

# Public Document Pack

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At the meeting of the **North Northumberland Local Area Council** held at Remotely on Thursday, 21 January 2021 at 2.00 pm.

#### PRESENT

G Castle (Chair) (in the Chair)

#### MEMBERS

S Bridgett  
A Murray  
G Renner-Thompson  
Seymour  
T Thorne

G Hill  
W Pattison  
G Roughead  
J Watson

#### OTHER COUNCILLORS

N Oliver

G Sanderson

#### OFFICERS

J Bellis  
G Bucknall  
V Cartmell

L Dixon  
D Hadden  
B Hodgson  
P Jones  
L Little  
R Mowatt  
R Murfin  
J Sharp

Senior Planning Officer  
Highways Delivery Area Manager  
Planning Area Manager - Development  
Management  
Democratic Services Apprentice  
Solicitor  
Neighbourhood Services Area Manager  
Service Director - Local Services  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Web Communications Assistant  
Director of Planning  
Planning Officer

Around xxx members of the press and public were present.

#### 163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Clark.

#### 164 MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the North Northumberland Local Area Council held on Thursday 19 November 2020, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

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165 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor Castle advised that he had a personal and prejudicial interest in applications 20/01238/FUL and 20/0139/LBC as his son worked for Northumberland Estates (the applicant) and he would switch his camera and would take no part on these items.

166 **PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT A VIRTUAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Thorne, Vice-Chair Planning took the Chair at this point and outlined the procedure which would be followed at the virtual meeting and of the changes to the public speaking protocol. He also advised Members that if their connection was lost during consideration of an application and it was not possible for a short recap to be provided then the Member would not be allowed to vote on the application.

167 **DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The report (attached as Appendix A to the signed minutes) requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

Councillor Castle switched his camera and microphone off at this point and took no part in the following two applications.

168 **20/01238/FUL**

**The conversion of no. 2-8 Bailiffgate to hotel (Use Class C1), demolition of rear of no. 2-8 Bailiffgate, construction of new build hotel (Use Class C1), refurbishment works to former gym block (Use Class D2), new vehicular access, landscaping and associated ancillary works.  
Duchess High School Annexe, 2 Bailiffgate, Alnwick, Northumberland  
NE66 1LZ**

J Bellis, Senior Planning Officer provided a joint introduction to this application and the listed building application 20/01239/LBC to the Committee with the aid of a power point presentation advising that a separate decision would still be required for each application. Updates were provided as follows:

- Paragraph 1.1 of the report incorrectly referred to the application being heard by the Strategic Planning Committee this should refer to the North Northumberland Local Area Committee.
- A revised recommendation was proposed for application 20/01238/FUL and would read as follows:-

“That this application be GRANTED subject to the conditions as outlined and a S.106 legal agreement for a Coastal Mitigation Scheme contribution

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of £13,537 and the provision of a Traffic Regulation Order on Walkergate.”

A written statement provided by Alnwick Town Council was read out to the Committee by L. Little, Senior Democratic Services Officer and would be filed with the signed minutes and uploaded to the Council’s website.

A written statement provided by the applicant in support of the application was read out to the Committee by V. Cartmell, Planning Area Manager - Development Management and would be filed with the signed minutes and uploaded to the Council’s website.

R Murfin, Director of Planning, reminded Members of the Committee should not confuse change with harm to heritage assets and protection of such was not meant to stop all change. A balance had to be made between the benefits of the proposal against any harm and that hotels within town centres did not always require car parking when sufficient short and long term spaces were provided in the area. Highways had assessed the application and, subject to conditions to be imposed to any permission granted and the inclusion of the TRO were satisfied.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee the following information was provided:-

- Highways safety had been looked into in detail with the volume and speed of vehicles taken into consideration. The conditions set out in the report secured the design and the provision of the TRO on Walkergate would prevent any on-street parking. Any additional car parking on the site over that being proposed would impact on the quality of the design of the scheme and it was considered that a balance had been achieved. The provision of additional car parking within the town centre had already been secured. If Members required an informative could be added to any permission granted to request that patrons using the restaurant or gym be given information on alternative car parking within the town.
- The TRO would prevent householders from parking directly outside their properties to improve highways safety.
- In relation to concerns regarding the massing and scale of the development, Members were advised the final design was the product of a very long process with amendments and challenges of the site reconciled to provide a good quality design. There were examples of all different types of buildings provided through the ages within the town centre and just because this was a different type of development it did not necessarily harm the setting.
- The hotel operator was not a consideration Members should take into account as it could be sold at any time.
- Many city and urban areas had granted permissions with no parking attached, this had the maximum provided on site and also benefitted from the existing car parks within the town and the additional parking to be provided in close proximity.
- If there had been no car parking on site and the direct displacement of car parking had to be borne by the public purse then an additional sum might have been requested as part of the S106 agreement, however parking was being provided.
- The sandstone wall and trees up The Peth from the Lion Bridge were being

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- retained and would provide some screening of the new building.
- There would be a mix of sloping and flat roofs provided on the development with the drainage managed appropriately and a condition would be attached to any permission related to the materials to be used for the building.
- The provision of a hotel in this location fit in with the Council's Tourism Strategy and the aims of Discover Northumberland.
- The planning notification had been placed in the Morpeth Herald as it was published during lockdown and the Northumberland Gazette was not being published at that time.
- The views of the site from the Castle had all been included within the evaluation of the application.

Councillor Renner-Thompson proposed acceptance of the recommendation to approve the application in accordance with officer recommendation as amended above, which was seconded by Councillor Pattison.

Councillor Watson suggested that a condition also be included to request a scheme to be submitted on how information would be provided on an ongoing basis on car parking within the Town Centre. The Director of Planning stated that it could be that a management plan be requested so that when information was sent out to gym or restaurant users information could be included on car parking within the town centre.

It was clarified that if a slight change to the scheme or wording was required which could be conditioned then this could be suggested and agreed. If however Members wished to propose wholesale changes to the application then they should refuse the application, then the applicant could re-submit their scheme or could submit an appeal against the decision. The Director of Planning stated that Members must ask themselves how they would come to the conclusion of what a good scale or massing would be as Historic England, whose role it was to look at such things, were happy with the proposals. It was not just about the size of a building, or the density, it was how it would sit within the street scene and how the development would fit into the town centre. The new building would be higher the existing, but not massively so. The broken roof line would alter the massing and the design had been acceptable to Heritage England.

Members acknowledged that Alnwick as a major Service Centre for the County was ideally placed for a hotel of this size which would bring economic benefits and additional tourists to the area. They were happy that the existing iconic buildings would be saved and be brought into use again however some Members still had reservations regarding the size of the new building annex.

A vote was taken on the proposal to approve the application subject to the conditions as outlined in the report and delegated authority be provided to the Director of Planning to decide the wording of an additional condition related to the provision of local car parking facilities in the area and subject to a S106 agreement for a CMS contribution of £13,537 and a Traffic Regulation Order on Walkergate as follows:- FOR 6; AGAINST 2; ABSTENSIONS 1.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report with delegated authority provided to the

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Director of Planning to decide the wording of an additional condition related to the provision of local car parking facilities in the area and subject to a S106 agreement for a CMS contribution of £13,537 and a Traffic Regulation Order on Walkergate.

169 **20/01239/LBC**

**The conversion of no. 2-8 Bailiffgate to hotel (Use Class C1), demolition of rear of no. 2-8 Bailiffgate, construction of new build hotel (Use Class C1), refurbishment works to former gym block (Use Class D2), new vehicular access, landscaping and associated ancillary works.  
Duchess High School Annexe, 2 Bailiffgate, Alnwick, Northumberland  
NE66 1LZ**

Paragraph 1.1 of the report incorrectly referred to the application being heard by the Strategic Planning Committee this should refer to the North Northumberland Local Area Committee.

Councillor Renner-Thompson proposed acceptance of the recommendation to grant permission as outlined in the report which was seconded by Councillor Pattison. A vote was taken as follows:- FOR 6; AGAINST 2; ABSTENTION 1.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

Councillor Castle re-joined the meeting at this point.

170 **20/02159/COU**

**Change of use to storage facility to be used for container, boat and caravan storage.**

J Sharp, Planning Officer, introduced the application to the Committee with the aid of a power point presentation. The following updates were provided:

- Two additional letters of support had been received from potential users of the site and therefore there had now been 6 letters of support.
- Reference had been made to Chathill Parish Council in the introduction of the report and this should have actually stated Ellingham.

A written statement provided by Ellingham Parish Council was read out to the Committee by L. Little, Senior Democratic Services Officer and would be filed with the signed minutes and uploaded to the Council's website.

A written statement provided by the applicant in support of the application was read out to the Committee by V. Cartmell, Planning Area Manager - Development Management and would be filed with the signed minutes and uploaded to the Council's website.

The Director of Planning provided clarification on a number of issues such as a condition could be included to restrict the height on the compound to prevent the stacking of containers; a condition related to landscaping of the site would ensure

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that indigenous species be included; and whilst development of the site for open storage would have some impact on the listed buildings, the previous use of the building and site had been for commercial uses in connection with the railway.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee the following information was noted:-

- No restriction in the hours of use had been proposed. Officers would have looked to propose a restriction if Public Protection had requested. There were many businesses throughout the County operating with no restriction in working hours. It would be reasonable to assume that if the storage was being used by small businesses they may on occasions need to access these out of the usual business hours and unless Public Protection had requested a restriction then it would be very difficult to justify the need. Councillor Pattison stressed that this was a site in the centre of a very quiet rural village and would require a restriction.
- The informatives would be attached to any permission granted.
- Network Rail had requested lighting as outlined in condition 5 in order to ensure that it did not impact on the running of the railway.
- If Members felt it necessary then all the suggestions made by the Parish Council could be included as conditions attached to any permissions.
- Whilst the concerns raised by the Parish Council were valid, as there had been no objections to the application by the Council's Highways, Public Protection or Ecology or Network Rail, subject to conditions being imposed, then to refuse the application on those grounds would be difficult.
- The NPPF required the Local Planning Authority to balance harm against public benefit and in Officers' opinion the new business which will in turn support other small businesses was sufficient to outweigh the harm.

The Director of Planning suggested that a condition be attached for a height limit on the site and, due to its location in the village, a restriction for the use of the site between 6 am and 10 pm could be used. He advised that if such a restriction was appealed, then evidence might need to be provided to say this was necessary and it was reasonable and proportionate to any nuisance. The Planning Officer highlighted that whilst the site was in a small village, it was next to the railway line with trains going through at all times and in close proximity to a working farm.

Councillor Pattison proposed refusal of the application on the grounds of visual impact on the village and impact on residential amenity in respect of noise and air quality, which was seconded by Councillor Hill.

In debating the issue Councillors felt that there was some benefit to local people and rural businesses who required storage in the area and accepted that this type of storage was required, some felt this was in the wrong location based on conservation grounds.

A vote was taken on the proposal to refuse the application for the following reasons :

- Visual impact on the Village.
- Impact on residential amenity in relation to noise and air quality.
- Impact on the amenity and setting of the listed buildings.

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FOR 7; AGAINST 3

**RESOLVED** that the application be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:-

- Visual impact on the Village.
- Impact on residential amenity in relation to noise and air quality.
- Impact on the amenity and setting of the listed buildings.

171 **PLANNING APPEALS UPDATE**

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

172 **S106 AGREEMENTS UPDATE REPORT**

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

Councillor Castle returned to the Chair at this point and advised that a 10 minute break would be held.

The meeting recommenced at 4.30 pm.

173 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Councillor Hill advised that she had been advised that a question had been submitted in respect of grants to taxi drivers. The Senior Democratic Officer advised that this would be investigated.

174 **PETITIONS**

No new petitions had been submitted and there were no updates in relation to previous petitions.

175 **LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

G Bucknall, Highways Area Delivery Managed advised of the progress made in respect of the very challenging Capital Programme, working non-stop since April despite Covid. Of the 205 carriageway and footpath schemes in the County, 110 had been completed, of which 59 were in the northern area with 34 completed. He outlined the schemes in the Northern area which had been completed since the previous meeting and the schemes which were to be delivered within the next few weeks. He advised that tenders had just been received for several footpath schemes and a major structural patching scheme programmed on the B6342 Rothbury to Coldrife. The maintenance crews were very busy repairing pot holes and clearing gullies on a daily basis. Winter services were in full swing following a quiet start to the season with 49 full gritting runs undertaken with 28 front line gritters along with additional runs and secondary routes where snow and ice persist and in excess of 10,000 tonnes of salt used.

He advised that work on the footpaths would be commenced before the end of March. Councillor Bridgett advised that the residents of both Glanton and Tossen

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had been appreciative of the work undertaken in those areas. He highlighted that work was also to be undertaken on the B6342 Rothbury to Coldrife in connection with the new development and suggested that the schemes should be coordinated if possible. He also requested that the road at Alwinton before the bridge was inspected, as he suspected that whilst patching might be fine in the short term it would require a more permanent fix.

Councillor Hill advised that the work at Billingdene had received lots of compliments by residents for both the quality of the road and the help which had been provided by the workmen. In response to her question regarding the hard standings to be provided on Main Street in Spittal within the next two weeks, it was confirmed that the work would be undertaken before the end of March and he would clarify the timescale.

Councillor Renner-Thompson advised that the work undertaken on St. Aidans at Seahouses had been very well received although a dropped kerb was still required. He had advised the Town Council that this could be provided through his Small Schemes budget. In respect of the progress of the rumble strips in Bamburgh which had broken up Mr Bucknall advised that he would visit the location as work was ongoing with the design of a safety scheme and it would be unlikely that resurfacing work would be undertaken at the current time.

Councillor Thorne advised he was delighted at the road improvement schemes which had been undertaken across the County. Clarification would be sought on any proposed traffic calming measures on the newly resurfaced Rothbury Road.

In response to Councillor Seymour's question regarding the resurfacing and flooding of the North Road, Members were advised that no resurfacing could be undertaken until the flood alleviation scheme had been implemented and it was expected that this design would be undertaken in 2021/22 and it would be constructed in 2022/23. It was expected that the lining works on the Golden Square roundabout would be completed in March or April this year.

Councillor Watson congratulated and thanked officers for the way in which they had worked with him in designing a first class scheme for the footpaths in Warkworth. He highlighted that the entrance to Druridge Bay Country Park which was in a bad state of repair.

In response to a query from Councillor Castle in respect of the provision of a footpath beside the football pitch which was a route to the school, Mr Bucknall advised that he would look into the progress of this.

B Hodgson, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager provided an update to Members advising that it had been a very long and challenging year and he recognised and praised the efforts of all the staff. The refuse collection service had worked very well over Christmas period, during some unfavourable weather conditions but there had been minimal missed bins in this area with increased tonnage of waste generated.

The regular grounds maintenance winter works were well under way with additional requests undertaken. In respect of street cleansing, leaf clearance routes were completed and the regular sweeping schedules were now being

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used. There had been three of the trial kerbside glass collections and presentation rates and yields had exceeded expectation in the Alnwick area. During December, free trees were given out to residents at 11 locations spread across the county as part of the Free Tree Scheme. Ultimately, the Council aimed to give away 15,000 trees and was on target to achieve this in the coming months.

Councillor Castle advised that the gritting had gone to plan in his area and he had received no complaints, which was very unusual and asked that his thanks be passed on. Councillor Hill advised that there had initially been some complaints with gritting in her area, which had swiftly been replaced by compliments when issues were dealt with and even smaller areas had been treated. She asked for reassurance that there were contingency plans in place should crews become ill due to Covid to ensure the continuity of the service. She also queried if refuse collectors would be prioritised for the lateral flow testing which was to be implemented. P Jones, Service Director, Local Services advised that there were very robust working arrangements to protect staff and very low infection rates had been reported in this area, however in one depot 9 refuse staff had reported sick in one day. There was contingency planning in place and where there was an interruption in service this had been implemented and missed collections had been caught up by the next day. In response to a query regarding the Town Council being unable to deposit clothing donations which had been left outside charity shops at the local recycling point, it was clarified that these were only licensed for householders and any other waste must go through the waste transfer station. He asked that the Town Clerk get in touch to look into the possibility of permits being granted.

Councillor Bridgett thanked both the Highways and Neighbourhood Services teams for their excellent working during the pandemic and the winter so far. He advised that the 4 x 4 vehicle with hopper had been able to grit estate roads where tractors/gritters had been unable to do so in the past and this had been very much welcomed by residents and had been a brilliant resource. He also highlighted that two workmen had been instrumental in an elderly resident being able to be transferred to hospital from a sheltered housing unit with the NEAS being extremely grateful for their assistance. He requested if it would be possible for additional glass recycling bins to be provided as they had become full very quickly during lockdown and requested that the collection be moved to Alnwick rather than Morpeth. Mr Hodgson advised that this was being looked at and extra runs were being provided to empty bins and discussions were being held with P Jones around the changes.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## 176 **BUDGET 2021-22 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Councillors N Oliver, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and G Sanderson, Leader, provided a power point presentation which outlined the Council's strategy to the 2021-22 Budget within the context of the corporate plan. A copy of the presentation would be filed with the signed minutes and be uploaded to the Council's website, with the following information noted.

Members were advised that the budget was being presented in a different way

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this year and there had been an on-line question and answer session and a “have your say” consultation undertaken between 10 December 2020 and 20 January 2021 which had been open to residents to have their say and this would be fed into the budget process. 2020 Had been a very difficult year for everyone and the Council’s budget would reflect what had happened and the lessons learned on what could be done differently whilst still providing all the services which residents relied upon. The Administration were very proud of the staff for the work undertaken for the residents of the County during this time and thanked them all for their efforts.

### **Budget 2021-22 Approach**

- Maintain the frontline services important to residents and businesses
- Continue to support the most vulnerable in communities whilst giving communities more control.
- Leading economic recovery following Covid and investment in a green recovery.
- Meet budget challenges through a programme of continuous innovation and improvement.

### **State of the Area**

- **Public Health** - the most up to date Covid figures were provided and it was hoped that the peak had been reached in Northumberland. Hospitals were extremely busy and it was important that everyone followed the current Government guidelines to prevent infections.
- **Economy** – Covid had created a major shock to the economy, however there was a need to create an environment to allow the economy to recover quickly. A lot of workers had been furloughed during the pandemic and there had been an increase of 62% in unemployment figures since March 2020, with retail, leisure and hospitality sectors hit. It was hoped the sectors would be able to recover quickly following the lifting of restrictions with work being undertaken to development the tourism sector.
- **Council Services** - Throughout Covid the Council maintained the services most important to residents and successfully adapted to news ways of working, embracing more use of digital solutions and by continuing to improve and innovate services. Children’s Services were rated by Ofsted as ‘Good’ in 2020. Local democracy was maintained by successfully switching to virtual meetings and, critically, preparing for the coming local elections.

### **Budget 2021-22: Financial Context**

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- Next year savings target circa £8.3 million.
- Improving frontline services.
- Increasing demand for services.
- Covid-19 pandemic.
- Ambitious capital programme.
- Still investing in infrastructure and services whilst delivering savings.

Details were provided of the funding analysis from 2014 – 2024 along with the overall funding arrangements, including the decision to increase the Adult Social Care by the minimum of 3% over two years. Details were also provided on the savings to be made by each directorate and the summary of savings by year. It was proposed that Council Tax would be increased by 1.99%. In respect of debt, Members were advised that there was a need to balance investment with manageable debt and it had not been considered that the previous levels were sustainable.

### **Budget 2021-22: Summary**

- The budget position, whilst challenging, was under control.
- Through managing debt better, revising assumptions around social care and local government reform, the savings gap had been reduced.
- The organisation was in much better shape to do more and provide better value.
- Increased costs and growing pressures in demand remain, particularly in adult and children's services.
- Tough decisions were still to be made but the Administration was committed to protecting the most vulnerable.
- Ambitious for our future with targeted £748 million capital investment programme.
- Investment from North of Tyne Devolution Deal to really make a difference to people's lives.
- Borderlands Growth Deal could act as a catalyst for further investment.
- Determined to shine a light on all that is great about Northumberland as a place to work, live, visit and do business.

Details of investments going forward were highlighted, including the strengths of

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the current pharmaceutical and global industries, agriculture, natural resources, the importance of tourism and the upcoming investments in Energy Central within Blyth along with the transformations in travel and connectivity and the green recovery.

Councillor Hill also congratulated staff on their efforts and the many positive ways in which the situation had been managed. She advised that Berwick had received more support than any time previously. In response to her request for a flavour of what the cuts and efficiencies would be in the budget, Councillor Oliver advised that these were being finalised and would be included in the final budget documents, however the efficiencies would be driven in order to provide value for money for residents and would not be based on geographical areas.

Councillor Bridgett whilst acknowledging that it had not been an easy year for delivering services and commending the Administration for the capital projects which had been delivered, advised that there were still residents within his area who had no access to mains electricity. He was aware that this was not the responsibility of the Council however they did need to push Government to deliver this most basic service. Councillor Sanderson advised that he was aware of this and he gave a commitment to talk to both colleagues, the National Park and energy providers regarding this provision.

Councillor Seymour agreed that a great deal had been provided within Berwick and questioned what the cost of delivering the green recovery had been as this had not been in the previous budget. She advised that in her opinion that the tough decision made in respect of joining the LA7 and requesting that Northumberland be included in Tier 3 had been the right decision highlighting the large numbers of people with Covid which had spread throughout the County. Councillor Sanderson thanked her for those comments as he had received a lot of criticism for his decision in trying to protect residents, however he had felt it was the right decision. In respect of the green recovery he advised that a new team of officers appointed to develop an action plan and develop new initiatives. Councillor Oliver advised that it was a complex question and difficult to quantify as it depended on what you actually included, but he would try to provide a figure. All grants that were available were being utilised.

Councillor Roughead asked that if the Council were aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 was there a possibility of this being extended to the County being carbon negative with the potential for an additional revenue stream to sell to those who were unable to achieve their targets. Councillor Sanderson advised that it was going to be significant challenge in hitting the carbon neutral target by 2030, however we would need to see how much progress was being made and if it was possible then it would be done.

Councillors Sanderson and Oliver were thanked for their presentation.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## 177 **INORTHUMBERLAND UPDATE**

An update report had been circulated and would be attached to the signed minutes. J Cooper, Strategic Programmes Manager was in attendance to answer

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any queries Members had.

Councillor Bridgett outlined his concern that whilst the Government had stated a commitment to investing £5b into the provision of broadband, it had only allocated £1b so far over the next 5 years. He highlighted the work being carried out to build telecoms masts in the area as part of the new emergency service network which could also be useful for broadband provision. He advised that there had been three masts built within his area at a cost of £1.5m which had no means of getting power or transmission to provide signal. He had been in contact with the Home Officer regarding these, and may need to contact Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP in respect of this also as they have no idea of where they have built the masts or how they are going to get them online. The masts could prove crucial to delivering 4G within the area and help would be needed to resolve this.

J Cooper advised that Councillor Oliver had been engaging with the Government and this could be picked up as part of those discussions. Councillor Bridgett advised that the masts were in areas where there was no mains electricity. It was confirmed that mobile connections were being looked at through Borderlands and the provision of 5G, however power and infrastructure would still be required to serve the masts. The Chair advised that Councillor Sanderson had already given a commitment to look at the provision of mains electricity. The provision of a reliable service was desperately needed especially now people were having to work from home and children were being home schooled.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted

**178 BERWICK REGENERATION COMMISSION**

T Kirsopp, Community Regeneration Manager advised Members that the Commission had started to meet again following Covid and whilst there had been a delay with some projects the development of the new hospital had commenced. Work on the leisure centre had continued with a reduced workforce and the timescale for completion was not yet known. The swimming pool tanks had been filled and were being checked for any leaks and the 3G football pitches were ready for use after lockdown. Other projects were also progressing, albeit a bit slower than expected. Members had requested information on the future activities of the Commission and lessons learned within Northumberland and what others did across the Country were being investigated and a report would be prepared for the next full meeting of the LAC.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**179 LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme had been circulated for information and any items may wish to have included on future agendas should be forwarded to the Chair to take to the Local Area Chairs' Briefing for agreement.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**180 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting was scheduled for 2.00 pm on Thursday 18 February 2021.

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

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