

# Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

**7 December 2015**

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)  
Councillors J Allan, B Burdis, P Earley,  
Janet Hunter, A McMullen and J O'Shea

School Governor Representatives  
Mrs J Little  
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives  
Rev Vine

Others in attendance  
Councillors M Madden

## **OV33/12/15 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P McIntyre and C Johnson.

## **OV034/12/15 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members

## **OV35/12/15 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor A McMullen declared a registerable personal interest in relation to the Update report 4 Lane Ends (Minute OV38/12/15) as he was employed by British Telecommunications PLC - Open reach Division and provided advice during the meeting with regards to works being carried out at Beach Road.

## **OV036/12/15 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minute of the meetings held on 5 October 2015 be confirmed.

## **OV37/12/15 Child Sex Exploitation Sub-group report**

The Committee received a report produced by the Children, Education & Skills Sub Committee Child Sex Exploitation Sub-group.

The topic was considered appropriate to ensure processes and initiatives undertaken by the authority and its partner organisations to tackle Child Sex Exploitation (CSE) were right, proper and effective.

The objective of the review was to ensure there was a pro-active approach to tackle CSE in North Tyneside and raise awareness of the warning signs to the wider community as a whole.

The sub-group made 11 recommendations to be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration. It was agreed by the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee to put forward an additional request that the role of public transport employees in assisting other agencies to protect young people from CSE to the North East Combined Authority as a potential topic.

The Committee were informed that discussions had taken place to forward the request to the Transport North East Committee for consideration.

**Agreed** that (1) the Child sex Exploitation Sub-group report and recommendations listed be referred to Cabinet for consideration:

- R1. That the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report be added to the annual work programme of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee, with the Independent Chair of the Board invited to attend the meeting where it would be discussed. Once submitted to the Sub-committee the report, and the minute of the discussion, be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.
- R2. Cabinet requests that the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding ensures that local authority officers are enabled to attend the meetings of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Sub Groups to ensure a consistent membership and clear reporting lines.
- R3. Cabinet requests that the Chief Executive require all service areas to appoint a Safeguarding Champion who will participate in the completion of the Section 11 Audit from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all services have recognised that they must have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- R4. Cabinet requests that the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board invites the Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee or a designated member of the Sub-committee to attend its meetings as an observer.
- R5. Cabinet requests that the Head of Law and Governance undertakes the necessary steps to propose to Full Council an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that child sexual exploitation training is provided to all Members at the same frequency as to officers and that attendance is mandatory and includes information on:
  - what the situation in the borough is
  - what the warning signs are
  - what to do if you suspect something
  - what to do if someone comes to you with a disclosure or a suspicion.
- R6. Cabinet requests that the Standards Committee reviews the current Members' and Co-opted Members' Code of Conduct and considers including a provision that Members must report any suspicion of sexual exploitation or intelligence received on any safeguarding issues to the authority's Front Door Service and that failure to do so would be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- R7. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding provides a quarterly update in the Members' Newsletter, including any information from the police service, on the situation in North Tyneside regarding child sexual exploitation.
- R8. Cabinet requests that the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communication strategy for the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's CSE Training Strategy to ensure all Members, officers and

other interested groups both inside and outside the authority are aware of the training opportunities available and what is expected of them with regard to attendance and keeping up to date.

- R9. Cabinet considers amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage license and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone child sexual exploitation training prior to issue.
- R10. Cabinet requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communications strategy on child sexual exploitation (CSE) through the authority's own publications (Our North Tyneside and Teamwork) to dispel some of the myths surrounding CSE and to make clear to residents and employees that people who are suffering CSE or who may suspect CSE is taking place can access appropriate support and information. The strategy should include the production of posters to inform people of the warning signs and what to do if they are concerned. These posters should be available for display in all Council buildings and offered to bed and breakfasts, hotels, takeaways and taxi offices.
- R11. Cabinet requests the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding and the Head of Commissioning and Investment work with Changing Lives to consider whether there is a suitable venue in Whitley Bay to be made available for use by Changing Lives and their associated partners/programmes as a drop-in centre for young people who may be experiencing exploitation and/or abuse.

(2) the additional request that the role of public transport employees in assisting other agencies to protect young people from CSE be forwarded to the North East Combined Authority as a potential topic. The topic would be forwarded to the NECA Transport North East Committee for consideration.

### **OV38/12/15 Update report on 4 Lane Ends**

The Committee received an update presentation on the road improvement works at 4 Lane Ends from Colin Macdonald - Senior Manager Technical & Regulatory Services and Richard Blackburn – Project Manager (Capita).

The works were scheduled to commence on the 13 August 2014 and completed by 23 April 2015.

The Committee heard that a number of issues arose during the course of the scheme and resulted in the delivery of the scheme to be delayed by 4 months. The main issues involved the redirection of utilities and work on the Nexus Metro bridge.

The scheme was completed on the 21 August 2015 and both the Council and Capita its delivery partner for the scheme were undertaking a number of reviews to learn lessons for future major road & construction schemes.

The next major design & construction scheme to be undertaken were the A1058 Coast Road – Billy Mill & Norham Road Bridge schemes.

Measures had been put in place to ensure that extensive information was available prior to the schemes starting. There would be full Mayoral Oversight to the schemes where all contracting arrangements, communication plan and approaches to be taken to ensure good service delivery.

It was stated provisional works were being undertaken resolve problems with utilities for scheme for new up and coming works to avoid delays. It was mentioned that some on the ground problems had arisen in the Beach Road area with services delivered by British Telecom, who were currently diverting their services prior to the road being widened.

A Member declared an interest and stated that if issues continued that officers could contact him and he might be able to help resolve them as he was employed by BT.

The arranged marketing strategy for future schemes was presented to show the range of communication activity that would be in place. A comment was made that marketing banners detailed an contact email address, it was suggested that a web address would be a better option with accessible real-time information.

**Agreed** that the update on 4 Lane Ends traffic scheme and comments made be noted.

### **OV39/12/15 Our North Tyneside Performance Report**

The Committee received the report that detailed the performance against the outcome measures in the Our North Tyneside Plan and revealed that nine of the seventeen measures had new or updated information.

The report and its associated appendix detailed further information to each of the measures where seven of the nine measures showed improvement, one remained the same and one reduced.

New information relating to the remaining 8 measures would be available at the time of the next report in March 2016, with the exception with measure 10 that is surveyed every 2 years (next update September 2016).

The Measure 3C – Alcohol related admissions to hospitals which had seen a rise in admissions and therefore a decline in performance and a Member asked if there was a link with deprivation. It was stated that work was ongoing between the CCG, NHCFT and Public Heath team to look at pathways. It was also stated that the authority was to make reference to alcohol use in resident's surveys in the future to gain a greater understanding. However it needed to be noted that a small cohort of people had been admitted to hospital due to alcohol use on multiple occasions.

**Agreed** that the Our North Tyneside Plan - performance report be noted;

### **OV40/12/15 2016-19 Financial Planning & Budget Process – Cabinets Budget proposals**

The Committee received reports that detailed the budget proposals that had been developed in the context of the Our North Tyneside Plan and reflected the plans priorities.

The proposals were developed with the expectation for continuing reductions in Central Government funding and rising cost pressures from increasing demand for services.

The proposals were based on a set of assumptions regarding grant reductions as the full impact of the Spending review still remained uncertain and included assumptions to the proposed 2% increase in Council Tax to fund Social Care.

The initial budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account had been prepared on the assumption of 1% rent reduction over the next four years. It was highlighted that the full impact of the Summer Budget announcements still remained unclear as both the Welfare Reform Bill and the Housing and Planning Bill were still making their way through the legislative changes and were still going through parliament.

It was stressed that much of the detailed information required to finalise the 2016/17 Financial Plan & Budget position had not been included in the information released as part of the Spending review 2015 and therefore the proposals were still estimates.

The Committee heard that since 2013/14 savings of £43m had been made and the medium term financial plan assumes a grant reduction of £23m to the end of 2018/19.

The Committee was reminded that a Budget Sub-group had been established that would carry out further in depth scrutiny of the proposals. The Committee would receive a report at its next meeting in January 2016 that would detail the findings and any recommendations the sub-group would like Cabinet to consider.

**Agreed** that 2016-19 Financial Planning & Budget Process – Cabinet's Budget proposals be noted.