

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Enquiries to: Lesley Little  
Direct Line: (01670) 622614  
E-mail: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: 10 January 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NE61 2EF**, on **THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018 AT 10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Executive

**To: Members of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Councillors: Renner-Thompson G (Chair), Campbell D, Cessford T, Horncastle C, Lang J, Nisbet K, Richards ME, Stewart G, Stow K, Wallace R**

**Co-opted Members: Hodgson A, Lennox D, Warner J, Lyst R, Payne S, Sanderson J, Woolhouse R**

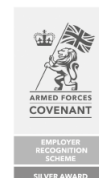
**Cabinet Members:**

**Councillor W Daley - Deputy Leader & Children's Services**



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**

County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
(T) 0345 600 6400 (F) 01670 626303 (W) www.northumberland.gov.uk



## **AGENDA**

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

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2. 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.

### **3. MINUTES**

(a) The Minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 6 December 2017, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

(b) The Minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 14 December 2017, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **4. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for February to May 2018. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the committee. (Forward Plan enclosed as **Appendix A.**)

## **REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET**

### **5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2019/20 Academic Year**

The report (attached as **Appendix B**) informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the consultation on School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2019/20 academic year as required by the Schools

Admissions Code 2014. Approval of the arrangements is also being sought. Comments made by this Committee will be reported to Cabinet.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

## **REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY**

### **6. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **The role of the Director of Children's Services - Test of Assurance**

The report (attached as **Appendix C**) advises of the statutory guidance on the role of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) which requires the Council to carry out a "test of assurance" when the responsibilities of the DCS Change.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

### **7. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **(a) Schools Annual Report**

The report (attached as **Appendix D**) advises the community of Northumberland about the quality of schools and the impact of the local authority.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

#### **(b) SIF Improvement Plan Update Report**

The report (attached as **Appendix E**) presents Members with an update on progress with the Local Authority improvement plan in response to the inspection that was undertaken under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) in January 2016.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

#### **(c) Annual Report of the Principal Social Worker**

The report (attached as **Appendix F**) advises and updates the Committee about the activities of the Principal Social Worker in 2017 and provides an overview of the quality of practice and development needs of frontline social workers.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

#### **(d) Educational Outcomes 2017**

To receive a presentation on Educational Outcomes in 2017.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.*

## **8. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER**

### **Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2017/2018.**

Members are asked to consider the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report attached as **Appendix G**).

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

*The following report is for information only and can be accessed through Northumberland County Council's Website. If a member of the Committee would like further explanation of the report, or has questions they wish to put to the relevant Policy Board Member, he/she should contact Democratic Services Section in order that appropriate arrangements can be made.*

## **9. POLICY DIGEST**

This report gives details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members.

NB Reports have not been reproduced/circulated. They can be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's web site at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk).

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

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman, 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.**