



# Northumberland

## County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** KGN

**Enquiries to:** Kay Norris

**Email:** Kay.Norris@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** (01670) 622611

**Date:** 7 May 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **LOCAL AREA COUNCIL –**

**ASHINGTON & BLYTH** to be held at the **YMCA Ashington, North View, Ashington,**

**NE63 9XQ ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019 AT 6:00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

**Daljit Lally**  
**Chief Executive**

### **To Members of the Local Area Council - Ashington & Blyth**

Councillors D Campbell, E Cartie, G Davey, S Davey, B Gallacher, J J Gobin, L Grimshaw, J A Lang, K Nisbet, K Parry, M Purvis, J Reid, L J Rickerby, E Simpson, G Webb, T S Wilson



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
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## AGENDA

**It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public**

### 1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee is asked to note the following membership and terms of reference for the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council which were agreed by Council on 1 May 2019.

The membership is made up of the county councillors who represent the 16 electoral divisions in the Ashington and Blyth area:

**Chair: G Webb**

**Vice-Chair: E Simpson**

**Vice-Chair (Planning): J Lang**

**Quorum - 4**

| Conservative | Labour      | Bedlington<br>Independents | Liberal<br>Democrat | Independents<br>(Non-grouped) |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
|              | D Campbell  |                            | J Reid              |                               |
|              | E Cartie    |                            | L Rickerby          |                               |
|              | G Davey     |                            |                     |                               |
|              | S Davey     |                            |                     |                               |
|              | B Gallacher |                            |                     |                               |
|              | J J Gobin   |                            |                     |                               |
|              | L Grimshaw  |                            |                     |                               |
|              | J A Lang    |                            |                     |                               |
|              | K Nisbet    |                            |                     |                               |
|              | K Parry     |                            |                     |                               |
|              | M A Purvis  |                            |                     |                               |
|              | E Simpson   |                            |                     |                               |
|              | G Webb      |                            |                     |                               |
|              | T S Wilson  |                            |                     |                               |

## **Terms of Reference**

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme.
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.
- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.
- (m) To exercise the following functions within their area:-
  - (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.

- (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
- (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007).
- (v) the Council's role in encouraging wider access for all to the County's network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

## **3. MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council held on 13 March 2019, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

**N.B.** Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager, Liam Henry on Tel: 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this Agenda letter.

## **5. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

To present certificates to recipients of Community Chest funding.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

To reply to any questions received from members of the public, which may be received in writing in advance of the meeting or asked at the meeting. Questions can be asked about issues for which the Council has a responsibility. If questions are received in advance of meetings it will increase the likelihood of an answer being provided at the meeting. (Public question times take place on a bimonthly basis at Local Area Council meetings: in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.)

As agreed by the County Council in February 2012, the management of local public question times is at the discretion of the Chair of the committee.

Please note however that a question may possibly be rejected if it requires the disclosure of any categories of confidential or exempt information, namely information:

1. relating to any individual;
2. which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual;
3. relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person;
4. relating to any labour relations matters/negotiations;
5. restricted to legal proceedings;
6. about enforcement/enacting legal orders;
7. relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

And/or:

- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of this or another County Council committee in the past six months;
- the request repeats an identical or very similar question from the same person;
- the cost of providing an answer is disproportionate;
- it is being separately addressed through the Council's complaints process;
- it is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the county;
- it relates to planning, licensing and/or other regulatory applications;
- it is a question that town/parish councils would normally be expected to raise through other channels.

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which, for whatever reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly available.

Democratic Services will confirm the status of the progress on any previously requested written answers and follow up any related actions requested by the Local Area Council.

## 7. PETITIONS

This item is to:

- (a) **Receive any new petitions:** to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner is entitled to briefly introduce their petition and a response will then be organised for a future meeting;
- (b) **Consider reports on petitions previously received:** No reports to consider;
- (c) **Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

## **8. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

To receive a verbal update from the Area Managers from Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services in attendance about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work for the attention of members of the Local Area Council, who will also then have the opportunity to raise issues with the Area Managers.

The Area Managers have principal responsibility for highway services and environmental services, such as refuse collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance, within the geographic boundaries of the Local Area Council.

## **9. OUTSIDE BODIES**

To make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list of outside bodies is attached to the agenda for consideration. (Attached as **Appendix A.**)

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **10. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - PROGRESS REPORT**

To receive a progress report. (Report attached as **Appendix B.**)

### **11. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

To note the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items will require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting). (Work Programme attached as **Appendix C.**)

### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre (time to be confirmed).

### **13. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

|   |
|---|
| <b>Name (please print):</b>   |
| <b>Meeting:</b>   |
| <b>Date:</b>  |
| <b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>   |
| <b>Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):</b> |
| <b>Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):</b>  |
| <b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>  |

**1. Registerable Personal Interests** – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

- a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or
- b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management ); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

**2. Non-registerable personal interests** - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

### **3. Non-participation in Council Business**

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

**This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.**