

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the Chairman's Dining Room, County Hall, Morpeth on Monday, 22 October 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Bawn
(Chairman in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Beynon, J.
Grimshaw, L.
Parry, K.
Robinson, M.

Roughead, G.
Simpson, E.
Wilson, T.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

C. Homer
Oliver, N.

Culture, Arts and Leisure
Corporate Services and Cabinet Secretary

OFFICERS

B. Scarr
S. Nicholson

Executive Director of Finance and Deputy
Chief Executive
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Press: 1

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC held on 24 September 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

32. FORWARD PLAN

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the latest Forward Plan of key decisions (October - January 2019). (Schedule enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

33. CABINET REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

This report advised members of Cabinet decisions regarding issues previously commented on and been subject of report by this Committee. (Circulated for information only as Appendix B).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

34. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS

Transfer of Arch to Advance Northumberland

The Committee were advised that this report would be considered by the Cabinet on 23 September 2018. It set out the steps required to transfer the business activities of Arch (Corporate Holdings) Ltd to a new entity, Advance Northumberland Ltd. The financial transactions required, and the impact on the Council as the ultimate parent were analysed within the report. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

The Committee were advised that recommendations 2 and 4 in the Cabinet report would be amended as follows:

- 2. Council be recommended to approve the purchase by the Council of additional share capital in Advance Northumberland Ltd. totalling £3.3 million.**

- 4. Council be recommended to approve the purchase by the Council of additional share capital in Advance Northumberland Ltd. totalling £0.9 million representing the nominal value of trade and assets.**

The Committee requested a copy of the final governance arrangements for Advance Northumberland as soon as they were available.

Members were assured that the £4.2m referred to in recommendation 6 could be returned to the Council on the same day of the dissolution of Arch (Corporate Holdings) Ltd, although this may take up to a month if it had to be done through the corporate process.

The Committee were further advised that Advance Northumberland Ltd would appoint its own directors on the completion of the transition process.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations in the report, subject to the amendments and comments set out above.

35. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix D).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

36. INFORMATION REPORT - POLICY DIGEST

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Policy Digest provided details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members. The report could be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Chairman _____

Date _____