



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Lesley Little

**Email:** Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622614

**Date:** Wednesday, 23 February 2022

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 **MEETING SPACE - BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee members as follows:-**

**C Ball, D Carr, A Dale, W Daley (Chair), R Dodd (Vice-Chair), C Dunbar, L Dunn, M Swinburn, T Thorne and A Watson**

**Co-opted Members: A Hodgson, L Houghton, D Lennox, P Rickeard and J Sanderson**

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting.

***Members are referred to the risk assessment, previously circulated, for meetings held in County Hall. Masks should be worn when moving round but can be removed when seated, social distancing should be maintained, hand sanitiser regularly used and members requested to self-test twice a week at home, in line with government guidelines.***



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

### PART I

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. MINUTES**

(Pages 1  
- 10)

The minutes of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 3 February 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

**3. 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. NB Any member needing clarification must contact the monitoring officer by email at [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**4. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

(Pages  
11 - 18)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for March to June 2022. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the committee.

**5. FINAL DECISION ON THE STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR ATKINSON HOUSE**

(Pages  
19 - 114)

The Cabinet report sets out an analysis of the representations (responses) received from interested parties during the four-week statutory consultation, which began on 13 January and closed on 10 February 2022, on proposals for Atkinson House Special School, Seghill. Cabinet is asked to make a final decision on whether or not to approve the prescribed changes as set out in the Statutory Proposal for implementation with effect from 1 September 2022. The report is before this Committee for pre-scrutiny and the outcome and comments will be reported to Cabinet when they consider the report on 8 March 2022.

- 6. ANNUAL REPORT FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS SERVICE 2020/21** (Pages 115 - 142)
- The annual report overview for Education and Skills Service is provided to committee members to inform and review the education performance across Northumberland in 2020/2; present the work of the central Education and Skills team and review the impact of the work to support continued education challenges throughout the ongoing Covid 19 global pandemic; and inform and review the digital annual report attached to this report.
- 7. SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY TRENDS AND BENCHMARKING REPORT** (Pages 143 - 154)
- The report provides an analysis of trends within the social work activity in responding to safeguarding concerns regarding Northumberland's children and young people; highlighting key indicators of performance, with comparisons to national and regional variations.
- 8. SCHOOL TRANSPORT REVIEW - BRIEFING NOTE** (Pages 155 - 158)
- The briefing note informs the Executive and Families and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee of the forthcoming review of the school transport arrangements at Northumberland County Council and requests the Executive officers to review the tasks identified to undertake the review.
- 9. FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MONITORING REPORT 2021/22** (Pages 159 - 170)
- Members are asked to review and note the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report.
- 10. URGENT BUSINESS**
- 11. PART II**
- It is expected that matters included in this part of the Agenda will be dealt with in private. Reports referred to are enclosed for members and officers only, coloured pink and marked "Not for Publication".
- 12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- The Committee is invited to consider passing the following resolution:
- (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 involves 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

**Agenda Items    Paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A**

- 13**                    1 - Information relating to any individual
- 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

**AND**                    the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because disclosure would adversely affect the authority's ability to conduct its affairs.

**13.                    RDA RELOCATION FROM TRANWELL (PEGASUS CENTRE) TO KIRKLEY HALL CAMPUS (NORTHUMBERLAND COLLEGE)**

To pre-scrutinise a Cabinet report in respect of the above. Comments made by this Committee will be reported to Cabinet when they consider the report on 8 March 2022.

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

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion 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.**