

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Karon Hadfield

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**Tel direct:** 0345 600 6400

**Date:** 29 April 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held in **MEETING SPACE, FLOR TWO, BLOCK ONE, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH** on **TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Cabinet members as follows:-**

**G Renner-Thompson, J Riddle, G Sanderson (Chair), J Watson, R Wearmouth (Vice-Chair), C Horncastle, W Pattison and W Ploszaj**

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***



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
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**members requested to self-test twice a week at home, in line with government guidelines.**

## **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  
- 6)

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12 April 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and 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 [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**4. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

(Pages 7  
- 20)

#### **Proposals for the Coquet Partnership**

The Council has approved the allocation of £25.5m of capital investment in schools in the Coquet Partnership. Before committing such investment to relevant school capital projects, Council officers have met with school leaders collectively and individually in the partnership to discuss what structure of organisation of schools would be, in their view, the most effective in improving outcomes for pupils in all phases and for the long-term sustainability of the partnership.

This report sets out the findings of these meetings, and as a result of feedback received by each of the Governing Bodies of the Coquet Partnership schools to the Council, Cabinet is recommended to approve a six-week consultation on proposals for a 2-tier structure in the Coquet Partnership with effect from 13 May 2022 (Appendix A).

The report of the FACS OSC will be circulated when the Committee has met.

**5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION** (Pages 21 - 28)

**Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership**

This report set out the details of the recent Government announcement relating to indicative allocations for the delivery of regional Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) and to provide an update on the development of the Enhanced Partnership (EP) for buses in the North East and its implications on the Council's future responsibilities (Appendix B).

**6. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND S151 OFFICER** (Pages 29 - 44)

**Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group**

The report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group via email on 1 April 2022 (Appendix C).

**7. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SENIOR SERVICE DIRECTOR** (Pages 45 - 50)

**Nominations to Outside Bodies**

To agree Cabinet's nominations to outside bodies detailed in Appendix D.

**8. URGENT BUSINESS**

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

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# Agenda Item 2

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Tuesday, 12 April 2022 at 10.00 am.

### PRESENT

Councillor G. Sanderson  
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

### CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C.	Riddle, J.R.
Pattison, W.	Watson, J.G.
Renner-Thompson, G.	Wearmouth, R.

### OTHER MEMBERS

Flux, B.	Stewart, G.
Seymour, C.	

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Aviston, S.	Head of School Organisation
Bradley, N.	Service Director Adult Care
Hadfield, K.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
McEvoy-Carr, C.	Executive Director of Children's Services and Adult Social Care
Murfin, R.	Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services
O'Farrell, R.	Interim Executive Director of Place and Regeneration
Roll, J.	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services
Taylor, M.	Interim Executive Director for Communities and Business Development
Willis, J.	Interim Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer

Ch.'s Initials.....

One member of the press was present

## 111. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of Cabinet held on Tuesday 29 March 2022, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 112. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE AND REGENERATION

### Blyth Relief Road

The report provided Cabinet with:

- An overview of progress to date on the development of the business case for a new relief road for Blyth which will significantly improve access to the town by all modes.
- A recommendation for the preferred route alignment to be taken forward to a public engagement exercise.
  - An update on the business case which includes emerging costs, benefits and programme for the scheme (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A, along with the report of the CSEG OSC circulated at the meeting).

The report was presented by Councillor Ploszaj who detailed the main points of the report and welcomed the progress which was now being made. Mr O'Farrell advised that public consultation needed to start now so the scheme could be progressed. The proposed route was not as advantageous as the original option three, but would still significantly reduce traffic stress.

The Leader referred to the report from Scrutiny which welcomed the proposals. The County Council were contributing £4m to this scheme with the balance coming from Government.

Councillor Wearmouth commented that problems with the original route three meant it couldn't be adopted so an alternative plan had been put forward in order to get the scheme through. There had been a lot of support for this from Government and from the local MP Ian Levy.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the progress of the project to date be noted;
- (b) the revised Route 5 be confirmed as the preferred option to take forward to a public engagement exercise;
- (c) Cabinet endorse sign off by the s151 Officer of the Outline Business Case, noting the required County Council match funding commitment and future approval gateways as set out in paragraphs 13 to 15; and

(d) the report of the CSEG OSC be noted.

## **113. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

### **(1) Berwick Partnership Organisation**

The report set out the findings of the meetings that had taken place with schools in the Berwick Partnership since April 2021 to discuss the organisational issues facing the partnership and identified potential models of organisation that could address those issues. The results of an informal survey with parents and the wider community in the area served by Berwick Partnership were also included in the report.

Cabinet was also asked to permit a first stage of informal consultation with wider stakeholders in the area served by Berwick Partnership schools to establish whether any models of organisation that may be brought forward at a later date for consultation should consist of only 3-tier models of organisation or include 3-tier and 2-tier (primary/secondary) models of education. Other key areas such as Special Educational Needs, post-16 and early years provision would also be included as part of this first stage of wider phase of consultation (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B, along with the report of the FACS OSC circulated at the meeting).

A detailed presentation was made by Mrs Aviston and Councillor Renner Thompson detailed some of the background to the current position and how things had moved on from how the project had originally started as a new high school. This was an issue not just for the Partnership, but for the whole town and, this investment along with recent investments in the leisure centre and The Maltings, would make a significant difference.

The Leader stressed that the decision on the Partnership arrangements would be made by the stakeholders and he thanked Councillor Renner Thompson for his work on this. Officers, local members and the local MP were also thanked for their work and support.

Councillor Stewart asked who would make the decision regarding two or three tier. Mrs Aviston replied that this depended on the governance at each school. There were two academies in the partnership and the decision on these would be made by the Headteacher Board and ultimately the Secretary of State, as advised by the Regional Schools Commissioner. The remaining 15 schools would be a decision for Cabinet and officers would need to ensure that these two processes were aligned.

The Leader thanked officers for their work and to all those who had responded to the consultation thus far. FACS OSC had welcomed the dialogue and supported the recommendations. He commented that there

would never be 100% agreement but felt that a general consensus could be achieved.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the first stage of a planned 2-stage informal consultation process with the wider stakeholders of the Berwick area on the following key areas:
  - (i) Whether any future models of organisation for schools in the Berwick Partnership should be based on a 3-tier organisation only or a 2-tier model of organisation;
  - (ii) The need for an improved SEND offer for the Berwick area;
  - (iii) The need for an improved Early Years offer for the Berwick Area;
  - (iv) The need for the development of a Post-16 and Post-18 provision in the Berwick area;
  - (v) Whether Belford Primary, Wooler First and Glendale Middle Schools should remain part of the Berwick Partnership or be included in the Alnwick Partnership;
- (b) Cabinet note the analysis of the outcomes of this first stage of informal consultation will be reported to Cabinet, and also a request to carry out the second planned stage of informal consultation on detailed proposals for individual schools within a wider school reorganisation of the Berwick Partnership may be included. Such proposals in the second planned stage of informal consultation may include possible school closures;
- (c) Cabinet note that local authorities do not have powers to propose or change the organisation of academies; therefore, any proposed changes to the organisation of Berwick Academy as part of a wider partnership reorganisation will need to be consulted on by the Trustees of the Academy and taken to the Regional Schools Commissioner for a decision;
- (d) should Cabinet approve a second stage of consultation, the outcomes presented to Cabinet may include a recommendation to permit the publication of statutory proposals in relation to relevant maintained schools; and
- (e) the report of the FACS OSC be noted.

**(2) Specialist Dementia Service**

The report informed Cabinet of current issues in relation to supporting people with challenging dementia needs, and sought Cabinet approval for a measure which could be adopted to help provide more capacity within Northumberland to assist adult social care clients with this level of need (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

The report was introduced by Councillor Pattison and Mr Neil Bradley detailed the key points. The proposals were part of an overall look at dementia services in Northumberland and how services could be developed with partners to deal with and prevent dementia problems.

Members very much welcomed the report and its proposals.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree to a procurement exercise being undertaken for a Specialist Dementia Service in Northumberland, as set out in section 2 of the report on the basis of Option C as recommended; and
- (b) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Well-being, to award the contract to the successful bidder if within existing budget.

#### **114. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

##### **Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS): Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26**

This report presented the final Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Plan prior to publication, following a period of consultation (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix D).

The report was introduced by Councillor Horncastle who detailed the key points of the report and the wide consultation process which had been undertaken.

Members commended the report and thanked Councillor Horncastle and the Fire Service for their work.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) final version of NFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 be approved prior to publication; and
- (b) the participation of Cabinet members in the consultation on the CRMP, and the amendment of the Plan following feedback, be noted.

**115. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND S151 OFFICER**

**Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group**

The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group via email on 4 March 2022 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix E).

The report was introduced by Councillor Wearmouth who highlighted the reasons behind the increased costs. Mrs Willis advised members that Project Board had considered a range of options but most of them would jeopardise the £2m funding from the LEP and there was the commercial risk to Advance to consider. Therefore, the recommendation was that the additional funding was provided as grant from the Council, which could be achieved by reprofiling funds intended for other projects. Members were supportive of the proposals.

Councillors Renner Thompson, Riddle and Watson abstained from the vote on this matter as Directors of Advance.

**RESOLVED** that:-

**Bedlington Town Centre Redevelopment:**

- Cabinet approve an increase in the NCC grant contribution towards the Bedlington Town Centre Redevelopment of £2,045,268 to be funded from the Strategic Regeneration Projects Budget within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-26. Together with the existing approved budget of £2,718,490, this will take the total grant funding from the Council for this project to £4,763,758. The profiling for this additional grant contribution will be split between 2022/23 £1,454,690 and 2023/24 £590,578; and
- Cabinet approve a re-allocation of the Strategic Regeneration Projects Budget for the 2022/23 year from existing schemes that are in delay to fund this additional grant as per the table in paragraph 5.11 of the report.

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....



## Northumberland County Council

### **CABINET**

**Date: 10 May 2022**

### **PROPOSALS FOR THE COQUET PARTNERSHIP**

Report of Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services -  
Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson

#### **Purpose of report**

The Council has approved the allocation of £25.5m of capital investment in schools in the Coquet Partnership. Before committing such investment to relevant school capital projects, Council officers have met with school leaders collectively and individually in the partnership to discuss what structure of organisation of schools would be, in their view, the most effective in improving outcomes for pupils in all phases and for the long-term sustainability of the partnership.

This report sets out the findings of these meetings, and as a result of feedback received by each of the Governing Bodies of the Coquet Partnership schools to the Council, Cabinet is recommended to approve a six-week consultation on proposals for a 2-tier structure in the Coquet Partnership with effect from 13 May 2022.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **It is recommended that Cabinet:**

- 1) Approve the initiation of a 6-week preconsultation from 11 May to 29 June 2022 on proposals for a 2-tier model of school organisation in the Coquet Partnership.
- 2) Note that should Cabinet approve Recommendation 1, the following elements of education in the area would also be included in the consultation:
  - a. The SEND offer for pupils in the Coquet Partnership area;
  - b. The Early Years offer in the Coquet Partnership area;

- 3) Note the feedback received during the informal meetings with the schools in the Coquet Partnership at para. 14-19, setting out their request and rationale for the Council to initiate consultation on a proposal for a 2-tier, primary/secondary structure in the Coquet Partnership.
- 4) Note the draft proposed models of school organisation suggested as the basis for consultation.
- 5) Note that £25.5m has been proposed in the medium-term plan for investment in schools in the Coquet partnership, including for the replacement or refurbishment of the buildings of James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) at Acklington Road site.
- 6) Note should Cabinet approve the initiation of informal consultation, the outcomes presented to Cabinet may include a recommendation to permit the publication of statutory proposals for relevant schools in the Coquet Partnership.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report directly links to the Council's Corporate aim 'Living, Learning - We will ensure the best education standards for our children and young people.'

### **Key issues**

1. In 2016, Cabinet approved the allocation of funding towards replacement or refurbishment of JCSC buildings, while in 2022 the capital allocation in the Medium term Plan was increased to £25.5m towards the improvement of school buildings in the Coquet partnership as a whole.
2. In the same way as for other partnerships, Cabinet will want assurance that any capital investment made in school buildings in the Coquet Partnership is spent on an organisational school structure that supports viable and sustainable schools at all phases of education, leading to the enrollment of the majority of children living in the Coquet at their local schools, in line with the Council's objectives.
3. Following on from the Council's decision to allocate capital funding to Coquet Partnership and communications initially received from all first schools and James Calvert Spence College in 2019 in relation to organisational structure, Council Officers met with the headteachers and Chairs of Governors on several occasions, both at full partnership level and as individual schools, to determine high level views in January to March this year. A summary of the outcomes of feedback on those meetings is set out in paras. 14-9. Overall, the feedback received from the majority of schools clearly pointed to the desire to carry out a consultation on proposals for schools to be organised within a 2-tier structure.
4. It is therefore, recommended that Cabinet should approve a 6-week informal consultation, taking place within term-time between 11 May and 29 June 2022. The

informal consultation would include the development of an online consultation document via the Council's Citizen Space facility, with hard copies available on request. The link to the consultation document would be sent directly to those Governors, staff and parents relevant to those schools most directly impacted; however, it would also be made available on the Council's website to enable any interested party to respond. A 'padlet' containing additional information and Frequently Asked Questions would also be set up as part of the consultation process.

5. As well as a consultation document, meetings with both the Governing Body and staff groups at each school would be held. Furthermore, at least one public event would be held within the consultation period to enable parents and members of the public to find out further information about how the proposals might impact education and the wider local community.
6. A report setting out the results of informal consultation, should it be approved, would be brought back to Cabinet at a later date. A request to publish statutory proposals on changes to schools in the Coquet Partnership may also be included in that report.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

7. The Coquet Partnership includes the following schools:
  - Amble First – age 4-9
  - Amble Links First– age 2-9
  - Broomhill First – age 3-9
  - Grange View CE First – age 3-9
  - Red Row First – age 3-9
  - NCEA Warkworth Church of England Primary (academy) – age 2-11
  - James Calvert Spence College – age 9-18.
8. JCSC was originally an age 13 to 18 year high school, but in 2016 the school amalgamated with JCSC South Avenue (formerly named Amble Middle School) to become an age 9-18 school; the two schools had previously formed the James Calvert Spence Federation. Although theoretically pupils in schools in the Coquet Partnership have only one transition to the next school phase, this occurs at 2 years into KS2 at the midway point and at the end of Year 4 in the first schools, with pupils transferring into Year 5 at JCSC where they complete the remaining 2 years of the key stage. This structure is based on the 3-tier system of organisation remaining in place within 5 of the 14 school partnerships in the county (including Coquet). In a primary/secondary 2-tier structure, transition takes place at the end of Key Stage 2 at Year 6 with pupils transferring to

secondary school for the beginning of Key Stage 3; this structure is in line with the National Curriculum and is the prevalent system in the country.

9. The Governing Body of NCEA Warkworth Church of England Primary School took the decision a number of years ago to become a primary school as a result of the reorganisation of the Alwick Partnership, whose catchment it borders.
10. In early 2019, a letter signed by all headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the five first schools in the Coquet (Amble) Partnership was received by the incumbent Director of Education and Skills. The letter set out a request for informal consultation to be undertaken on a proposal to reorganise schools in the partnership to a two-tier, primary/secondary organisation, together with the rationale for their proposal.
11. Subsequently, a letter was received from the Governing Body of JCSC to the Director setting out its view that, while the need to improve outcomes at KS2 was acknowledged, a change in organisational structure was not necessarily the only solution to achieving such improvements. The letter set out the Governing Body's suggestions on what actions could be undertaken with a whole-partnership approach that could lead to better outcomes but retaining the existing transition point.
12. At this point in 2019, the Council decided that without consensus from all schools in the partnership to request consultation on an alternative structure of organisation, it could not support such a consultation at that time.
13. The impact of COVID has resulted in delays to the implementation of the schools Capital Programme and therefore a business case for the investment in the Coquet Partnership hasn't been developed along the original timescales. However, as the Major Educational Capital Programme is once again moving forward, the Councils Cabinet need assurance that the allocated funding for improvement in schools in the Coquet Partnership would be invested in a viable and sustainable school structure.

#### **Process and feedback from work with schools in the Coquet Partnership**

14. Informal discussions with the Coquet Partnership to gain their views on their preferences for school organisation took place as follows:
  - **18 January 2022**  
Opening meeting with partnership presented by NCC officers and attended by Heads and Chairs of Governors and CE diocesan education representative.
  - **January – February 2022**

NCC officers meet with Heads and Chairs of Governors of individual schools for confidential discussions on views.

- **16 March 2022**

Plenary meeting of NCC officers headteachers and Chairs of Governors to share high level themes arising from individual meetings.

15. The informal discussions that took place with each headteacher and Chair of Governors centred around their views of the 3-tier and 2-tier system. They were also asked if they had any other ideas on how the challenges faced by the school in the partnership could be addressed. The headteachers and chairs were also asked their views about the possibility on joining a multi-academy trust (there is currently only one academy in the partnership at the moment - Warkworth CE Primary).
16. The key themes arising from the discussions were:
  - The topic of structural change has been discussed for a long time on Coquet – it's now time for change;
  - The need to improve KS2 outcomes;
  - The need to retain more pupils in the Coquet Partnership, particularly in the secondary years;
  - The need to improve the offer to children and young people with Special Educational Needs within the partnership;
  - The need for investment in buildings.
17. The summary of the views on the 3-tier and the 2-tier system are set out in Table 1:

**Table 1**

<b>Main views on 3-tier system</b>	<b>Main views on 2-tier system</b>
3-tier no longer the right fit for the partnership or educational journey	Majority of schools support consultation on 2-tier option for partnership
No accountability for key stages	One school has accountability for whole Key Stage
Transition currently splits key stages	Transition at end of KS2 in line with National Curriculum
Children not 'ready' for middle school at age 9 e.g. travelling on bus	Longer term viability under 2-tier
Schools losing children to primaries in other partnerships	Timing of any change important
Many children are happy to move into Year 5 at 'middle' phase	
Both models have their pros and cons	

18. Other themes and ideas that emerged from discussions with the schools were:
- Some schools would like to extend age range down to include 2 year olds;
  - Wraparound care;
  - Tie up this project with leisure centre/community facilities
  - Financial concerns
  - Buildings and site suitability issues
19. The prevalent views of schools on becoming part of a multi-academy trust which could be within a 3-tier or 2-tier structure are set out in Table 2:

**Table 2**

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
A MAT in the North could make sense	Staff would not be keen
Removal of school improvement funding from LAs could be ameliorated by a MAT	LA services are valued – can opt in or out already
	Can't see how a MAT would resolve issues
	Not all schools have an equal say in a MAT

The conclusion at this stage was there is no appetite from the partnership to progress further with discussions on forming a MAT at this time.

20. Feedback on key aspects of school organisation is set out in Table 3:

**Table 3**

How would your community/parents react to consultation on organisational change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents would support it</li> <li>• Equally, some parents would be apathetic</li> <li>• The variation in views from one village to another would need to be considered</li> <li>• It's time to ask their views</li> </ul>
Staff recruitment and retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention good</li> <li>• Teacher recruitment good/ Teaching Assistant recruitment difficult</li> </ul>
SEND Provision in the partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed need for specialist provision in the partnership, especially for ASD and SEMH</li> <li>• Children with SEND would potentially stay longer in</li> </ul>

	mainstream if first schools were primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in ARPs, but concerns about impact on reputation or education outcomes</li> </ul>
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## Standards and outcomes in schools in the Coquet Partnership

### 21. Current Ofsted outcomes

- Amble First – Good (November 2019)
- Amble Links First – Good (September 2021)
- Broomhill First – Good (March 2017)
- Red Row First – Good (December 2017)
- Grange View CE First – Good (March 2019)
- JCSC - Requires Improvement (most recent monitoring visit, January 2021 – school taking effective action)

### 22. Education Outcomes

**Key Stage 1 (First School Phase):** Key Stage 1 (KS1) assessments, which are taken by children at the end of Year 2, are not published.

**Key Stage 2 (James Calvert Spence):** Key Stage 2 (KS2) assessments did not take place in 2020 and 2021, therefore the last available data for the Coquet Partnership is from 2019 set out in Table 4.

**Table 4**

% Pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths	
James Calvert Spence College	27%
Northumberland Average	66%
England Average	65%

The KS2 results achieved by JCSC in 2019 were the lowest in Northumberland, with the next lowest score achieved by a school in the county being 53%. The best KS2 results at JCSC in recent years were in 2016 when the 40% of pupils achieved the expected standard.

#### **Key Stage 4 (James Calvert Spence):**

The last verified outcomes at GCSE (Key Stage 4) for JCSC were in summer 2019 as set out in Table 1. The DfE has stated that due to the unprecedented change in the way GCSE results (KS4) were awarded in the summer terms of 2020 and 2021 and the resulting significant changes to the distribution of the grades received (in comparison to exam results), pupil level attainment in 2020/21 and 2019/20 is not comparable to that of the previous exam years for the purposes of measuring changes in pupil performance.

**Table 5 – GCSE results, JCSC**

		<b>GCSE 2019</b>
Progress 8 (0 = Expected Progress)	<b>JCSC</b>	<b>-0.02</b>
	Northumberland average	-0.12
	England average	-0.03
%Achieving Grade 5+ inc Eng and Maths	<b>JCSC</b>	<b>38%</b>
	Northumberland average	43%
	England average	43%
Attainment 8 (higher figure is best)	<b>JCSC</b>	<b>45.5</b>
	Northumberland average	46.5
	England average	46.7

JCSC's results in 2019 at GCSE are stronger in comparison at both county and national (England) level, being positioned 11<sup>th</sup> out of 16 high/secondary schools in Northumberland at that point.

### **Proposal for reorganisation**

23. In the light of the investment allocated to schools in the Council's medium term plan and as a result of the feedback received from the majority of headteachers and Chairs of Governors during the informal meetings in January and February this year, and the rationale set out by them in their letters to the Council, it is proposed that an informal consultation on the proposal for the Coquet Partnership to be reorganised within a 2-tier structure with staff, parents and the wider community is now appropriate and timely.
24. Two first schools in the partnership have closed in the last 7 years, reducing surplus capacity accordingly. While birth data for the Coquet Partnership is relatively steady, this masks some variation in capacity at the individual school level, e.g. in the first and primary phase, some schools are more popular and have attracted pupils from other catchments and as at January 2022 census, there are 25% surplus places across the first schools in the partnership as a whole. However, taking into account the impact that organisational change may have on parental preference for schools and the continuing housebuilding in the Coquet area, it is not proposed at this stage that any first schools would close as part of these proposals.
25. Similarly, JCSC has 18% surplus places in Years 9 to 11, therefore it would not be proposed that its current PAN of 120 would be reduced as part of reorganisation proposals; however, the capacity of the school would have to be amended as part

of its building solution should it become an 11-18 secondary school rather than a 9-18 school.

26. In any proposals for reorganisation, the current structure of schools forms part of the consultation process and therefore this would be expressed as the status quo model as follows:

**Model A (status quo)**

All schools remain organised as they are currently with phase change to JCSC occurring at the end of Year 4 in the first schools.

The buildings of JCSC age 9 to 18 are remodelled and extended buildings/new build, with all pupils brought together on the current high school site.

It should be noted that this model would not address the poor performance at KS2 without significant collaboration between the first schools and JCSC. The funding within the medium-term capital programme is likely to be sufficient to deliver this option, however given the current rate of inflation and supply shortages in the construction market a revised assessment of the costs will be carried out during any informal consultation period.

**Model B**

All first schools to extend their age ranges to become either age 2-11, 3-11 or 4-11 primary schools, retaining current Year 4 into Year 5 in the first phase of reorganisation.

Amble First School to relocate to the current Year 5 to Year 9 building of JCSC at South Avenue.

Red Row First School to increase its Planned Admission Number from 29 to 30 (this is a tidying up exercise).

JCSC to reduce its age range from 9 to 18 to 11 to 18 with effect from September 2023 at the earliest, having Years 7 to 13 sixth form.

JCSC to have new school buildings for age range 11 to 18 on current site.

*As set out in para 29 of this report an estimated budget for any proposals will be developed during any informal consultation with the outcomes being reported to Cabinet at the next stage if consultation is approved.*

**Other considerations arising from the proposals**

27. SEND provision

The Coquet Partnership currently doesn't have any specialist provision for Children and Young People with SEN, and therefore this results in a significant

number travelling outside of their community in order to have their educational needs met. It is therefore proposed that provision for pupils with SEND living in the Coquet Partnership forms part of the informal consultation process in order to take advantage of an opportunity to develop a joined-up approach for all pupils living in the Coquet area. Some initial informal work has taken place with headteachers in the partnership and these early ideas would be presented as part of the wider consultation.

28. Early Years provision

In the same way as for SEND in the partnership, current Early Years provision would form part of the informal consultation with potential recommendations brought forward for Cabinet's consideration with the other feedback.

29. Implications for staff

There would be implications for staffing structures in schools under the proposed Model B (2-tier structure). As part of the informal consultation process, meetings would be held with the staff body at each school in the Coquet Partnership, together with their Trade union staff representatives (unions) and Council HR (Human Resources) officer to allow specific discussions on this aspect of reorganisation under Model B. It is intended that should informal consultation be approved, Council officers would broker a draft Staffing Protocol agreement during the consultation period to include all schools that would ensure a fair and equitable appointment process under any new structure, should Model B or a variation of Model B be approved for implementation at a later stage.

30. Buildings and funding

As stated earlier in the report, the Council has already allocated £25.5m towards investment in school buildings in the Coquet Partnership. A budget for carrying out capital works under both Model A and Model B would be developed during the informal consultation, should it be approved. The costs of any linked proposals for provision for SEND students that may be set out as part of the recommendations arising would also be developed. These costs would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration along with the outcomes of the informal consultation in order to assist with decision making in relation to the proposed recommendations.

31. Catchment areas

There would be no proposal to change the current catchment areas of any school within the Coquet Partnership as part of the proposed Model B (2-tier structure) for informal consultation, although some proposals for catchment area changes may arise from consultees during the process that may require consideration. However, should approval for Model B be approved by Cabinet at a later date, the catchment areas of the first schools as they became primaries would include

pupils up to the age of 11, while the catchment area of JCSC would include pupils aged 11 to 18.

32. Transport

Under Model A (status quo), there would be no changes to the current arrangements for Home to School Transport. Under Model B (2-tier structure), pupils including those eligible for transport would remain in their first schools for an additional 2 years in Years 5 and 6. Therefore, there may be a small saving to the Home to School Transport policy as a result.

33. Sport and recreation

Under Model A and Model B, there would be the opportunity to enhanced sporting facilities at the JCSC site as a result of remodelling/rebuilding. Under Model B, there may also be an opportunity to improve the current sport and recreation facilities in some first schools. Overall, there will be no negative impact on current sporting facilities as a result of Model A or Model B.

**Implications arising out of the report**

<b>Policy</b>	This report directly links to the Council's Corporate aim 'Living, Learning - We will ensure the best education standards for our children and young people.'
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Capital investment of £25.5m has been allocated by the Council in the Medium-Term Plan. Part of the rationale for informal consultation is to provide assurance to Cabinet that investment would be made within a sustainable and viable school structure for the medium to long-term. A detailed Business Case for investment would be brought forward to Cabinet once the structure of schools has been decided.
<b>Legal</b>	Consultation carried out on proposals would comply with School Organisation guidance and regulations.
<b>Procurement</b>	No implications
<b>Human Resources</b>	There may be some implications for staff in schools in the wider Coquet Partnership should Model B be approved for implementation by Cabinet at a later date. If the status quo remains in place, there may be some implications for JCSCS staff should the school move onto one site.

<b>Property</b>	Refer to 'Finance and value for money' above
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Should Cabinet approve informal consultation, an EIA would be carried out in parallel with consultation and presented together with consultation outcomes.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	A risk assessment would be carried out should Cabinet approve informal consultation.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	This report has considered Section 17 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
<b>Customer Considerations</b>	The proposal set out in this report is based upon a desire to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families in Northumberland.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	It is not envisaged that these proposals would have a significant positive or negative impact on carbon reduction.
<b>Consultation</b>	This report has been considered by the Executive Director for Adults and Children's Services and the Member for Children's Services.
<b>Wards</b>	Amble; Druridge Bay; Amble West and Warkworth

## Background Papers

None

## Report Sign Off

	<b>Full name</b>
Service Director Finance & Deputy S151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Interim Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Adult and Children's Services	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Deputy Chief Executive	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Lead member for Children Services	Guy Renner-Thompson

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## Northumberland County Council

CABINET

TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022

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### BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

**Report of:** Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director of Regeneration

**Cabinet Member:** Wojciech Ploszaj, Portfolio holder for Business

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#### Purpose of report

This report set out the details of the recent Government announcement relating to indicative allocations for the delivery of regional Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) and to provide an update on the development of the Enhanced Partnership (EP) for buses in the North East and its implications on the Council's future responsibilities.

#### Recommendations

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- **welcome indicative allocation awarded by the Government to the delivery of the BSIP for the North East;**
- **authorise the Leader, in both his role as Leader and Northumberland's representative on the North East Joint Transport Committee, in consultation with the Interim Executive Director of Regeneration, to negotiate and agree the draft Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme(s) on behalf of the Authority whilst recognising that the Council's current responsibilities will not be diminished by the governance of this EP; and**
- **agree to receive further reports on the progressive development of the Enhanced Bus Partnership and its associated schemes as the implications for Northumberland and the Council emerge.**

#### Key issues

In March 2021, the Government published its National Bus Strategy (NBS), which set out an ambitious vision to dramatically improve bus services (outside London) through greater local leadership and the creation and funding of Enhanced Bus Partnerships.

The NBS required that, by the end of June 2021, local transport authorities (LTAs) commit to developing an Enhanced Partnership (EP) and publish a statutory notice to that effect. Furthermore, local transport authorities had to develop and publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and submit the plan to the DfT during October 2021, setting out the outcomes they wish to see delivered through the Enhanced Partnership together with a request for funding.

Following review of this BSIP submission, DfT have awarded the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) an indicative funding allocation of £163.5 million toward the establishment of an Enhanced Bus partnership and the funding of a series of initiatives aimed at improving the regional public transport offering. This funding is for financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25 with £73.5m for capital investment and £90.0m for revenue investment.

To access this funding, DfT has now confirmed that the draft Enhancement Partnership Plan for the North East needs to be submitted by the JTC by 30 June 2022. The DfT will subsequently review the EP and either, provide feedback or agree it meets expectations and confirm final funding allocation.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **National Bus Strategy**

1. The Government announced in March 2021 that funding for bus services would be dependent on authorities' and bus operators' participation in new arrangements. The National Bus Strategy (NBS) sets out the Government's requirement for each area to publish a BSIP by 31 October 2021, and to have an EP with bus operators drafted by 30 June 2022.
2. From 1 July 2021, all government funding streams for buses is only available to LTA areas that have committed to entering an EP with their bus operators (this includes both Covid-19 support grants and bus subsidy to operators which has funded bus operators to continue running essential services throughout the pandemic, and which continues to fund the revenue shortfall between actual fares revenue and pre Covid-19 fare revenue). In addition, Government have stated that they will also take account of a region's performance against the NBS when considering funding allocations for wider, non-bus local transport schemes.
3. The NBS and its funding support provides the opportunity to start delivering against the objectives set out in the region's Transport Plan; and will help buses to play an even greater part in enabling economic growth, achieving better and more equal outcomes for communities and contributing to healthy and vibrant places to live and work in the region. Accordingly, in April 2021, the North East JTC issued formal notice of its intent to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Schemes for bus services and began working with the local transport authorities and local bus operators to pursue this.
4. Public engagement, billed as the 'Big Bus Conversation', was carried out over the Summer of 2021 on the JTC's Vision for Buses, and feedback from this engagement was used to prepare the region's BSIP, which was subsequently approved in October 2021. The plan sets out how transport bodies and bus operators will work with local highway authorities and local communities to plan and deliver a bus network where buses are better coordinated and easier to understand and use.
5. As such, it sets out a far-reaching programme of potential measures to improve bus services in the North East, which covers both revenue and capital costs to deliver the measures over three financial years from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The BSIP also provides the basis for the development of the more detailed proposals required as part of an EP.
6. Following review of the BSIP submission, DfT have awarded the North East JTC an indicative funding allocation of £163.5 million toward the establishment of an Enhanced Bus partnership and the funding of a series of initiatives aimed at

improving the regional public transport offering. This allocation makes provision for £73.5m of capital investment and £90.0m of revenue investment.

### Enhanced Bus Partnership for the North East

7. The DfT defines an Enhanced Partnership as follows: “An Enhanced Partnership (EP) is an agreement between a local transport authority (LTA) and local bus operators to work together to improve local bus services. It includes a clear vision of the improvements that the EP is aiming for (known as an EP plan) and accompanying actions to achieve them (set out in one of more EP schemes). The local transport authority has formal responsibility for making the scheme, but at set points in the process they can only proceed with their proposals if they have the support of a defined proportion of local bus operators.”
8. To inform the development of the EP Scheme drafting, initial work has taken place to identify the prioritised order of schemes to be included. The outcome of this is a list in ranked order with the eventual content influenced by the indicative funding available. The results, detailed in the table below, have been split between revenue and capital schemes and ranked according to deliverability criteria and their performance in addressing the Key Performance Indicators in the BSIP.

Revenue Projects	Capital Projects
Under 19 Ticket <i>(Subsidised travel for under 19's)</i>	Intelligent Transport Systems <i>(Corridors and Realtime upgrades)</i>
Network Improvements <i>(Superbus, Rural, Interurban and Connect routes)</i>	Bus Priority Corridor Package
All day Operator Ticket <i>(Multi operator/modal travel with fares cap)</i>	Park and Ride development and delivery
Night Network	Tranche 2, Bus Corridor works
Tourism Development Routes	Spot Fixes on the Highway Network

9. An EP Plan and Scheme(s) are currently being developed by Transport North East (TNE), working with Local Authorities, Nexus and bus operators, in accordance with Government guidance. The final EP Plan and scheme needs to be submitted by the end of June with the key milestones in this process being:
  - By the 2 May, submit a DfT specified summary table setting out a costed, credible and regionally set of agreed projects what the funding allocation will be used to deliver
  - By 30 June, submit an updated DfT summary table; the draft EP Plan and Scheme; and any additional documents for commitments which are not included within the EP; together with confirmation from section 151 officers that the funding represents value for money

- The DfT will then review the EP and either, provide feedback or agree it meets expectations and confirm final funding allocation.
10. Given this timeline, Cabinet is requested to give authority to the Leader, both in his role as Leader and Northumberland’s representative on the North East Joint Transport Committee, in consultation with the Interim Executive Director of Regeneration, to negotiate and agree the draft Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme(s) on behalf of the Authority.

**Conceptual Governance Arrangements**

11. Throughout the preparation of the draft EP scheme, TNE has been reminded of the need to ensure that the respective decision-making powers of the JTC, Nexus, and the County Councils, and where appropriate Local Authorities in their capacity as highways authorities with costed, credible and regionally agreed projects. As such, the governance arrangements of the EP should not diminish this to any extent.
12. On this basis, the overarching governance principle is that there are no decision-making powers aligned to any bodies which will make up the operating structure of the EP; and that these bodies should be focused on building consensus as to the best way to proceed on issues. Once consensus is reached on a matter, if a decision is required by, for an example, Northumberland County Council, the matter must be passed forward to Northumberland County Council for a decision to be reached through its established governance.

**IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy</b>	This approach will provide ongoing support to transport providers during the Covid-19 recovery phase and support the economic recovery of the region, as well as supporting the Council’s strategic objective to connecting people by provided access to education, employment, and social activities.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The North East’s BSIP set out an ambitious request for Government funding for the delivery of measures relevant to bus services. Entering an EP is a requirement to receive ongoing Government funding for bus services. Future reports will be brought to Cabinet for decision making where the EP requires any financial support from the Council for specific schemes.
<b>Legal</b>	The overarching principle of the EP is that there are no decision-making powers aligned to the any of bodies which will make up the governance structure of the EP; and that these bodies should be focused on building consensus as to the best way to proceed on issues. Once consensus is reached on a matter, if a decision is

	required by, for an example, a Local Authority, the matter must be passed forward to that the Local Authority for a decision to be reached through that Local Authority's established governance.
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>	(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of the EP will assist in reducing social exclusion by improving access for the young, elderly, unemployed/low waged and people with disabilities.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The main risk associated with the programme is that any significant underspend or failure to deliver schemes that have external funding linked to them may lead to a loss of that funding and jeopardise the potential to secure additional funding in future years.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Proposals within the BSIP, to be developed through the EP, will assist in improving safety and security for the travelling public
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	None
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	The EP will be a crucial element in providing a sustainable transport system capable of supporting Northumberland's environmental, social, and economic objectives. It seeks to reduce car dependence and increase sustainable travel, thereby contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Improving opportunities for sustainable travel through improved bus services will encourage more activity and benefit health by improving air quality.
<b>Wards</b>	All wards

**Background papers:**

- [National Bus Strategy](#)
- [National bus strategy: bus service improvement plans – guidance to local authorities and bus operators](#)

## **Report sign off**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Helen Lancaster
Service Director Finance & Deputy S151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Service Director	Rick O'Farrell
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wojciech Ploszaj

## **Report Author**

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## Northumberland County Council

### CABINET

10 MAY 2022

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### Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group

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**Report of:** Jan Willis, Interim Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

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#### 1. Purpose of Report

The following report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group via email on 1 April 2022.

#### 2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

##### 2.1 Winter Weather Stations:

Approve a proposal to replace end of life equipment at the Council's existing winter service weather stations and at the same time create four new weather forecasting sites at a total cost of £400,000 funded through the Winter Services Weather Stations Budget allocation included in 2022-23 of the Council's Medium Term Plan 2022-26.

##### 2.2 Strategic Regeneration Projects:

- Approve the reallocation of the specified sums within the Strategic Regeneration Projects Budget as per Table 1 in paragraph 7.3 below to the unallocated sum to facilitate greater flexibility in responding to emerging regeneration initiatives and opportunities.
- Approve the re-profiling of the Strategic Regeneration Projects Budget as set out in Table 2 in paragraph 7.8 below whilst reaffirming the

criteria by which the funding from the Budget will be released as set out in paragraph 7.11 below.

### **2.3 Port of Berwick Pilot Boat:**

Subject to the approval of recommendation 2.3 above, approve the provision of a one-off grant for £60,000 funded from the Strategic Regeneration Budget to the Berwick Harbour Commission for the purchase of a replacement Pilot Boat that will safeguard the commercial operations of the Port of Berwick.

### **2.4 Great Northumberland Forest**

Accept a grant of £1.6m from the national Nature for climate Fund into the Medium Term Financial Plan. The grant will be paid in three equal instalments over the next 3 years and used to fund the Great Northumberland Forest initiatives detailed below.

### **2.5 Fire and Rescue Risk Critical Equipment**

Approve the re-profiling of the FRS Risk Critical Equipment project in the Medium Term Plan as set out in paragraph 11.7 below, noting that there is no overall increase to the total budget line.

### **2.6 Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub**

Approve an increase in the overall budget provision for the Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub project of £60,000 to a total of £1,915,000 to be funded via a Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) from the Communities Together revenue budget following receipt of funding from North of Tyne.

## **3. Links to Corporate Plan**

The Council's Capital Programme is consistent with the priorities in the Corporate Plan in particular the 'Living', 'Enjoying' and 'Thriving' priorities.

## **4. Background**

This paper summarises reports considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group on the allocation of funding within the Medium Term Plan to specific projects.

## SUMMARY OF NEW CAPITAL PROPOSALS CONSIDERED BY OFFICER CAPITAL STRATEGY GROUP VIA EMAIL ON 1 APRIL 2022

### 5. Winter Services Weather Stations

- 5.1 The Group was asked to consider a proposal to replace equipment at all existing weather station sites and create an additional four new weather forecasting sites to enhance data collection across the county.

#### Background

- 5.2 Northumberland has a limited number of ROSA roadside winter weather stations across the network, with access to additional stations across the Northeast region which are owned by neighbouring authorities or contractors. The current equipment in place across the Northumberland network was installed in 1998 and 1999 and consists of the Vaisala ROSA weather station. These stations will no longer be supported by Vaisala beyond 2022.
- 5.3 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty on highway authorities to maintain highways. In particular, Section 41 (1A) imposes a duty on highway authorities *“to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.”* In relation to this duty, *“it is a defence to prove that the authority had taken such care as in all the circumstances was reasonably required to secure that the part of the highway to which the action relates was not dangerous for traffic.”*
- 5.4 The council uses the live and historical data gathered from the weather stations in conjunction with specialist weather forecasters to make critical decisions on winter services actions on the treatment of the road network each day to ensure the safety of the travelling public, and also uses the data to support its defence should any claims for injuries or damage be received.
- 5.5 The county is set up in climatic domains/zones and the existing sites give critical data to the forecasting company and winter services team to deliver the service during the winter months. However, the current station setup gives the Council limited knowledge of the temperature and conditions across the extensive road network and on marginal forecast nights (road temperatures at or around zero degrees) we have to send out the entire fleet of 28 gritters to cover the network. A wider network of stations would allow increased knowledge and the ability to target salt treatments to specific routes on marginal nights, with the potential for cost savings in both salt and staff/fuel.

## Proposal

5.6 The proposal is to upgrade the existing 7 Northumberland ROSA weather stations and to add an additional 4 new sites across the County. This will standardise our stations so we can gather more accurate and detailed forecasting and timely information on the road network condition. It will also allow the forecaster and winter services team to make more accurate and precise decisions.

5.7 This business case is predicated on the need to ensure that the County Council is able to continue to meet its statutory obligations as a highways authority in ensuring the safety of the network during winter weather conditions once the existing weather stations become redundant. However, it should be noted that this investment will enable the service to explore future efficiencies for the winter services operations. In particular the implementation of the new Exactrack automated salting equipment within the gritter fleet, along with more detailed forecasting information offers the potential to develop new treatment routes for 'marginal forecast nights' where a reduced fleet could target specific areas for treatment, rather than currently treating the entire network. It is envisaged that a review of treatment routes for marginal nights will therefore be undertaken after the new weather stations have been in operation over the winter of 2022/23, with any new routes for marginal nights coming into operation for 2023/24.

### 5.8 Existing Sites:

A189 North of Moor Farm  
A679 Longframlington  
A696 Raechester  
A69 Lipwood  
A698 Salutation  
A69 Mowden Hall  
A696 Ottercops

### Proposed New Sites:

A68 Top of Kiln Pit Hill  
A696/A68 Elishaw  
B1340 Swinhoe Crossroads  
Tynedale Location TBA

5.9 Cost of Proposal:

<b>Capital Elements</b>	<b>2022/23 £000</b>
11 x Weather Stations @ avg £25.3k	278,000
Power Supply for new sites	25,000
Civil Engineering Works for new sites	57,000
Contingency	40,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>400,000</b>

**CSG Recommendation**

5.10 The Group supported the proposal to replace the equipment at seven existing weather station sites and to create four new sites to improve coverage across the county at a total cost of £400,000 and recommends Cabinet to approve the project.

**6. Strategic Regeneration Budget**

6.1 The Group were asked to consider a proposal to reallocate a number of specified sums within the Strategic Regeneration Budget to unspecified sums and to reprofile the spend across the life of the Medium Term Plan.

**Background**

6.2 The Strategic Regeneration Budget was created in 2019 as a source of funding to enable the delivery of economic regeneration projects. At that time, its primary purpose was to provide a Council contribution to initiatives that would make a positive economic impact across the county whilst also unlocking further public and private funding.

6.3 On this basis, the original profile was predicated to a significant extent on potential Council contributions to the two sizeable “Deals” that were being negotiated at that time – namely the Blyth Town Deal and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. These legacy arrangements are still reflected in the Medium Term Plan as set out in Table 1 below, but the current status of these Deals has changed the rationale for this approach.

<b>Table 1 - Strategic Regeneration Budget allocations within the current MTFP</b>					
	<b>2022/23 £</b>	<b>2023/24 £</b>	<b>2024/25 £</b>	<b>2025/26 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Unallocated	2,000,000	1,700,000	2,000,000	4,379,990	<b>10,079,990</b>

Blyth Town Deal	0	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000
Borderlands - Place Programme	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	750,000	3,250,000
Borderlands - Hadrian's Wall	500,000	750,000	750,000	500,000	2,500,000
Borderlands - Business Programme	0	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000
Borderlands - Energy Programme	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>5,950,000</b>	<b>4,250,000</b>	<b>6,129,990</b>	<b>19,329,990</b>

6.4 Both the Deals have now been confirmed and approved by the UK Government. In the case of the Energising Blyth Programme, the required Council contributions have been incorporated directly into the capital programme, with a sizeable built-in contingency. In the case of Borderlands, it has become apparent that the programmes within the Deal (as opposed to the stand-alone projects such as Ad Gefrin Distillery and Berwick Theatre) are going to take longer to get to the point of financial drawdown. So, whilst these programmes remain in scope, any anticipated funding asks are not anticipated to come forward until 2023/24 at the earliest and more likely not until 2024/25. It is therefore difficult to predict anticipated annual spend until the business case development process for each programme is further advanced.

## Proposal

- 6.4.1 Given the scenario above, the funding allocations shown in red in Table 1 are no longer relevant and are now limiting the Council's ability to proactively respond to more immediate regeneration initiatives and opportunities. Any forthcoming funding asks for these Borderlands programmes will be considered through the normal process of consideration by the Capital Strategy Group and, subsequently, as appropriate, by Cabinet within the overall funding envelope of the Budget.
- 6.5 Obviously, since the Budget has been established, the prevailing economic context has also dramatically changed with the prolonged disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic and now more recently the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. This has resulted in significantly higher inflation and increased costs for building materials (most notably steel and timber) and labour which has directly impacted those projects that were already in the delivery pipeline.
- 6.6 On this basis, Cabinet has agreed, in recent months, to financially support those projects which have had limited scope to mitigate these additional funding pressures due to the delivery deadlines associated with their external funding deadlines. Examples include Ad Gefrin Distillery, Hexham High Street Heritage Action Zone, and Bedlington Town Centre Redevelopment.

6.7 This has placed unforeseen pressure on the resources currently available in the Budget in 2022/23 to the extent that the available allocation for this new financial year is already fully committed as set out in Table 2 below:

<b>Table 2 - Strategic Regeneration Budget Profile within the MTFP</b>					
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current MTFP Profile</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>5,950,000</b>	<b>4,250,000</b>	<b>6,129,990</b>	<b>19,329,990</b>
<b>Approved Commitments</b>					
Wooler Visitor Infrastructure	650,000	0	0	0	<b>650,000</b>
Hexham HSHAZ	835,000	0	0	0	<b>835,000</b>
A1068 Shilbottle Road Junction	550,000	950,000	0	0	<b>1,500,000</b>
Bedlington town centre	954,690	590,578	0	0	<b>1,545,268</b>
Hexham Town Centre	0	0	500,000	0	<b>500,000</b>
<b>Total Approved:</b>	<b>2,989,690</b>	<b>1,540,578</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,030,268</b>
<b>Current Unallocated Balance</b>	<b>10,310</b>	<b>4,409,422</b>	<b>3,750,000</b>	<b>6,129,990</b>	<b>14,299,722</b>
<b>Proposed revised profile</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,729,990</b>	<b>19,329,990</b>
<b>Proposed reprofiling</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>-950,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>-1,400,000</b>	<b>0</b>

6.8 However, it is already clear that there are a number of other projects in the delivery pipeline that potentially have legitimate funding asks that mirror those that have been recently approved by Cabinet.

6.9 This issue could be resolved by re-profiling the current resources within the Strategic Regeneration Budget, as shown in blue in Table 2 above, to a “flatter” annual profile whilst still maintaining the overall total held in the MTFP over the next four years.

6.10 It is important to reaffirm the rationale for the Strategic Regeneration Budget within the prevailing economic context. On this basis, it is proposed that for any project or initiative to be eligible for funding from the Budget, it needs to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The project will have a demonstrably positive impact on a place with the amount of Council funding requested representing good value for money either in terms of economic outcomes/outputs and/or matched funding.
- The project has been subject to unforeseen additional costs due to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that have been further exacerbated by the scope to mitigate those additional costs by the deadline requirements of an external funding source.
- The project contributes to the provision of place-based

infrastructure that if not provided would have a detrimental impact on or prevent wider regeneration activity – examples include road improvements and car parking provision, and the purchase of land to facilitate an inward investment opportunity.

## **CSG Recommendation**

6.12 The Group supported the proposals and recommends Cabinet to approve the reallocation of the specified sums within the Strategic Regeneration Budget as per Table 1 above to the unallocated sum to facilitate greater flexibility in responding to emerging regeneration initiatives and opportunities. The Group also recommends Cabinet to approve the re-profiling of the Strategic Regeneration Budget as set out in Table 2 above.

## **7. Port of Berwick Pilot Boat**

7.1 The Group were asked to consider a proposal to grant £60,000 to the Berwick Harbour Commission for the purchase of a replacement Pilot Boat that will safeguard the commercial operations of the Port of Berwick.

## **Background**

7.2 The overriding objective of Berwick Harbour Commission is to protect and stabilise the financial position of Berwick Port by promoting existing commercial trade and developing other income streams. This will in turn protect jobs within the harbour, support local businesses and jobs with essential trade opportunities, whilst also ensuring long term benefits that the Port brings to the town of Berwick for future generations of residents and tourists. The Harbour Commissioners recognise that this overriding objective can be achieved whilst working in conjunction with the town of Berwick and Northumberland County Council in the provision of services such as parking, public toilets plus in the support for tourism and provision of leisure amenities.

7.3 Historically Berwick Harbour has operated a small commercial port serving the local area requirement to import and export dry bulk cargoes such as grain and fertilizer. It also serves as a home port for a small number of fishing vessels, small leisure craft and a tourist boat. The site and harbour operations lend themselves to a wider scope of commercial utilisation and leisure activities in addition to the import and export of bulk cargoes. The future overall strategy is to view the Port as having two distinct areas of operation:

- Commercial operations – Handling and storing dry bulk cargoes with the stevedoring/piloting expertise we have within the operational capability of the harbour

- Local amenity and leisure – Developing an area separate to the commercial activity for visiting yachts, cruise passenger visits and management, restaurant facilities, communal area with public access toilets and a viewing area for bird watchers and other potential wildlife observers.

Whilst the purchase of the pilot boat is fundamental to the commercial operation of the port, it will also serve to increase the use and frequency of the harbour for leisure purposes which is currently sporadic and unstructured. The aim is to introduce regular boating trips for both residents and visitors to bird, dolphin, and whale watch as well as view the dark skies from the sea. The marketing of the harbour as a destination for visiting yachts and crafts will also be enhanced with a view to increasing the berthing areas.

- 7.4 However, at this juncture, the Harbour Commission has undervalued assets and low cash reserves. This obviously impedes their ability to fund new areas of investment. To improve this situation going forward, the Port's assets are being re-assessed and re-valued which will improve the borrowing capability of the Harbour Commission. In addition, discussions are ongoing with the Council to improve the visitor facilities and infrastructure at the Port within the context of the Borderlands Destination Tweed project whereby the site acts as the start/end of this long-distance route and thereby provides an orientation point. These visitor facilities would also provide additional capacity for visitors accessing the town centre and/or Spittal and Tweedmouth by car, coach or cruise ship – and generate additional income streams (café, bike hire, room hire, etc) for the Harbour Commission.

### **Key Issues**

- 7.5 In the short term the Harbour Commission has a cash flow issue and none of the above will be possible without the availability of a serviceable Pilot Boat. The nature of the harbour entrance is such that a Pilot Boat is essential as a mechanism to facilitate safe passage for the larger cargo ships into the docking facilities. In other words, without a serviceable Pilot Boat, the commercial operation of the port is curtailed.
- 7.6 The current Pilot Boat (St Boisil) is an ex-RNLI vessel that was built in 1973 (now 49 years old) that was converted to the pilot boat code when purchased by the Harbour Commission in 1986. The Pilot Boat code requires a comprehensive “out of water” survey every 5 years to comply with national legislation. St Boisil is currently 4 years into her certificate, with only 1 year remaining. Previous condition surveys estimate that repairs costing at least £23,000 will be required because of age related deficiencies. The operational risk to the port is that the current boat will be deemed too old to recertify and uneconomic to bring up to standards.

- 7.7 Given this context, the Harbour Commission has sourced a replacement Pilot Boat. The vessel (Triton), based at Port of Sunderland, is a purpose-built Pilot Boat that was built in 2001 (21 years old). It has 4 years certification remaining and is in immaculate condition. The purchase of this vessel at a cost of £60,000 provides an opportunity to futureproof the operational requirements of the Port. As such, the Harbour Commission has requested a one-off grant from the Council to cover this capital investment.

### **CSG Recommendation**

- 7.8 The Group supported the proposal and recommends Cabinet to approve a grant of £60,000 to the Berwick Harbour Commission for the purchase of a replacement Pilot Boat that will safeguard the commercial operations of the Port of Berwick to be funded from the Strategic Regeneration Budget.

## **8 Great Northumberland Forest**

- 8.1 The Group were asked to consider acceptance of a grant of £1.6m from the national Nature for Climate fund to support the Great Northumberland forest initiative.

### **Background**

- 8.2 The Great Northumberland Forest (GNF) initiative was announced by Government in September 2019. Since then, over 700ha of woodland creation and 240,000 trees (in individual tree to small copse schemes) have been planted. These have been delivered through Forestry Commission Grants, Forestry England delivery, Countryside Stewardship, Green Recovery and private financed schemes.
- 8.3 Equally, the pipeline for future woodland creation is also looking healthy with over 800ha planned for this season and approx. 3,000ha awaiting to processed via the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) application process. However, this does have a focus on a smaller number of larger landowners and is subject to the regulatory process.
- 8.4 Maintaining this momentum and generating more interest, especially with medium-smaller landowners and in areas which are least constrained, needs greater proactive promotion of the offers available, improved support through the planning, regulatory and delivery process, and providing opportunities at smaller scales to convince landowners of the benefits of trees on their land. Through initial mapping and targeting work, over 110,000ha of potential woodland creation has been identified across the county which is “low risk” and would deliver significant ecosystem services. The priority for the partnership is to unlock this potential.
- 8.5 To help facilitate this work, Defra gives the Council an annual revenue allocation from the national Nature for Climate (NfC) Fund that funds a

dedicated delivery team of 4 staff to be employed. The role of this team is to coordinate and promote tree and woodland planting, particularly in this “low risk area” in collaboration with the Northumberland Woodland Creation Partnership (WCP).

8.6 To complement this, the GNF has now successfully secured capital funding over the next three years from the NfC Fund. This funding will be targeted at filling the gaps in the existing national tree planting grant opportunities with the aim being to facilitate positive experiences, build confidence and unlock opportunities to do more.

8.7 The details of the three capital initiatives are summarised in the table below. Each takes the form of grants to third parties to promote new and/or larger tree planting schemes. As such, any subsequent maintenance costs associated with any tree planting is the responsibility of the relevant third party.

Project	Description	Planting Delivery
Northumberland Trees on Your Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible bespoke proposal covering actual costs for trees, protection and planting/establishment.</li> <li>• Targeted at creation of new wood pasture and parkland, individual to small groups of trees, hedgerows and small shelterbelts/woodlands which would not fit the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) criteria.</li> <li>• Specific focus on delivering agroforestry schemes at scale.</li> <li>• No limit/minimum requirements on number of trees or percentage of native species.</li> <li>• Funding to include squirrel and deer control to support woodland establishment.</li> <li>• Co-financing opportunity with potential private sponsors/companies to provide match funding / tree packs</li> </ul>	Up to 90 hectares
Woodland Creation and Management Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For areas less than 5ha, and existing woodland management advice (to start the conversation with the potential to lead to woodland creation opportunities)</li> <li>• Provide funding to cover desk-based assessments for schemes less than 5ha (where GNF team do not have capacity to deliver directly)</li> <li>• Provide funding to develop design concept and cover survey costs (again (where GNF team do not have capacity to deliver directly)</li> <li>• Working on a total value of £3k per scheme. However, not every scheme will require the full suite of surveys so likely to be able to do more</li> </ul>	Up to 70 schemes totalling 210 hectares

	<p>than stated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a proposal is approved, then it can progress to EIA / EWCO application (or other grant funding support)</li> </ul>	
Strategic Acquisition Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource for partners to purchase land which has the potential to link and/or expand existing woodland / woodland creation opportunities.</li> <li>Co-financing opportunity to work with charities/organisations including Northumberland Wildlife Trust, LGA Foundation, National Trust and Forestry England to enhance/add value to the proposal.</li> <li>Not looking at significant scale but more to find appropriate links to other woodlands and projects in partnership supporting nature recovery so working on an average estimated land value of £15k/ha</li> </ul>	Up to 15 hectares

8.8 The funding breakdown for these three initiatives over the next 3 years, which will be 100% resourced from the NfC Fund is as follows:

Project	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Total £
Northumberland Trees on Your Land	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Woodland Creation and Management Support	85,000	85,000	80,000	250,000
Strategic Acquisition Grant	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Project Management	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>535,000</b>	<b>535,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>

## CSG Recommendation

8.9 The Group supported the proposal and recommends Cabinet to accept the grant of £1.6m from the national Nature for Climate fund to support the Great Northumberland Forest initiatives as detailed above and add to the capital programme.

## 9 Fire and Rescue Risk Critical Equipment

9.1 The Group were asked to consider a request to reprofile the FRS Risk Critical Equipment project within the Medium Term Plan.

### Background

- 9.2 Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) has an ongoing programme to replace risk critical equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE) at the end of life. This equipment is required to maintain the current emergency service provision to protect the communities within Northumberland and to ensure that firefighters are adequately protected whilst carrying out their duties. This commitment reflects the Fire Authority and the NFRS commitment to community and firefighter safety.
- 9.3 During 2021, a number of ‘New Project Bid Applications’ were submitted to NCC to inform the Medium-Term Capital Programme. One of these applications was to fund the ‘Risk Critical Equipment and PPE Replacement Programme’. The application, which totals £697,780 covers the financial years of April 2023 to March 2026. The application was based upon the equipment/PPE replacement requirement known at that time.
- 9.4 During late 2021, NFRS became aware of British Standard BS8617:2019 – Personal protective equipment for firefighters – Cleaning, maintenance and repair – Code of Practice. Section 10.2 of the British Standard provides recommendations for ‘Retirement and Disposal’ of PPE used for firefighting, stating:  
*‘Irrespective of condition, items of firefighters’ PPE **should** be retired no more than 10 years from the date of manufacture, or after the end of the lifespan as determined by the manufacturer, whichever is shorter.’*
- 9.5 An audit of the date of manufacture of current PPE issued within NFRS has been conducted and it is apparent that for NFRS to comply with the recommendations of the British Standard that the proposed replacement programme needs to be brought forward by one year.

## Proposal

9.6 It is proposed to realign the PPE element of the Risk Critical Equipment Budget to reflect the revised replacement profile, as identified during the recent audit conducted by the Service. The original and revised capital profiles are shown in the table below. It is important to note that there is no request for additional capital funding over and above the original capital funding included in the Medium Term Plan.

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Total £
<b>Current MTFP Profile</b>	143,600	134,500	333,580	229,700	841,380
<b>Proposed Revised Profile</b>	248,100	136,080	335,700	121,500	841,380
<b>Proposed Reprofiling</b>	<b>104,500</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>-108,200</b>	<b>0</b>

## CSG Recommendation

9.7 The Group accepted the reasoning for the request and recommends Cabinet to approve the re-profiling of the FRS Risk Critical Equipment budget line in the Medium Term Plan as set out above.

## **10 Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub**

10.1 The Group were asked to consider a request to increase the budget for the refurbishment of Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub by £60,000 to be funded by Communities Together.

### **Background**

10.2 Approval was given by Cabinet in March 2020 for the allocation of £1,505,000 in the Council's Capital Programme for the partial refurbishment and remodeling of the Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub. The scope of works included improvements to the library, creation of a community café, enlargement of changing rooms, refurbishment of internal sports facilities and general redecoration throughout the building. The budget was subsequently increased to £1,855,000 following confirmation of a grant from the Football Foundation and a general uplift included in the revised Medium Term Financial Plan.

10.3 The proposed extent of the refurbishment in the community area of the building was limited due to budgetary constraints at the time. Since then, the Northumberland Communities Together team has secured North of Tyne funding which can be used to improve community facilities such as the one in Newbiggin. This has resulted in a proposed increase in the scope of works in the community area which will be funded from the Communities Together revenue budget as a Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO).

10.4 It is therefore requested that £60,000 additional funding be allocated to the existing capital budget and the overall project budget be increased accordingly from £1,855,000 to £1,915,000.

### **CSG Recommendation**

10.5 The Group supported the request and recommends Cabinet to approve an increase in the overall budget provision for the Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub project of £60,000 to a total of £1,915,000 to be funded via a Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) from Communities Together.

## Implications

<b>Policy</b>	The capital programme is part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022-26. The plan supports the Corporate Plan.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The report outlines proposed project allocations and amendments to the approved Capital programme. The financial implications of these proposals are outlined in the main body of the report.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no direct legal implications.
<b>Procurement</b>	In line with all other capital expenditure, the additional spend will be subject to the Council's recognised procurement procedures.
<b>Human Resources</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Property</b>	The properties affected by the proposals are identified in the main body of the report.
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The risks associated with the proposals are regarded as acceptable but these risks will continue to be reviewed up to and during implementation of the proposals.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	There are no Crime and Disorder implications.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	There are no Customer Considerations.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	Carbon Reduction measures have been considered within each project.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	There are no Health and Wellbeing implications.
<b>Wards</b>	All wards.

## Background Papers:

Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-26

## Report sign off:

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	<b>Name</b>
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer	Jan Willis

Cabinet: 10 May 2022

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Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder	Richard Wearmouth

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## Northumberland County Council

CABINET

10 MAY 2022

### NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

**Report of the Interim Senior Service Director, Phil Hunter**

**Responsible Member:** Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council

#### **Purpose of report**

To agree Cabinet’s nominations to outside bodies.

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet agree its nominations to the bodies detailed in the appendix attached to the report.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the Excellence and Quality priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2021-24.

#### **Key issues/Background**

There are a number of organisations which are independent from the Council, but have an impact on its service areas. In order that the Council can maintain effective partnerships with these organisations, elected councillors are nominated by Cabinet to sit on the various committees or boards that are responsible for them.

#### **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	The proposals are in line with the Council’s Constitution and legislation
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None

<b>Legal</b>	The proposals ensure the Council conforms with its Constitution and legislation
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	None
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Background papers:**

Council's Constitution

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis

Relevant Executive Director	N/A
Deputy Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell, obo Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder(s)	Glen Sanderson

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**Cabinet Appointments** (previous members shown for information)

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 1</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 2</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 3</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 4</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 5</b>	<b>Cllr Appointed 6</b>
<b>Advance Northumberland</b>	<b>Guy Renner Thompson</b>	<b>John Riddle</b>	<b>Jeff Watson</b>	<b>Jeff Reid</b>	<b>Steven Bridgett</b>	
<b>ANEC Limited – Leaders’ and Elected Mayors’ Group</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>					
<b>ANEC Limited – North East Cultural Partnership</b>	<b>Jeff Watson</b>					
<b>ANEC Limited – Resources Task and Finish Group</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth</b>					
<b>Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee of the Association of North East Councils</b>	<b>Wojciech Ploszaj</b>					
<b>Council of Management of Counties Furniture Group</b>	<b>Barry Flux</b>					
<b>County Councils Network - Council</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth</b>	<b>Barry Flux</b>	<b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b>		
<b>Industrial Communities Alliance</b>	<b>Brian Gallacher</b>	<b>Kath Nisbet (sub)</b>				
<b>LGA - Fire Commission</b>	<b>Gordon Stewart</b>					
<b>LGA - General Assembly</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth</b>	<b>Barry Flux</b>	<b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b>			
<b>LGA - Group Leaders</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>	<b>Scott Dickinson</b>				
<b>LGA - Leaders</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>					
<b>LGA Coastal Special Issues Group</b>	<b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b>					
<b>National Association of Councillors</b>	<b>Catherine Seymour</b>					
<b>NEREO</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth</b>	<b>Wojciech Ploszaj</b>	<b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b>	<b>Jeff Watson</b>		
<b>NEREO Executive Committee</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth</b>					
<b>Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee</b>	<b>Richard Dodd</b>					
<b>Newcastle Airport Holding Company</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>	<b>Richard Wearmouth (alternate)</b>				

<b>North East Migration Partnership</b>	<b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b>	<b>Wendy Pattison</b>				
<b>North Pennine Dales LEADER Local Action Group</b>	<b>Colin Horncastle</b>					
<b>Northumberland Tourism</b>	<b>Jeff Watson</b>					
<b>Northumberland, Tyne &amp; Wear NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors</b>	<b>Wendy Pattison</b>					
<b>Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Governing Body</b>	<b>Wendy Pattison</b>	<b>Gordon Stewart</b>				
<b>Safer Northumberland Partnership</b>	<b>Gordon Stewart</b>					
<b>The Joint OSC for the NE &amp; NC ICS &amp; North &amp; Central ICPs</b>	<b>Barry Flux</b>	<b>Kath Nisbet</b>	<b>V. Jones</b>	<b>John Riddle (alternate)</b>		
<b>Woodhorn Charitable Trust</b>	<b>Glen Sanderson</b>					