



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Jackie Roll

**Email:** jackie.roll@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622603

**Date:** 23 August 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held in the meeting space, Block One Floor Two on **WEDNESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2021** at **3.00 PM**.

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 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**  
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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  
- 18)

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Wednesday 7 July 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 9-26).

**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 [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

CORRESPONDENCE (if any) to date of meeting.

**6. QUESTIONS**

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  
19 - 40)

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

- (1) Tuesday 13 July 2021 (see pages 27-38)
- (2) Tuesday 3 August 2021 (see pages 39-44)
- (3) Tuesday 17 August 2021 (see pages 45-48)

**AND TO APPROVE** the following resolution as it involves budget and policy framework matters requiring Council approval:-

(1) Minute No.14 of the 13 July 2021 meeting relating to the Blyth Welding & Fabrication Training Centre

**8. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(Pages  
41 - 98)

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MINUTES from the following Committees:-

- (1) Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC (see pages 49-58)
- (2) Family and Children's Services OSC (see pages 59-64)
- (3) Communities and Place OSC (see pages 65-80)
- (4) Health and Wellbeing OSC (see pages 81-92)
- (5) Health and Wellbeing Board (see pages 93-100)
- (6) Audit Committee (to follow)
- (7) Member Services Working Group (see pages 101-106)  
(see also the following item on the agenda)

**9. MOTIONS**

(Pages  
99 - 102)

**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 7 July 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 107-110).

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 .

## **Motion No.2**

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor I. Hutchinson to move the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 31 July 2021:-

"The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 75 years of being our reigning monarch, is to be celebrated on the weekend of 3rd to 6th June next year. Many of the County's residents and communities will wish to celebrate this remarkable achievement, and to help them do this, Northumberland County Council Resolves to waive road closure fees for one day events on one occasion organised by Town and Parish Councils held during that weekend".

- 10. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND REGENERATION** (Pages 103 - 114)

### **Northumberland Line project: Transport and Works Act Order Resolution**

To seek confirmation from the Council under section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the continuation of the formal process associated with the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) application (the Application) submitted to the Secretary of State on 26 May 2021 in connection with the Northumberland Line project (see pages 111-122).

- 11. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER** (Pages 115 - 124)

### **Protocols for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and for Freeman/Freewomen of Northumberland County Council**

The purpose of the report is to:

- (i) reinstate the practice of appointing Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen,

and to discuss and agree a protocol for conferring the title on past Councillors from the 2021 elections onwards, subject to specific criteria. No appointments will be made at this meeting as by law, a special Council is required to be convened should this be agreed.

(ii) to consider and approve a protocol for conferring the title of Freeman and Freewomen of Northumberland (see pages 123-132).

**12. REPORT OF THE SENIOR MANAGER AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER** (Pages 125 - 130)

**Members' Allowances Scheme/Independent Remuneration Panel**

The Leader requested at the Annual Council Meeting a review of members' allowances, these having last been reviewed in 2015. This report sets out;

- the legal background to the process,
- details of the last review within the Council,
- recommendations and suggested next steps (see pages 133-138).

**13. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER** (Pages 131 - 134)

**Proposed Constitutional Changes**

Report to follow.

**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 CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Interim Executive Management Arrangements and Progress with Review of Future Structure**

To consider a report on the above (report 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.

<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.**