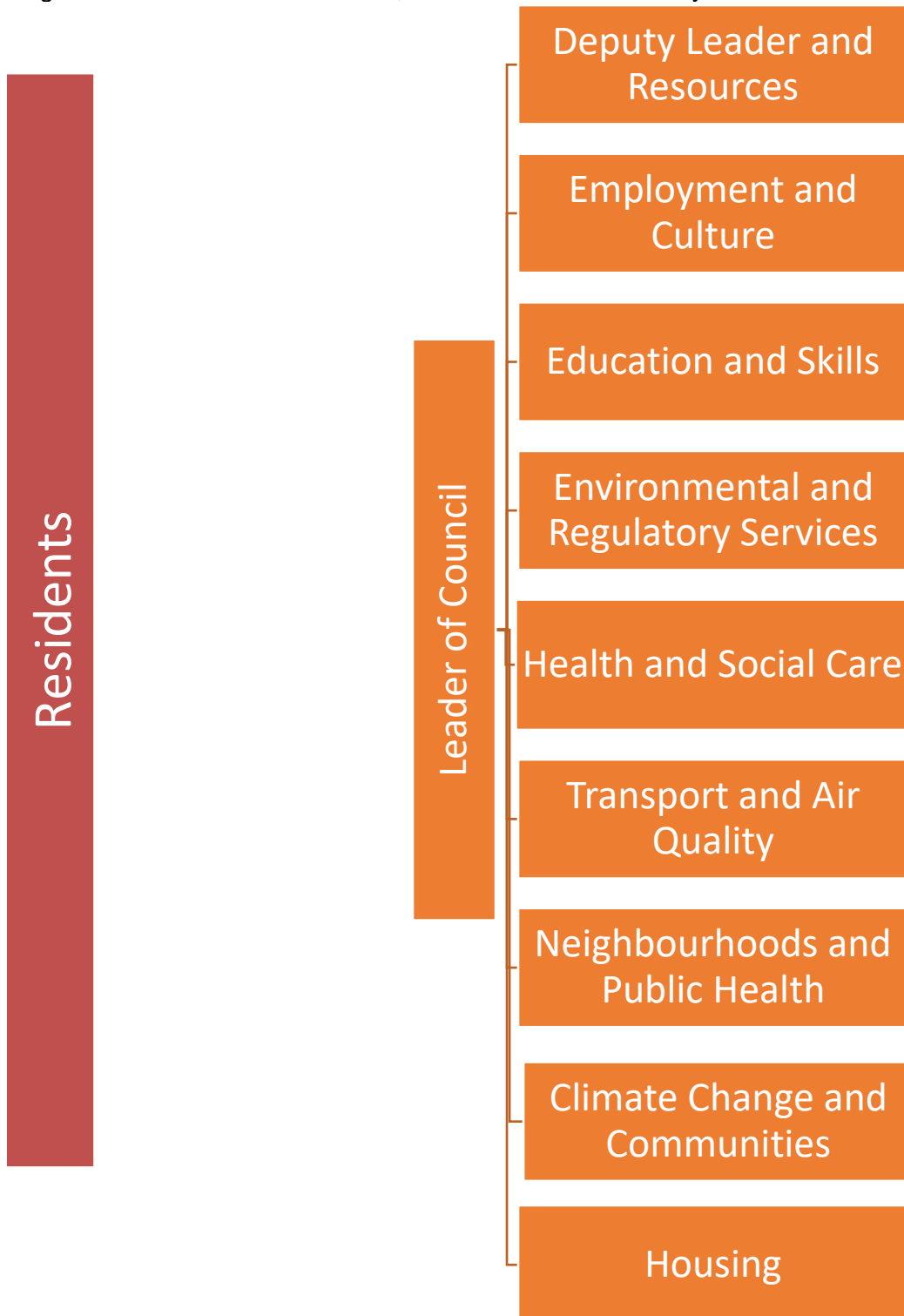


# Know Your Cabinet 2019/20

## New for Autumn 2019

A new portfolio of Climate Change and Communities has been created, and Cllr Clare Penny-Evans appointed to it, to give stronger political focus on delivering citywide action to tackle the Climate Emergency. In addition, culture, tourism and events have transferred to the Employment and Culture portfolio and the remaining functions of the former Culture, Port and Public Health portfolio, renamed Neighbourhoods and Public Health, will now be undertaken by Cllr John-Paul Stephenson.



## What is Cabinet and how does it work?

Newcastle City Council is led by Councillors. This means that the overall strategic priorities of the council are determined by elected politicians, accountable to local residents.

### Full Council

Meetings of all 78 elected Councillors (Full Council) take the biggest decisions such as setting the overall policy framework and agreeing the Council's budget. Councillors who belong to the political party which has the most seats form the ruling group. Full Council then elects the leader of that ruling group to be Leader of Council. The Leader then appoints a Cabinet.

### Political Balance of the Council

The Council is currently made up of 54 Labour, 20 Liberal Democrat, 3 Independent and 1 It's time to put Newcastle First councillors. The Leader and Cabinet are therefore all Labour (or Labour and Co-Operative) councillors.

### Leader and Cabinet

Cabinet takes all the most significant decisions within the Council, through Cabinet meetings or the individual decision making process. The Leader and Cabinet Members also ensure that the Council is working towards the priorities set by Cabinet.

### Officers

The staff of the Council are employed on behalf of Councillors to carry out the day to day work of the Council and implement the policies of Cabinet and the budget set by Full Council.

### The Cabinet structure in Newcastle

The aim of the Cabinet structure is to promote political accountability for directorates and the work of the Council. Cabinet Members have responsibility for particular areas of work. They also take responsibility for particular cross cutting areas of work on behalf of Cabinet, and work collectively on issues such as determining the budget.

Alongside the collective responsibility exercised by the Cabinet, individual Cabinet members have delegated powers to make specific decisions. This helps to speed up decision-making. There are two types of Cabinet meeting – a formal Business Cabinet meeting each month where key decisions are made, and Policy Cabinet meetings (on an ad hoc basis) which allow the development of cross-cutting policy within the Council.

### The role of Cabinet

Cabinet members are elected representatives given specific responsibilities for the work of the Council.

Cabinet Members are there to provide overall direction and set the policy framework for services to work within. They are ultimately responsible for the decisions the Council makes. The operational and day to day work of the Council is for officers.

### Newcastle's Cabinet

Many members of the current Cabinet work elsewhere. This brings alternative perspectives and experience, but means officers must use Cabinet Members' time effectively, as it is a scarce and precious resource.






**Cabinet Members are keen to visit services and speak to staff and service users. If you'd like your Cabinet Member to visit your service please get in touch with the Leader's Office on ext 25151.**

For more information please see

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/councillors/cabinet>

## Cabinet Members

Please see the detailed breakdown of responsibilities for full portfolio responsibilities

	<p><b>Leader of Council, Cllr Nick Forbes</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Nick provides overall leadership within the Council and on behalf of the Council and the City to the region and the wider world, including relationships with the Combined Authority and Government. As chair of Cabinet he is responsible for ensuring that the Council is working towards its priorities.</p>
	<p><b>Deputy Leader of Council, and Cabinet member for Resources, Cllr Joyce McCarty</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: As Deputy Leader Joyce works closely with the Leader on political governance across the Council. She ensures the Council works in the interests of fairness with her portfolio including key issues like fair pay policy, equalities and financial inclusion. She looks after the council's resources and ensures they are used wisely and in line with the direction set by Cabinet through the budget. She is also responsible for ensuring that the council has a performance regime which is driving change and improvement.</p> <p>Background: Joyce has recently retired from a career in local government in Children's Services as a school improvement officer, following a career as a teacher.</p>
	<p><b>Cabinet member for Employment and Culture Cllr Ged Bell</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Ged leads on investment in and promotion of Newcastle, including our own major projects and capital programme. He is also responsible for creating quality jobs and ensuring that everyone can benefit from jobs being created. He leads on culture, tourism and major events.</p> <p>Background: Ged is a retired fire-fighter.</p>
	<p><b>Cabinet member for Education and Skills, Cllr Veronica Dunn</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Veronica is responsible for ensuring that children and young people get the best start in life. This includes ensuring good relationships with schools, safeguarding and children's social care. She is also responsible for the promotion of employment-related skills including apprenticeships.</p> <p>Background: Veronica is a retired local government officer and former President of UNISON</p>
	<p><b>Cabinet member for the Environmental and Regulatory Services, Cllr Nick Kemp</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Nick's portfolio is focussed on delivering decent neighbourhood standards, licensing and regulatory issues.</p> <p>Background: Nick is the Managing Director of a public affairs business. He has a background in strategic communications and also as a parliamentary aide.</p>



### **Cabinet member for Health and Social Care, Cllr Karen Kilgour**

Responsibilities: Karen is responsible for health and adult social care within the city, supporting some of the most vulnerable residents to live as independently as they can. She also leads on health and social care integration, refugee support and strategic migration. She is the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

Background: Karen is a former local government officer, with experience of campaigning for equalities.



### **Cabinet member for Transport and Air Quality, Cllr Arlene Ainsley**

Responsibilities: Arlene leads on the delivery of major transport schemes, local highways improvements, promoting cycling and improving air quality

Background: Arlene has worked in the voluntary sector for many years and is now working with a small ISO accreditation company.



### **Cabinet member for Climate Change and Communities, Cllr Clare Penny-Evans**

Responsibilities: Clare is responsible for promoting good community relations, tackling discrimination and celebrating diversity. She also has responsibility for Community Safety and liaison with Police and the criminal justice system. She leads on plans to create a Climate Change Convention for the city.

Background: Clare has worked across the North in the voluntary sector for the over 20 years. She works part time for Skills for People, a charity supporting people with learning disabilities and their families.



### **Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods and Public Health, Cllr John-Paul Stephenson**

Responsibilities: John-Paul is responsible for community buildings and neighbourhood facilities, and leads on public health.

Background: John-Paul has a background teaching in Higher Education, supporting distance learning students from a range of backgrounds to succeed and reach their potential.



### **Cabinet member for Housing, Cllr Linda Hobson**

Responsibilities: Linda is responsible for housing delivery and management, leading on housing within the Devolution Deal. She is also responsible for Welfare Reform.

Background: A critical care nurse by profession, Linda is an elected trade union official, holding a number of roles with Unison, including deputy Regional Convenor.

## Cabinet Roles and Responsibilities 2019 - 20

### Collective responsibilities

All Cabinet members have a responsibility to work collectively with Cabinet colleagues to:

- Promote effective internal and external communications
- Develop and deliver a capital programme and revenue budget
- Contribute to the Newcastle Future Needs Assessment
- Improve the wellbeing and health of the city
- Embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals in council policies and activities

Cabinet Member	2019 Manifesto Commitment Lead	Council Function lead
<b>Leader</b>	Overall leadership and implementation of the manifesto, including leading on the Climate Change Convention and embedding the UN Sustainable Development goals into council policies and activities.	Provide leadership within the organisation, and on behalf of the organisation and the City of Newcastle to the wider world  Ensure the Council is working towards its priorities and communicates effectively
<b>Deputy Leader (Note the Deputy Leader is also the Cabinet Member for Resources)</b>	Resources Portfolio priorities as specified below	Political Governance and accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council, Cabinet and Committee forward planning</li> <li>• Corporate Plan</li> <li>• Risk management</li> <li>• Digital change programme</li> </ul> Relationship management and co-ordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary and Community Sector liaison</li> <li>• Newcastle Fund</li> <li>• International policy including International Newcastle</li> </ul> Promoting social inclusion and cohesion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding Fairness Commission principles</li> <li>• Fair pay policy</li> <li>• Financial inclusion</li> </ul> Welfare Reform

<p><b>Employment and Culture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Newcastle as a city open for business, welcoming investments that further our objectives of inclusive growth;</li> <li>• Promote those key economic sectors where Newcastle has major national strengths (digital and tech, life sciences, energy, culture and tourism) and our nationally renowned expertise in ageing and artificial intelligence;</li> <li>• Actively discourage the extraction and use of fossil fuels in the city for energy production;</li> <li>• Promote a fairer economy by exploring how we can increase the size of the co-operative sector in Newcastle.;</li> <li>• Lead the fight against corporate tax avoidance and promote the Fair Tax Mark to empower consumers to shop with those who pay their share of taxes;</li> <li>• Continue the fight to end exploitative zero hours contracts.</li> <li>• Co-operate with cultural organisations within Newcastle and Gateshead on the City of Dreams programme, which focusses on improving engagement between young people and the cultural sector in order to make Newcastle a great place to be young.</li> <li>• Continue to develop a Major Cultural and Sporting Events programme for the city</li> </ul>	<p>Inward investment and promotion of Newcastle</p> <p>Creating Quality Jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting new jobs and sectoral growth</li> <li>• Business Improvement District development</li> <li>• Business relations and support</li> </ul> <p>Delivery of major investment projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital programme</li> <li>• City Deal and related development sites</li> <li>• Science City Partnership</li> <li>• Local Development Framework</li> </ul> <p>City centre retail and diversification</p> <p>Regional economic functions</p> <p>Culture, tourism and delivering major events, including oversight of key services in support of these events.</p>
<p><b>Education and Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain our commitment to a Bursary Scheme which enables young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to further training or stay on at school;</li> </ul>	<p>Integrated support for children, young people and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years and Nurseries</li> <li>• Family Centres</li> <li>• Connexions</li> <li>• Youth Offending</li> </ul>

- Create a citywide 'Gold Standard' for apprenticeships and urge employers to adopt it;
- Provide access to free sanitary products in schools and other community buildings by supporting the Red Box scheme;
- Encourage schools to 'poverty proof' all their activities to remove any stigma and barriers to learning;
- Ensure that LGBT children and young people feel safe and welcome in school and when in contact with the care system;
- Strengthen our commitment to lifelong learning across all ages through the devolution deal, offering people new opportunities to learn new things for personal, work, community and skills development;
- Exploring how a Learning City framework of partnership working might respond to the recommendations of several current national inquiries into lifelong learning;
- Develop our outstanding offer at Castle Nurseries;
- Work with, and learn from, partners in the community and voluntary sector to tackle issues such as holiday hunger and period poverty;
- Co-operate with health partners, schools and parents and children to make the city more inclusive through our shared Strategy for Children with Special educational Needs and Disabilities;
- Work with schools to provide sufficient high-quality school places for all children in Newcastle – for example, by relocating and expanding provision to better serve expanding populations in the North and West of the City;

- Drug and Alcohol services
- NEETs
- SEN
- Children with Disabilities

#### Children's Safeguarding and Social Care Services

- Looked after Children
- Child Protection

#### Relationships with education providers

- Primary and Secondary Schools
- 14 – 19 Skills Providers
- Higher Education links
- Lifelong Learning
- School Improvement (including inspections, behaviour, attendance, enrichment)

#### Skills

- Promoting employment-related skills
- Liaising with employers and training / skills providers
- Promoting apprenticeships
- Promoting a Living Wage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen pathways into employment and further and higher education by providing good quality pre-apprenticeship programmes in partnership with Newcastle City Learning and local employers;</li> <li>• Continue to develop Newcastle a UNICEF-accredited Child-Friendly City.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental and Regulatory Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run a hard-hitting citywide anti-littering campaign, and continue our nationally-recognised enforcement action against those who commit environmental crimes;</li> <li>• Establish a 'Pride in Newcastle' award;</li> <li>• Use the council's new powers to seize and destroy vehicles of prolific fly-tippers;</li> <li>• conduct a full review of household waste and recycling centres;</li> <li>• Set an ambitious target to increase the amount of household recycling to 55%, and pilot food waste recycling in some areas of the city;</li> </ul>	<p>Local Service provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street cleaning</li> <li>• Graffiti removal</li> <li>• Neighbourhood response teams</li> <li>• Waste collection</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Garden waste collection</li> <li>• Horticultural services</li> </ul> <p>Leading the Council's response to the Waste Commission/Development of a city-wide Waste Strategy</p> <p>Licensing and Regulatory issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trading standards</li> <li>• Resilience planning</li> <li>• Public protection and enforcement</li> <li>• Traffic and parking enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Social Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassert our commitment to supporting unpaid carers in the city;</li> <li>• Continue to further our work in making Newcastle a Dementia-friendly city, working with partners across the city to deliver a 12 month programme of events, information and advice from a base in the Grainger Market, continue to train people in dementia awareness and support neighbourhoods to become dementia friendly;</li> </ul>	<p>Adult social care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18+ adults with long term social care needs</li> <li>• In house and commissioned care services</li> <li>• Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Specialist Services</li> <li>• Business continuity and risk</li> <li>• Social Care Finance</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to investigate ways to make the city autism friendly;</li> <li>• Examine how, working with partners, we can improve and promote accessible toilets and changing facilities in the city.</li> <li>• Investigate interventions and approaches to tackle loneliness in different groups of people in different parts of the city;</li> <li>• Campaign to raise the profile and status of mental health, which will include challenging the stigma around poor mental health;</li> <li>• Sign up to the national Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health programme;</li> <li>• Develop a 'Newcastle Model' for integration of health and care services;</li> <li>• Roll out the defibrillator programme to more council owned buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dementia Friendly City</li> </ul> <p>Health and Social Care integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Social Care financial viability</li> <li>• Joint funding with Health (Better Care Fund)</li> <li>• Intermediate Care</li> </ul> <p>Housing with specialised support (in collaboration with other Cabinet members)</p> <p>Asylum Seekers and Refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Sanctuary</li> <li>• Strategic Migration</li> </ul> <p>Promoting mental health and tackling stigma</p> <p>Armed Forces Champion</p>
<p><b>Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate 100 years of council housing in the city in July 2019;</li> <li>• Further develop new schemes offering supported housing across the city, preventing them from being sold under right to buy and providing quality accommodation for residents who may have been placed outside the city, in institutional settings away from their family and support networks to meet their needs;</li> <li>• Support initiatives such as 'Street Zero' to move towards a 'Housing First' approach;</li> <li>• Explore with health partners how we might ensure homes are warm by improving insulation and replacing boilers to meet up-to-date standards and help improve the health and wellbeing of residents;</li> </ul>	<p>Housing delivery and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairer Housing Unit</li> <li>• New house building programme</li> <li>• Your Homes Newcastle</li> <li>• HMO Licensing policy</li> <li>• Private landlords and tenants</li> <li>• Homelessness and homelessness prevention</li> <li>• Housing-related enforcement</li> </ul> <p>Leading on Housing Policy within the Devolution Deal</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners from North of Tyne on a Housing devolution deal that works for us all, ensures residents have choices that are decent, safe and appropriate to meet needs for rent or to buy;</li> <li>• Develop and prepare to implement a Selective Licensing scheme that is appropriate for the city and improves the quality of housing in the private rented sector to protect tenants;</li> <li>• Continue to assess the feasibility of establishing an organisation to manage private sector rented housing to a higher standard of housing condition and tenants' rights;</li> <li>• Find new ways to give private sector tenants a voice in decision-making, bringing renters together to support one another and campaign for better conditions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Transport and Air Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the evidence from the current consultation into improving air quality, and make final recommendations to improve air quality in areas which breach the formal legal limit imposed by Government;</li> <li>• Call on Government to devolve powers and funding to our area (e.g. for bus retrofitting, installation of charging points for electric vehicles, regulation of bus routes and fares) so that we can work with businesses and communities on long term strategic plans to improve air quality;</li> <li>• Lobby the combined Authority and North of Tyne Elected Mayor to press Government for support to local authorities to achieve this;</li> </ul>	<p>Delivery of Transport infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major transport schemes</li> <li>• Local highways schemes</li> <li>• Pavement and Road repairs</li> </ul> <p>Promoting public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships with public transport operators</li> <li>• Traffic enforcement</li> </ul> <p>Promoting walking and cycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling networks and pedestrian safety</li> </ul> <p>Traffic and parking policy</p> <p>Improving Air Quality</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign for more powers to ban vehicles idling (e.g. outside schools, at taxi ranks and bus stops);</li> <li>• Work with taxi drivers to find new solutions to the challenges faced by the taxi trade;</li> <li>• Consider restricting the age of vehicles that can be used as taxis;</li> <li>• Work to involve children and young people in activities which improve air quality round their school, on their journey to school/college and in their neighbourhood – especially exploring more Park and Stride Schemes, review/evaluate school travel plans and School Streets;</li> <li>• Promote and encourage use of car clubs, car sharing schemes;</li> <li>• Use the Highways Maintenance budget as effectively as possible and carry out infrastructure changes as part of maintenance schemes;</li> <li>• Promote active and sustainable travel choices, continue to invest in cycling infrastructure in Newcastle and campaign for viable public transport alternatives to private motor cars.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Neighbourhoods and Public Health</b></p>	<p>Lead on embedding the WHO Healthy City programme across the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver neighbourhood services to support our communities</li> </ul>	<p>Community buildings and assets</p> <p>Asset transfers</p> <p>Neighbourhood Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Customer Services and Registrars</li> <li>• Leisure Services, sports and physical activity</li> <li>• Cemeteries and Crematoria</li> <li>• Community Hubs</li> <li>• Parks</li> </ul>

		<p>Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee delivery of the statutory public health outcomes framework</li> <li>• Coordinate the work of the council in preventative health</li> <li>• Embed public health across the work of the council</li> <li>• Promote healthy neighbourhoods</li> </ul>
<p><b>Climate Change and Communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Leader to establish a Climate Change Convention for the city;</li> <li>• Revise the Council’s Climate Change Plan, setting a new target of making Newcastle carbon neutral by 2030;</li> <li>• Establish an Environment Commission to introduce a Newcastle New Green Deal, and call on the new North of Tyne; Combined Authority and Mayor to promote this approach;</li> <li>• Lobby Government and Opposition Parties to introduce more comprehensive Climate Change legislation.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Continue to take a stand against Modern Slavery. Newcastle City Council has already signed the Charter against Modern Slavery and worked with the Police to investigate a number of cases and bring perpetrators to justice;</li> <li>• Establish a Co-Operative Commission, inviting local co-operatives to join us in exploring how co-operative ideas can help to solve existing problems, share good practice and contribute to the achievement of the ambitious programme set out in this manifesto;</li> </ul>	<p>Protecting the natural and built environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Wildlife protection</li> <li>• Heritage and conservation</li> <li>• Biodiversity and trees</li> </ul> <p>Communications and promotion of council achievements</p> <p>Public and community engagement</p> <p>Co-operative Council agenda Promoting good community relations and combatting hate crimes</p> <p>Neighbourhood Devolution</p> <p>Ward governance and ward budgets</p> <p>Promoting community safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Liaison with Northumbria Police</li> <li>• Liaison with other crime and criminal justice partners</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating the council’s response to extremism, including Far Right demonstrations and marches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading Safe Newcastle Partnership</li> <li>• Crime and Policing panel</li> <li>• CCTV policy and delivery</li> <li>• Tackling modern slavery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work to become a Foundation Living Wage City in which Corporate Social Responsibility is a priority;</li> <li>• Continue our commitment to ‘the Newcastle Model’ community wealth building, using our procurement to keep jobs ‘in house’ wherever we can, ensuring that the money that the council spends is retained in the local economy as much as possible and that council procurement processes continue to support the creation of apprenticeships, training programmes and local job opportunities;</li> <li>• Promote and develop credit unions as an affordable alternative to payday lenders and commercial banks;</li> <li>• Support families in the city struggling with the effects of austerity by continuing to develop the link between our Active Inclusion service and Early Help;</li> <li>• Lobby the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund to disinvest from companies associated with fossil fuel extraction.</li> </ul>	<p>Budget framework and financial planning</p> <p>Corporate resources and assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Exchequer Services</li> <li>• Revenues and Benefits</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Human Resources</li> </ul> <p>Commissioning and Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering social value</li> </ul> <p>Pensions</p> <p>Performance and Financial Risk management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Value for money</li> </ul> <p>Industrial Relations framework / staff side relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Learning and Development</li> </ul>