

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday 19 December 2018 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P.A. Jackson
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

CABINET MEMBERS

Daley, W.
Homer, C.
Jones, V.

Oliver, N.
Riddle, J.
Wearmouth, R.

OTHER MEMBERS

Dodd, R.R.
Renner-Thompson, G.

Roughead, G.
Stewart, G.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Angus, K.

Barnes, G.
Elsdon, A.
Hadfield, K.

Henry, L.
Lally, D.
Johnston, P.
Moore, K.
Robson, S.
Sanderson, J.

Tipple, K.

Executive Director HR/OD and
Deputy Chief Executive
Revenues and Benefits Manager
Service Director: Finance
Committee Services and Scrutiny
Manager
Legal Services Manager
Chief Executive
Interim Executive Director of Place
Planning Consultant
Principal Planner (Planning Policy)
Senior Planning Manager
(Planning Policy)
Senior Planning Officer

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5 members of the press and public were present

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Sanderson.

73. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19)

Cabinet was asked to approve the Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19), the Northumberland Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document and the Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document.

Cabinet was also asked to make a number of recommendations to Council.

Some minor amendments to the content (paras 7.20 and table 7.2) and policies maps, and some revised recommendations were circulated (copy attached to the signed minutes). These took into account a number of “approved” and “minded to approve” housing developments which increased the number of available homes further, and impacted on a number of boundary settlement maps. The revised recommendations 1 and 3 (a) and (b) made reference to representations as to technical and legal soundness.

The Leader commented that this was a significant piece of work involving a great amount of detail. It had been a brave decision to withdraw the previous Local Plan but the right one, as this had proposed significant reductions in the Green Belt, and had placed too great a reliance on housebuilding for economic growth. This Local Plan would help grow the County’s economy and was supported by central government. He thanked all of the officers involved in its production for their excellent work.

Councillor Riddle detailed the main points of the report, highlighting that there were twenty three major consultation events planned. The Local Plan Inspector had had oversight of the Plan and no red flags had been raised. It was anticipated that the Plan would be delivered just a few months later than the original Plan, which was a significant achievement.

Mr Johnston went through the key issues of the report in some detail. The Plan had been prepared in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and he was happy to recommend to members that it be taken forward on this basis. He also wished to place on record his thanks to the LDF Working Group which had provided constant support throughout the development of the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan was very full, thorough, and well prepared and

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evidenced, and, he felt, would meet the needs of Northumberland. Mrs Sanderson then detailed the amendments which had been circulated, advising that the interactive map would go live at the same time as the representation period.

Councillor Daley was delighted that that the Draft Plan could now be put forward for consultation. He thanked all of the staff involved in its preparation and commended them for their efforts. The Draft Plan recognised that Northumberland was a great place to live, work and visit and included sustainable and ambitious plans. He welcomed its publication and the opportunity for public consultation, and was delighted that the Administration had made such progress.

Councillor Wearmouth felt that the Draft Plan demonstrated that the County was not simply a dormitory for Tyneside, and reflected the fact that jobs and investment needed to be created in the County. It protected and enhanced the ability to deliver on strategic investments and provided a good basis to bring in new industry, particularly offshore deliverables. He welcomed the proposed timescales and paid tribute to the staff and members involved in its production.

The Leader agreed that the Draft Plan was forward looking and that it demonstrated a confidence to take Northumberland forward to becoming one of the best counties to live and work in. This had been recently demonstrated by Northumberland winning gold in the British Travel Awards, and more and more enquiries were being made about business locations. He also paid tribute to the hard work of staff.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Northumberland Local Plan – Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (Appendix A - Local Plan and Appendix B - Policies Map) be approved for publication for a period of six weeks from 30 January 2019 to 13 March 2019 for representations as to technical and legal soundness in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (“the 2012 Regulations”), subject to approval by Council;
- (b) the Northumberland Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document (Appendix C) and the Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document (Appendix D) be approved for consultation; and
- (c) the following recommendations be made to Council:
 - a. The Northumberland Local Plan – Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (Appendix A - Local Plan and Appendix B - Policies Map) (“the

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Northumberland Local Plan”) be agreed and published for a period of six weeks from 30 January 2019 to 13 March 2019 for representations as to technical and legal soundness in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (“the 2012 Regulations”);

- b. Following the conclusion of the Regulation 19 publication period, the Northumberland Local Plan, along with representations received, be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government for Independent Examination under section 20 of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (“the 2004 Act”), together with the submission documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations before 31 May 2019;
- c. The Interim Executive Director: Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Resilience, be authorised to make non-material typographical, formatting, mapping and other minor amendments to the Northumberland Local Plan prior to publication on 30 January 2019 and prior to submission of the Local Plan to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government;
- d. The Interim Executive Director: Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Resilience, be authorised to write to the Local Plan Inspector appointed to carry out the Examination of the submitted Northumberland Local Plan asking him/her to recommend such modifications of the submitted Northumberland Local Plan as may be necessary to make the Plan sound and legally compliant, in accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act;
- e. The Interim Executive Director: Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Resilience, be authorised to produce and submit any supplementary information and documentation to the Local Plan Inspector as may be required to complete the examination;
- f. That the Interim Executive Director: Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Resilience, be authorised to submit a schedule of proposed main modifications of the submitted Northumberland Local Plan to address any issues relating to soundness and legal compliance identified by the Local Plan Inspector;
- g. The Northumberland Local Plan be endorsed as a material consideration to be used in the determination of planning applications, with appropriate weight given in accordance with paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework; and
- h. The Northumberland Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document (Appendix C) and the Highways and

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Transportation Design and Delivery Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document (Appendix D) be agreed and published for consultation for a period of six weeks from 30 January 2019 to 13 March 2019.

At this point Councillor Jones disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, having family in receipt of Council Tax support and left the room whilst the matter was considered.

74 . REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019-20

The report sought approval for the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019-20 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B, along with the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC which had been circulated).

Councillor Oliver introduced the report. The Administration was required to deliver a balanced budget and the position remained challenging. £36m of efficiency savings were still to be delivered over the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report proposed that working age claimants would have their level of council tax support reduced by 8% of Council Tax due for their property and meant that some claimants would pay council tax for the first time. The maximum level of support available for working age claimants would be 92%. If the proposals were accepted, Northumberland would still offer the second highest level of support in the North East, and the proposals would not impact on pensioners. An extensive consultation process had been carried out.

Councillor Oliver referred to the point made by Scrutiny suggesting that implementation be deferred to allow for the full impact of Universal Credit to be known. He acknowledged this point, but the savings needed to be found now.

Councillor Wearmouth felt it was a significant achievement that 92% of support would be maintained when many other Labour Councils could not do the same. He queried whether there was any clarification of the former Administration's plans regarding this specific area of the budget as had been previously mentioned. Councillor Oliver advised that this had not been through formal Cabinet or Council at the time, but he understood the proposal had been for a 50% cut in Council Tax support, with approval

planned by Cabinet and Council in October and November of 2017. He added that all opportunities were being taken to bring additional funding into the Council from all potential sources, and recurrent expenditure had to be addressed in a recurrent way.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be made to Council:-

- (a) the results of the public consultation be noted;
- (b) an 8% reduction in the level of Council Tax Support for all working age claimants be approved;
- (c) the Council Tax Support Scheme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved for financial year 2019-20; and
- (d) the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC be noted.

75. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
7	3 - Information relating to (the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because disclosure would prejudice the Port of Blyth's ability to negotiate with partners and give its competitors a commercial advantage.

76. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

Enterprise Zone - Northumberland Energy Park East Sleekburn (NEP1)

The report updated the Cabinet on emerging investment interest and associated economic outputs at the NEP1 Enterprise Zone at East Sleekburn (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C, coloured pink and marked Not for Publication, along with the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC which had been circulated).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Council be recommended to agree recommendations 1-8 as detailed in the report; and
- (b) the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC be noted. .

CHAIR.....

DATE.....