



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Jackie Roll

Email:

Tel direct: 01670 622603

Date: 29 June 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 7 JULY 2021** at **3.00 PM** in the meeting space, **Block 2 Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF**

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To all members of the County Council

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this virtual meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>.

Members are reminded of the Risk Assessment circulated for attending meetings at County Hall and the advice contained therein including:

Members are requested to self-test twice a week at home, in line with government guidelines; social distancing should be maintained; masks should be worn when moving around but can be removed when seated; hand sanitiser is to be used regularly.



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
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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
- 14)

Minutes of the annual meeting of County Council held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, signed by the Business Chair and sealed with the Common Seal of the Council (**see pages 9-22**).

3. DISCLOSURES 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 monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

by the Business Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(if any) to date of meeting.

6. QUESTIONS

to be put to the Business Chair, a member of the Cabinet or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee, in accordance with the Constitution's Rules of Procedure No.10.

7. CABINET MINUTES

(Pages
15 - 24)

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON:-

(1) Tuesday 8 June 2021 (see pages 23-32)

- 8. COMMITTEE MINUTES** (Pages 25 - 32)

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MINUTES from the following Committee:-

(1) Health and Wellbeing OSC (see pages 33-40)

- 9. DELEGATED DECISIONS** (Pages 33 - 34)

To receive details of delegated decisions taken since those reported to County Council on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 **(see pages 41-42)**.

- 10. MOTIONS** (Pages 35 - 38)

Motion No. 1

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor S. Dickinson to move the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 10 June 2021:-

To bring Northumberland County Council into the 21st century and provide equality to Councillors as well as staff, it notes the following research findings:

That analysis of the 2019 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 35% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2018. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;

That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;

That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

Northumberland County Council resolves:

*To adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting; **(see pages 43-46)**.*

To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;

To notify the LGA Labour Group that this Council has passed a motion at full Council to adopt the parental leave policy .

11. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS CHAIR

(Pages
39 - 50)

Proposal to Appoint Independent (Co-opted) Chair of Audit Committee

Further to the announcement by the Leader of the County Council at the meeting of full Council on 26 May 2021 that the Authority would move to establish an independent (co-opted) Chair of Audit Committee as soon as possible, this report proposes the relevant changes required to the Constitution to enable an independent (co-opted) Chair of Audit Committee to be so appointed; together with information on steps taken to expedite the appointment (**see pages 47-54**).

12. REPORT OF THE S151 OFFICER

(Pages
51 - 54)

Purchase of Shares in Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Limited

The purpose of this report is to authorise the purchase of share capital in Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd ("NEHL") and to effect the associated funding approvals.

13. HONORARY ALDERMEN

To consider holding a special meeting of the County Council on Wednesday, 1 September 2021 (being the date of the next quarterly meeting of the Council) to consider the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

(Note: Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may – by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting hereon – and at a meeting specially convened for that purpose – confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have rendered eminent service to the Council as past members thereof but who are not now members of the Council).

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council 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 Item Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A

15 1, 3 and 4
Information relating to any individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority..

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

15. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Executive Structure

To consider a report on the above (to follow).

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.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
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):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

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.