

Gosforth Ward Committee

Tuesday 12th November, 2024 at 6.00 pm

Meeting to be held at the South Northumberland Cricket Club, Roseworth Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1LU

Contact Officer: Victoria Parkin – Tel: 0191 277 3571 – Email: victoria.parkin@newcastle.gov.uk

Membership

Councillors: D Anand, C Ferguson and T Woodwark

AGENDA

	Time	Page No
1. Appointment of Chair		
2. Welcome and introductions		
3. Apologies for absence		
4. Declarations of interest		
<p>(If any Member has a personal/prejudicial interest please complete the appropriate form and hand this to the Communities Officer before leaving the meeting. A blank form can be obtained from the Communities Officer at the meeting).</p> <p>Members are reminded to verbally declare their interest and the nature of it and, if prejudicial, leave where appropriate at the point of the meeting when the item is to be discussed.</p>		
5. Action points from previous meeting held on 7 February 2024		3 - 6
6. School Places Update		7 - 14
7. Matters of Local Concern		

8. **Ward Finance**

15 - 16

9. **Any other business**

Gosforth Ward Committee

To be held on:
Tuesday 12th November 2024
6pm – 8.30pm
South Northumberland Cricket Club,
Gosforth, Newcastle, NE3 1LU

Your local Ward Councillors

Councillor Doc Anand



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Gosforth Ward Committee

7 February 2024

(6.00 - 8.45pm)

Meeting held at Trinity Church, High Street, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4AG

Present:

Councillor: P Hall (Chair)

Councillors: C Ferguson and T Woodwark

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Cllr Phillip Hall was appointed as Chair

2 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and brief introductions were provided. The large turnout was acknowledged, and the Chair thanked everyone for making the time to attend.

No apologies were received ahead of the meeting or at the meeting itself.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 TRANSPORT UPDATE - NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

Pamela Holmes, Assistant Director for Transport, provided a Transport update covering the following:

- Movement Strategy
- Tyne Bridge
- Capital Schemes
- Neighbourhood Schemes

Questions and comments from the floor were then invited. The majority of this time was spent raising concerns over particular streets (speeding, parking), the impact of the Newcastle Great Park Development on traffic flow through Gosforth, and findings from the experimental order.

Pamela acknowledged the matters raised and asked, in particular to neighbourhood concerns, to report them via the council's 'Your Local Services' section of the

website - [Home Page - Your Local Services \(newcastle.gov.uk\)](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk). Residents can also call 0191 278 7878.

It was agreed that a copy of Pamela's presentation would be published alongside this document on the ward webpage.

5 **CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

Jessica Brooke, Sergeant Neighbourhood Policing (Central) attended the meeting and gave an update covering:

- Shoplifting
- Vagrants on the High Street
- Reminder to report ASB
- Speed Watch scheme traffic guns
- Dirt bikes

She then took questions and comments from residents, much of these focussed on bicycles on pavements (particular fast food delivery cyclists), inconsiderate parking and speeding.

Jessica thanked everyone for their insight and support. She reminded everyone to report all crime, anti social and inconsiderate behaviour – where possible backed up by photo, video or address.

Jessica said reporting could continue to be done online or via 111 for non-urgent matters, she also provided her team's direct email address for use too:

Newcastlenorth.npt@northumbria.police.uk

6 **GOSFORTH SCHOOL PLACES**

Officer report included in meeting pack. To be published on ward webpage.

7 **EV CHARGING PLANS**

Officer report included in meeting pack. To be published on ward webpage.

8 **PEST CONTROL IN GOSFORTH CENTRAL PARK**

Update provided by Urban Green and read out by ward committee:

Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) is working with and paying for Newcastle City Council (NCC) to carry out treatment for rats across Gosforth Central park. This has been ongoing since the start of November, with over 12 pest control visits. UGN are in discussions with ward councillors, and they have offered to write a letter to local residents and businesses to give guidance on how to deter rats from the park and surrounding area. We will continue to monitor and take guidance from NCC, and our intention is to add Gosforth Central park to our Pest Control SLA with NCC for 2024/25.

Litter bins are monitored using sensor technology to determine when they need emptying which greatly reduces the instances of overflowing bins and therefore the litter that can attract rats. The sensor technology also allows us to assess the frequency of collections and to determine whether the number of bins is appropriate – for example if bins are emptied every day this might suggest there are not enough. The current assessment of collection frequencies is that there is sufficient bin numbers in the park.

Our Ranger Team have also worked with Friends of Gosforth Park to remove brash from site and alternate areas where this is temporarily stored. We have also liaised closely with the Shopping Centre and they have pest control in place in areas of their responsibility and they have also removed ivy on their buildings.

Update by Sarah Capes, Team Leader: Land and Woodland Management (Urban Green)

9 **WARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Financial statement received and noted.

10 **GRANT APPLICATION**

None discussed.

11 **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

12 **ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2019**

Noted and agreed.

Question raised about previously referenced Action Plan.

ACTION: V Parkin to look into this with intention of producing something new and current to reflect the ward priorities.

13 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Reminder that an engagement session for the Newcastle Plan was taking place at Trinity on 8th February, 16.30-18.30. Flyers made available for those who wanted more information or to complete the survey online.
- Graffiti - Cllrs acknowledged the site of the graffiti and confirmed difficulties over wall ownership and responsibility for removing it.
ACTION: V Parkin to raise with NCC Property Services.
- New management of the shopping centre were thanked and acknowledgements made of their desire to involve the community and revive the space.

- Cllrs were thanked for all their work and for taking the time to meet with residents.

Residents were thanked for their attendance, input and patience over the poor acoustics.

14 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 20:45.

Gosforth Ward Committee

November 2024

School Places Update

Report by: Cath McEvoy-Carr, Director: Children and Families
Deb Tyler and Luke Connor, Children and Families

Ward Implications: Gosforth

FOR INFORMATION		
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1. Summary

- 1.1 The following report provides an update on school places in relation to the Gosforth ward, as requested.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The committee is recommended to receive the report for information.

3. Background – city wide school aged population

- 3.1 **Approximately 62,966 children and young people** aged 0–18 years live in Newcastle. This is around 20% of the total population in the area (ONS Mid-Year Estimates for 2022).

There is continued growth in the city and school-age population, this had been predicted to slow by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), but the latest ONS data has shown a more recent pattern of significant growth. This is in keeping with what the authority has experienced for the last couple of years with in-year school cohort growth and also reflects recent NHS data.

The most recent ONS population estimates show that Newcastle has the joint 7th highest percentage population growth (all ages) in the country between 2021 and 2022, a net increase of 9,020 (3% growth). Since 2018, the city's population has increased by 15,806, around 5% ([ONS population estimates mid-2022](#)).

In January 2024, there were 47,038 pupils in Newcastle schools, an increase of 332 pupils since January 2023.

The number of pupils in state-funded primary schools (including first) has grown

by 3,544 (18.2%) to 23,059 since 2012, and by 1,745 (8.2%) since 2015.

Since 2015, the number of pupils in state-funded secondary schools (including middle) has grown by 2,721 pupils (17.4%) to 18,328.

The latest school census data (May 2024) shows that the number of pupils in Reception to Year 11 has increased in-year by 201 since the October 2023 Census, compared to an increase of 434 pupils in the same period last year.

The greatest growth in the resident pupil population (R – Y11) in the last ten years has been seen in the Gosforth planning area (1,400), followed by the Inner West (954) and Outer West (920).

The May 2024 school census data shows that the number of pupils in Reception to Year 11 has increased in-year by 201 pupils since October 2023.

The cumulative impact of in-year growth over the last three years has been greatest in key stage 1. By May 2024:

- Year 3 had grown by 239 pupils (7.6%) since reception in October 2020 and is now the largest cohort in the city
- Year 2 had grown by 201 pupils (6.1%) since reception in October 2021
- Year 1 had grown by 161 pupils (5.0%) since reception in October 2022
- Reception had grown by 72 pupils (2.35%) since reception in October 2023

Over the same four academic years (October 2020 to January 2024), other primary age cohorts have also grown by between 2.5% and 4.5%.

Cohorts starting secondary schools are continuing to grow. There is also in-year growth in most secondary age cohorts though this is generally lower than in the primary age ranges.

Two new secondary schools, Callerton Academy and Great Park Academy (GPA), were planned to provide additional secondary places to address the forecast shortfall. Both are part of the Department for Education (DfE) Free Schools Programme and have been subject to delays in construction of their permanent buildings.

Due to these delays and the need for the places, both schools opened on temporary sites in September 2021 but with reduced admission numbers.

Secondary place pressures will not be resolved until both schools are fully open in their new buildings on their permanent sites.

Given that both projects are further delayed, this is creating significant challenges for the local authority and across the secondary sector. To meet the ongoing shortfall of secondary places, the School Organisation and Infrastructure team has worked with schools and trusts across the city to negotiate and fund additional places in 'bulge classes over school's published admission number (PAN). For September 2024, over 270 additional places have been offered in 10 of the 17 secondary sector middle and secondary schools at the request of the local authority. Without this agreement, it would not be possible to provide all Newcastle-resident applicants with a secondary place offer on National Offer Day. Some secondary schools have now been offering over PAN for a number of years.

3.2 Place Sufficiency and Pressures (mainstream)

Although there has been a fall in reception intakes to primary schools in some parts of the city and further forecast reductions based on birth rates, this is being countered by the significant in-year growth. Much of that growth is associated with new large-scale housing developments.

There is expected to be sufficient short-term capacity in primary schools, except in pockets of significant housing growth. There is a tension between managing some expansion in a small number of schools or potential new schools that serve these housing developments alongside some unfilled capacity in other schools, especially if these are in the same or adjacent school planning areas. The extent to which any unfilled places can sufficiently meet need on the larger green belt sites which are predominantly family housing will continue to be regularly assessed in terms of future need and timescales for increasing capacity. A number of potential future primary school sites have been allocated on the housing development sites through the planning process. If these new primary schools are not required within an agreed timescale, the sites would return to the developers.

Across secondary age cohorts, there are only between 1-2% unfilled places, with very few or no unfilled places in some year groups. As a result, in-year admissions applications in these year groups are increasingly being referred to the Fair Access Panel (FAP) to allocate places for children who are new to the city and otherwise would not be able to secure a suitable school place.

Callerton and Great Park Academy's should be open in their permanent buildings in September 2025 with increased intakes, which will increase capacity within the secondary sector.

Cohorts reaching secondary age are expected to remain at a high-level for the next three years and are forecast to increase further in September 2027. Overall, secondary age forecasts are to remain larger than the 2023-24 Year 7 cohort for at least the next six years and, if current rates of cohort growth continue through the primary phase, will increase further by the time these cohorts reach secondary age.

3.3 Children and young people with special educational needs

As well as the general growth in the pupil population, there have been very substantial increases in the number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), especially autism. SEND place pressures are very significant.

- The number of children and young people of all ages with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans has increased to 2,769 in 2024, a 14.1% growth from 2023 and 85.8% over the last 5 years since 2019. Local data shows this has grown to 2,872 in June 2024. This growth is above the Northeast and national averages.
- As a result, the numbers of children and young people in specialist places have also increased substantially, despite increasing numbers and proportions of pupils with EHCPs being educated in mainstream schools.
- The number of children and young people *in reception to year 11* with EHCPs is forecast to increase by around 845 (44%) over the next five years, from 1,927 to 2,772 in 2028/29.

The most significant growth in numbers relates to autism and the level of increasing need and lack of capacity in existing special schools mean that a new special school for pupils with autism is needed, even with increasing rates of inclusion within mainstream schools.

4 Gosforth ward and Gosforth Planning Area

4.1 There are three state-funded schools located in the Gosforth ward, Gosforth Central Middle School and Archbishop Runcie CE first School close to the northern boundary with Parklands and Wyndham Primary School on the south-west boundary with Kenton. Other schools that serve the resident population in this ward are located in neighbouring wards.

Gosforth ward is part of the Gosforth School Planning Area (SPA). Within Gosforth SPA there are nine first schools (R-Y4), two Catholic primary schools (R-Y6), three middle schools (Y5-8), Gosforth Academy (Y9-Y11) and Great Park Academy (Y5-Y11) in the Gosforth planning area as well as a large sixth form provision at Gosforth Academy.

Despite some year-on-year fluctuations in the local resident population, there are generally very few unfilled places in Gosforth schools due to their popularity. The September 2024 year 9 cohort is substantially larger than previous cohorts in the Gosforth three-tier system.

Between January 2015 and January 2024, the resident primary age (R-Y6) pupil population in Gosforth SPA increased by 889 pupils (39%); and the resident secondary age pupil population increased by 683 pupils (43%).

At the beginning of the 2024/25 academic year, there were some places available in Reception to Year 5 and Year 9 but there are currently no places available in Years 6 to 8 or Years 10 and 11.

4.2 The resident pupil population in the area continues to grow due to several large-scale family housing developments in this part of the city, including Newcastle Great Park (NGP), Dinnington, Hazelrigg and Wideopen.

The table below shows planned and delivered housing in the area under the current Newcastle and Gateshead Core Strategy.

Housing Sites	School Planning Areas most impacted	Housing Planned to 2030	Total planned homes	Houses occupied 2024
NGP Cell A	Gosforth	855	1200	308
NGP Cell D	Gosforth	628	628	628
NGP Brunton Quarry*	Gosforth	156	156	0
Hazlerigg	Gosforth	455	455	419
Wideopen	Gosforth	167	167	167
Dinnington	Gosforth	445	445	445
TOTALS		9738	11623	4730

*no planning approval in place yet

Newcastle Great Park (NGP) housing development is the largest in Newcastle and is well-established now, having started in 2009 prior to the current Core

Strategy. Analysis of the October 2023 school census showed that there were 1,772 pupils on roll in Newcastle state-funded schools who were resident in Newcastle Great Park, 1,028 of whom were of primary school age (reception to Y6), 595 were secondary age in Y7-Y11 and 128 were in school sixth forms. Most of these pupils (86%) were on roll at schools in the Gosforth planning area.

4.3 Since 2015, there have been a number of expansions of first and middle schools and more recently some agreed admissions over PAN by middle and high schools prior to completion of permanent expansions or new schools. Most recent expansions and developments include:

- Relocation of Broadway East First School to Newcastle Great Park and expansion from 1.5 to 2 FE. Now renamed, Havannah First School, the new school building which opened in April 2022, has capacity for future expansion to 3 FE when this is required to meet the increase in population at Newcastle Great Park.
- Expansion of Gosforth Park First School from 1.5 to 2 FE in September 2023 to ensure sufficient places in the central Gosforth area. Remodelling and refurbishment of the former Broadway East building, which was co-located with Gosforth Park was completed in July 2024.
- Expansion of Gosforth Central Middle School to accommodate larger cohorts from feeder first schools. The permanent expansion was delayed due to the pandemic and PFI-related legal issues and there have been additional temporary classrooms onsite to enable the school to admit over PAN prior to completion of the new classroom block. The new building has now been completed and the school capacity and PAN have permanently increased.
- Great Park Academy opened in September 2021, with a small year 5 intake, in a temporary home in a new building on the Gosforth Academy site due to the delays in the planning process and subsequent construction of the new permanent building at Newcastle Great Park. Temporary classrooms have been added by DfE for September 2023 and 2024 to provide additional classrooms and specialist facilities for additional year 5 intakes and a year 9 intake in September 2024. The new school building is being delivered by DfE and their contractors, Galliford Try. It is on track for completion in July 2025.
- Temporary 'bulge classes' in a number of schools – Gosforth Junior High, Gosforth East Middle and Gosforth Academy to ensure sufficient places in the three-tier system prior to completion of Great Park Academy.

4.2 **Secondary places September 2024**

Gosforth Academy (Years 9-11 plus sixth form) has previously been the only high school within the Gosforth three-tier system. As a result, all students within this system who have applied on time have previously transferred from a first to a middle school and subsequently into Gosforth Academy.

However, the growth in the pupil population meant that this was no longer going to be possible, with cohorts increasing to 490 pupils for September 2024, hence the need for a Year 9 intake at Great Park Academy. All Year 8 pupils in the Gosforth three-tier system whose parents applied for a Year 9 place were offered one in either Gosforth Academy or Great Park Academy.

Following National Offer Day, a significant minority of parents/carers of Year 8 pupils, who were unhappy with the place they had been offered, submitted appeals. A large number of appeals were heard for Gosforth Academy, leading

to an increase in Year 9 places from 379 on national offer day to 415 at the end of August. As a result, there are also some unfilled Year 9 places in Great Park Academy.

More than 20 parents/carers also submitted objections to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) in March and April 2024 regarding both schools' admission policies and, in particular, the use of random allocation as a tie-break within the oversubscription criteria. The OSA responded to say that they would not consider objections about the 2024 policy as it was outside the statutory timeframe for objections to be made to that policy. However, they did consider the objections in relation to the 2025 Admissions Policies.

4.3 **Secondary places and admissions policies for September 2025**

Many of the complaints to the OSA about the 2025 policies related to the validity of random allocation, the lower priority given to distance or the lack of a sibling criteria. The OSA adjudicator published their findings on 17 and 18 September 2024.

All OSA determinations can be found on the below link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications

The majority of the findings from the adjudicator have called for aspects of the policies to be clarified and for terminology to be updated.

On the crucial point of the use of random allocation as a tie-breaker method, the Adjudicator ruled that this method was a lawful process that could be used. However, the Adjudicator has instructed the admissions authority to write more clearly in the admissions policy about when this process may be used and more clearly about how the random allocation process is carried out.

In respect of the objections relating to distance or sibling links within the oversubscription criteria in the Gosforth Academy policy, the OSA stated:

“On balance, I find that the advantage that would be afforded to feeder school children with siblings at the school, or who live close to the school, in the event that the oversubscription criteria were changed to afford them priority, is outweighed by the disadvantage that would be caused to applicants who they may displace. That is, to those feeder school children without siblings and who live further away. I also find that there is insufficient evidence that children will be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, or that amending the arrangements to prioritise applicants on the basis of distance would result in children securing a place at the school which is closest to where they live. To repeat that which I have stated above: using such a criterion may result in GA admitting those pupils who live closest to the school, but it would not necessarily result in children being admitted to the school which is closest to them. For these reasons and the reasons given above I do not find the arrangements to be unfair and I do not uphold these aspects of the objection.”

The Adjudicator also ruled that there were several other instances where the wording of policies was unclear or inaccurate meaning that parents and carers

could be confused. The Adjudicator has instructed that the admissions authority revise policy documents to address these instances.

The Adjudicator's determination is legally binding. The admissions authority (Gosforth Group multi-academy trust) is required to publish its revised policies in line with the Adjudicator's determinations by Friday 4 October 2024 so that they are available for parents and carers to consider during the admissions processes for September 2025 admission.

Councillors should note that this report was written prior to the publication of revised policies which will have been published prior to the ward committee meeting.

As the admission transfers process for September 2025 opened on 1 September 2024, some families have already submitted applications.

Local authority officers will work with the Trust to ensure that all families are made aware of the revised admissions policies in time for the close of the annual secondary admissions process which is 31 October 2024. Families who have already submitted their admissions preferences can amend these preferences right up until the deadline.

Contact Officers

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Agenda Item 8

Ward name Gosforth	Year 2024-25	Budget £3556.14	Total drawdown cost 0	Balance £3556.14	Percentage of budget used 0%
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Is current?
Yes

Amount	Organisation	Description	Date	External Reference	Internal Reference
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Active Requests

Service Case Ref	Description	Organisation	Date created	Current Activity	Case Status	Requested amount
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Rejected Requests

Service Case Ref	Organisation	Date created	Date modified	Requested amount	Year	Is current?
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Drawdown ▼

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