the national Cooperative Council network is available at [www.councils.coop](http://www.councils.coop)

### Contact officers

Andrew Lewis, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications, 0191 211 5681. email: [andrew.lewis@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.lewis@newcastle.gov.uk)

## **Annex to Report – Other significant implications**

### **Risk management**

Section 4 of the report identifies some of the risks involved in the development of a Cooperative Council. Other risks will be considered as individual policies and programmes are brought forward.

### **Equality**

Cooperative approaches can in principle support the inclusion of marginalised groups in service delivery, provided specific arrangements are developed in a manner which is representative, and supports an effective voice in decision-making. The Council will need to assess all proposals for cooperative approaches to identify and address any potential equality impact.

### **Environmental sustainability**

The recommendations in this report will not have a direct impact on the Council's environmental policies. Environmental services and initiatives are a productive area for cooperative approaches, and many cooperative enterprises are already active in this field.

### **Partnership**

The Council will involve partners in all aspects of the Cooperative Council initiative, and explore proposals which enhance joint-working between organisations on the basis of cooperative principles.

### **Community safety**

The recommendations in this report will not have a direct impact on community safety. Community safety services and initiatives are a productive area for cooperative approaches, and many cooperative enterprises are already active in this field.

### **Health equality implications**

The recommendations in this report will not have a direct impact on health outcomes. Health equity services and initiatives are a productive area for cooperative approaches, and many cooperative enterprises are already active in this field.

## Portfolio: Quality of Life

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

### Chuggers/Street Fundraising

Report by: **Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration**

Ward Implications: **All**

For Decision		
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#### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report advises Cabinet of the increasing numbers of street fundraisers present in the City Centre, the rising number of complaints and concerns as to their activities and the lack of legislative control to address the situation.

#### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet are recommended to:

2.1.1 Consider whether they wish officers to (a) discuss arrangements with the Professional Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) and/or

(b) refer the matter to the Constitutional Committee with a request to consider application for a specific local byelaw to regulate the activities of street fundraisers to minimize nuisance and protect the public from being intimidated and pressurised into making charitable donations and/or

2.1.2 In any event agree to make representations to the government to introduce new and improved primary legislation to licence street fundraisers when making cash and non-cash collections alike.

#### 3. Introduction and background

3.1 Street collections are governed by the Council's Street Collections Regulations made under Section 5 Police Factories, etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916, as amended.

3.2 The Council's Regulations state that no collection other than a collection taken at a meeting in the open air, shall be made in any street or public place within the Newcastle unless the promoter has obtained a permit from the licensing authority.

3.3 A collection is defined as a collection of money or a sale of articles for the benefit of charitable or other purposes. Following receipt of legal advice, it is

the Council's interpretation that the collection of money can include collections by way of direct debit or standing order, although this view is opposed by professional collecting bodies. The Council has adopted this purposive interpretation of the Regulations which are designed to regulate the collection of money from members of the public and to ensure that the public is properly protected.

- 3.4 The Council runs a permit system in respect of street collectors in order to ensure that the city's streets are not congested with collectors and to ensure that different charities have an opportunity to collect. Bearing in mind the above interpretation, we would therefore enforce against those seeking direct debit donations in the city's streets without a permit.

#### **4. Chuggers**

- 4.1 In recent years, so called "Chuggers" (an amalgamation of the words charity and mugger) have appeared on the city's streets in addition to street collectors permitted by the Council. These operate through agencies employed by the charities. Initially the Chuggers signed members of the public up to direct debit charity donations, requiring a street collection permit. However in recent years in Newcastle, possibly as a result of our enforcement position, their operation has changed in that they do not sign members of the public up for direct debits but instead simply ask for information (name and contact details) with a view to sending the person further information at a later date, presumably with a request to sign up to a direct debit.
- 4.2 'Regular giving' is understood by those working in the charity sector as the most effective form of giving, with the charity often also able to claim Gift Aid from the government. It is estimated that the activities of the agencies have led to 750,000 people nationally providing an annual average contribution of £90 each with each charity paying the companies up to £100 for each signature collected.
- 4.3 This "prospecting" is not controlled by any legislation. Chuggers can cause nuisance and annoyance to members of the public and can be persistent in their pursuit. They are usually employed by an agency – and not directly by charities - and receive commission or bonuses based on the number of people they obtain information from / "sign up" for direct debit. The retail trade in the City Centre have recently advised officers that they are deeply concerned that the 'Chuggers' are having a detrimental effect on street ambience as opposed to out of town shopping centres where this type of activity is prohibited being on private land.
- 4.4 Chuggers currently obtain details from a member of the public if that person wishes to give them. If a complaint was made to the Council about a particular Chugger causing obstruction or annoyance, a prosecution could be brought under the Council's Byelaws for the Good Rule and Government of the City covering Nuisance which reads as follows: "*No person shall in any street or public place for the purpose of selling or advertising any article or obtaining custom tout or importune to the annoyance or obstruction of passengers.*". However, the complainant would be required to provide a witness statement to the Council and be willing to give evidence in court.

This legislation may allow us to address the poor behaviour of individual collectors but does not provide effective overall control of the wider problem.

- 4.5 Approximately 40 local authorities in the UK have entered into agreements with the Professional Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) in order to regulate Chuggers. The PFRA is a 'regulatory body' funded by member charities and was set up to regulate face to face fundraising. The PFRA is not a charity itself but a limited company. The PFRA is keen to enter into agreements with councils to regulate Chuggers. If an agreement is entered into by a council with the PFRA, the PFRA would agree sites in a city where Chuggers could operate. The PFRA would also agree a diary system in respect of allocations to those delineated sites agreed with the Council in terms of how many Chuggers would be allowed on any particular day. The PFRA have indicated that in a city such as Newcastle, their starting point would be to have Chuggers operating in the city 3 days a week. The PFRA would also try to avoid days on which street collections permitted by the council would be taking place.
- 4.6 The PFRA has a Code of Practice and Rule Book to which members are expected to adhere, which includes rules such as Chuggers must not pressurise or harass people. The PFRA carry out spot checks in cities to ensure that members are adhering to their rules and if members of the public or the council have concerns about the way in which their members are operating, the PFRA will deal with the complaints directly with the charities.
- 4.7 If the Council was minded to explore the possibility of an agreement with the PFRA the next step would be for officers to have a further meeting with the PFRA, combined with a walk around the city to identify sites in respect of which Chuggers would be able to operate. The PFRA would then draft an agreement which the Council if it so wished would enter into. The agreement would be a voluntary arrangement which can be terminated at any time.
- 4.8 However, the PFRA has indicated that it would be unlikely to enter into an agreement to regulate 'prospecting' solely in respect of the gathering of information from the public and would expect the Council to allow street collections by way of direct debit. There are further difficulties in that street collections are already regulated by the Council and collections by direct debit would not comply with the Council's Street Collection Regulations. Therefore if the Council were to permit collections by direct debit, amendment to the Regulations would be required, and fundraisers would need to apply for a street collection permit. As the PFRA do not view the collection of direct debits as falling under the remit of street collection regulation, they may take the view that it is not necessary for them to apply for a permit even if the Council's regulations were amended. Further discussion with the PFRA is unlikely therefore to progress or improve the situation.
- 4.9 By entering into an agreement it would mean that Chuggers (both "prospectors" and possibly those collecting direct debits), would be regularly on the streets of Newcastle. At present, "prospectors" appear to be sporadic, with some weeks appearing to be present everyday and other weeks not present at all. They are mainly based on Northumberland Street and around the Monument area where footfall is at its greatest. The PFRA have indicated that when they asked their members in October 2011 for

observations about Newcastle, only one member responded that they were active in Newcastle at that time.

## **5. Mobile Phone/Text Donation**

5.1 More recently making donations by way of text messaging has been a new initiative used on the City's streets. The donation made on the spot is usually fixed with the sum added to the phone bill. The legal position as regards this type of collection will also be contentious.

5.2 Although major charities such as Comic Relief have had access to text message donations services for some time, prohibitive costs have excluded smaller charities.

5.3 Recent collaboration between website JustGiving.com and Vodafone has resulted in JustTextGiving, which will allow any UK charity to set themselves up to receive donations via text. In light of these developments it is felt important street fundraising type activities are controlled by effective legislation.

## **6. Resource and legal implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

There will be a cost to introduce any byelaw or new legislation of which members will be advised following further investigation, dependent upon the recommendation approved. Any enforcement costs will be accommodated within existing budgets.

### **6.2 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

The Director of Finance and Resources notes the details out lined in the report, once a decision is made on the report a further supplementary report may be required if there are any significant financial implications. There are no further comments

### **6.3 Legal**

The Head of Corporate Law advises that the making of byelaws is a non-executive function and is exercisable by the Council's Constitutional Committee. If Cabinet wishes officers to explore the possibility of requesting that a specific byelaw be made in respect of charitable prospecting, any final decision on this would lie with Constitutional Committee. There are no national model byelaws which cover such activity and, if instructed to pursue this option, officers would first need to approach the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to ascertain whether or not the Secretary of State would be willing to confirm any new byelaw which we were to propose. Very careful consideration would need to be given to the precise terms of any byelaw to avoid inappropriately criminalising those seeking information from members of the public for other purposes.

## **7. What happens next**

7.1 Officers will implement any directions approved by Cabinet.

## **8. Background papers**

Correspondence with the PFRA and other Local Authorities – file held in Regulatory Services and Public Protection

**9. Contact officers**

Stephen Savage Director of Regulatory Services & Public Protection

## Annex to Report – Any other significant implications

### 1.1 Risk management

Should the recommendation be approved the main significant risks would be:

<b>Key Risks</b>	<b>Controls to manage risks</b>
Criticism from charities who do not have a permit which could be reviewed negatively by our citizens potentially damaging our reputation	A managed and communicated charitable collection programme for the benefit of all
If a specific byelaw or primary legislation is not introduced the Council could receive numerous complaints regarding harassment from the Chuggers and again be viewed negatively by our citizens as it may look as if the Council is unable to control the situation	Newcastle Council to enter into an agreement with the Professional Fundraising Regulatory Authority to regulate face to face fundraising

### 1.2 Equality

There are little equalities implications resulting from the recommendations. The clear intention is to ensure chuggers are regulated and organised in a way that prevents members of the public being harassed and pressurised into giving donation via a direct debit arrangement. The current arrangements that permit charities to collect cash donations (via collection tins) will not be affected.

### 1.3 Community safety

It is important street fundraising is controlled and regulated to ensure any on street conflict is minimal

### 1.4 Health equality implications

The current street collection system has provided opportunities for local charitable organizations to improve the Wellbeing and Health of local people and communities. These collections have been regulated over many years to provide a dedicated 'day' for local charities without competition. Commercial fundraising will be detrimental to local organizations and diminish their opportunity to improve the well being of local communities.

## Portfolio: Leader of Council

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

### Socio-economic equality assessment

Report by: **Head of Policy and Research, Chief Executive's Directorate**

Ward Implications: **All**

For Decision		
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#### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Cabinet to endorse the principle of undertaking an assessment of the socio-economic impact of proposed strategic Council decisions.

#### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Endorse the principle of routinely including a socio-economic impact assessment duty in its strategic decision making;
- Consider the progress that has been made so far to ensure that impacts on the poorest people are at the heart of key decisions;
- Request that further detailed work be undertaken to consider how this approach might be given practical effect within the decision making processes of the Cabinet.

#### 3. Introduction and background

3.1 The draft Equality Bill included a 'socio-economic assessment duty' which, if implemented, would have placed an obligation on public bodies, including local authorities, to consider what impact their strategic decisions would have on narrowing socio-economic inequalities. Under this provision councils would have been required to consider the impact of their policies on people from poorer backgrounds, in the same way they currently need to think about the impact of policy decisions on, for example, women, minorities and disabled people.

3.2 Announcing proposals for the inclusion of the socio-economic duty in the

Equality Bill in January 2010, then deputy prime minister Harriet Harman said:

"A person's socio-economic background is still a key factor in determining their life chances -- how they get on at school, the chances of continuing with their education, their employment prospects and their health. This new legal duty will fall on every strategic body that affects these life chances and will be a catalyst for change so that more people have a better chance to enjoy a higher standard of living. Improving opportunities for everyone will be at the core of all key public services, and is a crucial part of the Equality Act."

- 3.3 This provision was due to be implemented in April 2011. However the Coalition Government announced in November 2010 that the socio economic assessment duty would not be implemented. In coming to this decision Government argued that the duty would have been no more than a bureaucratic 'box to tick' and would have diverted public sector capacity away from doing the things that will make real improvements to people's life chances.
- 3.4 Critics of the Government's decision contend that the socio-economic duty recognised the role of public bodies in narrowing income gaps and that failing to implement the duty sent out a message that creating a more equal society is perhaps a lower priority for the Government. Others argue that instead of dropping it altogether Government should have instead made the duty stronger and more meaningful.
- 3.5 More than 20 councils have committed to implement the principles of this duty voluntarily, including some core cities. Newcastle City Council is a leading member of that group.

#### **4. Proposals and Reasons**

- 4.1 We know that socio-economic inequality is the main cause of social disadvantage and in Newcastle there remain significant inequalities in key outcomes (e.g. income, education, health). Tackling these inequalities is essential for increased social mobility. Greater equality of outcome is necessary in order for equality of opportunity.
- 4.2 Given the Government's decision not to proceed with creating a statutory duty, there is the opportunity for the Council to embed the same sort of socio-economic impact assessment in its decision making on a voluntary basis. This would contribute to the Council's overall commitment to tackling inequalities and creating a fairer Newcastle. This would mean that the Council when making strategic decisions affecting spending and services must consider the impact that those decisions may have on narrowing the gaps in outcomes experienced by different socio-economic groups.

Through the Newcastle Future Needs Assessment we will be able to use the evidence we and our partners hold on the inequalities relevant to the decision or issue, and the role of socio-economic factors in driving these inequalities. This will help us to ensure that as far as possible our decisions and actions operate to reduce the socio-economic inequalities that adversely affect our most vulnerable communities.

The Council is already giving far greater emphasis to socio-economic considerations through the following work:

- **A Fair Budget for a Fairer City** – Fairness and tackling inequalities have been placed at the heart of the Council’s budget proposals for 11/12. At every stage of the budget process, the impact of measures on equality and services to the most disadvantaged groups have been considered.
- **Newcastle Future Needs Assessment** – by bringing together a wide range of information and intelligence, the NFNA will ensure that key decisions are based on the best possible evidence base. This will enable the Council to allocate resources based on a strong assessment of need.
- **Corporate Plan** – from 12/13 this will embed the Council’s four priorities including tackling inequalities and the commitment to create a fairer city. All Council services will, through the Corporate Plan, illustrate how they will contribute to achieving these priorities.
- **Fairness Commission** - The Newcastle Fairness Commission has been established by the council, with a remit to:
  - set out a strong set of principles about how the concept of fairness can be given practical effect in Newcastle, securing broad endorsement from across the city.
  - critically assess evidence of the degree of fairness, cohesion and equality within Newcastle; informing, and making use of, the proposed Newcastle Future Needs Assessment.
  - identify the critical policies and social contract that would need to be put in place to create and secure a fairer city, and to challenge us all to implement them.
- **Living Wage Advisory Panel** – an independent panel has been established to advise the Council on the appropriate level of a ‘living wage’ for Newcastle as well as making recommendations on how this might be promoted across employers in the city.

4.3 It is therefore proposed that the Cabinet formally endorse the principle of applying a socio-economic impact assessment of its strategic decisions in the terms originally envisaged in the Equality Act 2010. Whilst significant progress has already been made, we recommend that further work be undertaken to establish what else needs to be done to embed this in the Council’s formal decision making processes. The aim is to ensure that the assessment is carried out in a meaningful way – this will go beyond merely adding a ‘socio-economic impacts’ section to the Council’s report templates.

## 5. Resource and legal implications

### 5.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, there may be cost implications arising from the application of this policy in the future that will need to be identified as part of the normal decision making process.

## **5.2 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

The Director of Finance & Resources has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

## **5.3 Legal**

The Head of Corporate Law advises that the proposed duty in the original Bill was set out in the following terms: *“An authority must, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic advantage.”*

If Cabinet is to voluntarily adopt a policy of applying this same principle to any of its future strategic decisions, it will be important that in practice this is done in a transparently robust and consistent way. It could be a potential ground for legal challenge of any particular decision if there were evidence that proper consideration to the socio-economic impact had not been given contrary to this previously agreed policy approach.

## **5.4 Other implications**

N/A

## **6. What happens next**

- 6.1 Subject to Cabinet’s agreement, officers will establish what more needs to be done to introduce socio-economic impact assessments into its decision making processes.

### **Background papers**

“The Equality Bill: Duty to reduce socio-economic inequalities - A guide” The Government Equalities Office January 2010. (Available from Central Policy Unit)

### **Contact officers**

Rachel Archbold, Equality and Access Advisor, 0191 277 7528, email: [rachel.archbold@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.archbold@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Annex to Report – Any other significant implications

### **7.1 Risk management**

The key risk associated with the recommendation is it will be given effect in the decision making process of the Council simply by adding this to the current committee reporting templates. This could increase bureaucracy without implementing need for an assessment in a meaningful way and by itself would be unlikely to make a difference to socio-economic inequalities in the city. The report recommends that further work be undertaken to identify how proposed approach can be given practical effect in a meaningful way.

The opportunity in this report is to embed consideration of the socio-economic impacts of strategic decisions of the Cabinet . This should give greater emphasis to our efforts to tackle inequalities and narrow the significant socio-economic gaps that exist in the city.

### **7.2 Equality**

The inclusion of socio-economic factors within the strategic decision making of the Council will help us to demonstrate that we are giving due regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. As part of this proposal we aim to consider in more detail how we can build on our Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) to support this in practice and therefore an EINA is not required at this time. This process will help to promote equality and reduce inequalities.

### **7.3 Environmental sustainability**

The recommendations in this report will not have a direct impact on the Council's environmental policies. However, when future policy in this area is developed, this should have greater regard to impacts on the poorest people and also the opportunities for linking green initiatives to narrowing the gaps that exist across the city.

### **7.4 Partnership**

No new partnerships are proposed as a result of this report however future partnership working (where the Council is a key partner) would be likely to give greater emphasis to socio-economic impacts.

### **7.5 Community safety**

A strong commitment to tackling socio-economic inequalities that exist in the city should be considered as making a positive contribution to the Safe Newcastle Strategy given the links between deprivation and higher levels of crime.

### **7.6 Health equality implications**

The Council's commitment to making sure that everything we do helps create conditions for all citizens to have long, healthy, happy lives should be strengthened by giving greater consideration to the socio-economic impacts of its decision making.

### **7.7 Other Implications**

None.

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## Portfolio: Quality of Life

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

### Public Space CCTV Update

Report by: **Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration**

Ward Implications: **All**

For Information		
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#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report is to update cabinet on the progress being made to address the functionality of Public Space CCTV cameras across the city.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to receive the report.

#### 3. Introduction and background

- 3.1 In July of 2011, the CCTV Delivery Group commissioned an independent assessment of 31 cameras that were identified as either:
- not having funding towards running costs,
  - not operational, or
  - presenting potential risks to the Council's reputation in its use of CCTV to effectively tackle crime and disorder.

The CCTV Delivery Group considered the findings and recommendations that arose from the report. Operational Requirements for each of identified cameras were established together with an indicative cost to carry out remedial work that would enable the cameras to operate to a standard acceptable to the criminal justice system.

Following detailed discussions of the report's recommendations, and subsequent publicity surrounding CCTV across the city in October and November 2011, a business case seeking capital investment of £110,000 to carry out essential works was submitted and approved through the delegated decision making process. This was approved on 1 December 2011.

## **4. Proposals**

4.1 The proposal is to:

- Reinststate the operational functionality of 13 cameras, as agreed through member and partner consultation.
- Decommission the use of 6 cameras that are no longer operationally required as agreed through member and partner consultation.
- To make additional refurbished Re-deployable CCTV cameras available within neighbourhoods where cameras are decommissioned.
- To expand the wireless network infrastructure for CCTV use, providing the opportunity to reduce the use and future cost of lease line transmission services.

## **5. Resource and legal implications**

### **5.1 Financial**

5.1.1 The capital costs of restoring all necessary CCTV cameras to use are set out in the delegated decision report. The capital expenditure is to be met from the Environment & Regeneration capital programme.

5.1.2 As a consequence of returning a number of cameras back to operationally functional levels, there will be ongoing revenue implications. These are estimated at £10,500.00 pa for preventative maintenance, and £10,500.00 pa for energy supplies, it has been agreed that these cost will be met through corporate contingencies.

5.1.3 Safe Newcastle are to invest a further £10,000 in equipment that will build growth and contingency into the CCTV wireless network, providing a link that will allow a greater number of cameras to become wireless and reduce future revenue demands.

5.1.4 The next step is to discuss the proposed funding arrangements with the wards where cameras are located or planned. The costs required for the upgrade of or new purchase of re-deployable cameras will remain the responsibility of ward budgets.

### **5.2 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

There are no further comments

### **5.3 Legal**

There are no legal implications.

### **5.4 Other implications**

There are no implications for cabinet to note.

## **6 Progress to date**

6.1 Since the issue of none operational cameras was escalated work has been ongoing to ensure all cameras that are required, are functional and those that may not be required are identified and plans put in place to remove them.

Work progressed to date includes:

- Welbeck Road camera reinstated
- Operational Requirements established for identified cameras
- Surveys of the key cameras carried out to establish the level of remedial work required.
- Agreement with ward members and portfolio lead for decommissioning of cameras
- Installation of 10 new re-deployable cameras in the east of the city.
- Planning with Outer West wards for up to 10 camera re-deployment replacement. Funding yet to be confirmed.

## **7. What happens next**

7.1 Individual site surveys have been completed along with final Operational Requirements. As a result the following actions comprise the proposed project plan subject to procurement approval:

- Equipment orders placed: late Feb
- Decommissioning work: late Feb
- Preliminary refurbishment work: Feb -March
- Network planning and infrastructure: Feb
- Installation of new equipment and cameras: March - April
- Work complete: April

## **8. Background papers**

- 8.1
- Delegated Decision Nov 2011
  - CCTV Business Case
  - CCTV Policy

Papers are available on request from contact officers.

## **9. Contact officers**

David Slater, Executive Director for Environment and Regeneration.  
Tel ext 28900, email [david.slater@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.slater@newcastle.gov.uk)

Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services.  
Tel ext 25901, email [michael.murphy@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:michael.murphy@newcastle.gov.uk)

## Annex to Report – Any other significant implications

### **10 Risk management**

- A potential of reputational damage to the Council in respect of the inability to deliver necessary CCTV at al local level if the required cameras are not put back into operation.
- Potential increase in crime and community safety issues if cameras are not in an operational condition.

#### **10.1 Equality**

Not applicable in this instance.

#### **10.2 Environmental sustainability**

Not directly applicable.

#### **10.3 Partnership**

The reinstatement of key cameras across the city will enhance the partnership contribution of the City Council and demonstrate its commitment to tackling crime and disorder at a neighbourhood level.

#### **10.4 Community safety**

The reinstatement of the required cameras will form part of the Councils ongoing commitment to create safer communities for all.

The correct and proportionate use of CCTV can have a impact on the key aims of Safe Newcastle in contributing to areas in :

- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities
- Reduce vulnerability and promote healthy communities
- Prevent offending & Reduce reoffending
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

#### **10.5 Health equality implications**

Not applicable in this instance.

#### **10.6 Other Implications**

Not applicable.

## Portfolio: Quality of Life

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

## Warm Up North: Approval to Procure a Green Deal Delivery Partner

Report by: Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration

Ward Implications: All Wards

For Decision		
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### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 On 27 July 2011, Cabinet approved development of a Newcastle-led scheme to improve the energy efficiency of homes across Newcastle and the wider region. This is now called "Warm Up North". The scheme is based on Government's Green Deal proposals. If successful, it will:-

- meet the manifesto commitment to help homeowners install energy efficiency measures and improve the quality and quantity of energy advice;
- support a working city by safeguarding up to 300 full time jobs within Newcastle and the wider region with potential for further job growth;
- help maintain decent neighbourhoods by reducing the city's carbon footprint;
- tackle inequalities by reducing energy costs, helping to address fuel poverty.

1.2 This report updates Cabinet and seeks permission to start the procurement of a delivery partner once all preparation is complete.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1
- (a) to approve a review of progress led by the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration, to finalise procurement options and address key risks.
  - (b) to approve procurement by way of competitive dialogue for a delivery partner to deliver energy efficiency measures to approximately 10,000 - 15,000 domestic properties across the North East, with the potential to include non-domestic buildings; and
  - (c) to grant authority to the Head of Commercial Law and Head of Efficiency and Procurement in consultation with the portfolio holders for Quality of Life and Chief Executive's to start a procurement process after the above review and after a market awareness day in March

- (d) to note receipt of in-principle approval to European funding of £1.108m to support project set-up costs and the conditions attached to that.
- (e) to approve in-principle use of up to £20m of self financing prudential borrowing to provide Green Deal finance for energy efficiency improvements over Phase 1, subject to compliance with state aid requirements, with the borrowing costs being fully recovered through Green Deal repayments over periods up to 25 years.
- (f) agree that Cabinet receives a further report prior to the appointment of a preferred bidder.

### **3. Introduction and background**

- 3.1 Many Newcastle properties have had energy efficiency improvements such as cavity wall and loft insulation. However, residents have not been offered a wider range of measures, particularly those which are more expensive to install, other than in pilots such as Shore Street, Lemington. As the easy-to-treat homes are tackled, we need to ensure other homes are not left untreated, pushing people into fuel poverty and making it harder to achieve carbon reduction commitments.
- 3.2 The Energy Act 2011, enables upfront funding for energy efficiency improvements which are then repaid through a charge on the consumer's electricity bill provided the cost does not exceed the savings. This is known as 'The Green Deal'. It also enables additional subsidies direct from energy suppliers for the more expensive measures and to assist vulnerable households. This is known as Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- 3.3 The proposal is for the Council to act as 'anchor' authority and lead on procuring a regional Green Deal Provider to offer a local authority led scheme to participating authorities in the North East.

### **4. Current position and proposals**

- 4.1 Phase 1 of the scheme would target 10,000 - 15,000 domestic properties (of which around 1,500 – 2,000 would be in Newcastle) and would initially run for an estimated 3 years from 2013/14 (with possible further phase(s)), timed to minimise the gap between current insulation schemes phasing out and new market activities starting up. It is intended that over the life of the scheme, the set-up and prudential borrowing costs will be repaid at no net cost to council taxpayers. It is intended that the scheme be extended to public buildings, which will potentially offer even greater carbon footprint benefits.
- 4.2 Since the previous report:-
  - (a) The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) are consulting on secondary legislation closing in mid-January. Secondary legislation and industry guidance are expected to be finalised Spring 2012 with Green Deal formally launched in October 2012.
  - (b) A number of authorities must work together to create a critical mass for such a project. The inclusion of social housing is also essential to provide early assurance on take-up. Working with the Association of North East Councils (ANEC), we have sought commitments from both regional authorities and registered social housing providers. As a result Darlington, Durham, Northumberland and South Tyneside have approval to participate in the project as partner authorities. A Memorandum of

Understanding is being negotiated for all partner authorities to sign. A Partner Steering Group chaired by the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration has met twice. Others are also interested and may choose to participate at a later stage. Several housing providers are also interested in being involved.

- (c) The project has in-principle approval to European funding of £1.108m from Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) for set-up costs and will shortly commence detailed negotiations with a view to funding starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. In return for the funding, the Delivery Partner must have delivered, or entered into contracts with householders to deliver, energy efficiency works to a value of £23.719m across the partner authorities. Should the investment level not be achieved, IEE will instigate clawback pro-rata to the gap between the investment value and the actual value of works completed or committed.
- (d) External legal and financial support has been procured and detailed legal and financial reviews of the business case are being concluded. This supplements internal capacity by supporting development of the financial model, proposed scheme details and procurement preparation.
- (e) A technical review of housing stock information underpinning the business case has also been undertaken. Current estimates suggest that of Newcastle's stock of around 140,000 properties, approximately 23,000 – 30,000 will still require further measures of varying types from 2013. An assumed Phase I take-up rate of 5% indicates that of the required 10,000 – 15,000 houses, approximately 1,500 – 2,000 will be Newcastle properties. There are currently have about 12,000 Phase I homes in all committed authorities.

- 4.3 The current timetable includes a market awareness event in March 2012 and start of the procurement by late March. The procurement timetable has been revised following learning from Birmingham City Council's procurement and some feedback from the market. This enables opportunities to (a) further develop the regional arrangements; (b) achieve further clarity on the implications of the Green Deal secondary legislation consultation; and (c) clarify with DECC the requirements for any state aid notification. A progress review will be carried out following the end of the consultation period to consider progress and risks before proceeding to the next stage.

## **5. Reasons for the decision**

- 5.1 Green Deal is anticipated to go live from October 2012 and from December 2012 it replaces existing schemes (such as those via Warmzone). Without replacement, there is no guarantee of an effective and affordable market response for residents or safeguarding jobs at risk. Local authority action is being encouraged by DECC. There are other options available (such as leaving it to the market, adopting a facilitation role in conjunction with Green Deal Providers). These will be assessed during the progress review. This option is selected as providing the best opportunity to directly influence how delivery takes place and help to secure satisfactory outcomes in the key areas referred to in Paragraph 1.1.

## **6. Alternative Options**

- 6.1 Alternative options were considered by the project board during business case development and the current proposal was selected as the most appropriate route. This will be kept under review as outlined above.

## **7. What happens next**

- 7.1 If the recommendations are approved, the detailed legal and financial review will be completed; this will include reviewing the project and procurement timetable, completing the Council's gateway process, finalising procurement documentation / scheme details and setting a date for a market awareness day. Officers will also seek to conclude discussions with neighbouring authorities through a Memorandum of Understanding and finalise the funding agreement. Other external professional services will be procured to support communications and customer engagement activities in due course. Officers will also continue to maintain a close dialogue with DECC.

## **8. Background papers**

- (a) Cabinet Report (27 July 2011).
- (b) IEE Funding Bid and supporting documents held on project file.

## **9. Contact officers**

Phil Joyce, Director of Area Based Regeneration and Acting Project Director (0191 2116002).

## Appendix 1 – Corporate Implications

### 1 Financial

The views of the Director of Finance and Resources have been reflected in this report.

#### Project Wide

The estimated project development cost to the end of the procurement period is £1.519m. Negotiations have commenced for European funding; when finalised this will provide up to £1.108m from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 but cannot fund retrospective activities. The remaining £0.411m will be funded by the partner authorities.

Post-procurement costs will need to be considered and costed as the procurement progresses.

The estimated cost of the first delivery phase based on measures to 15,000 homes across the partner authorities is £80.000m. The current proposal is to draw down up to £60.000m of self-financing prudential borrowing between the partner authorities as householders sign up for works (i.e. gradual drawdown) and to lever in up to an additional £25.000m of ECO dependent on the final basis for ECO allocation under Green Deal legislation. This is anticipated to create a not for profit scheme at an enabling interest rate so that householders have the opportunity to benefit from a wider range of measures.

A national Green Deal finance vehicle (Green Deal Finance Company) is also in development and may provide an appropriate funding route in due course, subject to implementation and state aid requirements. This could reduce or remove the requirement for authorities to prudentially borrow.

#### Newcastle City Council

The Council's share of the procurement is anticipated to be around £0.200m, based on the current cost estimates and the latest drafting of the agreement between the Partner Authorities. This expenditure would be temporarily funded from a PFI reserve (which would need replacing by 2014/15) and subsequently repaid from the Project.

The Council's share of the delivery costs will depend upon the number of households that sign up in the City, and the nature of the works carried out. Based on the latest housing stock information available it is estimated that 1,500 to 2,000 properties in Newcastle will be treated during Phase 1 at an estimated cost of around £10.000m, although the final figure could be higher if a greater number of interventions are required, or a greater proportion of the works relate to more expensive interventions. The costs will be funded from self financing prudential borrowing, and the repayments will be met from Green Deal repayments, which will be collected on the Council's behalf by the energy companies.

## **2. Legal**

The Head of Commercial Law has been consulted on this report. These proposals are within the scope of the general power of competence provided to local authorities following the enactment of the Localism Act 2011. Progress of the Green Deal legislation will be kept under review as part of the ongoing project development work outlined in this report.

There are potential state aid implications arising from the use of prudential borrowing and these apply equally to any method whereby preferential rates of finance are to be provided. DECC is in the process of considering what form, if any, state aid notification to the European Commission should take in conjunction with interested parties including the Council. Proposals will need to be monitored to ensure compliance with any notification made and to avoid risk of a finding of illegal State Aid having been granted.

## **3. Consultation and scrutiny**

Cabinet Member for Quality of Life is regularly briefed by the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration and both he and the Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's have both been consulted on the contents of this report. There has been no scrutiny or ward committee involvement.

## **4. Risk management**

Key risks associated with implementing the recommendations and relating to the scheme generally are summarised in Appendix 2.

## **5. Equality**

An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) will be carried out as part of the Council's gateway approval process.

## **6. Environmental sustainability (If none please state why)**

The project is intended to impact directly and positively on the Council's Environmental Policy.

## **7. Partnership**

The arrangements between participating local authorities will exist through a Memorandum of Understanding for the time being, supported by a wider project governance structure. Longer term arrangements will be implemented through legal agreements resulting from the procurement process.

## **8. Community safety**

Community safety issues will be addressed through the procurement process.

## Appendix 2 - Risk Summary

	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
1	Provision of preferential finance rates may require state aid clearance without which procurement fails.	DECC preparing notification. Timescales dictate that the procurement will be issued in advance of notification outcome. NCC involved in preparation and discussions with DECC to ensure that NCC scheme covered in notification. External legal advisers retained by NCC with state aid expert. Cannot move to contract with delivery partner without state aid clearance.
2	Secondary legislation to the Energy Act 2011 does not meet requirements.	Consultation closes 18 January 12. Secondary legislation under project review for feedback to DECC including via meeting scheduled early Jan 12. Funding agreement not to be completed until legislative implications clear. Response to be signed off by Cabinet Member for Quality of Life.
3	Regional local authorities not willing to sign-up to scheme / project not viable	4 interested local authorities are being consulted on a draft Memorandum of Understanding and have started to attend a Partner Steering Group. If secured, this will provide a potentially viable project of between 10,000 – 15,000 properties. Communication is ongoing with interested authorities at this time with a view to finalising the Memorandum early in 2012. Alternative options may include NCC acting as the Green Deal Provider itself or facilitating activities of other Green Deal Providers in the area (if any).
4	Procurement fails e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State aid clearance not obtained by DECC</li> <li>• Lack of market interest or an alternative procurement route becomes more appropriate</li> <li>• Business case becomes unviable (e.g. critical mass of properties not available, partner authorities or registered housing providers withdraw)</li> </ul> Results in abortive costs to that point; clawback of funding based on sums drawn-down at that point.	Business case viable on parties interested to date Memorandum of Understanding issued; to be secured January. Council inputting to DECC on state aid Timetable reviewed; further time allowed for policy certainty, progress with state aid notification and progress with regional partnership. Local authorities share clawback risk
5	Unable to sign up 10,000 -15,000 householders. And / or Key parties (local authorities or customers) withdraw.	Current estimates suggest that of Newcastle's stock of around 140,000 properties, approximately 23,000 – 30,000 will still require further measures of varying types as from 2013. Assuming a take-up rate of 5% indicates that of the required 10,000 – 15,000 houses, 1,500 – 2,000 will be Newcastle properties. Project expanded outside of NCC to provide critical mass.

	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
		<p>If all expected partners sign up, this will provide an estimated pool of 623,000 properties. Assuming that around only 30% of properties require measures and of that there is a 7.5% take-up rate, will result in an adoption level of 12,530 which is within the required 10,000 – 15,000.</p> <p>Engagement with registered housing providers – several indicate interest. Further activities required to secure participation.</p> <p>Prudential borrowing drawdown to take place as householders sign up.</p> <p>Marketing strategies to be a key feature of procurement dialogue.</p> <p>Inter-authority agreement to be signed simultaneous to contract with delivery partner. Customer participation to be secured.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>Poor transitional arrangements on demise of existing energy efficiency funding schemes (December 12) results in sector jobs and skills demising and lack of energy efficiency improvement activity.</p> <p>Failure to finalise external funding to support estimated project set-up costs or funding secured insufficient to cover actual costs.</p>	<p>Warmzone activities to continue until March 2013. Requirement for further transitional arrangements to be considered and kept under review. Feedback to DECC on the same.</p> <p>Projected resource requirements reviewed in detail with budget and cash flow in place.</p> <p>Negotiation process expected to commence January 12. Information to be provided to funder in hand.</p> <p>Financial contributions requested from partner authorities. Several approvals already in place with planned payments in 2012/13.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>External funding clawback (in the event of funding requirements not delivered). Could result in full or pro-rata clawback.</p>	<p>Risk of signing funding agreement prior to final policy position and finalising regional arrangements is to be kept under review.</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding issued to partner authorities proposing share in clawback risk.</p> <p>Consideration required during procurement as to (a) likely delivery partner set-up period and therefore potential levels of any clawback; and (b) pre-contract work required on consumer engagement / sign-up.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Inability to finance the scheme</p>	<p>Approval to prudential borrowing required.</p> <p>Central developments relating to a national Green Deal Finance Company are being monitored.</p> <p>Financial proposals for partners set out in Memorandum of Understanding. Final commitments to be contracted during procurement.</p>

## Portfolio: Quality of Life

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

## 20mph Speed Limits in Residential Areas

Report by: **Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration**

Ward Implications: **All**

For Information		
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### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report provides information on the recently completed City Council initiative to introduce mandatory 20mph speed limits in all residential areas of Newcastle and outlines how this will contribute towards ongoing road safety initiatives, both locally and nationally.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet are recommended to receive the report and reinforce their commitment to providing safe, accessible residential areas for everyone.

### 3. Introduction and background

- 3.1 After debate on the issue at Full Council, Executive agreed, in November 2008, to commence a 4 year (from 2009/10) programme to introduce mandatory 20mph speed limits on Neighbourhood Streets. A further report to Executive in July 2009 agreed that the implementation programme should be compressed to 3 years and confirmed the availability of up to £1.4m of funding to support the programme.
- 3.2 The scheme was introduced with the main objective of improving road safety by reducing vehicle speeds, accidents and casualties. This in turn will make our neighbourhoods safer and more pleasant places in which to live. As such the scheme will have significant, long term benefits for the residents of Newcastle.
- 3.3 Consultation with residents and road users in Newcastle took place through articles in City Life, reports to Ward Committees, and formally through the advertising of the associated legal orders. During this formal advertising procedure only 9 objections were received from across the whole of the City, and two of these were from one of the Bus Companies. It is clear from this

that the vast majority of residents were supportive of the scheme.

#### **4. Current position in Newcastle City.**

- 4.1 The introduction of 20mph speed limits into residential areas across Newcastle was carried out in six phases over an eighteen month period commencing in August 2010. The last of these phases was completed in December 2011, by which time around 75% of the City's roads were fully signed and subject to a mandatory 20mph limit.
- 4.2 A small number of locations have been identified where some signage is to be relocated following site specific requests from residents and ward members. This work is ongoing and on target for delivery within the current financial year.
- 4.3 Alongside the 20mph in Residential Street initiative, a review of current speed limits on all other roads in the City has been completed in the past year. This review highlights those roads where it is appropriate to consider changes to the current speed limit, based upon investigations of data relating to collisions, severities and frequencies, along with traffic speeds and flows. A number of such proposals from this review will be prioritised and brought forward for inclusion in future traffic management programmes, primarily those funded from the Local Transport Plan.

#### **5. National position**

- 5.1 Portsmouth City Council was one of the first local authorities to introduce 20mph speed limits on its residential roads, and provided the basis for the introduction of the Newcastle scheme.
- 5.2 From our meetings with the Core Cities group, Liverpool City Council is currently introducing 20mph speed limits in all of their residential streets and Nottingham City Council are considering a similar scheme.
- 5.3 Sustrans, the charity that encourages travel by foot, bike and public transport for our everyday journeys, are now calling for UK wide 20mph schemes in residential areas, as part of their new campaign "Free Range Kids" Recent evidence shows that children in the UK are not getting out and about as much as they used to. In 1971, 80% of 7 and 8 year olds travelled to school without an adult, now only 11% do so. Just 15% of children play in their street, yet 73% would like to. Clearly, Sustrans see the introduction of widespread 20mph schemes, together with continued investment in safer routes as a means to achieve a healthier, safer lifestyle for children.
- 5.4 In June 2011, Department of Transport introduced measures to reduce time consuming and costly bureaucracy for Councils wanting to introduce 20mph schemes. Changes allowed Councils to paint signs on roads, rather than expensive upright signs, cutting costs as well as clutter. Rules regarding the introduction of speed humps and other physical measures were also relaxed, making it easier and cheaper to install 20mph schemes.

## **6. Evaluation of results**

- 6.1 The evaluation process will be based on traffic and accident data collected before and after the implementation of the 20mph speed limits. This will include
- Traffic speed data
  - Accident data
  - Travel to school data
  - Traffic volume data
  - Residents comments/views on the effectiveness of the scheme.
- 6.2 As the scheme has only recently been completed the amount of “after” data is limited to only some 7 months of accident/casualty information following the implementation of the various phases of the scheme.
- 6.3 Whilst the results so far are encouraging, and show a 16% reduction in accidents, this does not provide sufficient information or confidence to accurately predict any meaningful impact of the scheme. Collection of data will be an ongoing exercise to provide vital information for further reports in this scheme.
- 6.4 Additionally it may take several years to fully see the effects of the scheme. This is no different to many other Road Safety Interventions such as the wearing of seat belts and Drink Driving, which have taken time to have a positive effect on changing driver behaviour and attitude.

## **7. Way forward**

- 7.1 The City Council are looking to develop a partnership, primarily with Sheffield City Council (a fellow Core City with similar demographics) for publicity campaigns to promote 20mph limits and zones. Liverpool and Warrington have also indicated their wish to be involved.

Together we will be looking to develop a campaign which would aim to encourage drivers to slow down and also to inform residents about what to expect. The type of actions being considered include:

- Leaflets and posters.
- A competition in local schools to design a 20mph logo / picture that we can use on leaflets and posters and also on road signs at the entrances to the 20mph area
- Promotional goods to raise awareness of the 20mph limit.

A meeting with all partners has been arranged for the 19 Jan 2011 in Sheffield. Target messages to reach all demographics should include quality of life improvements, financial savings, time saved, fair use of social space, accident reduction and health improvements. This will all be discussed at the meeting and an action plan devised.

Communication has also commenced with the organisation “20’s Plenty for us” which is a group dedicated to addressing, promoting and investigating the impact of 20 mph zones in residential areas. They have offered their support with this initiative which will be discussed further.

- 7.2 Traffic/accident data will be collected as an ongoing process to assess the continued impact of the scheme. Similarly, consultation will take place with residents and road users to determine their views on the success or otherwise of the scheme.
- 7.3 This information will then help us to decide whether or not further remedial measures in the form of engineering measures are required. Any such measures will need to be prioritised for inclusion in future implementation programmes.
- 7.4 With all road safety initiatives the 3 basic principles of Education, Engineering and Enforcement will apply when looking towards achieving objectives. Northumbria Police have given their support to the 20mph initiative as a significant contribution to the objective of improving road safety and reducing accidents. However it should be stressed that the real success of any such initiative must rely heavily on the first two of these principles, Education and Engineering if it is to prove sustainable. Should identifiable road safety problems persist in specific areas then it would be appropriate to discuss support, through targeted enforcement, with Northumbria Police, although this should always be the option of “last resort” and not practical in the long term.

## **8. Corporate implications**

### **8.1 Financial**

The final costs associated with this initiative are still being collated, however it is fully expected that they will be accommodated within the allocated budget of £1.4m. with no additional funding requirements

#### **8.1.1 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

The Director of Finance and Resources notes the content of the report and the fact that there are no financial implications. There are no further comments.

### **8.2 Legal**

The Head of Commercial Law has been consulted on this report and it is compliant with human rights legislation. The necessary legal procedures have been completed in respect of the new speed limit orders.

### **8.3 Other Corporate Implications**

Please see annex 1

## **9. Background papers**

Executive Reports – April 2006, November 2008, July 2009

## **10. Contact officers**

David Embleton, 0191 2115911, [david.embleton@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.embleton@newcastle.gov.uk)

## **Annex to Report - Any other significant implications**

- (a) **Risk Management**  
The 20mph Speed Limits Initiative will reduce the risk of highway injury accidents in residential areas through the anticipated reduction on overall traffic speeds.
- (b) **Equalities**  
Reducing vehicle speeds and improving road safety will improve the environment and quality of life for all users of the highway.
- (c) **Environmental and Sustainability**  
The environment in residential areas will be improved in terms of accessibility and road safety through the general reduction in traffic speeds. Reduced vehicle speeds should also encourage the greater use of more sustainable modes of transport, particularly cycling and walking.
- (d) **Partnership**  
The 20mph Speed Limits Initiative supports the Newcastle Partnership in creating safer communities and quality places to live.
- (e) **Community Safety**  
Reducing vehicle speeds and improving road safety and accessibility will bring community benefits to all residential areas.
- (f) **Any Other Significant Implication**  
None

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**Portfolio : All**

**Cabinet – 25 January 2012**

**Second Revenue Budget Monitor**

**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources  
Chief Executive's Directorate**

**Ward Implications: All**

<b>For Decision</b>		
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## **1. Summary and Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This is the second revenue budget monitor relating to the 2011/12 financial year. It outlines the financial pressures that exist, and actions being taken to reduce these as far as possible within the year. Since the last revenue budget monitor report the financial pressures have increased, in particular in relation to children's social care. The financial pressures can be contained within the £4.0 million corporate contingency that the Council agreed during the 2011/12 budget process and are less than the financial pressures reported at this point last year. This is a significant achievement given the £44.1 million savings and additional income that the Council had to deliver to meet cost pressures and cuts in external funding.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) Note the budget changes set out within this report, which relate mainly to the allocation of brought forward reserves to fund one-off expenditure;
- (b) Note the financial pressures outlined in the report and agree the allocation of corporate support of up to £2.5 million to Children's Services and up to £0.5 million to Environment & Regeneration to help fund these pressures;
- (c) Agree to set up a time-limited Member working group to review the underlying causes of the children's social care financial pressures;
- (d) Agree to lobby the government for extra resources to meet the high levels of demand on children's social care; and
- (e) Approve the write-off of 127 items over £2k totalling £393k in line with normal practice to be funded from the relevant bad debt provision.

## **3. Background**

3.1 This report is produced in accordance with Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003, which requires local authorities to monitor income and expenditure against their budget, and be ready to take appropriate action if overspends

occur. This might include, for example, taking specific action to reduce spending or increase income, or funding the estimated overspend from reserves.

#### 4. Summary of Overall Position

4.1 This report identifies financial pressures amounting to £2.2 million at this point in the year as shown in the following table:

	<b>£ million</b>
Adult & Culture Services	0.0
Chief Executive's	0.0
Children Services	2.8
Environment & Regeneration	0.9
Less: corporate items	(1.5)
<b>Net financial pressures (before applying additional corporate support)</b>	<b>2.2</b>

4.2 As can be seen from the above table, there are significant service pressures which are being offset in part by savings in corporate items. Although the largest pressures appear to be in Children's Services and Environment & Regeneration, all directorates are facing some financial pressure, which they will have to manage. An underspend on corporate items (i.e. interest on revenue balances and debt charges and a one-off saving in insurance costs) is offsetting these financial pressures. The net financial pressures are well within the £4.0 million corporate contingency that the Council established as part of the 2011/12 budget process.

4.3 In line with previous years it is envisaged that further management action can be taken to improve the current year financial position by reducing spend and maximising income during the remainder of the year.

4.4 The Council operates a devolved financial management framework with directorates being given cash limits / trading targets to maintain spend within. These are adjusted on a monthly basis to reflect decisions made by Cabinet, allocation of corporate items and for a range of other reasons. Appendix A shows the impact of changes made to directorate budgets since the budget was agreed by City Council in March 2011. As can be seen, directorate budgets increased from £252.3 million as at 31 July 2011 to £257.6 million as at 31 October 2011 and the main change relates to brought forward reserves to fund one-off expenditure during the year.

#### 5. Directorate Budgets

##### Adult & Culture Services

5.1 The directorate has identified some financial pressures but it expects to maintain spending within the agreed budget at the end of the year, which will be a significant achievement. This is the same position as in the previous revenue budget monitor report. The main financial pressures are within services for older people, which is due to lower than expected savings on commissioning

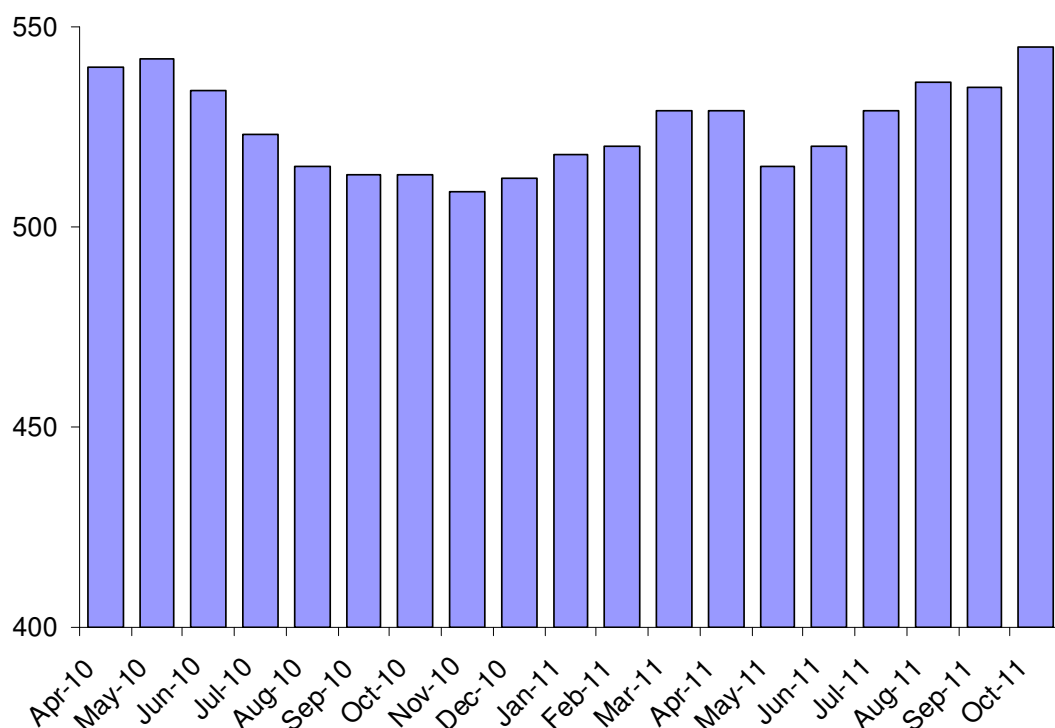
budgets and lower than expected income from the delayed implementation of the Fairer Charging Policy, and learning disability services, which is due to increased numbers of service users. These pressure are partly off-set by lower than expected spend within physical disability services and mental health services, and lower than expected staffing costs. Further government funding of £1.0 million that was announced on 3 January 2012 has not yet been factored into the financial projections within this report, however, some of this may be needed to off-set winter pressures yet to emerge.

### Chief Executive's

- 5.2 The directorate has identified some financial pressures but it expects to maintain spending within the agreed budget at the end of the year. This is an improved position when compared to that set out in the last revenue budget monitor report. The main financial pressure continues to be lower than expected income levels within the corporate property portfolio, which is due to the ongoing economic downturn.

### Children's Services

- 5.3 The directorate has identified potential financial pressures of £2.8 million against its revised budget of £59.3 million (i.e. 4.7%). This is an increase on the £1.3 million pressure identified in the last revenue budget monitor report. The main financial pressure is in children's social care and this is due to higher numbers of looked after children than was envisaged at the time the budget was set. The following chart shows the volatility in the number of looked after children since April 2010.



- 5.4 From the chart it can be seen that numbers of looked after children totalled 540 in April 2010 and reduced to 509 in November 2010 when the 2011/12 draft budget was set. The 2011/12 pre-consultation budget was set on the assumption that the falling trend would continue. However, numbers increased

in December 2010 and January 2011, and additional funding of £1.0 million was added into the 2011/12 post-consultation budget to compensate for this. Number of looked after children then increased further in February and March 2011.

- 5.5 The 2011/12 budget was set on the assumption that numbers of looked after children would decrease to around 490 during 2011/12, but numbers continued to increase and reached 545 as at the end of October 2011. They are estimated to continue broadly at this level until the end of the current financial year. Measures taken to reduce the number of looked after children have been effective in diverting children away from care but more new cases have arisen than was anticipated and this has negated the positive impact of these measures.
- 5.6 These pressures will continue into 2012/13 and the final budget report to be considered by Cabinet in February 2012 will need to identify additional funding to address the ongoing pressures.
- 5.7 The directorate has implemented a wide range of measures to reduce the level of the overspend that includes transferring budgets from other parts of the directorate that are currently underspending, bringing forward further in-year efficiency savings, minimising non-essential spend, and maximising external funding and other one-off income opportunities, and will continue to look at further opportunities to reduce spend and generate additional income during the remainder of the year. Given the external pressure being faced, which appears to be affecting other local authorities in the region, additional corporate one-off support of up to £2.5 million is proposed at this stage.
- 5.8 The pressure on children's social care budgets appears to be common across the region and the Council is working with ANEC to raise the need for additional funding from government. It is intended to establish a time limited Member working group to look into the cause of the recent increase in the number of looked after children and identify actions that can be taken to safely reduce the number of looked after children and the resulting cost pressure on the Council's budget over time. The working group will consist of the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet member for Children's Services and the Deputy Cabinet member for Community Safety and Regulation, and will be supported by the Executive Director for Children's Services, the Director of Performance, Outcomes & Commissioning and the Director of Finance & Resources.
- 5.9 The schools' budget is projected to underspend by £0.4 million. Any underspend arising at the year-end will need to be carried forward into the next financial year and its use agreed with the Schools Forum.

#### Environment & Regeneration

- 5.10 The directorate has identified potential financial pressures of £0.9 million against its revised budget of £54.5 million (i.e. 1.7%). This is the same position as in the previous revenue budget monitor report. The main financial pressures are in the following areas:
- Regulatory Services & Public Protection, which is due to the impact of the economic downturn on car parking income levels; and

- Neighbourhood Services, which is due to the financial performance of traded services being lower than expected.

5.11 The directorate has taken action to address the financial pressures it faces and will continue to look at further opportunities to reduce spend and generate additional income during the remainder of the year. The better weather over recent months has reduced the risk of significant extra winter pressure costs. It is envisaged at this stage that corporate support of up to £0.5 million will be required, with the directorate having to manage additional cost pressures or find additional savings.

## 6. Other Budgets

### Corporate Items

6.1 Corporate items, such as interest on revenue balances and debt charges are projected to underspend by £0.5 million. This is the same position as in the previous revenue budget monitor report.

6.2 The Council has also reviewed the insurance liabilities it faces as part of an annual review process and has identified an in-year saving of £1.0 million in the current year.

### Reserves

6.3 The total directorate financial pressures are partly off-set by savings on corporate items. The remaining net pressure of £2.2 million is well within the corporate contingency of £4.0 million established when the 2011/12 budget was set to deal with unforeseen financial pressures. Further actions are being taken by directorates to reduce the estimated financial pressures they face. However, given the nature of the current pressures, it is proposed to allocate up to £2.5 million of corporate support to fund the financial pressures in Children's Services and up to £0.5 million for the pressures in Environment & Regeneration. This should enable a significant part of the corporate contingency to be carried over to support the delivery of the 2012/13 budget strategy.

6.4 As a result, the balance on the Council's unearmarked reserve is expected to be maintained at its current level of £10.1 million.

### Treasury Management

6.5 External borrowing totalled £1,025.7 million as at 31 October 2011 compared to the authorised limit set by City Council in March 2011 of £1,100.0 million. The amount of external borrowing is expected to fall further as a result of the planned debt repayment of around £315 million at the end of March as part of the changes to the government's financing of the Housing Revenue Account. External investments totalled £187.9 million as at 31 October 2011. Due to the current financial turmoil and uncertainty in the Eurozone a prudent approach is being followed to minimise investment risk as far as possible, which will see external investments fall by the year end.

### Collection Fund

Current estimates of the financial performance of the Collection Fund indicate a

6.6 projected deficit for the year of £2.3 million. This is partly due to a higher than expected deficit in 2010/11 (i.e. £0.8 million), which was reported to Cabinet as part of the 2010/11 outturn position in June 2011, and a higher than expected deficit in 2011/12 (i.e. £1.5 million) due to:

- Higher number of student exemptions compared with when the 2011/12 Council Tax base was agreed by City Council in January 2011; and
- Lower number of new properties coming onto the housing market compared with when the 2011/12 Council Tax base was agreed by City Council in January 2011.

6.7 This one-off cost pressure will be funded from one-off resources and has therefore not been factored into the overall projected position set out in this report.

#### Write Offs

6.8 During the year the Council normally writes off income that it is owed, which for various reasons is not considered to be collectable. Per the Council's financial regulations, write-offs over £2k can only be approved by Cabinet whereas write-offs under £2k can be approved by the Head of Finance under delegated powers. This report provides information about the write off of £393k owed to the Council where the individual amounts have a value of £2k or more. All amounts written off will be funded from the relevant bad debt provision that has been established for this purpose. The total of £393k is made up of:

- Property balances totalling £15k (3 accounts); and
- Housing Revenue Account balances totalling £378k (124 accounts).

### **7. Alternative Options**

7.1 Given the financial challenges facing the Council in future years there is no alternative other than to address underlying cost pressures.

### **8. Corporate Implications**

#### Financial

8.1 The financial information is included within the main body of the report.

#### Any Additional Comments from the Director of Finance & Resources

8.2 The Council is on target to maintain spending within the agreed budget for 2011/12. This is a significant achievement given the unprecedented level of savings that the Council has had to deliver this year. Action needs to be taken to reduce the costs of looked after children as well as to secure additional funding to meet the higher than anticipated costs. Given the budget challenge for 2012/13 and beyond it is vitally important that directorates continue to manage and address the ongoing spending pressures, and to bring spending under budget if possible. This is likely to be harder to achieve than in recent years, given the very high level of funding reductions that the Council has already had to make in 2011/12 and previous years.

## Legal

- 8.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## Other Implications

- 8.4 Any efforts by directorates to contain expenditure within budget which could have a significant impact on direct services will be reported to Cabinet.

## **9. What Happens Next?**

- 9.1 The next revenue budget monitor report will be presented to Cabinet in April 2012.

Background papers:

- Directorate section 151 reports; and
- YHN Board reports dated 13 December 2011 and 10 January 2012.

The contact officer is Mark Nicholson, Head of Finance, on extension 25115

## Appendix A – 2011/12 Net Revenue Budget

	2011/12 Original Budget	2011/12 Revised Budget as at 31 July	2011/12 Revised Budget as at 31 October
	£000	£000	£000
Adult & Culture Services	107,287	111,287	111,815
Chief Executive's	21,219	33,023	31,948
Children Services	56,407	58,460	59,280
Environment & Regeneration	46,404	49,517	54,537
<b>Net Directorate Expenditure</b>	<b>231,317</b>	<b>252,287</b>	<b>257,580</b>
Integrated Transport Authority Levy	18,982	18,982	18,982
<b>Net Service Expenditure</b>	<b>250,299</b>	<b>271,269</b>	<b>276,562</b>
Corporate Items	37,434	30,913	31,578
Net Contributions from Reserves	(8,104)	(22,519)	(28,477)
<b>Net Revenue Budget</b>	<b>279,629</b>	<b>279,663</b>	<b>279,663</b>
Less: External Support	(171,350)	(171,350)	(171,350)
Less: Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,616)	(2,650)	(2,650)
Plus: Estimated Deficit on Collection Fund	330	330	330
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>105,993</b>	<b>105,993</b>	<b>105,993</b>
Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Precept	5,725	5,725	5,725
Northumbria Police Authority Precept	6,549	6,549	6,549
Parish Council Precepts	51	51	51
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>118,318</b>	<b>118,318</b>	<b>118,318</b>

NOTE : the net revenue budget increased from £279,629k to £279,663k as a result of additional Council Tax Freeze Grant being received by the Council. The total Council Tax requirement of £118,318k remains unaffected by this change

## **Appendix B – Other Corporate Implications**

### Risk Management

The impact of external funding reductions is a strategic risk. This report, and the work undertaken by directorates that is described in the report, is part of the control environment designed to manage that risk.

### Equalities

There are no direct equalities implications arising directly from this report.

### Environmental Sustainability

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

### Partnership

There are no direct partnership implications arising from this report.

### Community Safety

There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

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**Portfolio: All**



**Cabinet Business Meeting**

**25 January 2012**

**Capital Programme Updates Report**

**Report by: Director of Finance and Resources, Chief Executive's Directorate**

**Ward Implications: All**

For Decision		
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## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out new capital schemes and changes to the 2011-12 capital programme, which have been identified since the start of the financial year. A full listing of changes to the capital programme and an analysis by directorate/division/ward is available on the City Council's internet site on Your Council / Budget and Annual Report / [Capital Programme Updates Reports](#)
- 1.2 The current programme is £173.334 million for direct capital expenditure in 2011-2012, with a further £17.812 million of capital investment funded through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) schemes, giving total estimated investment level of £191.146 million in the year.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to :
  - 2.1.1 Note the latest level of 2011-12 capital programme and approve the inclusion of the new schemes and changes to the existing schemes into the capital programme as outlined in section 3 and Annex 2 of this report;
  - 2.1.2 Approval re-phasing of the Byker Trust budget of £1.495 million, funded through corporate prudential borrowing as outlined in section 4.1 of this report;
  - 2.1.3 Approve re-phasing of £1.822 million for Central Walker C of E Primary School new build, funded through Primary Strategy Grant as outlined in section 4.2 of this report;
  - 2.1.4 Approve the inclusion in the capital programme of £1.117 million for Pottery Bank Phase 2 capital works, to be funded from New Homes Bonus and YHN resources as outlined in section 4.3 of this report;
  - 2.1.5 Approve re-phasing of £1.591 million and a reduction of £1.367 million in the Civic Centre capital programme, as outlined in section 4.4 of this report;

- 2.1.6 Approve removal of Strategic Sites budget of £1.955 million, as outlined in section 4.5 of this report;
- 2.1.7 Approve inclusion in the capital programme of the Riverside Dene Demolitions £2.252 million, to be funded from HRA resources as outlined in section 4.6 of this report;
- 2.1.8 Approve inclusion in the capital report Public Space CCTV £0.110 million, to be funded the corporate resource pool as outlined in section 4.7 of this report;
- 2.1.9 Approve inclusion in the capital programme £0.084 million of increased costs for infrastructure works at Barrack Road / Strawberry Place, to be funded from as outlined in section 5.1 of this report;
- 2.1.10 Approve inclusion in the capital programme increased costs of £0.177 million for work at Virginia House Hostel, to be funded from a mixture of re-aligned corporate resource pool, New Homes Bonus and, Adult Services capital grant as outlined in section 5.2 of this report, and;

### 3. Financial Issues

#### 3.1 Capital Programme Variations

3.1.1 The movement in the programme since Oct is analysed by funding source in Table 1 and by directorate and reason for variation in Annex 2. Significant changes to the programme are highlighted in section 4.

3.1.2 Capital investment is funded from the following sources in 2011-12.

<b>Table 1 : Capital Funding</b>	<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Balance Sheet Provisions	14,487	19,088	4,601
Supported Borrowing	673	728	55
Unsupported Borrowing	63,954	57,154	(6,800)
Capital Contributions	5,181	5,242	61
Capital Receipts	1,932	831	(1,101)
Corporate Resource Pool	9,037	5,908	(3,129)
Grants	45,551	44,445	(1,106)
Revenue Contributions	4,455	4,505	50
Major Repairs Allowance	35,944	35,433	(511)
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>181,214</b>	<b>173,334</b>	<b>(7,880)</b>
Over-programming	20,668	12,551	(8,117)
<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>201,882</b>	<b>185,885</b>	<b>(15,997)</b>

Note 1: October figures reflect programme approvals taken at October Cabinet and specific Project Approvals taken at November and December Cabinet.

## **4. Reasons For Significant Movements In The Capital Programme**

### **4.1 Byker Trust (-£1.495 million)**

4.1.1 It was originally intended to transfer housing assets to the Byker Trust in March 2011. This date was extended to March 2012 due to an extension of the Housing Revenue Account self financing deadline and the delay in securing the Housing Minister's support for the Byker Trust proposals.

Part of the approved £2.000m allocation has been utilised on the Bolam Coyne Housing Development and glass porches have been installed on the Byker Estate. However, the remaining £1.495m will now be utilised in 2012/13 once the Byker Trust has been established and relevant assets transferred.

### **4.2 Central Walker C of E Primary (£1.822 million)**

4.2.1 Approval is sought to re-phase £1.822 million of funds to reflect a more accurate estimate of when costs will be incurred, based on updated delivery information.

### **4.3 Pottery Bank Phase 2 (£1.117 million)**

4.3.1 To complement the BNG funded Pottery Bank Environmental Improvement pilot scheme, which was delivered in 2010/11, we will be delivering an enhanced modern homes package to the remainder of Pottery Bank. In addition to the usual modern homes package, we will be upgrading the mini peaks and bay windows, canopies, roof peaks and the rendering to properties on the estate.

4.3.2 The scheme will be funded £0.300 million from New Homes Bonus, £0.817 million from YHN resources.

### **4.4 Reduction in Civic Centre Programme (-£2.958 million)**

4.4.1 The original approved Civic Centre capital programme for 2011/12, including rephasing from previous years is currently £4.287 million. A subsequent review of the programme has identified rephasing of some projects from 2011/12 to 2012/13, this amounts to £1.591 million. Projects have also been identified which will no longer be implemented, these amount to £1.367 million.

### **4.5 Strategic Sites (-£1.955 million)**

4.5.1 This budget is only aligned to a specific project once a business case has been produced, showing how the cost of buying the property will be supported. It is therefore proposed that this allocation be removed from the capital programme and Cabinet approve individual acquisitions as and when they arise and a viable business case exists to support the purchase.

### **4.6 Riverside Dene Demolitions (£2.252 million)**

4.6.1 In October 2010, the Council agreed to the principle of demolition of the five un-refurbished tower blocks, Haughton Court, Kings Meadows, The Poplars,

The Willows and The Beeches.

4.6.2 The five multi storey blocks will be stripped of asbestos and demolished from the top down. High reach machinery will be used to demolish the top of blocks first with low reach machinery used to demolish the lower blocks. The material extracted from the demolition will be crushed on site and then recycled.

4.6.3 The scheme will ensure continued investment in managing and maintaining the whole area and ensure Riverside Dene is seen to clearly integrate with emerging social and economic regeneration objectives in the west end and city centre.

#### **4.7 Public Space CCTV (£0.110 million)**

4.7.1 The CCTV Delivery Group commissioned an independent report with the remit to evaluate each of the existing thirty-one camera's technical abilities, overall condition and the costs required to bring them back into full operational service. The indicative cost to re-instatement, upgrade or decommission each of the identified cameras is £110,000. This cost will be funded from a saving associated with existing Corporate Resource Pool contributions.

### **5. Other Financial Issues**

#### **5.1 Barrack Road / Strawberry Place (£0.084 million)**

5.1.1 The costs of the Barrack Road/ Strawberry Place Super Crossing were estimated at £987,000 when reported to Cabinet for approval in March 2011. The original specification did not include the need to re-equip the traffic signals on the linked Gallowgate/St. James' Boulevard junction. The need for this has resulted in extra costs of £84,000, and therefore a total scheme cost of £1,071,000. Funding has been identified from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport block to fund the additional costs.

#### **5.2 Virginia House (£0.177 million)**

5.2.1 A significant element of additional expenditure had risen due to the deterioration and the condition of the building fabric, occurring during the period between tender documentation preparation and the commencement of the contractor on site.

5.2.2 Increased costs were incurred due to additional repair works on the roof, ceilings and to the external stonework. This was caused partly by the absence of a detailed condition survey. In the case of the roof, vandalism occurred while the building was unoccupied for approximately six months before commencement of the project and the security panels were frequently breached allowing access into the building which resulted in the building being stripped of salvageable items causing substantial internal water damage. Funding has been identified from a combination of corporate resource pool, New Homes Bonus and Adult Service capital grants.

## **6. Resource & Legal Implications**

### **6.1 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

6.1.1 Director of Finance and Resources has been fully involved in the preparation of this report.

### **6.2 Any additional comments from legal**

6.2.1 No comments

## **7. What Happens Next**

7.1 The capital projects outlined in the report will be implemented through normal procurement arrangements. Spending will be reflected in future capital programme monitoring reports.

## **8. Further Information**

8.1 Background Papers: List of new schemes and variations to schemes and individual directorate capital programmes.

Risk assessments for new capital schemes are included within the individual Project Appraisal Framework documents.

Full listing of capital programme and schemes funded by Prudential Borrowing are on the Council's website under Council and Democracy/Budget and Annual Report/Capital Programme.

Contact Officer on capital schemes: Claire Wylie, Senior Accountant, extension 26701

## ANNEX 1 Corporate Implications

### 1 **Consultation and Scrutiny**

The appropriate Scrutiny Committee is Service Delivery Committee. The Committee has not been consulted or involved in this report.

### 2 **Risk Management**

Risks for individual capital projects will be managed by the responsible Departments. All new schemes are subject to the Newcastle Programme and Project Management System (PMS) and undergo an individual risk assessment.

### 3 **Equalities**

In the delivery of their Capital programme, Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) has developed procedure documents, which their construction partners comply with. The procedure document covers such issues such as vulnerable tenants, adaptations, special needs, language barriers and religious events. They have also issued YHN's diversity guide to all construction partners.

In addition to the policies and procedures already in place regarding equalities and diversity, during the procurement of the construction partners delivering their Capital Programme, YHN specify that contractors have to show that they have an equality and diversity policy in place and recognition of the issues.

### 4 **Environmental Sustainability**

In designing and implementing capital schemes, individual directorates will ensure that they are in line with the Council's strategic objectives on the environment and sustainability.

### 5 **Partnership**

The Council works with other partners on an individual project basis.

### 6 **Community Safety**

There are no new community safety implications as a result of this report.

### 7 **Ward, Community Impact and Engagement Implications**

The ward analysis of the capital programme is provided as a background paper on the City Council's internet site.

### 8 **Other Implications**

All key implications have been covered within the report.

ANNEX 2 : PROGRAMME VARIATIONS

	2011-12 programme as at Oct 2011 Cabinet Business Meeting	Net Rephasing to/from next year	New scheme	Enhanced/ Reduced Scheme	Increased costs / Reduced costs	Other	Total change	January Programme
Adult and Culture Services	9,755	(491)	124	(20)	(26)	(58)	(471)	9,284
Chief Executive's Directorate	27,863	(4,573)	-	(1,540)	(570)	-	(6,683)	21,180
Children's Services	28,017	1,053	695	94	-	237	2,079	30,096
Environment & Regeneration	52,470	(4,438)	558	(149)	-	-	(4,029)	48,441
Housing Revenue Account	59,682	(100)	2,297	(166)	-	2,248	4,279	63,961
Corporate	3,427	(2,574)	-	-	-	(481)	(3,055)	372
<b>ESTIMATED SPEND</b>	<b>181,214</b>	<b>(11,123)</b>	<b>3,674</b>	<b>(1,781)</b>	<b>(596)</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>(7,880)</b>	<b>173,334</b>
Over/(under)-programming	20,668	-	-	-	-	(8,117)	(8,117)	12,551
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>201,882</b>	<b>(11,123)</b>	<b>3,674</b>	<b>(1,781)</b>	<b>(596)</b>	<b>(6,171)</b>	<b>(15,997)</b>	<b>185,885</b>

Footnote: - Opening programme reflects programme approval from Oct Cabinet and additional project approval from Nov Cabinet

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**Portfolio: Chief Executives**

**Cabinet**

**25 January 2012**

**Strategic and Corporate Risk Update**

**Report by: Director of Finance and Resources, Chief Executives Directorate**

**Ward Implications: All**

<b>For Information</b>		
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**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 The aim of the report is to provide an overview of the key risks facing the Council and the measures being taken to address them, to enable Cabinet to review current controls in place and progress towards target risk priorities.

**2 Recommendations**

2.1 Cabinet are asked to review and comment on the strategic risk register, which is set out within appendices A to C of this report.

**3 Introduction and Background**

3.1 The strategic risk register contains the most significant risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives. It highlights current risk priorities and the actions required to reduce these risks. Lead officers have provided a summary of progress against all strategic risks and this is set out in appendices A to C:

- Appendix A shows how risks have been categorised, the risk priority and the direction of travel
- Appendix B shows where each risk sits on the risk matrix
- Appendix C gives a brief summary of significant activity in relation to each risk, including target risk priority

3.2 The Audit Committee reviewed the strategic risk register in December 2011.

**4 Commentary on Specific Risks**

Climate Change

4.1 This risk has been removed from the strategic risk register as action plans have been successfully delivered and the target risk priority has been met. The climate change delivery group will continue to provide oversight of the Council's work in this area to ensure the Council meets its carbon reduction commitments.

## Single Status and Equal Pay

- 4.2 The priority of this risk has improved due to the closure of the appeals window, which means the number of appeals is known, reducing the level of uncertainty.

## Reduction in Public Sector Funding

- 4.3 Although the priority of this risk has remained static, the Council has accelerated its financial planning process by bringing the launch of its annual budget proposals forward by one month to ensure a more comprehensive consultation process is undertaken via 'Let's Talk Newcastle' and to ensure a fuller financial effect in 2012/13.

## Regeneration

- 4.4 Although the priority of this risk has remained static, the Council is making progress. For example 'Make your Mark', a creative community programme for Benwell and Scotswood to engage the local community in the regeneration of this part of the city, is running well and there has been lots of interest from community groups and organisations, applying for a variety of projects.

## Corporate Health and Safety

- 4.5 The priority of this risk has improved due to the establishment of a robust performance management framework with greater ownership by directorates.

## Fragile Economic Environment

- 4.6 The priority of this risk has deteriorated, due to the worsening national economic outlook. Despite this there are good new stories in the city such as attracting greater levels of inward investment through the creation of an Accelerated Development Zone and we will continue to work with partners across the North East to stimulate growth through the Enterprise Zone.

## **5 Resource and Legal Implications**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **5.2 Any additional comments from the Directors of Finance and Resources**

No comments.

### **5.3 Legal**

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this report and there are no Human Rights implications.

### **5.4 Other Implications**

The annex to this report sets out any other potentially significant implications or consequences of the recommendations being agreed (or not agreed) which it is felt important the decision-maker should take into account.

## **6 What happens next?**

- 6.1 Risk owners will keep the strategic risk register under review and report progress to the Audit

Committee on 23 March 2012.

**Background papers and contact officer details**

List of background papers:

Strategic risk register (held by Audit and Strategic Risk Team)

**Contact officers:**

Philip Slater, Head of Audit and Strategic Risk,

Chief Executive's Directorate

Telephone: 0191 2116511, e-mail: [philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slater@newcastle.gov.uk)

## **7** Annex to report – Any other significant implications

### **7.1 Risk management**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report. Details around the specific risks identified in the strategic risk register are summarised in Appendix C and will be kept under review by risk owners to ensure they continue to reflect the strategic risks relevant to the City Council.

### **7.2 Equality**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report

### **7.3 Environmental sustainability**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report

### **7.4 Partnership**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report

### **7.5 Community safety**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report

### **7.6 Health equality implications**

There are no direct implications specific to the recommendation in the report

### **7.7 Other Implications**

None

## Risk at a glance

## Strategic Risks

Risk Description	Priority	Direction of Travel
<b>Reduction in Public Sector Finance</b> Significant reduction in public sector finance available to local government over the short to medium term (April 2011 to 2020)	Red 16	Static
<b>Regeneration</b> Inability to deliver sustainable regeneration (physical, economic and social elements) - risk exacerbated by economic downturn, public sector cuts and relatively weak private sector	Red 12	Static
<b>Single Status and Equal Pay</b> Ability to manage the financial and workforce impacts of Single Status and the remaining risks in relation to equal pay claims.	Red 12	Improving
<b>Fragile Economic Environment</b> Council and Partners fail to identify, assess and mitigate the potential impacts of the fragile and unusually uncertain economic outlook for the City	Amber 9	Deteriorating
<b>Malicious Incident</b> In partnership with other agencies, Newcastle City Council does not make adequate arrangements to support communities to prevent, strengthen protection against, and to mitigate the impact of, a terrorist attack.	Amber 8	Static
<b>Community Tensions</b> Failure of the Council to monitor, respond to and seek to diffuse community tensions.	Amber 8	Static
<b>Transforming Adult Social Care</b> Limited ability to modernise Adult Social Care in line with national Government policy, local political priorities and citizen wishes	Green 6	Static

## Corporate Risks

Description	Priority	Direction of Travel
<b>Business Continuity</b> Failure to maintain business continuity in the event of a major disruption to services	Red 12	Static
<b>Programmes and Major Projects</b> All programmes and major projects are not properly approved, planned or effectively delivered	Amber 9	Static
<b>Information Governance</b> Failure to ensure consistent application of information security controls could result in information security and integrity being compromised	Amber 9	Static
<b>Major Incident Management</b> Inadequate response to a major emergency	Amber 8	Static
<b>Corporate Health and Safety</b> Risk of injuries, cases of occupational related ill health. Failure to comply with Statutory H&S requirements	Amber 8	Improving
<b>Corporate Safeguarding</b> Council failing to embed a strong safeguarding culture in parts of its operations.	Amber 8	Static

(Strategic risks – black circles, Corporate risks blue circles)

		Impact			
		Nil	Low	Medium	High
High	GREEN 4		AMBER 8	RED 12	RED 16
	Medium			Information Governance Programmes and Major Projects Fragile Economic Environment	Delivery of Regeneration Business Continuity Single Status and Equal Pay
Low	GREEN 3		GREEN 6	AMBER 9	RED 12
	GREEN 2			Transforming Adult Social Care	Major Incident Management Malicious Incidents Corporate Safeguarding Community Tensions Corporate Health and Safety
Nil	GREEN 1		GREEN 2	GREEN 3	GREEN 4
	GREEN 2		GREEN 4	GREEN 6	AMBER 8

<b>STRATEGIC RISKS</b>			
<b>Risk Title/ Accountable Director</b>	<b>Current Priority/ Direction of Travel</b>	<b>Target Priority</b>	<b>High level controls/Progress</b>
<b>Reduction Public Sector Finance</b>  Director of Finance and Resources	Red 16 (Static)	Red 12	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011/12 Budget agreed and is on target</li> <li>• Budget and Financial Strategy/timetable agreed for 2012/13</li> </ul>
			Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed budget for 2012/13 was approved by Cabinet on 7 December 2011</li> <li>• The budget shows a saving of £30.3m which includes efficiencies and cuts, and covers the Council's funding gap for the year</li> <li>• The budget timeline for preparing the 2012/13 budget is one month ahead of the previous year to improve consultation periods and help with the implementation timetable</li> <li>• Formal staff consultations commenced on 29 November 2011 for the 2012/13 budget proposals</li> <li>• Let's Talk Newcastle engagement and consultation has taken place on priorities with over 4,000 members of the public having contributed</li> <li>• Fair funding lobbying activity continues</li> <li>• It is projected that significant, further savings will be required in at least the next 2 years and probably beyond that</li> </ul>
<b>Regeneration</b>  Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration	Red 12 (Static)	Red 12	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area based regeneration and investment action plans clearly setting out projects for delivery – supported by Steering Groups</li> <li>• Monitoring provided by the ABR Programme Board, Environment, Housing and Transport Delivery Partnership</li> <li>• Local Investment Plan</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment</li> <li>• Introduction of Byker Community Trust</li> </ul>
			Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Momentum continues to close the gap between communities in terms of jobs, health, attainment and housing. New approaches focussing</li> </ul>

			<p>on communities, leveraging the new finance streams and longer term partnerships are in place and continue to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotswood Masterplan Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infrastructure works on target &amp; BNG funding carried forward to 2011/12</li> <li>○ All acquisitions are now in Council ownership and demolition programme agreed</li> <li>○ 'Make your mark' Programme is running well and monitored bi monthly</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Riverside Dene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Cedars was completed on time and sales are progressing well</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Heart of Walker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School is on target to open Sept 2012</li> <li>○ Marketing of the retail site is underway.</li> <li>○ Communication plan is being coordinated to achieve interest from developers/retailers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cowgate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partners continue to be committed to the regeneration strategy</li> <li>○ 2011/12 budget secured. Commitment needs to be secured for 2012 to 2015</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Single Status and Equal Pay</b></p> <p>Director of Corporate Services</p>	<p>Red 12 (Improving)</p>	<p>Amber 8</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding plan included in the Medium Term Plan with allocations to cover cost pressures. In addition to baseline budgets, one-off reserves have been accumulated within the Council's strategic reserves and corporate resource pool to help meet additional costs during the protection period</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appeals window has now closed – 133 appeals are now being considered</li> <li>• Head of Finance to assess financial impact of successful appeals, working with Heads of Service to assess possible back pay liability</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equal pay claims are being managed in line with the agreed strategy and the quantification of liability is progressing</li> </ul>
<b>Malicious Incident</b>  Director of Policy Strategy and Communications	Amber 8 (Static)	Green 4	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CONTEST Board and underpinning Prevent, Protect and Prepare Delivery Groups to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the delivery and implementation of CONTEST, the national Counter Terrorism Strategy, which was re-launched in July 2011</li> <li>Newcastle Safe Newcastle Unit and Resilience Planning Team</li> <li>Extensive briefing programme for members and officers</li> </ul> Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile for 2011/12 has been produced by Special Branch and delivered to the Contest Board</li> <li>The updated national CONTEST Strategy was launched in July 2011 with a strong focus on crowded places</li> <li>Joint working between the Newcastle and Gateshead CONTEST Boards. Joint activity includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media/press</li> <li>Workforce development</li> <li>Resilience planning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Community Tensions</b>  Director of Policy Strategy and Communications	Amber 8 (Static)	Green 6	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Newcastle Strategy (2011-2014)</li> <li>Community Tensions Contingency Plan</li> <li>Community Empowerment Framework for Newcastle</li> <li>Newcastle Partnership Community Empowerment Website – Partners are committed to increasing community engagement</li> <li>Cohesion Mainstreaming Framework</li> <li>Systems of monitoring, reporting and escalation of key issues to "civic leaders" are in place (e.g. SNAPS, ARCH)</li> <li>External verification of planning and processes</li> <li>Excellent status in the Equalities Framework for Local Government</li> </ul> Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intelligence gathering continues to</li> </ul>

			<p>identify possible tensions supported by clear escalation structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Tensions Contingency Plan has been updated and sets out a robust approach for managing and responding to tensions</li> <li>• Officer training on dealing with community tension and conflict resolution has been provided</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transforming Adult Social Care</b></p> <p>Executive Director of Adult and Culture Services</p>	<p>Green 6 (Static)</p>	<p>Green 6</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle is a member of the Early Implementer Network for Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards – learning and sharing information with other local authorities to develop our new partnership arrangements</li> <li>• The Government’s milestones have been achieved and supporting projects are complete or on track for completion</li> <li>• A full programme review has been undertaken resulting in various projects being re-configured into a single integrated programme</li> <li>• Step projects are on target to deliver and any discrepancies in realisation of benefits are brought to the attention of Corporate Management Team on a fortnightly basis to compensate for any shortfall</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of personal budgets continues and the project is on target</li> <li>• In response to the new government policies around health and wellbeing the Council will work with NHS Partners to scope a joint programme to implement the Health Bill</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fragile Economic Environment</b></p> <p>Director of Policy Strategy and Communications</p>	<p>Amber 9 (Deteriorating)</p>	<p>Green 6</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Downturn Plan</li> <li>• Alive after five has generated an additional 747,627 customers spending an extra £53m in shops, restaurants and other businesses</li> <li>• Newcastle Fund (support to voluntary and community sector)</li> <li>• One third of Newcastle Fund allocation for 11-12 was on employment and skills related projects.</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened the Council’s economic policy function, in light of additional responsibilities, including</li> </ul>

			<p>Local Enterprise Partnerships and the abolition of ONE NE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving to finalise an economic green paper which sets out how we can support the city</li> <li>• Accelerated development zone and agreeing a share of the enterprise zone</li> <li>• .The city successfully supported bids for approx £10m worth of Regional Growth Fund monies to support marine and offshore developments on the Banks of the Tyne.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ambitious projects in the city to create jobs and investment in the city.</li> <li>• The national economic outlook is worsening however efforts will be made to reduce the impact on the city as far as possible.</li> </ul>
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<b>CORPORATE RISKS</b>			
<b>Risk Title/ Accountable Director</b>	<b>Current Priority/ Direction of Travel</b>	<b>Target Priority</b>	<b>High level controls/Next steps</b>
<b>Business Continuity</b>  Director of Regulatory Services and Public Protection	Red 12 (Static)	Amber 8	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed Resilience Strategy, which includes Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Management.</li> <li>• Established Business Continuity Management Group</li> <li>• Cross Council business continuity risk assessment process completed, prioritising the potential business continuity high risk areas and allocating ownership within directorates</li> </ul>
			Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Resilience Team continue to provide support to individual services to complete service level continuity plans by December 2011</li> <li>• Corporate Continuity Plan will be presented to Corporate Management Team December 2011</li> <li>• Business Continuity Management Group continue to oversee implementation of corporate and directorate Internal Audit recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>Programmes and Major Projects Governance</b>	Amber 9 (Static)	Green 6	Controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Boards provide high level approval of project portfolios</li> </ul>

<p>Director of Finance and Resources</p>			<p>and escalation route for cross Directorate issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established Project Management System (PMS)</li> <li>• Directorate Programme Managers</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work continues to roll out Phase 2 of the PMS as planned – Development of electronic templates is a priority</li> <li>• Training packages (tailored to support Programme and Project Management practitioners and senior officers who have a role at Project and Programme Boards) continue to be rolled out across the organisation</li> <li>• Additional PMS module in development to improve resource planning and financial management, which will strengthen value for money analysis data</li> </ul>
<p><b>Information Governance</b></p> <p>Director of Policy Strategy and Communications</p>	<p>Amber 9 (Static)</p>	<p>Amber 8</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Connect secure e-mail accounts for all high risk users</li> <li>• Confidential waste facilities and collection rolled out to over 80 Council establishments</li> <li>• Information Governance e-learning packages (IT Security &amp; Information Governance) included within the Learning Management System (LMS). Training to compliment the e-learning will also be provided</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ICO audit of information governance has been undertaken the Council was found to have limited assurance. An action plan in relation to this is being implemented.</li> <li>• Undertaking information security reviews at all sites</li> <li>• Procurement of an IT governance, risk and compliance tool that will automate and manage key tasks associated with user awareness and engagement for information assurance. The product will measure the Councils IT security position and policy management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major Incident Management</b></p> <p>Director of Regulatory</p>	<p>Amber 8 (Static)</p>	<p>Amber 8</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Emergency Response Plan</li> <li>• Local Resilience Forum and Sub-groups</li> </ul>

<p>Services and Public Projection</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Resilience Planning Group</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Resilience Forum multi-agency calendar agreed for 2011 and Newcastle has a number of exercises included within it</li> <li>• In preparation for the Olympics additional exercises will be carried out – The first ‘Command Post’ exercise was held in September to establish the Council’s response in the event of an incident/emergency situation. Lessons learnt have been shared locally and nationally with Partners. The second exercise will take place during December 2011.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Corporate Health and Safety</b></p> <p>Director of Corporate Services</p>	<p>Amber 8 (Improving)</p>	<p>Green 6</p>	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate arrangements are in place to fulfil the Council’s statutory duties to consult staff on health and safety arrangements</li> <li>• A corporate governance and performance management framework is in place to oversee higher risk themes</li> <li>• Established H&amp;S management system (policies, codes, risk assessment system etc)</li> <li>• H&amp;S Team provide technical, advisory, training and support services</li> <li>• Occupational Health provides a range of specialist services, maintaining good health in the workplace</li> <li>• Monitoring of H&amp;S controls across the Councils diverse operations and activities</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the plan is on target - the current phase is embedding ownership, accountability and performance management. This will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve planning, control and coordination of significant risk themes</li> <li>○ Ensure a better understanding and strengthen performance on the more complex safety themes which impose a range of management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ requirements</li> <li>○ Mitigate against potential statutory enforcement</li> <li>○ Ensure an accountable but proportionate process for risk scoping and performance reporting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Corporate Safeguarding</b></p> <p>Director of Corporate Services</p>	Amber 8 (Static)	Green 4	<p>Controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Corporate Safeguarding Group and supporting Work Programme (June 2011 – May 2012)</li> <li>● Recruitment and vetting procedures</li> <li>● Managing allegations against staff procedure</li> <li>● Communication plan delivered (intranet pages, posters, plasma screens displayed in Council buildings, news in brief, articles in Directorate newsletters)</li> </ul> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Safeguarding Policy and Procedure is in draft. Implementation of the learning and development programme by April 2012 (commitment to train all staff and managers with indirect contact with children and vulnerable adults) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6 training sessions for managers delivered</li> <li>○ E-learning will be available December 2011 – staff without computer access will attend workshop or toolbox talk</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Further communication strategies will be delivered to coincide with learning and development roll out</li> </ul>

## Portfolio: Adult Services

### Cabinet

25 January 2012

### Local Government Ombudsman report November 2011

Report by: **Executive Director, Adult and Culture Services**

Ward Implications: **none**

For Decision		
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#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To consider the findings of the joint report by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) and Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman (PHSO), published on 23 November 2011, into the care and treatment of an individual (referred to as Mr J) between 2003 and 2007.

Since the LGO concluded that the late Mr J suffered an injustice as a result of maladministration the Council is required, under section 31(2) of the Local Government Act 1974, to consider the report and inform the LGO of the action taken in response to the findings.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1
- That Cabinet have assurance that Adult and Culture Services have made significant changes since 2007 which relate to this case.
  - That Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee should scrutinise the action plan
  - That the Cabinet member for Adult and Culture Services should receive regular updates to ensure the action plan is fulfilled.

#### 3. Introduction and background

- 3.1 Mr J lived in Heaton with his wife. Mr J's brother and his wife were unhappy about the care and support their brother received from Adult and Culture Services and the care provider we had commissioned, Coquet Trust. They were also dissatisfied with services provided to their brother by Northgate Hospital.

#### 3.2 Ombudsman involvement

After exhausting the Council's complaints procedure the matter of Mr J was referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) and Parliamentary and

Health Services Ombudsman (PHSO) by Mr J's brother, Mr K. Newcastle City Council was first made aware of this by the LGO on 21 May 2008. The complaint in respect of Newcastle City Council was in summary, a failure to provide adequate support to a vulnerable adult, poor communication with his family and delays in obtaining permanent suitable housing for him."

In September 2008 the two Ombudsmen decided that a joint investigation and response should be provided to the complainants with the PHSO taking the lead in this process.

### **3.3 Current position**

On 15 November 2011 a final report was sent to the Council setting out conclusions and a number of recommendations. The Council were also informed that an anonymised copy of the final report has been sent to the complainant, the NHS Trust, the Coquet Trust and persons named in the report.

The final report from the PHSO indicates that the complaint is partially upheld and finds that Mr J suffered an injustice as a result of maladministration on the part of the Council. The report recommends that Newcastle City Council pay £1000 to the complainant in recognition of the distress caused to them and their family. The Council has already informed the PHSO that they will implement these recommendations.

The Health Trust has also been recommended to pay the same amount for serious service failures on their part. The final report does not uphold the complaints made about the Coquet Trust and has found that there was no evidence to demonstrate that they failed in their role of caring for Mr J.

The outcome of the final report is that serious service failures have been identified on the part of the Council. These failings are that the Council did not:

- Adequately document why Mr J was effectively detained in unsuitable, locked accommodation for too long and therefore failed to demonstrate that his human rights were given proper consideration
- Take appropriate and timely action to find suitable accommodation for Mr J and his wife
- Sufficiently promote Mr J's contact with his family

## **4. Proposals and Reasons**

- 4.1 Since the LGO concluded that Mr J suffered an injustice as a result of maladministration the Council is required, under section 31(2) of the Local Government Act 1974, to consider the report and inform the LGO of the action taken in response to the findings.

The PHSO has recommended that within three months of issuing the report the Council prepares an action plan describing what we have done (or will do) to ensure that we have learnt from the failings identified in the final report. A copy of the action plan must be sent to the PHSO, the Local Government Ombudsman and the complainant. The Council must also ensure that the complainant is kept regularly updated going forward on progress against the

action plan.

## **5. Resource and legal implications**

### **5.1 Financial**

The only financial implication is the payment of £1000.00 which the LGO recommended should be paid to the family for the distress caused to the family as a result of the Council's service failings. There are no other immediate financial issues.

### **5.2 Any additional comments from the Director of Finance and Resources**

The Director of Finance and Resources has no further comment to add.

### **5.3 Legal**

Legal Services has been involved in the responses to the LGO and has advised on the legal issues that have arisen. There are no further legal implications for the Council in relation to this Report.

### **5.4 Other implications**

None

## **6. What happens next**

6.1 The Council has 3 months from 15 November 2011 to produce an action plan and to provide this to Mr K, PHSO and the LGO. Mr K is also to receive updates in relation to the implementation of the action plan

Since this incident arose, Adult and Culture Services has already implemented the following:-

- A Supported Living Co-ordinator is in post and is responsible for liaising between Social Workers and the relevant housing agencies in identifying suitable property. This person has knowledge and expertise of the allocation systems and is responsible for ensuring that properties are identified within an appropriate timescale.
- Improved file audit systems have been introduced requiring Team Managers to audit at least 2 files every month. In addition to regular Team Meetings, each Social Worker receives 6 weekly supervision however, additional issues can be raised with Team Managers by email or the operation of their open door policy.
- There is direct access to the Adult Services Solicitors by Social Workers seeking advice on specific cases and are available to attend at Team Meetings to provide more general advice and guidance.
- In accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Social Workers must assess and record capacity assessments on a specifically designed form. Best interests decision made as a result of an assessment that a person lacks capacity, must record the decision-making process, the details of the persons with whom they have consulted and the outcome of that decision. This acts as a reminder to the Social Worker to involve family in care planning.

- Varying levels of training on the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is provided on a rolling programme and it is a requirement that all staff attend.

Work is continuing on the final action plan. Once the action plan is finalised, the Cabinet Member for Adult and Culture Services will receive regular updates to ensure that implementation of the action plan is monitored and fulfilled.

### **Background papers**

Report by the Health Service Ombudsman for England and the Local Government Ombudsman of a joint investigation into complaints made by Mr K : 15 November 2011

Copies available from Amy Redpath, Adult and Culture Services ext 26336  
amy.redpath@newcastle.gov.uk

### **Contact officers**

Cathy Bull, Director of Adult Social Care  
cathy.bull@newcastle.gov.uk ext 26318

## Annex to Report – Any other significant implications

### **7.1 Risk management**

The key risk associated with this report is the reaction of other complainants to working with Adult and Culture Services to try and resolve their complaints. Some complainants have indicated that they will not continue to engage with the Council and will take their matter directly to the LGO. Work is continuing on those complaints with a view to avoiding the LGO taking the complaints on and being reassured that the Council is responding appropriately.

The opportunity arising from the recommendations is a review of our procedures to ensure that they are working effectively and that the service provided is enhanced as a result.

### **7.2 Equality**

There are no equality issues arising from this matter. Mr J was not treated any differently as a result of his disability. Adult and Culture Services work hard to ensure that service users are not prejudiced by actions taken by the Council. We are working hard to ensure that, in particular, housing providers understand learning disabled service users' needs and that their systems are improved to enhance service users' experiences of those services.

### **7.3 Environmental sustainability**

Not applicable

### **7.4 Partnership**

Adult and Culture Services are working with the NHS Trust also involved and criticised in the LGO Report with a view to improving partnership working to ensure such situations do not arise in the future.

### **7.5 Community safety**

Not applicable

### **7.6 Health equality implications**

Improvements in the way in which Adult and Culture Services now work should ensure that the needs of the service user are at the forefront of any actions taken.

### **7.7 Other Implications**

Not applicable

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## **APPENDIX TO CABINET REPORT – RECOMMENDATIONS**

Since this incident arose, Adult and Culture Services has already implemented the following:-

- A Supported Living Co-ordinator is in post and is responsible for liaising between Social Workers and the relevant housing agencies in identifying suitable property. This person has knowledge and expertise of the allocation systems and is responsible for ensuring that properties are identified within an appropriate timescale.
- Improved file audit systems have been introduced requiring Team Managers to audit at least 2 files every month. In addition to regular Team Meetings, each Social Worker receives 6 weekly supervision however, additional issues can be raised with Team Managers by email or the operation of their open door policy.
- There is direct access to the Adult Services Solicitors by Social Workers seeking advice on specific cases and are available to attend at Team Meetings to provide more general advice and guidance.
- In accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Social Workers must assess and record capacity assessments on a specifically designed form. Best interests decision made as a result of an assessment that a person lacks capacity, must record the decision-making process, the details of the persons with whom they have consulted and the outcome of that decision. This acts as a reminder to the Social Worker to involve family in care planning.
- Varying levels of training on the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is provided on a rolling programme and it is a requirement that all staff attend.

Work is continuing on the final action plan. Once the action plan is finalised, the Cabinet Member for Adult and Culture Services will receive regular updates to ensure that implementation of the action plan is monitored and fulfilled.

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**Cabinet Member Decisions Taken Under Delegated Authority from 29 October 2011 – 2 January 2012**

**Submitted to Cabinet 25 January 2012**

<b>No</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Decision Implementation date after call in period</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Cost/Budget Provision</b>	<b>Members Consulted</b>	<b>Ward</b>
1.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	5 December 2011	Update on Consultation Response to the New Draft Policy for Houses in Multiple Occupation and next steps in establishing this Article 4 Direction.	No further costs are associated with establishing this article 4 Direction areas.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	All Wards
2.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	20 December 2011	To set out the responses to the lettings boards consultation and to seek authority for the next steps.	If the Direction is approved by the Secretary of State, express consent will be required and a fee of between £95 and £335 would be payable for each application to display a letting board, depending upon the nature of the advertisement.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	East Gosforth, North Jesmond, South Jesmond, Wingrove, Ouseburn North, Heaton and South Heaton

No	Cabinet Member	Decision Implementation date after call in period	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
3.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	29 December 2011	Approval for a programme of capital works and action required in relation to the reinstatement of identified public space CCTV Cameras.	Capital Funding of £100k required. Revenue Funding of £10k per annum for essential preventative maintenance.	Cabinet Member for Quality of Life	All Wards

**Non-Confidential Decisions Taken Under Delegated Authority from 31 October 2011 – 2 January 2012**

**Submitted to Cabinet 25 January 2012**

<b>No</b>	<b>Directorate/ Delegated Officer</b>	<b>Authorised Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Cost/Budget Provision</b>	<b>Members Consulted</b>	<b>Ward</b>
1.	Environment and Regeneration Harvey Emms, Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transport	01.11.11	Approve entering into a combined Section 278 / 38 (Highways Act 1980) Legal Agreement with the developer (Newcastle Property Developments One & Two Ltd) and relating to alterations to the public highway.	N/A - There are no expenditure implications.	Ward Members	Castle
2.	Environment and Regeneration Harvey Emms, Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transport	01.11.11	Approve entering into a combined Section 278 / 38 (Highways Act 1980) Legal Agreement with the developer (University of Northumbria) and relating to alterations to the public highway.	N/A - There are no expenditure implications.	Ward Members	Ouseburn

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
3.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	07.11.11	Approve the Council's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and authorise its submission to the Environment Agency.	There are no financial consequences linked to this decision.	Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Ward Members	All
4.	Environment and Regeneration Harvey Emms, Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transport	7.11.11	Adopt the new Mortgage Protocol.	There are no direct costs associated with adopting the new Mortgage Protocol.	Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr McCarty, Deputy Leader	All
5.	Childrens Services John Collings, Executive Director of Childrens Services	7.11.11	Approval to spend the 2011- 12 capital maintenance grant for schools which Children's Services have received from the Department for Education.	Formula grant from the Department for Education - £3.063m Total expenditure - £3.063m Investment is likely to have a number of revenue benefits to the schools	The Schools Forum	All

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
				including energy savings and reduced future revenue maintenance costs. However, these cannot be quantified at this time.		
6.	Environment and Regeneration Harvey Emms, Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transport	09.11.11	Approve entering into a Section 278 (Highways Act 1980) Legal Agreement with the developer (Aberdeen Asset Management Ltd.) and relating to alterations to the public highway.	N/A - There are no expenditure implications.	Ward Members	Byker
7.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	10.11.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close various roads in Newcastle to facilitate the Remembrance Day Parades 2011	The cost of the Order will be met from the Lord Mayors Budget	Ward Members Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	East Gosforth, West Gosforth, Walkergate, Walker and Westgate

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
8.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	11.11.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close various roads in Newcastle to accommodate the Xmas lights switch on.	The cost of the Order will be met by Technical Services	Ward Members Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Westgate
9.	Adult and Cultural Services Tony Durcan, Director of Culture, Libraries and Lifelong Learning	16.11.11	Approve amending a funding agreement entered into by the Council and One North East in respect of the High Bridge Studios and Gallery ("High Bridge").	If the Council is unable to source tenants and receive income from its various parts, this would seriously compromise the budget for the running of High Bridge.	None	All
10.	Chief Executive's Mark Nicholson, Head of Finance	16.11.11	Approve to write-off 27 Children's Services debtor accounts totalling £5,642.97 (each less than £2,000).	Total expenditure - £5,642.97  Funded from the Balance Sheet codes of Children's Services.	Cllr Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's	All

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
11.	Environment and Regeneration Harvey Emms, Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transport	22.11.11	Approve entering into a combined Section 278 / 38 (Highways Act 1980) Legal Agreement with the developer (Sleeperz Ltd & Network Rail Infrastructure) and relating to alterations to the public highway.	N/A - There are no expenditure implications.	Ward Members	Westgate
12.	Children's Services Stuart Ovens, Head of Corporate Law	24.11.11	To obtain authority to complete all relevant legal documentation arising from the conversion of Sacred Heart High School ("Sacred Heart") to academy status.	Total expenditure - £23,750  This is a one off revenue cost to the Council associated with the legal documentation relating to the conversion. It will be met from the Children's Services Revenue budget.	Ward Members  Cllr Kingsland, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	All
13.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	28.11.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close various roads in Newcastle to facilitate the holding of the TUC March 2011.	The £200 cost of the Order will be fully met by Regulatory Service and Public Protection Division	Ward Members  Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life  Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment	Byker, Ouseburn and Westgate

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
14.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	28.11.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close Back Heaton Road (between Cardigan Terrace and Stannington Avenue) to facilitate resurfacing work	The cost of the Order will be fully met by Technical Services section	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Ouseburn
15.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.11.11	Authorise making permanent an existing experimental order to change the pedestrian zone restrictions at The Side / Sandhill, Quayside to revise the existing entry restrictions from Dean Street and the Guildhall to allow access for taxis.	The £3000 cost will be met from the LTP budget  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Westgate

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
16.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.11.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order for the introduction of a prohibition of waiting at any time restriction on Denton Road, Countess Drive and Earls Drive.	The scheme cost of £1600 will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12.  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life  Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Benwell and Scotswood
17.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.11.11	Approve entering into the legal agreement to construct and maintain environmental works on land north of Heaton Baptist Church, Balmoral Terrace.	Total expenditure - £24,589.76 Funded privately through a grant from Natural England.  The maintenance of the areas of hard landscaping will be met from the Highways Maintenance Budget.	Ward Members	South Heaton

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
18.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	01.12.11	Adoption of street works and lighting associated with the residential development at Cosgrove Court, Benton Park Road	The exact costs will vary over the life of the scheme and cannot be quantified at this time but are thought to be less than £10K per annum. Maintenance costs will need to be met from the Council's Highways Maintenance budget.	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Dene
19.	Chief Executive's Paul Woods, Director of Finance and Resources	15.12.11	To award a 24 month contract with two 12 month options to extend for the provision of Window Cleaning Services. The contract has been produced collaboratively with Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) and Newcastle University.	NCC annual expenditure – aprox. £23,000 YHN annual expenditure – aprox. £7,500 Newcastle University annual expenditure – aprox. £39,000	None.	All

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
20.	Chief Executives  Mark Nicholson Head of Finance	16.12.11	Delegated decision to write-off in the accounts of Chief Executive's 36 debtor accounts totalling £16,484.91 (each less than £2,000).as they are unlikely to be collected for a number of varying reasons. These include administration order, debt relief order, individual debtor circumstances, unable to trace and uneconomical to pursue.	£16,484.91	Cllr Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's	n/a
21.	Chief Executives  Mark Nicholson Head of Finance	16.12.11	Delegated decision to write-off in the accounts of Chief Executive's 28 debtor accounts totalling £4,143.84 (each less than £2,000) as they are unlikely to be collected for a number of varying reasons. These include administration order, debt relief order, individual debtor circumstances, unable to trace and uneconomical to pursue.	£4,143.84	Cllr Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's	n/a

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
22.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	21.12.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close various roads in Newcastle to facilitate the holding of the New Years Eve Parade and Fireworks Display Event 2011.	The £1600 cost of the Order will be fully met by Newcastle Gateshead Initiative	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Westgate and South Jesmond
23.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	21.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order and a Parking Places Order for the introduction of revised access arrangements on Northumberland Street and amendments to parking arrangements on Ridley Place and Northumberland Road.	The £1600 cost of the Orders will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12 Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Westgate
24.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	21.12.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close parts of Scotswood Road and St James Boulevard to facilitate repairs and resurfacing work	The £1600 cost of the Order will be met by Technical Services	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Elswick and Westgate

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
25.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	21.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order and a Parking Places Order for the introduction of a speed limit/speed cushions/parking restrictions on Newburn Road and Station Road	The scheme cost of £7,500 will be met from the Local Transport Plan Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Newburn
26.	Chief Executives  Mark Nicholson Head of Finance	22.12.11	Delegated decision to write-off in the accounts of YHN, 1923 debtor accounts totalling £560,183.18 (each less than £2,000). YHN exhaust all possibilities of debt recovery internally and where relevant and material refer bad debt to an external debt recovery agency, such as Money Claims Online.	£ 560,183.18	Cllr Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's	n/a

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
27.	Environment and Regeneration Nigel Hails Director of Environment Services	22.12.11	Decision to implement Cemeteries and Crematorium Fees and Charges for the financial year 2012/13 to be implemented in January 2012 which have been reviewed in accordance with Financial Regulations.	Fees have been reviewed in accordance with Financial Regulations and are levied to recoup the cost of undertaking the function.	Cllr Stephenson, Cabinet Member for Chief Executive's	All
28.	Adult & Culture Services	22.12.11	To inform of the proposals to relocate Natures Landscapes from their premises at the back of the Welford Centre into a 'fit for purpose' industrial unit at Lemington and approve the total capital expenditure of £68,000 to be funded:	£60,000 Adult & Culture Services Single capital pot. £8,000 Good Stewardship Access Fund.	Ward members	Lemington

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
29.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the making of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to implement no waiting at any time restrictions on Cranleigh Avenue and Gatwick Court	The scheme cost of £2000 will be met from the Local Transport Plan  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Castle
30.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order to implement no waiting at any time restrictions on Hillhead Road and Greenway	The scheme cost of £2000 will be met from the Local Transport Plan  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Westerhope
31.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order to revoke a no waiting at any time restriction on Hexham Road, Throckely	The scheme cost of £1600 will be met from the Local Transport Plan  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Newburn

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
32.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Speed Limit Order to amend the existing speed limits on Brunton Lane and Kingston Park Road.	The scheme cost of £3000 will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Castle and Woolsington
33.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order to implement no loading at any time restrictions on part of Osborne Road	The scheme cost of £3000 will be funded privately through developer contributions  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	North Jesmond
34.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Traffic Regulation Order to implement no waiting at any time restrictions in Rothbury Terrace	The scheme cost of £3000 will be met from the Local Transport Plan  Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	South Heaton

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
35.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of a Speed Limit Order to amend the existing speed limits on Windsor Way from 20mph to 30mph.	The scheme cost of £2500 will be met from the Local Transport Plan Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Castle and Woolsington
36.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	23.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of Traffic Regulation Orders to implement yellow line waiting restrictions, limited waiting parking areas and a car club bay in the Station Road area near South Gosforth Metro Station	The scheme cost of £7500 will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12 Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	East Gosforth

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
37.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.12.11	Authorise the making of an Order to temporarily close parts of Rosebery Crescent and Rosebery Place to facilitate resurfacing work	The cost of the Order will be met by Technical Services	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	South Jesmond
38.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.12.11	Authorise the advertising and making of Traffic Regulation Orders to extend a yellow line waiting restriction, and remove part of a permit holders only parking bay at Osborne Avenue	The scheme cost of £2500 will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12 Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	South Jesmond
39.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.12.11	Ratify the recommendations of the Regulatory and Appeals Sub Committee in respect of objections to proposed mandatory cycle lanes, limited waiting bays, disabled bays and yellow line waiting restrictions on Brighton Grove and make the Orders as advertised	The scheme cost of £2500 will be met from the Local Transport Plan 11/12 Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Wingrove

No	Directorate/ Delegated Officer	Authorised Date	Subject	Cost/Budget Provision	Members Consulted	Ward
40.	Environment and Regeneration Michael Murphy, Director of Technical Services	29.12.11	Authorise the revocation of the existing prohibition of driving restriction on Featherstone Grove and introduce waiting restrictions on Featherstone Grove and Netherwitton Way	The £2500 scheme cost is to be privately funded through s106 developer contribution. Maintenance obligations will be met from the Highway Maintenance budget	Ward Members Cllr Murison, Cabinet Member for Quality of Life Cllr Todd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Parklands

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## Cabinet

23 November 2011

(4.30 - 6.30 pm)

### Present:

Councillor: Forbes (In the Chair)

Councillors: McCarty, Dunn, Kingsland, Murison AND Stephenson

### Also Present:

Councillors: Bell, Burke, Johnson, Lambert and Schofield (Deputy Cabinet Members)  
Faulkner and Lower (Observers)

### In attendance:

B Rowland	– Chief Executive
D Slater	– Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration
E Weir	– Executive Director of Adult and Culture Services
P Woods	– Director of Finance and Resources, CXD
J Softly	– Head of Commercial Law, CXD
R Elliott	– Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, CXD
H Emms	– Director of Strategic Planning Transportation & Housing, E+R
S Evans	– Director of Corporate Services, CXD
R Rogan	– Director of Strategic Partnerships, CSD
T Durcan	– Director of Culture, Libraries & Lifelong Learning, A+C S
J Lee	– Chief Executive, YHN
A Lewis	– Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications, CXD
S Park	– Head of Communications & Marketing, CXD
I Poll	– Head of Democratic Services, CXD
J Cromarty	– Head of Community Engagement and Empowerment, CXD
M Dunn	– Children's Services
L Couch	– Democratic Services, CXD

## 52 WELCOME

The Leader of Council welcomed Councillor Dunn in her new role as Cabinet Member for Adult Services and paid tribute to the contribution made by Councillor Kevin Graham, expressing thanks to him and also to Councillor Schofield who had provided cover since Councillor Graham stood down as Cabinet Member.

## 53 REPORT OF SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Submitted: Report of the former Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel which had set up a working group to look at the issue of school attendance and exclusions, together with an extract from the minutes of the Service Delivery

Scrutiny Committee setting out comments on the report. (previously circulated copies attached to official minutes) The report set out the group's findings and recommendations for consideration. The response of the Executive Director of Children's Services was also considered.

Members welcomed the report and the responses of the Executive Director but also recognised that the review had not been concluded fully due to the change in Administration. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services recognised the need for further work and would be progressing issues, in particular some aspects highlighted which had not been fully explored by the review.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet agree:-

- (i) the Working Group's report and recommendations and the response from the Executive Director of Children's Services.
- (ii) Inform the Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of this consideration, and
- (iii) Ask officers to report back to Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee on progress in 6 months time.

#### 54 **NEWCASTLE SCIENCE CITY**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which provided an update on the outcome of a review of Science City, set out the future investment required and reported progress on the Science Central development.

(Note: The Leader of Council declared a personal interest as a Director of the Company.

**RESOLVED-** That Cabinet

- (i) Agree the proposed restructuring of the Science City Partnership and approve a revenue contribution of up to £250k p.a. for three years to NSC, alongside an equal contribution from Newcastle University, and leveraging further investment from private, government and European sources;
- (ii) Approve the proposals for taking forward the development of the Science Central site including the partnership arrangement with Newcastle University and the delivery of the first phase with the Council being the developer of the Gateway Building;
- (iii) Confirm the Council's previous financial commitment of £8m to Science Central as set out in this report, which will be funded by a mix of Prudential Borrowing (funded by a revenue budget set aside for this purpose, which could include funding secured from an ADZ arrangement) and any grant income that may be secured;
- (iv) Agree that the Council will act as the accountable body for ERDF funding in respect of the Gateway Building and that the Council meets the initial revenue cash flow costs of operating the Gateway Building by way of a temporary use of reserves;
- (v) Approve a provision of up to £200k per annum from 2012/13 to 2014/15 to continue the funding of internal professional costs to support the delivery of

- the programme, funded by £100k charged to individual capital projects and a £100k annual revenue contribution;
- (vi) Approve an additional £70k for internal professional costs in 2011/12, again funded by £10k charged to individual capital projects and a £60k revenue contribution;
  - (vii) Authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member, to finalise arrangements to implement these proposals;
  - (viii) Agree that the Council's interests in the land shown hatched and cross-hatched on the plan (Appendix 1) be transferred into the appropriate joint venture vehicle to be established between the Council and Newcastle University and authorise the Head of Strategic Property and Asset Management, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member, to conclude the detailed terms of the transaction;
  - (ix) Authorise the Head of Strategic Property and Asset Management, on behalf of the partners, to seek to acquire the properties identified at para 4.6 of the report on a deemed CPO basis; and
  - (x) Authorise the Head of Commercial Law to complete the necessary legal documentation.

#### 55 **LET'S TALK NEWCASTLE**

Submitted: Report of the Head of Communications and Marketing, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which updated Cabinet on progress in implementing the 'let's talk Newcastle' programme.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet note the report and endorse the ongoing implementation of the 'let's talk Newcastle' approach.

#### 56 **"DELIVERING QUALITY FIRST" BBC TRUST CONSULTATION**

Submitted: Report of the Head of Communication and Marketing, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which informed Cabinet of the BBC Trust's public consultation on efficiencies and changes to scope at the BBC - "Delivering Quality First". In particular the report highlighted the potential implications for local journalism and programming.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet note the report and refer it to City Council on 7 December 2011 to enable Council to discuss the report and any views expressed could inform the response to the BBC Trust consultation which closes on 21 December 2011.

#### 57 **THE NEWCASTLE FAIRNESS COMMISSION**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Policy Strategy and Communications, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which updated Cabinet on progress made by the Newcastle Fairness Commission, and plans for it to report.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet note the progress made by the Fairness Commission and approve the arrangements for its work.

58 **UPDATE ON LIVING WAGE ADVISORY PANEL**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Corporate Services, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which updated Members on progress made by the independent Living Wage Advisory Panel and provided an opportunity for Cabinet to offer input to the work of the Panel.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet agree to note the good progress made by the independent Panel and the general approach to be taken by them.

59 **BYKER ESTATE TRANSFER**

Submitted: Report of the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which provided an update to Cabinet and sought formal agreement to progress with the transfer of relevant land and assets to the Byker Community Housing Trust ("the Trust").

In introducing the report the Executive Director made reference to the progress made by Your Homes Newcastle in bringing the Bolam Coyne area of the Estate back in to use, the works would be completed within a few weeks.

Members expressed their commitment to the Trust in moving forward in a supportive role and thanks were expressed to those who had been involved in the Steering Group, in particular the contribution made by Prof. Peter Roberts.

(Note: D Slater declared a personal interest as a Member of the Trust)

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet agree:

- (i) to welcome the result of the tenants' ballot on the transfer of the estate;
- (ii) to transfer to the Trust the housing stock and other land described in paragraph 4.6 of this report, subject to (a) the Trust obtaining necessary external funding and (b) the detailed terms being negotiated in line with (v) below;
- (iii) to seek Secretary of State consent to that transfer under section 32 of the Housing Act 1985, and any other necessary consents;
- (iv) in principle to the refurbishment and subsequent transfer to the Trust of the Byker District Heating System. Within this, agree to fund District Heating works using a mixture of Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) grant and short-term Prudential Borrowing to be repaid from Trust budgets, Cabinet Member approval being sought once the results of the current procurement exercise are received and assessed;
- (v) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members) to agree with the Trust the detailed terms of the transfer, and other associated arrangements described in this report and to finalise the Transfer Agreement, Heat Supply Agreement, service contracts, financial agreements and any other necessary documentation to enable the transfer on satisfactory terms to take place by 26 March 2012; and

- (vi) to additional funding of £0.300m in 2011/12 for the Trust set-up budget, funded £0.150m from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets, £0.099m Working Neighbourhood Fund grants and £0.051m New Homes Bonus.

60 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK/CORE STRATEGY - LET'S TALK CONSULTATION PROGRESS**

Submitted: Report of the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) This report updated Cabinet on the ongoing One Core Strategy consultation in Newcastle and summarised the resident focused consultation process and resident feedback so far. The consultation on the One Core Strategy had been extended to 4 January 2012 and Cabinet would receive a report on the full consultation feedback in January 2012. That report would also incorporate broader feedback from other bodies and stakeholders.

In introducing the report the Cabinet Member for Quality Places stressed the importance of the consultation and the opportunity for the public to be given an adequate opportunity to respond to ensure that the plan reflected the views expressed. He specifically mentioned an additional consultation event which had been held in the Newburn/Throckley area which had not been detailed in the report. Further comments highlighted the ongoing challenges being made to the evidence base figures, the continuing process of reviewing and the need for all parts of the City to take part in the ongoing discussions. The process was about more than just particular zones of land.

**RESOLVED-** That Cabinet receive the report and agree to receive a final consultation report on this phase of the One Core Strategy in early 2012.

61 **PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER 2011-12**

Submitted: Report of the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) The report confirmed the Council's responsibility in respect of winter maintenance and highlighted the preparations in place for the forthcoming winter. Members applauded those residents involved in clearing pathways but expressed concerns at the theft of salt from grit bins and agreed that SNAPS groups be contacted suggesting that use be made of CCTV to tackle the problem.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet note the contents of the report and that SNAPS groups be contacted accordingly.

62 **MICRO RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS ("FEED IN TARIFF") SCHEME UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) The report provided a summary of the Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme, the Council's approach to maximise

benefits from it and the implications of the current Government consultation on proposed changes to the scheme.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet note the report and agree that the comments made be incorporated in a formal response be made by the Leader of Council.

63 **ENCOURAGING DIGITAL LITERACY AND SUPPORTING DIGITAL INCLUSION IN NEWCASTLE**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Culture Libraries and Lifelong Learning, Adult and Culture Services Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which advised Cabinet of some of the current cross directorate work being undertaken by the Council to promote digital literacy and digital inclusion and to request Cabinet's approval to seek 'Go ON Newcastle' status for the Council and its partners.

**RESOLVED** - That Cabinet:-

- (i) note the work currently being undertaken, and
- (ii) agree that officers work with partners and the national Go ON office to try and achieve Go ON status for Newcastle in 2012.

64 **BUDGET UPDATE REPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Finance and Resources, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which outlined the progress being made towards the development of the 2012/13 to 2014/15 Budget. It also and provided an update on recent financial announcements, including the potential grant funding to freeze council tax increases in 2012/13, regional growth fund announcements and a new Growing Places Fund announcement as well the Council's response to the Local Government Resource Review and a Newcastle/Gateshead proposal for an Accelerated Development Zone / Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) scheme.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet agree to receive and to note the information set out in the report.

65 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE REPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Finance and Resources, Chief Executive's Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) which explained the Council's position in relation to its treasury management strategy and provided a mid-year report, under the terms of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2011.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet agree to recommend that Council note:-

- (i) the Treasury Management mid year report for 2011-12;
- (ii) the amended investment strategy for the remainder of 2011-12; and
- (iii) the latest Treasury Management indicators.

66 **PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 2, 2011/12**

Submitted: Report of the Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, Chief Executives Directorate (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) The report described the Council's performance at the end of September 2011 against its key priorities for 2011/12, focusing on areas of activity where recent data was available or where there were significant performance issues to be highlighted. This was the first performance report structured around the priorities set by the new Cabinet. The outcomes of the recent favourable Ofsted report for Childrens Services and the Adult Services review were highlighted.

**RESOLVED-** that Cabinet agree to note:-

- (i) the content of the report and approve the proposed performance improvement measures; and
- (ii) that Newcastle City Council has received an assessment of "excellent" from Ofsted, in respect of children's services, and is now judged in the highest category of performance for both adult social care and children's services.

67 **DELEGATED DECISIONS SCHEDULE**

(a) **Cabinet Member decisions**

Submitted: Schedule of Member delegated decisions for the period 30 September to 28 October 2011 (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes).

**RESOLVED** – That the Schedule of Member Delegated Decisions be received for information.

(b) **Officer decisions**

Submitted: Schedule of Officer delegated decisions for the period 30 September to 28 October 2011 (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes).

**RESOLVED** – That the Schedule of Officer Delegated Decisions be received for information.

68 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69 **NOTES OF THE POLICY CABINET MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2011**

The notes of the Policy Cabinet meeting held on 9 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

70 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items in accordance with the paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated:-

Item		Schedule 12A Paragraph
21	Confidential Delegated Decisions	3
22	Eldon Square Scheme 4	3
23	Disposal of Former Mary Trevelyan School Site	3

## Cabinet

7 December 2011

(4.00 - 5.00 pm)

### Present:

Councillor: Forbes (In the Chair)

Councillors: McCarty, Dunn, Kingsland, Murison Stephenson

### Also Present:

Councillors: Burke, Johnson, Schofield, Todd and White (Deputy Cabinet Members)  
Faulkner and Lower (Observers)

### In attendance:

B Rowland – Chief Executive  
J Collings – Executive Director of Children's Services  
D Slater – Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration  
E Weir – Executive Director of Adult and Culture Services  
P Woods – Director of Finance and Resources, CXD  
S Evans – Director of Corporate Services, CXD  
A Lewis – Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications, CXD  
M Nicholson – Head of Finance, CXD  
J Softly – Head of Commercial Law, CXD  
I Poll – Head of Democratic Services, CXD  
L Couch – Democratic Services, CXD

## 74 A FAIR BUDGET FOR A FAIRER CITY

Submitted: Report of Corporate Management Team which incorporated documents as listed, setting out the Council's draft Council Tax budget proposals for 2012/13 (previously circulated copy attached to official minutes) and which were now to be the subject of formal consultation prior to agreement by City Council in March 2012.

Cabinet Members introduced their proposals with additional comments and observations made by Deputy Cabinet Members, the Director of Finance and Resources, Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration and Chief Executive. The Leader of Council also responded to points raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

In relation to the Newcastle Fund confidential appendix containing the allocations to organisations. it was noted that details would be made public once organisations had been advised of the results. A correction was also made in that the dates heading the allocations columns should have read 2012/13 - 2013/14 and 2014/15.

**RESOLVED** - That Cabinet agree:-

- (a) the submitted report entitled 'A Fair Budget for a Fairer City' and various appendices as the basis for consulting with residents and other stakeholders on the Council's draft 2012/13 Council Tax and budget; and
- (b) In relation to the submitted report entitled 'Newcastle Fund 2012-15' and confidential appendix agree to;
  - (i) note the process for determining the recommended allocation of Council grant aid through the Newcastle Fund as set out in section 4;
  - (ii) endorse the overall Newcastle Fund allocation as set out in paragraph 5.1, and in the confidential appendix. (The appendix will be made public once the individual organisations have been informed of the outcome of their bids).
  - (iii) delegate to the Chief Executive power to determine annual allocation of individual grants from that total allocation, in accordance with the recommendations of the panel, as endorsed by the Cabinet.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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