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South Tyneside Council

item 2

Cabinet
5 November 2025

Cabinet Minutes
24 September 2025

Present: Councillors: Dixon *(in the Chair),* Carter, P. Dean, Foreman, Gibson, McHugh, Meling and J Taylor.

Jonathan Tew (Chief Executive), Stuart Reid (Director of Business and Resources), Stuart Easingwood (Director of Children's Services), Stuart Wright (Director of Strategy and Place), Gary Kirsop (Director of Operations), Stuart Easingwood (Director of Children's Services), Tom Hall (Director of Public Health), Lucy Keating (Director of Legal and Governance – Monitoring Officer), Vicki Pattinson (Director of Adult Social Services and Commissioning), John Rumney (Corporate Lead Legal and Governance), Kaye Russell (Public Relations Officer), Heather Proctor (Political Assistant) and Karen Connolly (Democracy Officer).

Also in attendance Councillor K Maxwell and Jonathan Lunness (Scrutiny and Democracy Support Officer)

There was also one member of the press in attendance.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 13 August 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 13 August 2025 be confirmed as a true record.

3. Scrutiny Commission on better understanding social care demand and forecasting to inform sufficiency, demand and capacity planning

Submitted: Report of the Children Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee

The report, which was presented by Councillor K Maxwell, Chair of the

Children Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee outlined the findings of the scrutiny commission which was undertaken into better understanding demand and forecasting to inform sufficiency, demand and capacity planning in a children and families social care context.

The Scrutiny Commission had carried out a number of sessions and gathered evidence over the course of the municipal year 2024/25. Members engaged with a range of partners, including social care staff directly involving in the care of young people in the borough, as well as hearing from cared for young people directly and those who care for them. The Scrutiny Commission produced three recommendations:

R1: That Fostering Friendly Employee Policies be promoted across South Tyneside, including through the Pledge Network with businesses and employers in the borough, in order that the unique needs of foster carers are recognised, and that they are supported in the challenges they face.

R2: That the Council commits to continuing to work with local communities to ensure the integration of new Children's Homes in the borough. Engagement with local communities to understand the need for Children's Homes in the local area will assist in providing a positive, welcoming atmosphere for young people in our care.

R3: That work be undertaken to enable the creation of a broader choice of accommodation for Care Leavers, underpinned by the Council's Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers and the Local Offer for Care Leavers.

Members thanked the Chair, Councillor K Maxwell and the previous Chair Councillor Potts as well as the Committee for undertaking this work.

Resolved: That (a) the three recommendations of the Children, Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee as detailed above be endorsed and (b) the Director of Children's Services be requested to prepare a response and action plan to progress the recommendations.

Reasons for decision: *The Children Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken extensive scrutiny work on the issue of better understanding demand and forecasting to inform sufficiency, demand and capacity planning in a children and families' social care context. The recommendations are the result of careful consideration of evidence gathered from a variety of sources.*

These recommendations are presented to Cabinet for consideration in line with Part D, Section 3 (Scrutiny Procedure Rules), paragraph 10.1 of the Constitution.

4. Council Budget Monitoring – April to June 2025

Submitted: Report of the Director of Business and Resources

The report, which was presented by Councillor Foreman, Lead Member, Governance, Finance and Corporate Services provided a quarterly update on budget monitoring in relation to financial management.

Resolved: That (a) the revenue and capital spending forecasts for 2025/26 and forecast position on capital receipts be noted; (b) the progress against planned efficiency gains in 2025/26 outlined in Appendix 1 be noted; (c) the monitoring of key revenue service drivers and the associated financial risks from increases to activity levels outlined in Appendix 2 be noted; (d) the capital budget changes in paragraph 27 of the report be approved; (e) the balance reserves for 2025/26 be noted and it be noted that the utilisation of specific reserves is highly likely to be necessary during the financial year and (f) note the actions taken to support addressing the revenue financial pressures in-year.

Reason for Decision: To comply with the Council's statutory duties in relation to financial management.

5. Treasury Management Quarter End 30 June 2025

Submitted: Report of the Director of Business and Resources

The report, which was presented by Councillor Foreman, Lead Member for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services provided a quarterly update on Treasury Management activity for the quarter ended 30 June 2025.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reasons for Decisions: To comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services.

6. Treasury Management Annual Report 2024/2025

Submitted: Report of the Director of Business and Resources

The report, which was presented by Councillor Foreman, Lead Member for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services provided the Treasury Management activities for the financial year 2024/2025.

Resolved: That (a) the report be noted and (b) the report be presented to Full

Council.

Reasons for Decisions: *To comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services.*

7. Tenancy Agreement

Submitted: Report of the Director of Place Strategy

The report, which was presented by Councillor Carter, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Housing and Community Safety sought approval to commence a consultation exercise on the revised tenancy agreement, which applies to Council Housing tenants.

The reports set out the proposed changes to the tenancy agreement together with details of the proposed consultation process which would commence in October 2025 and run for a period of 12 weeks.

Options considered:

Option 1
Do nothing and continue with the current tenancy agreement.

Option 2
Proceed as per the recommended option to approve the consultation on the new tenancy agreement.

Option 3
Doing nothing and continuing to use the current tenancy agreement is not considered to be a feasible option.

Resolved: That approval be given to proceed with the consultation process for the revised Tenancy Agreement.

Reasons for Decision: *As outlined within this report the need for an up-to- date tenancy agreement with tenants is essential to reflect changing lifestyles, tenants needs, and technological advances. As a responsible social landlord, our tenancy agreements must reflect recent regulatory changes to protect tenants.*

Along with the draft Tenancy Fraud policy, a robust and detailed tenancy agreement allows the council to take effective action against tenancy fraud and other breaches in tenancy.

A full, inclusive and transparent consultation process will ensure that the Council is *compliant and has enabled all tenants to be involved within the proposed changes to tenancy agreement. If these changes are agreed and a new tenancy agreement is issued, continued engagement and information will be given to tenants to ensure a full understanding of their responsibilities as a tenant.*

8. Performance Update Quarter 1/End of June

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Lead – Performance and Change Management

This report, which was presented by Councillor Dixon, Leader of the Council provided an overview of key performance indicators for Quarter 1, end June 2025.

The Quarterly Performance Update provided an overview of key performance indicators at the end of each quarter, allowing for performance over time to be assessed and the areas of strong performance and challenge/ concern identified. In addition, the report set out the latest updates on the major projects which the Council was leading or involved in, as well as other work that was contributing to achieving the Ambitions.

The current areas of strength (where performance was going well or where there had been a significant improvement or the position was significantly better than regional or statistical groups) included:

- Referrals into Children's Services
- Number of Children in Need
- Number of Child Protection Plans
- Rate of Children becoming subject to a Child Protection plan
- Number of Children Cared For
- Adoptions
- Adult Social Care provider ratings
- Leisure centre memberships
- People in Short Term Residential Placements
- Young people in employment, education or training
- Number of trees planted
- Vacant/Void Properties
- Properties managed by South Tyneside Housing Services where all required landlord gas service and safety inspections have been carried out
- Properties meeting the Decent Home Standard
- Emergency repairs completed on time by South Tyneside Housing Services

The areas of challenge included:

- Young people claiming out of work benefits
- Repeat Child Protection Plans
- Admission of people aged 65+ to residential care

- Domestic Abuse Rate
- People presenting as at risk of homelessness
- Employment Rate
- Unemployment Rate
- Economic Inactivity
- Proportion of contaminated recycling bins

Resolved: That the Quarter 1, End of June 2025 Performance update be noted.

Reason for decision: *Up-to-date insight and intelligence on performance and progress enables more informed, evidence-based decision making, which ultimately results in better outcomes for the residents of South Tyneside.*

9. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no Chair's Urgent Items.

10. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the agenda items as they involve exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

Minute no.	Item	Exempt category nos.	"public interest" test Reason for exempting
11- 14	10-13	3	The report contains information which if published could affect the business affairs of persons named in the report.

11. Roofing Framework Tender Report

Submitted: Report of the Director of Operations

The report, which was presented by Councillor Carter, Deputy Leader and Lead Member Housing and Community Safety sought approval of a framework agreement for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of roofs across the Council's social housing and property assets. The proposed framework would be for an initial term of 24 months, with the option to extend for a further 24 months. It will be structured into the following lots:

Lot 1 – Supply and installation of pitched roof coverings with associated components and building works over £250,000

Lot 2 – Supply and installation of pitched roof coverings with associated components and building works less than £250,000.
Lot 3 - Supply and installation of flat roofing systems and associated products and repairs.
Lot 4 – Repair and maintenance work to pitched and flat roofing structures and coverings.

Options considered:

Option 1
Approve the appointment of the top-ranked contractors, with the framework scheduled to commence in October 2025. The initial term would be 24 months, with an option to extend for an additional 24 months (2 x 12-month periods), subject to ongoing performance and monitoring.

Option 2
Undertake a further tender process, acknowledging that this would likely result in delays, increased costs, and potential exposure to legislative risk.

Option 3
Decline to award the framework, understanding that this option could similarly expose the Council to significant legislative risks.

Resolved: That (a) the framework for Lots 1 to 4 as detailed in the report be agreed and (b) approval be given to the award of the tender for Lot 1 (Low Simonside re-roofing) to John Flowers Ltd.

Reasons for Decisions: *The approval of the framework award will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations as outlined in the report. It will also support ongoing compliance with the Homes Standard, Right to Repair and the Decent Homes Standard by facilitating the continued delivery of essential housing services.*

The contract will secure the appointment of a suitably qualified contractor to undertake the maintenance, repair, and replacement of roofs and associated components. This will help ensure residents' homes remain safe, comfortable, and maintained to a high standard of quality, reinforcing the Council's commitment to resident well-being.

12. Contract Award for the Electrical Materials Framework

Submitted: Report of the Director of Operations

The report, which was presented by Councillor Carter, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Housing and Community Safety sought approval of the proposed framework for the provision of electrical materials. The framework will provide assurance that a supply of required materials can be sourced and provided for all emergency, planned and reactive works. The proposed contract would be for an initial period of 12 months, with an option to extend for an additional 12 months.

Options considered:

Option 1
Approve the framework, to include the top four ranked suppliers, with the contract to commence from 1st December 2025 for a period of 12 months. An option to extend for a further 12 months will be subject to monitoring and performance.

Option 2
Not award the contract, however noting the legislative risks this would expose the Council to.

Resolved: That approval of the award of the framework for the provision of electrical materials to the four suppliers: Edmundson Electrical T/A Electric Centre, YESSS Electrical LTD, City Electrical Factors LTD and Rexel UK Limited for a period of up to two years be approved at the estimated annual cost as detailed in the report.

Reason for Decisions: *The approved framework award will ensure the Council meets its mandated requirements as detailed in this report and as stipulated by the pending electrical safety regulations. It will also contribute to residents feeling safe in their home, through the provision of effective electrical safety measures.*

The Framework will ensure that suitably manufactured goods are sourced, provided, and delivered within a required timescale and agreed cost, so electrical safety maintenance, repair and upgrade and be completed. This ensures the integrity and electrical safety of the asset to its customer.

13. Disposal of Land at Benton Road, South Shields

Submitted: Report of the Director of Place Strategy

The report, which was presented by Councillor Foreman, Lead Member Governance, Finance and Corporate Services on behalf of Councillor Berkley, Lead Member Adults, Health and Independence sought approval to proceed with the disposal of a cleared plot of land in South Shields on a long lease basis to Karbon Homes Ltd to facilitate the regeneration of the site, and specifically to allow the development of a new Extra Care Housing facility.

Options considered:

Option 1
Accept the financial offer as detailed in the report for the site, to allow a 250-year lease to be entered into and to facilitate the development of the proposed Extra Care facility.

Option 2
Reject the offer and consider further options for the site, however accepting that this would be contradictory to the previously supported Extra Care delivery programme.

Resolved: That (a) the financial offer for the site be accepted as detailed in the report to allow a 250-year lease to be entered into and to facilitate development of the site and (b) that the Director of Place Strategy, in conjunction with the Lead Member Governance, Finance and Corporate Services, and the Lead Member Adults, Health and Independence be authorised to progress the long lease arrangement to completion, including agreeing any minor adjustments (including any reduction in the land offer, not exceeding 10%) that may arise during the transactional process.

Reason for Decisions: *The figure that has been provisionally agreed for the site is at a level that it is considered will provide the Council with a capital receipt in-line with that required under best value requirements.*

Additionally, the proposed transaction will allow the site to be redeveloped for a positive end use that will provide new accommodation in the Borough, which supports Adult Social Care's aspirations to deliver new Extra Care facilities. The proposals would also be a positive contribution towards the Council's wider housing target ambitions.

14. Tyne Coast College Relocation – Advanced Works

Submitted: Report of the Director of Place Strategy

The report, which was presented by Councillor Meling, Lead Member Economic Growth and Transport provided a progress update on the College relocation project and sought instruction on the continued financial support of construction work in advance of the full contract award by the College. The four options detailed below were presented for consideration.

Options considered:

<u>Option 1</u>
Allow the College to negotiate the necessary terms with the main contractor to remain on-site at their financial risk, with the Council making no specific further payments;

<u>Option 2</u>
Allow the College to negotiate the necessary terms with the main contractor to remain on-site at their financial risk, with the Council committing to pay across the remaining amount of the contribution agreed previously;

<u>Option 3</u>
Seek agreement from NECA to forward fund the current cashflow shortfall from their commitment to the project. It should be noted that if, for whatever reason, the project was not to progress beyond this phase, the Council as the Accountable Body for the funding could be subject to clawback of the full amount claimed;

<u>Option 4</u>
Seek agreement from NECA to forward fund the larger sum of money required and the Council provide the remaining amount that would take this up to the previously agreed contribution. Again with this option all of financial the risk would be with the Council should the project not progress past the current phase.

Resolved: It was agreed that the College be presented with option 4 as the Council’s preferred option as detailed above and note the financial amounts agreed be those detailed in the report.

Reason for Decision: To enable continued progress of this flagship scheme in line with critical dates most notably the intake of students for the 27/28 academic year and mitigate the risk of unfunded cost increases to the project.