

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 19th September 2022

Title: Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025 Performance Report

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

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

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

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

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

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

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

- Delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme is on track and a 10-year Delivery Plan was agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. The number of long-term vacant dwellings is currently at its lowest level in seven years.
- The council's carbon emissions reduced by 53%, well in advance of the 2023 target of 50% and in August 2022, Cabinet approved the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

- £8m funding has been secured from the Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme to install low carbon heating, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems in over 500 homes with low-household incomes. To date measures have been installed in 260 homes so far.
- Regeneration work is well underway in North Shields including public realm improvements, a new integrated transport hub, town square, planning permission has been granted for new family homes at the former Unicorn House Site, grant funding has been secured to develop a Cultural and Creative Zone and a bid has been submitted to the Levelling Up Fund for the Fish Quay.
- In Whitley Bay, improvement works to the Northern Promenade were completed and funding from the Active Travel Fund has been secured.
- In Wallsend, funding has been secured for a range of improvements at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum. An expression of interest has been submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. A bid has been made to the Levelling Up Fund to deliver public realm improvements along the High Street, transport connections, enhance Segedunum.
- Master Plans are being developed for Whitley Bay, Wallsend and the North-West area of the borough.
- Our beaches and warden managed parks continue to be recognised nationally for their high standards. Three of our beaches have retained their Blue Flags and Seaside Awards and this year seven parks were awarded Green Flag Awards after Preston Cemetery applied for the first time in 2022.
- In response to residents feeling increasingly concerned about community safety issues a multi-agency North Tyneside Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force has been established to develop and deliver a shared plan to tackle ASB as a partnership making a difference for residents, communities, visitors and businesses.
- Support is delivered to low-income households across the borough through the Council Tax Support Scheme and Hardship Support Scheme. As well as a number of initiatives including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Household Support Fund and Poverty Intervention Fund to address health and socio-economic inequalities.
- The education offer in the borough is strong compared to national and regional comparators, however an area of focus is to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

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

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 28th July 2022.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

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

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A thriving North Tyneside

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

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

- **North Shields:** work is underway on public realm improvements in Northumberland Square and on Howard Street was completed at the end of August 2022.

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

The former Unicorn House building was demolished in 2021 and received planning permission for 29 new family housing units due to commence on site in autumn 2022.

Both 131 Bedford Street and the former Globe Gallery will be brought back into use for cultural purposes in the coming year by the new occupiers, further adding to the vitality of the growing cultural offer. £1.7m of grant funding has been secured from the

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) to develop a Cultural and Creative Zone (CCZ), which will be known as North Shields Cultural Quarter, located in and around Howard Street and Saville Street, creating a 'cultural corridor' and stronger connections between the town centre and the Fish Quay.

Works are due to commence on the new Riverside Embankment Walkway shortly and complete in 2023/24. The walkway will provide a step-free route between the town centre and the Fish Quay.

A scheme for the relocation of the Ferry Landing to Western Quay has been submitted for funding from round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund. These works would include an extension to the protection jetty at the Fish Quay and associated public realm works to tie into the new Riverside Embankment Walkway.

A Saville Street Area Plan is currently being developed to encourage viable, valued local businesses to locate closer to the town centre to sustain a quality retail offer and repurpose residential properties to improve quality.

A bid has been submitted to the Levelling Up Fund for the Fish Quay focussing on:

- Supporting greater visitor numbers and trade enabling the local fishing industry to pivot to new/emerging markets
- Developing North Shields into a gateway to the Borough/Region through high-quality public realm and transport facilities that support visits utilising sustainable transport modes,
- Extending the high-quality offer for domestic and international visitors beyond the existing Coastal experience,
- Levelling-up the economic opportunities and encouraging reciprocal private investment into the deprived Riverside area, matching the more affluent Coastal conurbation, and
- Improving the daytime economy of the town centre by creating a cleaner, more vibrant, attractive place where people will visit more often and stay for longer.

The outcome of the bid is expected to be announced in autumn 2022.

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

The Authority secured funding from the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 3) and Sustrans. Further consultation on the proposed permanent coastal cycleway will be carried out this autumn and first phases of the scheme are likely to commence from January 2023.

It is proposed to undertake some master planning activity in Whitley Bay town centre in 2022. The purpose of the plan will be to improve the pedestrian, cycle, and vehicular movements within the town centre environment. Together with improvements to the public realm, this will help create a better visitor experience and provide opportunities for new investment as well as supporting existing local business.

- **Wallsend:** The Authority successfully secured funding for a host of improvements at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum. The grant will pay for repairs to the roof, the installation of a new lift, and other improvements. An expression of interest has been submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund to bring the museum into the 21st century. If successful, the Authority will be invited to progress a detailed submission to

secure a multi-million-pound investment in the Museum with its partners, Tyne and Wear Museums.

Funding has been secured from the North-East Local Enterprise Partnership to prepare a Masterplan for Wallsend. Work has commenced in scoping the Masterplan. It is anticipated that a draft Masterplan will be subject to engagement by autumn/winter 2022, prior to a final version being presented to Cabinet for adoption.

A bid has been submitted to the Levelling Up Fund for Wallsend focussing on:

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

The outcome of the bid is expected to be announced in autumn 2022.

Work is nearing completion on site with the landowners (New River Retail) and healthcare providers to deliver new healthcare facilities in the heart of Wallsend Town Centre as part of the regeneration of the town centre.

The Authority continues to work with Swan Hunter site owners Shepherd Offshore Ltd to identify opportunities for inward investment in the site to create new employment opportunities.

The Authority completed the second phase of the Centre for Innovation renovation in 2021 and the building is substantially occupied providing high quality office accommodation aimed at businesses in the offshore sector.

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

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

The number of jobs and small business start-ups were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 there were 89,000 jobs, which was a 5% decrease compared to the previous year. Prior to the pandemic, the number of jobs in the borough had shown an increase each year since 2011. During 2021/22, there were 971 small business start-ups, a 13% decrease compared to the previous year.

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

Ensuring that young people in North Tyneside have the right high-level skills to progress and succeed in the jobs market is key to the success of the local economy. The latest apprenticeship figures for 2021 showed the number of intermediate (level 1) apprenticeships decreased in 2021 in part due to national changes. However advanced (level 2) and higher (level 3) apprenticeship starts increased during 2021.

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

During 2020/21, libraries and leisure centres were impacted significantly by COVID-19 restrictions and were not fully operational during that period impacting on the number of visits. In 2021/22, visits to Customer First Centres and Branch Libraries have not fully recovered. Customer First Centres received 565k visits in 2021/22, which is a 55% reduction compared to pre-pandemic levels. Branch Libraries received 40k visits during 2021/22, a reduction of 59% compared to pre-pandemic. Sport and Leisure have received two thirds of usual number of visits during 2021/22 compared to the same period in 2019/20.

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

The number of recorded day visits and overnight stays to North Tyneside reduced to 3.23 million in 2020, compared to 7.13 million in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions to manage community transmission impacted on visitor activity including restaurant bookings, hotel bookings, visitor car parking, visitor attraction numbers, events attendance, which are used to calculate tourist activity.

During 2021/22 King Edwards Bay, Tynemouth Longsands and Whitley Bay beaches have retained their Blue Flag international quality mark status by Keep Britain Tidy as well as their Seaside Awards recognising the finest beaches across the UK. These three beaches have achieved the Blue Flag standard every year since 1994 and are among a group of only 57 beaches across the country to win both a Blue Flag and Seaside award. Seven of the warden managed parks in North Tyneside have been awarded Green Flag Awards after Preston Cemetery applied for the first time in 2022. Benton Quarry Park, Killingworth Lakeside Park, Northumberland Park, Marden Quarry Park, Wallsend Parks, and the Rising Sun Country Park all retained their Green Flag Awards.

Resident satisfaction with beaches and parks and green spaces are consistent to previous years. However, satisfaction with parks and green spaces is below the Local Government Association benchmark.

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

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

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

The social value requirements included in the Authority's procurement and commissioning processes contribute to how the organisation maximises environmental sustainability and additional social benefits. The procurement team have worked with the voluntary sector and schools to ensure that social value commitments are aligned. Reviewing our strategic partnerships has led to the transfer of services and in-house delivery. By 2029 all our contracts will incorporate a 'greener target'. The Authority is working with its current suppliers to ensure that the most carbon friendly products are

purchased. A dashboard is being developed to track how delivery against these requirements contribute to the delivery of the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities. The dashboard will be reported on annually to Cabinet.

A secure North Tyneside

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

Resident's perception that anti-social behaviour and crime needs to be improved has increased significantly over time. In 2021, almost half of residents (47%) perceive anti-social and crime as an area that needs to be improved, an increase of 22 percentage points since 2016. Residents concern has impacted on the proportion of residents who feel safe outside in their local area after dark. In 2021, 45% of residents feel safe outside their local area after dark, a decrease of 8 percentage points since 2019 and is significantly lower than the Local Government Association benchmark of 71%. The proportion of residents feeling safe outside in their local area during the day remains high at 89% and is in line with the Local Government Association benchmark.

During 2022 a multi-agency North Tyneside Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force has been established to develop and deliver a shared plan to tackle ASB as a partnership making a difference for residents, communities, visitors and businesses.

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

The proportion of principal and non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered surveyed under the Department for Transport Road Conditions in England (RCE) has shown a decrease year on year. Only 2% of principal roads and 2% of non-principal roads managed by the Authority should be considered for maintenance, which is significantly better than the national benchmark (4% of principal roads and 6% of non-principal roads). On an annual basis, the Authority reviews the current state of the infrastructure on the highway network as part of the Highway Asset Management Plan.

In 2021, the Highway Asset Management Plan assessed the majority of the road asset as good, with 59% assessed as good, however 34% of the network requires some form of maintenance. 8% of the borough's roads are in a condition where structural resurfacing should be considered, which has increased slightly from 5% last year. Residents satisfaction with road and pavement maintenance is consistently lower when compared to other Authority services and is identified as most in need of improvement.

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

In the 2022-2026 Financial Planning and Budget Process Proposals it was agreed to extend the Council Tax Support Scheme, allowing applicants to backdate claims up to 26 weeks, rather than 4 weeks. The Hardship Support Scheme for working age claimants with payments of £150 was also extended.

As of July 2022, there are 7,248 pensionable age and 9,133 working age claimants, which is a 6% decrease since 2019/20. At the start of the pandemic, the number of claims increased as residents were made redundant or reduced hours, but as more residents are now in work the number of claims has decreased.

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

In North Tyneside, there is a significant variance in life expectancy between areas in the most and least deprived areas. The inequality in life expectancy at birth for women is 9.9 years and 11.4 years for men. For women, this compares to a 10 year gap at a regional level and 7.9 years nationally. For men, this compares to a 12.5 year gap regionally and 9.7 years nationally.

Provisional figures for 2020/21, show that the number and proportion of children (aged under 16 years) living in relative and absolute low-income families before housing costs is continuing to increase.

- 8,990 children representing 24% of all children under the age of 16 in the borough are living in relative low- income families. This has increased by 10 percentage points since 2014/15. There is a significantly higher proportion of children living in relative low-income families in more deprived areas compared to the borough rate. 43% in Chirton ward, 37% in Howdon ward and 35% in Riverside ward.
- 8,204 children, representing 22% of all children under the age of 16 are living in absolute low-income families, which is an increase of 6 percentage points since 2014/15. There is a significantly higher proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in more deprived areas compared to the borough rate. 39% in Chirton ward, 34% in Howdon ward and 33% in Riverside ward.
- The Authority is seeking to address health and socio-economic inequalities through a number of initiatives, including projects which specifically address food poverty. These include:
 - the Holiday Activities and Food Programme which provides holiday experiences for children and young people on free school meals, by providing food, nutritional education, physical activities and enriching activities during the easter, summer and Christmas holidays. This has resulted in participants having an improved understanding of healthy food and eating more healthily during the school holidays and in parents feeling more connected to their communities.
 - Using the Household Support Fund to:
 - provide free school meal vouchers during the school holidays, inclusive of £15 per child during May half term and £90 per child over the summer holiday period.
 - £8000 given directly to schools to support to families expanding the school uniform project.
 - Using the Poverty Intervention Fund to:
 - Support every school in North Tyneside to take part in a Poverty Proofing the School Day audit carried out by Children North-East which involves engaging with every student to understand what poverty looks like from a young person's perspective and using this insight to develop an action plan.
 - Continue to finance The Bread-and-Butter Thing (TBBT) in North Tyneside. The first food pantry hub was established in March 2022, four have been established in total with plans for a fifth. The hubs enable its clients to access three bags of food each week for £7.50. Making healthy food accessible to residents living in areas where there is limited access to healthy affordable food choices.

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

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

Delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme is on track to meet the ambitious 5,000 affordable homes target. The target of 266 affordable homes was met in 2021/22 and at the end of August 2022, the overall total number of homes delivered is 1,934. This includes work to deliver 9, new homes at Falmouth Road, North Shields using the HUSK modern method converted disused garages into new Authority owned bungalows. A number of long-term empty and derelict properties across the borough have also been brought back into use.

A family-friendly North Tyneside

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

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

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

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

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

During 2021/22, 98.6% of children received a 2-2 ½ year development review and just over 84% meet the expected level in all 5 areas of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), which assesses how children are doing in relation to communication, physical ability, social skills and problem-solving skills. The ASQ-3 identifies where a child may need further support and a referral to health professionals.

Just over a third of (38%) of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) are educated in Special Schools, which is showing a decrease over time and is lower than

the proportion regionally (44%) and is only slightly higher than the proportion nationally at 35%. However, the number of EHCPs the authority maintains overall has continued to increase to over 2,000 plans and is high compared to national averages, which has led to the Authority submitting a High Needs Recovery Plan to the Department for Education (DfE) detailing how the Authority will reduce the funding deficit.

A caring North Tyneside

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

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

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

The Authority:

- Continued to increase fees to external social care providers that take account of the increase in the National Living Wage, this includes services such as care home, day care, supported living, outreach etc
- Recognised the additional pressures on home care and extra care services and included an added element in the fee increase calculation to allow providers to pay the Real Living Wage. This aims to support sufficiency in provision to support hospital discharge
- Continued to develop the Social Care Academy to support care providers and employees, also potential employees to get into care jobs in North Tyneside
- Recognised the work undertaken by the Home Care Study Group (a sub-group of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee) and endorsed the recommendations to support improvements in home care provision in North Tyneside

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

The number of residents presenting as homeless and being accepted as priority homeless is increasing. During 2021/22, 622 households presented as homeless, which is an increase of 42% compared to 2020/21. Out of those 622 households, only 32 (5%) were accepted as priority homeless during 2021/22, which is consistent to the previous year.

In North Tyneside, the rate of emergency admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over is significantly higher than the rate across the region and nationally. 3,057 residents per 100,000 in North Tyneside compared to 2,311 across the North-East and 2,023 across England.

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

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

- Opened the Spirit of North Tyneside hub at Wallsend Customer First Centre as an incubation hub for the VCSE sector in North Tyneside.
- The development of Living Well North Tyneside <https://www.livingwellnorthtyneside.co.uk/>- an online directory of local services, support and event, which ensures all groups can have a digital presence and residents can find out what is happening across the borough.
- Delivered a £400,000 grant fund for VCSE sector organisations working in North Tyneside, created in partnership with North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). 15 organisations have been successful in securing funding on projects that will take place over the next 18 months. All projects have also helped in the development of an outcomes framework that will help to monitor this success of the various initiatives and feed this learning into the Equally Well strategy.
- Worked on the development of the “Volunteero” app to help match volunteers to the needs of local communities
- Piloted a leadership programme for VCSE sector CEOs
- Supported volunteers to take on roles welcoming Ukrainian families to the borough
- Celebrated the role of volunteers during the pandemic as part of the opening on the memorial compasses.
- Undertaken an engagement exercise with VCSE organisations across North Tyneside and their beneficiaries to help identify further actions that can be taken to realise the vision set out in the Equally Well Strategy
- Created a free online adult safeguarding training course specific to the VCSE sector

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

- Looking at further ways the VCSE can support residents with the cost of living crisis
- VCSE Tour/Safari
- Democracy workshop
- Keep Warm hubs
- Developing a new Grow and Eat post to support VCSE organisations with work around food production and the use of green spaces

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

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

- proactively embed equality and diversity considerations in everything we do and challenge others to do the same
- not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds, and take action against it.
- create an environment where people are confident to be themselves
- take account of, and respond to, the needs of residents and customers
- undertake Equality Impact Assessments (EIA’s) to inform decision making
- strive to make our workforce more representative of the borough’s population.

These commitments are being delivered through the Authority’s Embedding Equality Programme. Since it launched in September 2021, the programme has introduced

initiatives including: development of a new Equality Impact Assessment template and training; a stocktake of equality practice in all service areas; an update of the Authority's accessibility statement for inclusion in letters and publications; continued to update workforce policies and procedures, additional training and support on reasonable adjustments; implementation of a programme of improvements following the accessibility audits undertaken on 32 Authority buildings and planned further audits; a new Menopause Policy and training; preparation for the creation of two new changing places toilet facilities in Whitley Bay and North Shields; and engagement with hundreds of visitors to our stall at UK Pride in Newcastle.

A green North Tyneside

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

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

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

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

The number of fixed penalty notices issued for littering and fly tipping remains consistent compared to the previous year. There have been 68 fixed penalty notices issued for littering and fly tipping offences between April 2021 and January 2022, compared to 69 the previous year. More than half of all fixed penalty notices issued for environmental issues are in relation to litter and fly tipping offences.

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

£8m funding has been secured from the Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme to install low carbon heating, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems in over 500 homes with low-household incomes. To date measures have been installed in 260 homes so far.

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

72.1% of adults in North Tyneside walk or cycle at least once a week, which is showing an upward trend and is slightly higher than the proportion regionally and nationally. 13.1% of adults in North Tyneside cycle at least once a week, compared to 11.6% of adults in England and 9.8% adults in Tyne and Wear.

- ***We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030.***

In July 2019, Full Council declared a Climate Emergency to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough by 50% by 2023 and become carbon neutral by 2050. Subsequently, in acknowledgement of the gravity and urgency of the Climate Emergency, the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-25, approved by full Council in September 2021, included the following ambition;

“We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside Carbon Net-Zero by 2030.”

The carbon footprint of Authority operations has decreased by 53% against the baseline year in 2010/11, well in advance of the 2023 target of 50%.

The carbon footprint of the Borough has decreased by 47% between 2005 and 2020 and by 51% when accounting for population growth.

The most recent data shows that the respective carbon footprints are:

- Authority – 14,111 tonnes of CO₂
- Borough – 767,177 tonnes of CO₂

In August 2022, Cabinet approved the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan. This was shaped by a range of consultation activities and aligned to key Government strategies, policies and plans in order to realise the emerging opportunities for decarbonisation and economic growth. A range of carbon reduction and offsetting projects are being delivered, including the installation of low carbon heating systems, energy efficiency equipment and renewable energy systems in Council buildings and residents homes, the electrification of the Council's vehicle fleet, investment in sustainable transport and the creation of a North-East Community Forest.

1.6 Decision options:

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

1.7 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Our North Tyneside Performance Report

1.8 Contact officers:

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

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

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

1.9 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

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

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

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

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

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

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

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

2.4 Human rights

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

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

2.6 Risk management

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

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report, however a number of environmental and sustainability performance measures are included within the Green North Tyneside section of the performance report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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