

Cabinet

Monday, 16 March 2026

Present: K Clark (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors P Earley, S Graham, J Hunter,
H Johnson, A McMullen, S Phillips and J Walker

In Attendance: D Hodgson (Business Sector), R Layton (JTUC),
V Smith (VODA Voluntary and Community Sector)
and D McNally (Age UK North Tyneside)

Apologies: Councillors C Johnson and J Harrison

CAB110/25 To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

5. Implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025.

Councillor Anthony McMullen, Non-Registerable Personal, Councillor McMullen declared an interest in this item and left the meeting for consideration of the item.

6. 2025/26 Performance and Financial Management Report to 31st January 2026. Mayor Karen Clark, Non-Registerable Personal, Mayor Clark declared an interest in this item as her sister is a director and employee of an organisation which contracts with North Tyneside Council.

CAB111/25 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meetings held on 26 January 2026 and 16 February 2026 be confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to it being noted that on 26 January 2026, Victoria Jones was present on behalf of Dawn McNally from Age UK.

CAB112/25 Proposed Changes to the Age Range of Monkseaton Middle School

Cabinet were presented with a report to consider, whether, as the statutory decision maker, to approve the proposal to extend the age range of Monkseaton

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Middle School from Year 5-8 to Year 5-11.

Cabinet were advised that a full statutory process and consultation has been undertaken. Cabinet were also advised that the proposal sits within the wider Strategic Education Review. The Governing Body and Local Authority Officers have confirmed that the proposal is financially viable and that a broad and balanced curriculum can be delivered.

Cabinet were advised that this proposal is seen as a less disruptive and more inclusive alternative to school closure, particularly for pupils with SEND and for families who value continuity of provision.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Consider the responses and the analysis of the responses received by Monkseaton Middle School to its published proposal which were received during the statutory representation period between 26 January 2026 and 22 February 2026 appended to the report at Appendix 7;
- (ii) Note the responses to the pre-publication consultation appended to the report at Appendix 3; and
- (iii) Approve the published proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Monkseaton Middle School without modification.

Reason for the decision:

The proposal responds to identified unmet need for smaller, more personalised secondary phase provision and supports parental choice by enabling pupils to remain in a familiar and inclusive setting through to Key Stage 4. Consultation responses indicated clear community demand for a mainstream alternative to larger secondary schools, particularly for pupils who may struggle in those environments.

Potential impacts on neighbouring schools and the three-tier system were carefully considered. Governors had reviewed pupil flow and place planning evidence, which indicated that any impact on surrounding schools would be limited, particularly in the context of existing demand pressures and oversubscription at local high schools. The objection received did not demonstrate a material negative impact sufficient to outweigh the benefits of the proposal.

The consultation process demonstrated overall support for the proposal, including from headteachers within the Whitley Bay pyramid. Governors emphasised that the substance and themes of responses, rather than the number alone, supported progression of the proposal. In particular, responses highlighted strong support for maintaining a mainstream, inclusive school offer, the benefits of educational continuity through to Key Stage 4, and the importance of providing a smaller, more personalised learning environment for pupils who may struggle in larger secondary settings.

Alternative suggestions for the school to become a specialist or alternative provision were considered and discounted. Governors concluded that the proposed age range extension best reflects the expressed wishes of the local community for a mainstream, inclusive school and avoids excluding pupils the proposal is intended to support.

The school leadership and governing body would remain responsible for setting and managing the school's budget. The financial implications of the proposal had been modelled by the school in detail, with support from Authority Officers, and had been confirmed as viable, with assurance that a broad and balanced curriculum can be delivered in line with DfE expectations.

This information provide in respect of the proposal had been reviewed by the Authority's Director of Resources who had provided confidence that the school can sustainably operate across the extended age range.

Based on the assumptions used, year one (ending August 2028) would see an in-year deficit of £0.118m, before moving into surplus of £0.084m in year two and £0.233m in year three.

The proposal also avoids the costs that would arise if the school were to close, for example retention and redundancy payments, which the school has estimated could be in excess of £0.800m.

It should be noted that in line with all school budgets, the number of pupils on roll is the key determinant in the Local Funding Formula, which follows the National Funding Formula, when assessing the main income stream for any mainstream school. Therefore, these forecasts are not without risk, as the income is largely dependent on pupil numbers in future years, but do demonstrate a financially

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viable outcome based on the assumptions used.

The Governing Body was satisfied that the required statutory processes, consultation arrangements and due diligence had been followed appropriately. No issues were identified that would prevent the proposal from progressing to determination by Cabinet.

CAB113/25 Report of the Young Mayor

The newly elected Young Mayor, Malcolm Jackson, attended Cabinet on behalf of the outgoing Young Mayor, Diamond Okoye.

The Young Mayor presented Diamond's update on the work she had undertaken since the last meeting. Malcolm advised that since the last update in February there was a celebration of Welcome to your Vote Week with the Young Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament elections.

Cabinet were advised that Diamond has been working on a call it out campaign, creating posters and fliers with her task force group around tackling discrimination. The posters will be shared around schools, youth provisions and around the borough to give young people information on how to report discrimination and how to seek support.

The SEND Youth Forum group have co-produced an art exhibition representing the work of children and young people who took part in a year-long exploration of neurodiversity. Numerous groups, schools and young people borough wide took part in creating pieces that reflect the creativity, insight and individuality of children and young people in the community.

Cabinet were advised that Children in Care Council have created their March vlog interviewing the Risk Outside the Home co-ordinator, asking in depth questions around the risk outside the home service, how often people should see their worker and how they support young people, particularly those in the care of the Local Authority.

CAB114/25 Implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025

Cabinet were presented with a report to seek the appropriate delegations and powers to enable the Authority to take effective enforcement action and to introduce policies required to fully implement the newly enacted Renters Rights Act.

Cabinet were also advised that the act represents a significant step forward in strengthening the rights of private renters, providing them with greater security and protection so that they can live in safe, good-quality homes for longer without fear of unfair treatment.

The Act places new duties on the Authority to enforce a wide range of potential breaches committed by a landlord. Cabinet were advised that there will be a national awareness campaign to accompany the rollout of the Act. This will be supported locally so that renters in North Tyneside will understand their new rights and landlords are aware of their responsibilities.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) authorise the Director of Public Health and the Director of Housing and Property Services to exercise all powers and duties under the provisions of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and for the Officer Delegation Scheme to be amended accordingly as soon as reasonably practicable;
- (ii) approve the Private Rented Enforcement Policy attached at Appendix 1 of the report and the Private Rented Civil Penalty Policy attached at Appendix 2;
- (iii) authorise the Director of Public Health and the Director of Housing and Property Services to develop future Policies and Guidance relating the Renters' Rights Act 2025, including, but not limited to, the enforcement of the Act as considered appropriate in consultation with the Cabinet member for Community Safety and the Climate Emergency, Director of Housing and the Director of Resources and Head of Law; and
- (iv) authorise the Director of Public Health and Director of Housing and Property Services to keep the Policies and Guidance referred to in recommendations (ii) and (iii) above under review and to be responsible for all matters relating to the Policies and Guidance, including, but not limited to, making amendments to the Policies and Guidance in consultation with the Cabinet member for Community Safety and the Climate Emergency, Cabinet Member

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for Housing, the Director of Resources and the Head of Law.

Reason for the Decision:

By making appropriate delegations the Authority will be able to enforce the provisions of the Act and to take action should breaches be found. This decision ensures that the Authority can meet its statutory duties under section 107 of the Act when it is implemented. The Policies referred to in recommendations 2 and 3 of paragraph 1.2 of the report will provide a clear and consistent framework for enforcement decision making and as stated will support alignment with the Act and national Guidance.

This decision minimises risk of legal challenge, ensures that the Authority is implementing the Act effectively and that the intended tenant protections are driven forward.

This decision provides the most robust, legally compliant, and consistent approach to enforcement under the Act, while allowing for managed transition and alignment with national best practice.

CAB115/25 2025/26 Performance and Financial Management Report to 31st January 2026

Cabinet received an update on the current position in relation to the key areas of performance across the Authority as at 31 January 2026.

Cabinet were advised that further detail on performance is contained within Annex 1 to the report.

Cabinet were advised that whilst there continues to be significant pressures in 2025/26 and into the medium term, the Authority is continuing to see sustained pressure across Adults' and Children's Social Care.

Cabinet were advised that many of the pressures in the current year are consistent with those faced in recent years and, importantly, form part of the Authority's existing Medium Term Financial Plan projects.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

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- (i) Note the update provided on the Performance of the Authority including updated data on the key pressures facing the Authority;
- (ii) Note the forecast budget monitoring position for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, schools finance and Treasury Management as at 31 January 2026 (sections 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.5.5 of the report);
- (iii) Note the Authority's Investment Plan spend of £58.187m to 31 January 2026 and the proposed financing of the Plan to the end of the year (as set out in Annex 2, Section 4 and Appendix 1);
- (iv) Approve reprogramming of £6.897m of the 2025/26 investment plan into future years and variations of £2.553m within the 2025-2030 Investment Plan (section 1.5.4 of this report) and notes the current position with Developers' Contributions (section 1.5.6 of the report);
- (v) Approve the receipt of £0.045m new revenue grants, and approves the receipt of £0.163m new capital grants (as outlined in section 1.5.7 of the report);
- (vi) Approve the write-offs of unrecoverable debt (as set out in Annex 2, Section 1, 1.8.6).

Reason for the Decision

It is important that Cabinet continues to monitor performance against the Budget, especially given the current level of financial pressures faced by the public sector. It is also important that Cabinet agrees to receive the revenue and capital grants referred to in the report.

CAB116/25 Better Care Fund Plan and Agreement 2026/27

Cabinet received a report in relation to the Better Care Fund Plan for 2026-27. Cabinet were advised that this pooled budget arrangement provides funding to support integrated services across health, social care and housing.

Cabinet were advised that the detailed planning guidance and templates were not available in time for this meeting so delegated authority is sought for the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the Better Care Fund Plan.

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Cabinet were advised that there is a strong link between the Better Care Fund and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is being refreshed for 2026 to 2030. Evidence shows that joined up systems can support the ambition for residents to live better lives and a key focus is the impact on reducing inequalities for the most vulnerable residents.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Authorise the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to agree the Better Care Fund Plan 2026/27 and Planning Templates prior to the submission of the submission Better Care Fund Plan to the Department of Health and Social Care; and
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Director of Resources and Head of Law to enter into an Agreement under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and to implement the financial and administrative arrangements for the Better Care Fund.

Reasons for the Decision:

The continuation of the BCF presents an opportunity to take forward the principles of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Neighbourhood Health agenda. If the requirement to submit a BCF Plan by 19 May 2026 and for the Authority to have entered into a Section 75 Agreement following national approval of the Plan is not achieved, the release of funds by the DHSC to the Authority could be delayed.

The proposed delegations in the report will enable the Director of Adult Services, following appropriate consultation, to approve the BCF Plan and then enter into the required Section 75 Agreement.

CAB117/25 North Tyneside Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Cabinet were presented with the North Tyneside Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. Cabinet were advised that the Strategy and Action Plan builds on the learning from our involvement in DEFRA's Adaptation Pilot in 2024, and the work which was undertaken with a wide range of local stakeholders throughout 2025. The Authority will continue to engage with communities, partners and the

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voluntary sector, Cabinet were advised that this will be central to strengthening our resilience and ensuring the approach reflects local needs and priorities.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Note the content of this report;
- (ii) Approve the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2029; and
- (iii) Agree that a progress report will be presented to Cabinet in 2029 on the Authority's and the Borough's preparedness for the impacts of climate change.

Reason for the decision:

Agreeing the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report will support the delivery of the Authority's Climate Adaptation policy and develop a programmed approach with key stakeholder groups.

CAB118/25 Recommendations from Grass Verges Task and Finish Group

Cabinet received a report from the Green Sub-committee's Task and Finish Group in relation to parking on grass verges across the Borough.

Cabinet were advised that the work was undertaken following a motion considered by Full Council in March 2025 which highlighted concerns about indiscriminate parking on grass verges and the resulting impact on neighbourhoods, safety and the local environment.

Cabinet were advised that the Task and Finish Group met on several occasions during 2025, gathering evidence, analysing the scale and nature of the issue, and reviewing approaches taken by other local authorities. The process has resulted in a clear set of findings and ten recommendations which have been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee.

Cabinet are being asked to consider the recommendations within the Task and Finish Group's report and agree that a formal response will be brought forward to the May 2026 Cabinet meeting, which will set out what action the Authority proposes to take.

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Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Consider the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny, Co-ordination and Finance Committee's Green Sub-Committee's Task and Finish Group set out in its Grass Verges Report of 28 January 2026 appended to this report at Appendix 1, and;
- (ii) Agree that at its meeting in May 2026 Cabinet will provide a formal response to the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny, Co-ordination and Finance Committee's Green Sub-Committee's Task and Finish Group report at Appendix 1 and indicate what action, if any, Cabinet proposes to take in relation to those findings and recommendations.

Reason for the decision:

As the Overview and Scrutiny, Co-ordination and Finance Committee has given notice that it requires Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations of the Green Sub-Committee, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations within two months of receipt of the report, in accordance with requirements of the Local Government Act 2000.

CAB119/25 Procurement Plan 2026/27

Cabinet were requested to delegate authority to the relevant Officers, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, to begin the procurement exercises for the goods and services set out in the appendix to the report. Cabinet were advised that procurements are essential to ensuring that the Authority can continue to deliver high-quality, reliable services for residents across North Tyneside.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) approve the procurement of the goods and services as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) note the key achievements in social value for the Borough via procurement activity carried out in 2025 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iii) authorise the relevant Director(s) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), Director of Resources and the Head of Law to commence the procurements identified and to award contracts to those bidders who submit

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the most advantageous tenders in accordance with UK public procurement legislation; and

- (iv) note that a refreshed Procurement and Commercial Strategy 2025-2029 is currently undergoing consultation and that the draft Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for its approval as soon as reasonably practicable after the work on the Strategy has been completed.

Reason for the decision:

The Authority has a duty to obtain value for money. Tendering the opportunities identified in the report will meet the priorities contained within the Procurement Strategy and Our North Tyneside Plan.

CABI20/25 A Children's Home for Children with Complex Needs

Cabinet received a report setting out the business case for developing a new, Council-owned and operated Children's Home for children with complex needs.

The proposal is based on developing six bungalows at the Council-owned site at Benton Lane for use as a children's home.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

- (i) Approve the Business Case for a Children's Home for Children with Complex Needs at Benton Lane, Longbenton at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Supporting and Protecting Children, the Director of Resources and the Head of Law to take all necessary steps to deliver a new 6-bed children's home for children with complex needs at Benton Lane, Longbenton, subject to the granting of the necessary planning approval and the obtaining of any other necessary requirements to enable the children's home to be delivered;
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law, (subject to the granting of the necessary planning approval) to enter into an agreement with the contracted builder to build the children's home to the Authority's specifications and to deal with all ancillary matters relating to the delivery of the children's home, including, but not limited to, obtaining Ofsted registration of the home.

Reason for the decision:

It allows the necessary steps to be taken by the Authority to deliver on the Authority's organisational objectives of directly delivering better care for children in its care and of keeping more children who require children's home care arrangements in the Borough, close to where they call home. The opportunity also has the potential to deliver projected savings of £1.598m per annum to the Authority.

CAB121/25 Update on the Gathering Evidence in relation to small Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the Borough and deciding next steps

Cabinet was provided with a report to provide an update on the gathering of evidence in relation to small HMOs. The report sought appropriate delegations to enable necessary steps to be taken at the conclusion of the exercise.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

- (i) Note the update on the gathering of evidence relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation in the Borough; and
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Deputy Mayor and Head of Law, based on the evidence available on conclusion of the evidence gathering, to determine whether or not to make a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 withdrawing the permitted development right to change the use of a property from a dwelling house (Use Class C3) to a small House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4) as set out in Class L(b) of Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 in relation to changes of use from Use Class C3 to Use Class C4 (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 for specified areas of the Borough; and
- (iii) Note that if the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development makes an Article 4 Direction, authorise him to take all necessary steps in order for such a Direction to be made and for him to subsequently confirm any such

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Direction in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 including sending appropriate notices to the Secretary of State.

Reason for the decision:

If there is robust evidence of a concentration of HMOs in certain areas of the Borough and this is having a detrimental impact on the amenity of these neighbourhoods, eroding the sustainability and cohesion of communities, this is an appropriate basis on which to introduce additional control. There is limited control under the HMO licencing regime for some small HMOs and such properties are currently not subject to any local planning control. An appropriate form of control could be the making of an Article 4 Direction relating to the specific locations where there is evidence of harm from a concentration of HMOs.

CABI22/25 Exclusion Resolution

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

Agree that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CABI23/25 Review of the Authority's Chief Officer Structure

Cabinet received a report proposing some changes to the Authority's Chief Officer Structure.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

Agree to the recommendations contained within the report.

CABI24/25 Date and Time of Next Meeting

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Monday 18 May 2026 at 6.00pm.

Minutes published on 19 March 2026.

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 26 March 2026.