



Northumberland

County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Rebecca Greally

Email: rebecca.greally@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622616

Date: Friday, 1 April 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC** to be held in **MEETING SPACE, BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF** on **MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2022** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC members as follows:-

D Bawn (Chair), J Beynon, L Dunn (Vice-Chair), P Jackson, M Murphy, N Oliver, A Wallace, C Taylor, M Robinson and P Ezhilchelvan

Portfolio Holders: Councillors W. Ploszaj and R. Wearmouth.

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

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



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
www.northumberland.gov.uk



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
- 4)

Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC held on 7th March 2021, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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 Legal Services, on 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

(Pages 5
- 8)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the Committee.

5. BLYTH RELIEF ROAD

(Pages 9
- 18)

The purpose of the report is to provide 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.

Councillor Wojciech Ploszaj, Portfolio Holder for Business is required to attend for this item.

6. ADVANCE NORTHUMBERLAND

Members to receive a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer of Advance giving an overview and update on the work they are undertaking.

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services is requested to attend for this item.

7. BRITISH VOLT

(Pages
19 - 32)

Members to receive a presentation from the Executive Chairman of British Volt giving an update on the work they are undertaking.

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services is requested to attend for this item.

8. MONITORING REPORT

(Pages
33 - 38)

The Committee is asked to review and note the Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report for the 2021/22 council year.

9. 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.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the Meeting Space, Block 1, Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Monday, 7 March 2022 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillor D Bawn
(Chairman in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Beynon, J.
Dunn, E.
Ezhilchelvan, P.
Murphy, M.

Oliver, N.
Robinson, M.
Wallace, A.

OFFICERS

Brooks, P.

Earle, R.
Greally, R.

Masson, N.
Nicholson, S.
O'Farrell, R.
Taylor, M.
Willis, J.

Head of Northumberland
Communities Together
Chief Operating Officer
Assistant Democratic Services
Officer
Monitoring Officer
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Executive Director
Executive Director
Executive Director of Finance
(Section 151 Officer)

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor P. Jackson.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillor Murphy gave notice that she was in the process of being placed on the board for Advance.

20. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Forward Plan of forthcoming Key Cabinet decisions was reported to the Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan of key decisions be noted

21. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT UPDATE

M. Taylor, Executive Director introduced the report to the committee which was an update on the position from 31st December. P. Brooks, Head of Northumberland Communities Together, gave an overview of the report.

The following comments were made in response to member's questions:-

- Officers confirmed an Easter payment was allowed under the scheme as long as the payment was before the 31st March 2022 as that was when the Household support scheme ended.
- Members were assured that all referrals were triaged individually. The service looked at referral on an individual basis as every situation was different. There was no definitive ceiling to the funding that was provided, the funding provided was dependent on the situation and what the appropriate response was. It was confirmed that families were allowed to access the funding when needed and it was not a one-off intervention. Referrals were given the dignity and choice and where appropriate a cash first approach would be provided where referrals could receive necessary funds within minutes.
- Members were assured that Officers were confident that the allocated fund would be spent to support the residents who needed it. It was confirmed that referrals would not be turned away however it may have been more appropriate to connect them with other funded pathways to get the appropriate support.
- The scheme recognised Local Authorities' role to identify the vulnerable families within the area. It allowed discretion to the service which was important as vulnerability varies.
- The service was working with the Business Intelligence Team to provide ward level data and demographic information on those who had accessed the funding. They had started to map the allocation to create a 'heat map' which would be used to help plan targeted interventions in certain areas. Once the data was in an appropriate format it would be shared with members.
- Members would be provided with data that was related to third party funding from previous schemes identified in return reports.
- Members were reminded there were a number of routes in the service to receive funding. Referrals were received through trusted partners,

Councillors, pop up activities, targeted interventions and directly from the individual.

- Members thanked the Officers for their continued hard work.

RESOLVED members agreed to note and support the recommendations in the report.

24. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received an update on its Work Programme for the 2021/22 council year.

RESOLVED that this information was noted.

25. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

- (a) under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
9	3 - Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).
AND	The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because disclosure could adversely affect the business reputation or confidence in the person / organisation and could adversely affect commercial revenue.

25. TRADING COMPANIES' FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2021-22 – POSITION AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2021

Jan Willis, Interim Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director Regeneration and Robin Earl, Chief Operating Officer, Advance Northumberland presented this report to the Committee.

Members were happy to see a representative of Advance attend the meeting and felt the valuation in the report was encouraging. Members were advised that Officers would be attending a future meeting to present a more detailed report regarding Advance.

The financial structure of Advance was to be reviewed to ensure the business model was still fit for purpose. Since the creation of Advance's predecessor organisation, HMRC had changed laws on thin capitalisation rules which were broad enough to affect UK companies. These changes had not been envisaged at the time of creation and therefore needed to be strategically reviewed. If the model was to be changed members were assured that the NEP 1 contingency fund would not be used to facilitate this.

Members requested a further report be provided on the NEHL Group's activities and finances.

The Committee welcomed the report and supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED members agreed to note and support the recommendations in the report.

Chairman

Date

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS APRIL TO JULY 2022

DECISION	PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATE	CABINET DATE
<p>Blyth Relief Road To provide an update on progress made towards Blyth Relief Road and secure approval for next steps. The report will outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Route alignment proposals - Key information from the Outline Business Case - Next steps <p>(W. Ploszaj/S. McNaughton 07827 873139)</p>	<p>CSEG OSC 11 April 2022</p>	<p>12 April 2022</p>
<p>Berwick Partnership Organisation This report sets out the findings of the informal meetings that have taken place with schools in the Berwick Partnership since April 2021 to discuss the organisational issues facing the partnership and to identify 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 are also included in the report. Cabinet is also asked to permit the initiation of a further period of informal consultation with 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. (G. Renner Thompson/S. Aviston - 01670 622281)</p>	<p>FACS OSC 7 April 2022</p>	<p>12 April 2022 Council 4 May 2022</p>
<p>Procurement of Specialist Dementia Service The report will seek approval for funding of a Specialist Dementia Service. Cost of the service is approximately £967,000 per year. The costs will be shared with the NHS and</p>	<p>HWB OSC TBC</p>	<p>12 April 2022</p>

come from within existing resource. (W. Pattison/Neil Bradley 01670 622868)		
Biodiversity Net Gain and New Burdens Funding The Environment Act 2021 introduces significant changes to the way in which planning applications will be determined by imposing a requirement to demonstrate a net gain in the value of habitats as a result of the development process, achieved through their creation on or off the development site. The Act imposes a range of new duties for Local Planning Authorities to oversee, verify and monitor this process. This report sets out the resource implications for the Planning Service arising from the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain, the new burdens funding being provided by Defra and the uncertainties created by that, and explores options to address these. (C. Horncastle/D. Feige 01670 622653)	C&P OSC 6 April 2022	10 May 2022
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2022-25 To update on Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and proposals for increasing provision across the next three years. (G. Sanderson/ Matt Baker 07957 385638)	C&P OSC 11 May 2022	10 May 2022
Financial Performance 2021-22 – Provisional Outturn 2021-22 The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue financial position as at Provisional Outturn for the Council against the Budget for 2021-22 (R. Wearmouth/S. Dent 01670 625515)	N/A	7 June 2022
Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2021-22 - Position at the end of March 2022 The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2021-22 (R. Wearmouth/M. Calvert - 01670 620197) (Confidential report)	CSEG OSC 6 June 2022	7 June 2022

<p>Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2022-23 - Position at the end of June 2022</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2022-23</p> <p>(R. Wearmouth/M. Calvert - 01670 620197)</p> <p>(Confidential report)</p>	12 September 2022	13 September 2022
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CABINET

12 APRIL 2022

BLYTH RELIEF ROAD

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

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wojciech Ploszaj, Portfolio Holder for Business

Purpose of report

To provide 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.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- **Note the progress of the project to date**
- **Confirm the revised Route 5 as the preferred option to take forward to a public engagement exercise**
- **Request that full Council endorses 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**

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “connecting” and “thriving” priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan.

Key issues

Significant growth in traffic is expected across the Blyth network associated with the delivery of the Local Plan. The transport network, in its current form, does not have the available capacity to accommodate this growth.

Following further design and consultation on the previous preferred alignment, a series of risks have materialised that would prevent route 3 from being taken forward.

The recommendation is that Route 5 (the realignment of the existing A1061 Laverock Hall Road to provide a direct dual carriageway connection between the A192 Three Horse Shoes Roundabout and the A193 South Beach; with a new complementary link proposed between Chase Farm Drive and Ogle Drive, also joining up with Tynedale Drive) is identified as the preferred route alignment.

The National Roads Fund for the Major Road Network has emerged as a viable opportunity to fund delivery of the scheme. An Outline Business Case will be submitted to the Department for Transport in April 2022.

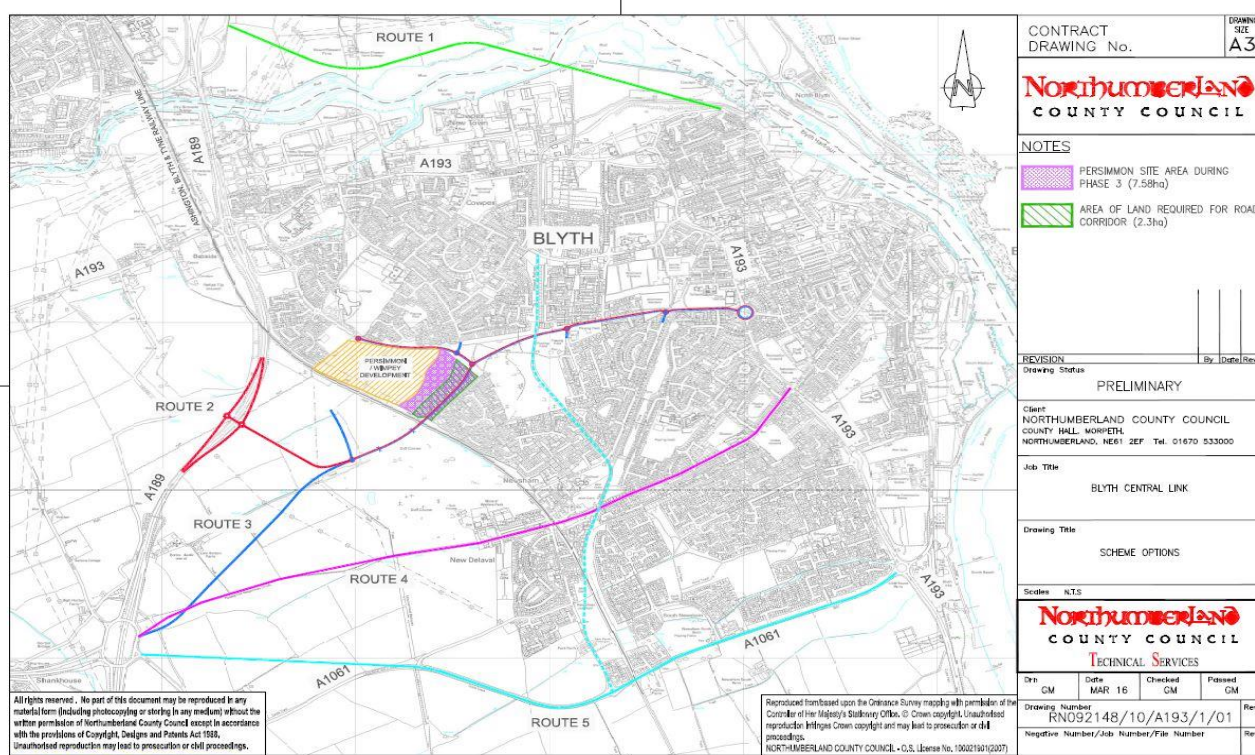
Blyth Relief Road has been included in the Forward Plan as a key decision for the council.

BACKGROUND

Progress to Date

1. The town of Blyth plays a key role in the regional economy, with the £70 million 'Energising Blyth' programme of investment aimed at making Blyth a thriving UK and international centre of renewable energy and advanced manufacturing growth and innovation. The proposed investment presents a real opportunity to grow the economy of Blyth and the wider area. To ensure this economic growth becomes reality, it is essential that the links are in place to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and to facilitate more sustainable transport solutions, such as improved walking and cycling links and better access to the proposed Northumberland Line railway stations.
2. Northumberland County Council has been aware of traffic problems entering and leaving Blyth for several years. The two main roads into Blyth, the A193 Cowpen Road and A1061 Laverock Hall Road are heavily congested with over 20,000 vehicles a day on each road. In the long term, an increase in traffic is expected across the Blyth network associated with the delivery of the Local Plan. The transport network, in its current form, does not have the available capacity to accommodate this growth.
3. Congestion adversely affects the economic potential of the area, the movement of people and goods, particularly to and from the Port of Blyth, and has a harmful effect upon the environment through exhaust emissions from vehicles. The reliability of buses is also affected, particularly during peak hours, with the existing roads into Blyth highlighted by bus operators as causing delays to services. Congested roads also impact on the attractiveness of Blyth as a place to walk and cycle.
4. A Blyth Transport Study in 2015 noted several options, including additional radial capacity. Based on the outcome of early feasibility work, three east-west alignments (Routes 3, 4 and 5) were selected from an initial shortlist of 5, for detailed appraisal (shown on Map 1).

Map 1 – Route Option Alignments



5. In July 2019, Cabinet approved Route 3 as the preferred route to take forward to detailed design and planning, with a recommendation to support a Major Road Network (MRN) National Roads Fund application. However, subsequent design work and consultation on this scheme identified several major project risks, the most significant being the construction of houses on the route alignment to the east of the railway line. The outcome of this process is that the project team do not now believe that Route 3 is deliverable.
6. Route 5, the realignment and dualling of the existing A1061 Laverock Hall Road to provide a direct dual carriageway connection between the A192 Three Horse Shoes Roundabout and the A193 South Beach, has been identified as the next best performing option as shown in Map 2. A new complementary link is also proposed between Chase Farm Drive and Ogle Drive, also joining up with Tynedale Drive. This was previously part of Route 3 and allows for congestion relief along Cowpen Road.

Map 2 – Preferred Route Alignment – Route 5



7. The key components of Route 5 will include:

- New dual carriageway and upgrade of existing carriageway to dual carriageway with junction improvements between the A192 Three Horse Shoes Roundabout and the A193 South Beach.
- A 3 metre wide segregated cycle path along the length of the new route.
- Dualling of a proposed bridge over the Northumberland railway line (a single carriageway bridge will be constructed as part of the Northumberland Line scheme).
- Additional new link tying Chase Farm Drive, Tynedale Drive and Ogle Drive.

Outline Business Case

8. The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the scheme has been updated to reflect the new road alignment and is scheduled to be submitted to the Department of Transport later in April 2022. The OBC demonstrates that the following four strategic objects will be achieved by the scheme:

- Journey time reliability: Improved journey time reliability across the local highway network in Blyth, particularly along the A193 Cowpen Road and the A1061.
- Road safety: Reduced road traffic accidents amongst all vehicle users on the local highway network in Blyth.
- Air quality: Improved air quality in Blyth by reducing traffic congestion; and

- Development: Facilitates economic and housing development by removing barriers to growth.
9. The current cost estimate for route 5 is **£43,929,091** and demonstrates high value for money. The project programme sets out the following key milestones:
- £ Submission of planning application – July 2023
 - £ Determination of planning decision – July 2024
 - £ Full Business Case submitted to DfT – July 2024
 - £ Start of Construction – November 2024
 - £ Scheme open to public – February 2026

Major Road Network Funding

10. The Major Road Network (MRN) will form a middle tier of the country's busiest and most economically important local authority 'A' roads, sitting between the national Strategic Road Network (SRN) and the rest of the local road network. A specific funding stream has been dedicated to major improvements on MRN roads.
11. At the Budget in October 2018, the Government announced the National Roads Fund (NRF) would be £28.8 billion between 2020-2025, £3.5 billion of which is expected to be spent nationally on major improvement schemes on those local roads designated as part of the MRN.
12. Transport for the North (TfN) has worked with partners across the north to compile a list of priority MRN investments across the TfN area for the period April 2020 to March 2025. Blyth Relief Road has been included on this priority list given that it:
- Meets many of the MRN central objectives (it would reduce congestion; support economic growth and rebalancing; support housing delivery; and support all road users).
 - Is eligible for MRN funding (it provides a new alignment on the MRN alleviating congestion and making through journeys quicker, safer, and more reliable).
 - Falls within the funding envelope (£20m to £50m) of the MRN.
 - The scheme is at Outline Business Case level so is well developed.
13. The County Council budget, approved in February 2022, includes a four-year allocation of £2,690,000 from the Council. In addition, there is a further allocation of £25,593,000 identified in paragraph 145 of the budget report for financial year 2026/27 which extends beyond the period of the current administration. Of this additional allocation, £3,899,363 is required as NCC funding meaning a total NCC contribution of £6,589,363 towards the project. This meets the 15% local match funding contribution which is a condition of accessing the National Roads Fund. The National Roads Fund contribution will be capped at £37,339,728.

14. Council endorsement of the Outline Business Case is required in the form of a separate letter from the S151 officer. This sign-off will acknowledge the requirement to maintain the 15% local match funding contribution to the project to access the National Roads Fund and that the NRF contribution to the project will be capped at £37,339,728. This is not a full commitment to deliver the project. Any future cost increases, should they arise, will be considered in a future report to the Council where a funding strategy, including options to secure the additional funds will be set out.
15. Further approval gateways will be required by Cabinet at key project milestones including prior to submission of the planning application (July 2023) and prior to submission of the Full Business Case (July 2024).

Stakeholder Engagement

16. A public engagement exercise was carried out in the early Spring of 2019, at the time of the consultation Route 3 was the preferred route. The public consultation supported proposals for extra road capacity in the town with agreement that Route 3 should be the preferred route on which to progress the scheme.
17. It is therefore proposed further public engagements should take place with Route 5 as the preferred route to obtain views on this option. It is anticipated that this takes place both online and face to face and will commence in June 2022.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy	<p>The Northumberland Local Plan, as submitted for examination in May 2019 states explicit support for the delivery of a relief road for Blyth.</p> <p>The North East Transport Plan identifies Blyth Relief Road as a scheme for delivery in the next five years.</p>
Finance and value for money	<p>The current cost estimate for Route 5 is £43,929,091 and demonstrates high value for money. This cost estimate contains risk appropriate to the stage of development.</p> <p>A standard level of inflation has been assumed with any inflation uncertainties captured in the quantified risk assessment.</p> <p>The County Council budget approved in February 2022 includes a four-year allocation of £2,690,000 from the Council. In addition, there is a further allocation of £25,593,000 identified in paragraph 145 of the budget report for financial year 2026/27 which extends beyond the period of the current administration. Of this additional allocation, £3,899,363 is required as NCC funding which sums to a total NCC contribution of £6,589,363 towards the project. This meets the 15% local match funding contribution which is a condition of accessing the National Roads Fund.</p>

	County Council endorsement of the Outline Business Case is required in the form of a separate letter from the S151 officer. This sign-off will need acknowledge the requirement to maintain the 15% local match funding contribution to the project to access the National Roads Fund. This is not a full commitment to deliver the project and any future cost increases, if they arise, will be set out in a future report for consideration by Cabinet.
Legal	Legal orders will be required to support scheme delivery. Early engagement has commenced with NCC Legal team.
Procurement	The Council's procurement team will be consulted on the procurement route which would be necessary to undertake the next phase of the project.
Human Resources	In house design resources will be utilised as the scheme is developed.
Property	N/A
Equalities	<p>(Impact Assessment attached)</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No X N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>This will be considered as part of the detailed design of the scheme.</p>
Risk Assessment	<p>It is important to note that the successful delivery of this scheme will be dependent upon several key factors. A number of possible constraints exist, and these have been summarised below and are supported by a detailed risk register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic issues, for example changes in Government transport policy and funding landscape could impact delivery of scheme. • Change in appraisal guidance, or in gaining formal 'sign-off' from funding decision makers may delay delivery. • Changes in the outturn costs of the scheme could impact on the value for money of the scheme. • To date limited environmental surveys have been undertaken and this could identify new habitats or wildlife that need to be considered in the scheme development. • Public consultation outcomes. • The scheme has only been developed to feasibility stage and detailed design could highlight further issues. • Problems could be encountered when seeking the necessary approvals to construct the scheme. • Option 5 requires the purchase of land and discussions with landowners are ongoing. • A bridge over the railway is being constructed as part of the Northumberland Line scheme. However, this will need to be dualled as part of the Blyth Relief Road proposals. This will need to be undertaken to minimise disruption to the railway network.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 5 would affect utilities at several locations.
Crime & Disorder	None at this stage.
Customer Consideration	A detailed stakeholder consultation exercise was carried out in the Spring of 2019. Further public engagement will take place in June 2022 supported by a communication plan for the scheme.
Carbon reduction	<p>The declaration of a climate emergency demonstrates the council's commitment to responding to climate change.</p> <p>However, this also recognises that improvements and additions to the road network will also still be considered albeit in the light of future anticipated demand within a low carbon context. In the immediate future, priority will be given to removing pinch points and addressing congestion where there is a detrimental impact on air quality.</p> <p>Cowpen Road in Blyth is one example where the flow of traffic is such that the air quality levels at peak times reaches unacceptable levels. Various traffic management solutions have been introduced but the problems persist. The Council therefore considers it necessary to ease traffic flows through the construction of a new relief road for Blyth.</p> <p>A Carbon Management Plan will be developed alongside the business case for the scheme.</p>
Wards	All wards within Blyth will be affected by this proposal.

Background papers:

[Cabinet Report July 2019](#)

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Helen Lancaster
S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Rick O'Farrell
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wojciech Ploszaj

Author and Contact Details

Stuart McNaughton
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Stuart.McNaughton@northumberland.gov.uk

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Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Peter Rolton
Executive Chairman

We have significantly grown our team in the last 18 months from our inception, with world-class talent from the automotive and battery sector

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Management Team



Orral Nadjari
Founder / CEO



Peter Rolton
Executive Chairman



Graham Hoare OBE
President of
Global Operations



Isobel Sheldon OBE
Chief Strategy Officer



Allan Paterson
Chief Technology Officer



Timon Orlob
Chief Operating Officer



Ray Macera
Chief Projects Officer



William Reynolds
Chief Financial Officer



Tom Cowling
Chief Governance Officer



Oliver Jones
Chief Commercial Officer



Richard LeCain
Head of Cell and Process
Development



Daniel Griffiths
Chief Human Resources
Officer



Anna Vujovic
Head of Business
Development North America



Saideh Yahyavi
Chief Legal Officer



Kasra Pezeshki
Chief Investment Officer




Phillippe Couillard
Chairman Britishvolt Canada


Proven Industry Experience




Board Members




Lord Chadlington
Member of Main Board




Joe Bakaj
Vice Chairman of the Board




William Harrison
Member of Main Board




Sir Michael Snyder
Member of Main Board




Charles Morgan
Member of Main Board




Sebastiaan Welling
Member of the Advisory Board



Sacha Dench
Member of the Advisory Board



Jon Sigurdson
Member of the Advisory Board



Nick Spencer
Member of the Advisory Board

■ Main Board

■ Advisory Board



The three pillars of failure in the battery EV market

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Capacity failure

- EV battery demand in Europe and North America is set to grow by 34% CAGR to 2030¹
- Planned battery demand is forecast to outstrip supply by 378GWh in Europe and 284GWh in North America²



Technology failure

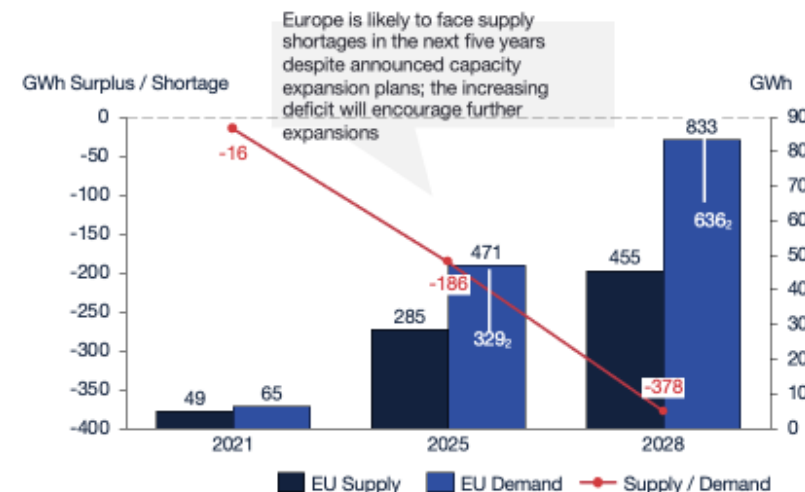
- Lack of differentiation for the highest value part of the EV (the battery)
- The engine has historically been the differentiator for OEMs, and this is rapidly disappearing
- Battery manufacturers have not been able to provide a differentiated battery for OEMs



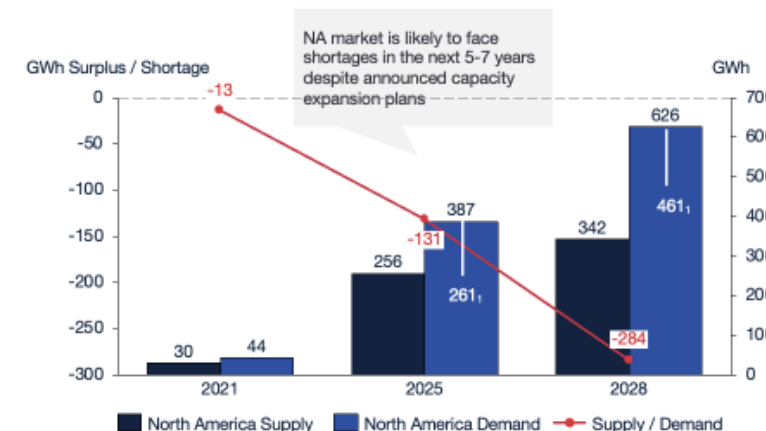
Environmental failure (ESG)

- The battery manufacturing industry has 'happened' rather than evolved in planned way
- The ESG agenda is currently non-core in the battery industry
- As we move to decarbonize our world, we must do it in the right way; tracking and eliminating carbon is vital to sustainable production

European EV battery supply-demand outlook
2021 – 2028f (GWh)



North America EV battery supply-demand outlook
2021 – 2028f (GWh)



We are uniquely positioned to take advantage of unprecedented growth in the battery market – focusing on the unmet need for more tailored, sustainable and locally sourced batteries

A proposition that aligns to customer priorities of quality and performance that is both sustainable and cost competitive

Customised and co-developed

- **Advanced materials and battery innovation** to improve performance
- **Customised and co-developed** products to meet customer specifications
- **Improved innovation outcomes** through supply chain collaboration



Sustainable

- **Ethical and sustainable** materials through transparent sourcing
- **Efficient and renewable energy** consumption
- **Localised battery recycling** capabilities

Cost competitive

- **Deeply networked** with a strong R&D partnerships including UKBIC and The Faraday Institution
- **Optimised manufacturing** operations and footprint
- Focused on **continuous improvement** across technology, manufacturing and operations
- Favourable **government policies** and wide political support for **Gigaplast development**

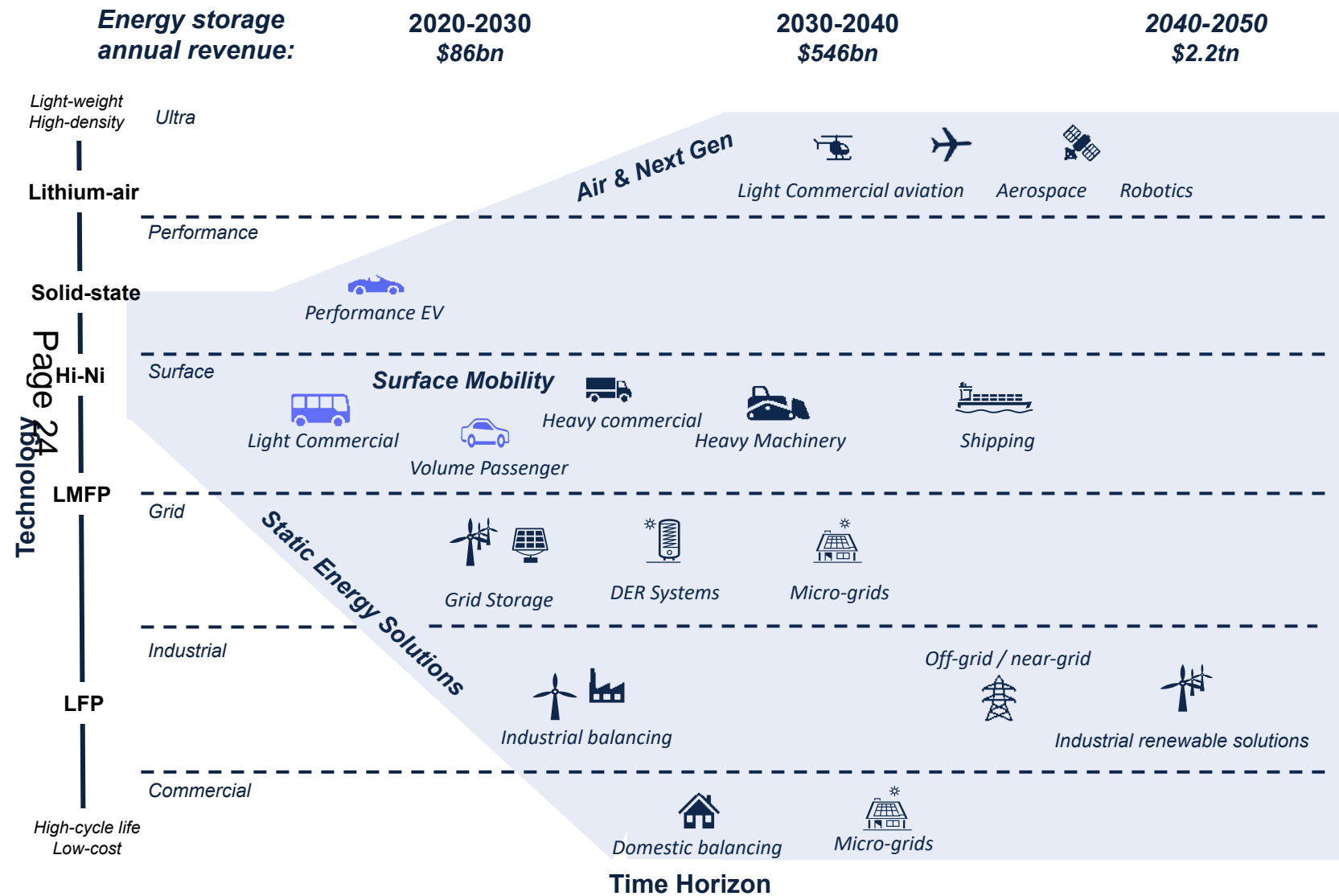


Localised supply

- Strong end-to-end **supply chain coordination and collaboration**
- **Reduced working capital** through local manufacturing
- **De-coupled from fragile supply chains** through localisation



We have a long-term vision to expand our product offering globally to provide clean energy storage that supports the wider global energy transition



Delivering a world-class battery solution through initial focus on EV performance and light commercial vehicles



Leverage our role in the world-class UK R&D ecosystem to operate as a technology leader in the market




Utilise technology feedback loops and R&D capability to develop suite of solutions for different markets as they mature




Selectively enter attractive markets, using our technical capability as a key differentiator


Our rapidly growing world-class team of battery experts has deep public and private networks – we are putting ourselves at the heart of the UK battery ecosystem



1
world-class ecosystem



10s
of innovative partners



100s
of pioneering individuals

We will continue to lead and utilise the UK R&D battery ecosystem to harness the best talent, make best use of resource available to us and ensure we are at the forefront of battery technology advancements.

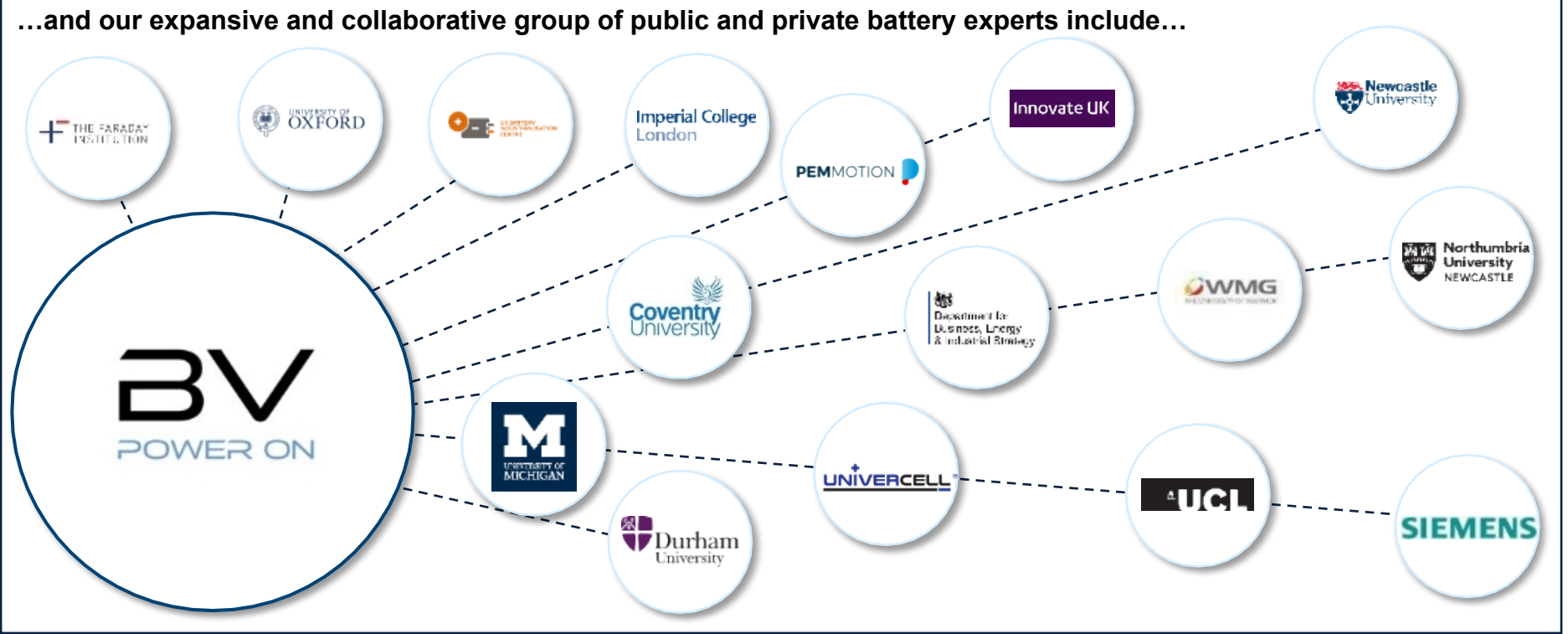
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Isobel Sheldon OBE
Chief Strategy Officer
20+ years of lithium ion battery industry experience



Dr. Allan Paterson
Chief Technology Officer
20+ years of battery industry experience



Note: 1. Britishvolt ecosystem not exhaustive
Source: Britishvolt, University websites

We have secured a ground-breaking first Gigaplant site in Blyth, UK, recognised by our peers for its ideal location close to critical infrastructure

We have secured the UK's **leading Gigaplant site in Blyth, Northumberland** as well as **wider land ownership** (~3m sq ft of further development), with associated **planning permission granted on 6th July 2021**.

The site was selected after a rigorous selection process and is one of the best UK sites for a Gigaplant due to the high maturity of surrounding critical infrastructure¹:



Water supply

Secure supply through private borehole facilities with **~2bn litre p.a. capacity** for both main site and supplier park occupants

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North Sea Link Interconnector

£1.8bn investment joint venture between National Grid and Norwegian counterpart; **~1.4GWh capacity** providing enhanced energy security commissioned from Q321



National Grid Substation

Secured grid connection offer for required capacity; securing equivalent position would require 5 year lead time and c. £50m+ capital investment



Railhead

Existing freight railhead to be reinstated, providing **supply chain flexibility and efficiency**



Private substation and grid for full estate

Ensures **control of supply for the Gigaplant** and opportunity to provide power to other supplier park occupants as needed



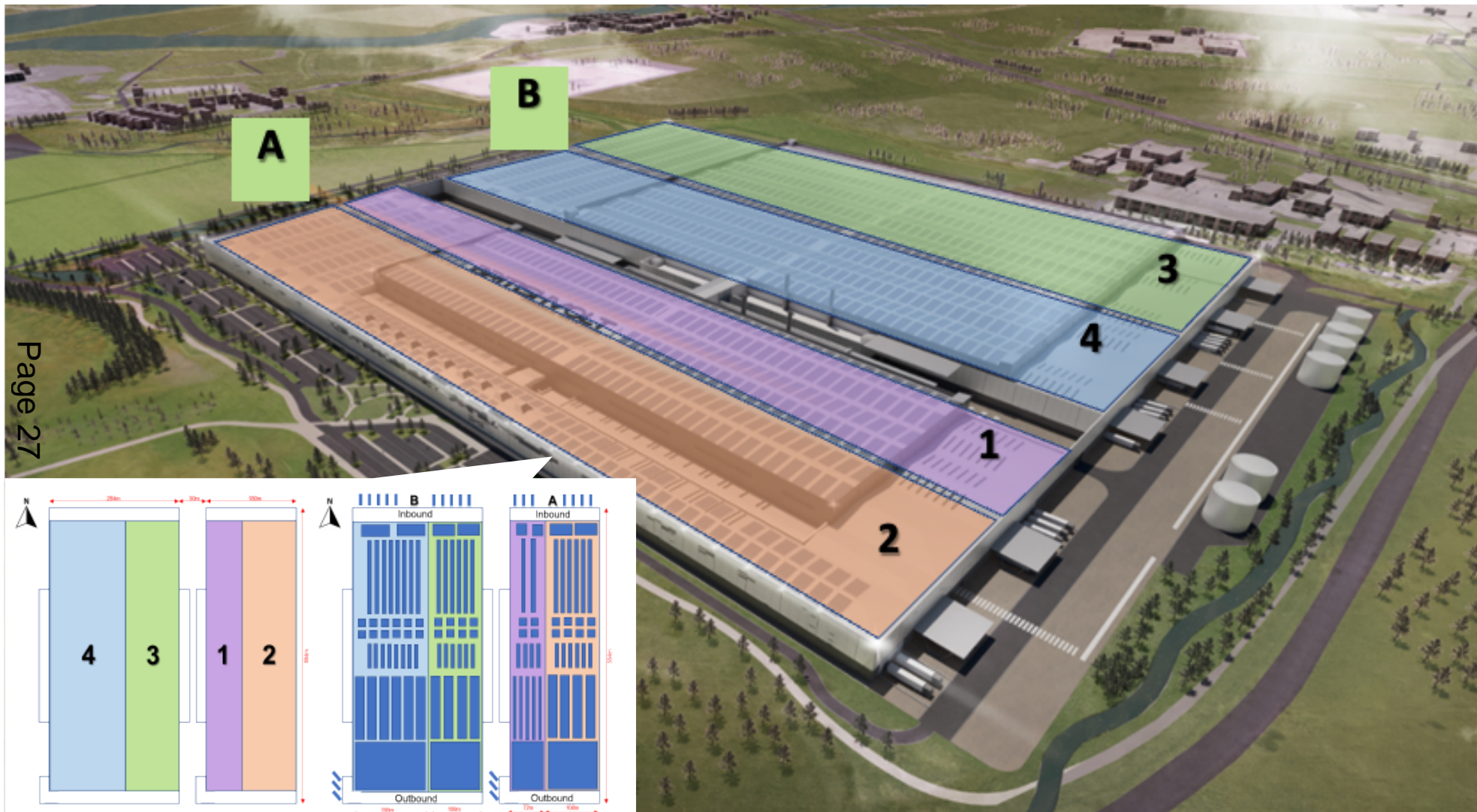
Deep Sea Port facility, Blyth Estuary

£35m council and LEP funded upgrade works ongoing; provides additional logistics and supply chain options

We are also in **active discussions with global supply chain providers and OEMs to co-locate in an adjacent supplier park**: this will **create an ecosystem of battery value chain players located in the North-East** and provide Britishvolt with enhanced operational efficiency and security

Note: 1. The site was selected from a shortlist of five total sites (the others being Bro Tathan, Wales; Gravity, Bridgewater, Bristol; Ratcliffe on Soar; and Coventry Airport); Blyth was selected due to being an excellent site deliverable within the expected timeframe, while other sites had timing, cost, and power concerns

The Gigaplant will be built over 4 phases, allowing for flexibility to respond to customer demand and evolving market dynamics



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Britishvolt is using:

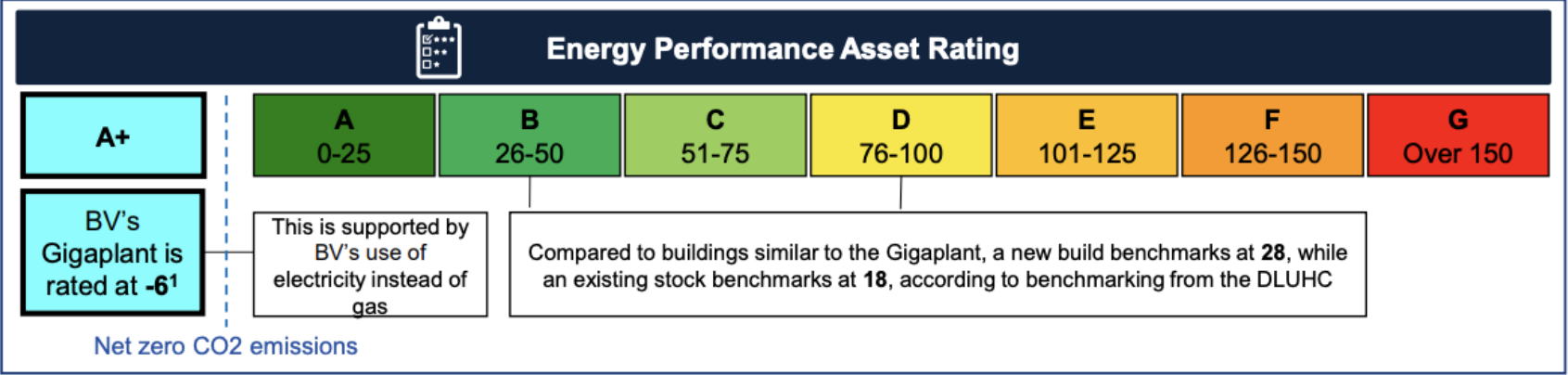
1. A 4-phase approach to project development, scaling up production capacity in line with forecasted UK demand
2. A considered approach to factory layout, keeping efficiency and flexibility at the heart of factory design
3. A focused approach to process excellence, enabling adaption to market dynamics and new technologies

This ensures we have flexibility inbuilt into manufacturing operations; aligning and integrating our product strategy, customer strategy and evolving market dynamics

The Gigaplant's ESG credentials score above comparable buildings in the industry due to its ability to run 100% on renewables and considerable use of recycled energy

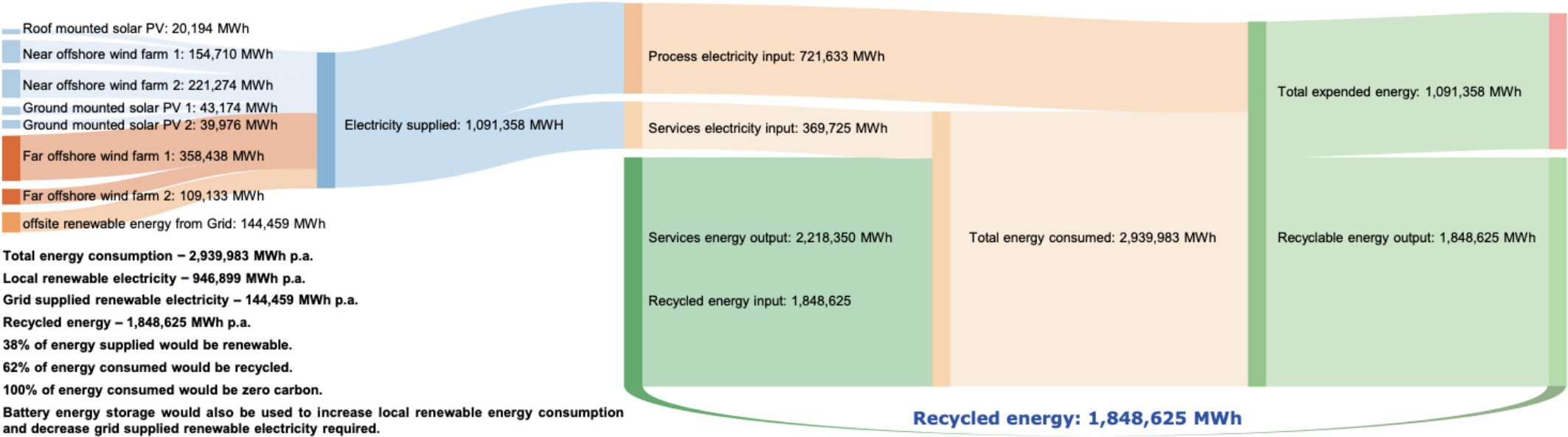
Background to EPCs:

- Non-dwellings in the UK are required to have a EPC when the building is constructed, sold or rented out
- Rating is on A–G rating scale similar to those used for fridges and other electrical appliances
- Assessed based on energy efficiency of building fabric and heating, ventilation, cooling, and lighting systems for non-domestic buildings
- Assessed by trained and accredited assessor (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has register of assessors)
- EPCs are valid for 10 years



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The potential energy strategy includes over 1.8m MWh of recycled energy



Note: 1. BV's rating is based on a design certificate to be peer reviewed and certified by an independent body; a final certificate is not issued until verification of plant and operations, which has not occurred for the Gigaplant yet given its early project stage
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities

The Supplier Park will create a battery “eco-system” around the Gigaplant



Indicative site plan

Benefits

-  This enables the creation of a **vertically integrated supply chain ecosystem**, providing logistical security and efficiency
-  Co-location will also **enhance the environmental credentials** of the proposition through the availability of renewable power and implied minimised shipping requirements from co-location
-  The Gigaplant has availability of power and other resources, **minimising the need to invest elsewhere, e.g. the National Grid**
-  There is an option to **lease and purchase critical water infrastructure (boreholes)** with exclusivity agreement to June 2022
-  The park will also provide the ability for key off-take manufactures to benefit from **equivalent supply chain synergies**
-  The masterplan appraisal has been based on two potential specification and designs for the buildings, including **standard industrial accommodation and bespoke specified design**

- **BV FutureGen Foundation** is a registered charity to support hard to reach groups in the communities near our factories. It will work with other like-minded organisations and individuals to develop **relationships, training programmes, and employability programmes** to provide and enable those with the correct level of desire to transition, with a pathway into a career at Britishvolt.
- We have purchased a former M&Co store in Ashington, and we plan to fit this out as the BV FutureGen Hub. Providing **STEM learning for schools, skilled and semi-skilled training, community engagement and employability skills.**



Apprenticeships

Britishvolt will make full use of the Apprenticeship Levy and will encourage apprenticeships for new entrants and experienced team members

We are currently in a process of competitive dialogue with two apprenticeship providers for our bulk programmes of level 2 and 3 apprentices for the Factory and Scale-up facility. Pilot schemes will commence in September '22 and will facilitate between 30 and 250 apprentices per annum.

Graduates

Britishvolt sees the value in creating exciting opportunities for recent Graduates and have established graduate roles and a Operations Graduate Scheme (pilot underway since February '22). From '24 onwards, we would expect up to twenty graduates per annum plus internship and dissertation project opportunities.

We have signed an MOU with Northumbria University, Newcastle University and Durham University.

PhDs

We are currently developing a programme to attract PhDs and EngDs into Britishvolt to support the R&D function and anticipate funding up to ten new individuals per annum.

In addition to this, as part of BVs talent management suite, a Fellowship programme is being developed to focus on the continuous upskilling and retention of deep technical expertise.

Northumberland County Council

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monitoring Report 2021-2022

1. Terms of reference:

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Council's Annual Budget and Budgetary Management via the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- (2) To review the state of Northumberland and the County Council's activity in delivering its Corporate Plan.
- (3) To maintain an overview of the Council's performance management arrangements; highlighting areas of poor performance and monitoring recovery delivery plans.
- (4) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the Council and Advance Northumberland.
- (5) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Corporate Services: Organisational Development, Health and Safety, ICT Strategy, Corporate Governance, Financial Services, Procurement Strategy, Risk Strategy, Shared and Traded Services
 - Partnership development coordination with local organisations
 - Relationships with external bodies
 - Regeneration and Economic Development
 - Strategic Transport Network and Infrastructure
 - Employability, Skills, and removing barriers to work
 - Capital Programme and Asset Management
 - Support to VCS organisations and the Council's relationship with town and parish councils.

Northumberland County Council
Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2021-2022

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	12 July 2021	Borderlands	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee support the recommendations as outlined in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 13 July 2021.
2.	12 July 2021	Workforce Report	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of this report. ii. Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee continue to receive an annual update of this report for every financial year. iii. The data that was contained in the whistleblowing report and the ongoing work to promote a safe environment for staff to raise concerns through various mechanisms across the Council was noted; and iv. The Members Working Group review the Whistleblowing policy in regards to Elected Members and a report be brought back to this Committee. 	<p>The Committee will continue to receive this report annually.</p> <p>The Members Services Working Group will review the Whistleblowing Policy insofar as it affects elected members. The outcome should then be reported back to this Committee.</p>
3.	12 July 2021	Statutory Consultation on the new timetable for the East Coast mainline between Edinburgh and London	RESOLVED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee supported Councillor Sanderson efforts in relation to the proposals; and 2. A representative of the body proposing the cuts be invited to attend this Committee to explain the reasoning behind the proposals. 	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.

4.	2 August 2021	Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Limited	The Committee therefore RESOLVED to advise the Cabinet of the issues raised above and to consider the additional recommendations as agreed.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 17 August 2021.
5.	9 August 2021	Advanced Propulsion Centre UK	RESOLVED that the presentation and members' comments be noted.	No further action required at this stage.
6.	9 August 2021	Dissolution of the Council's Partnership with Northumbria Healthcare/ Proposed Partnership for 0-19 Public Health Services - Consultation	RESOLVED that (a) the information provided by the representatives of the Trust and the responses provided by the Chief Executive be noted, and (b) the Cabinet be recommended to direct officers of the Council to meet officers of the Trust to determine whether a practical solution can be achieved to salvage what is an excellent relationship.	This issue was subject to call-in to the Health and Wellbeing OSC on 18 August 2021. That Committee will continue to oversee the transition.
7.	9 August 2021	Advance Northumberland	RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted, and (b) further updates be presented to the Committee.	Further updates will be presented to the Committee as appropriate.
8.	6 September 2021	Northumberland Line	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee support the recommendations as outlined in the report and specifically to the proposal of the two years' free parking.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 7 September 2021.
9.	11 October 2021	Council Tax Support Scheme	RESOLVED to advise Cabinet they would like to see a commitment to utilise the household support fund to offer relief above 92%.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
10.	11 October 2021	Establishing a Pilot Culture and Creative Zone in Northumberland	RESOLVED the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
11.	11 October 2021	Energising Blyth Programme	RESOLVED the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
12.	11 October 2021	Newcastle Airport – Shareholder Loan Guarantee	RESOLVED the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021
13.	17 November 2021	Green Homes Grant, Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2) Grant Funding	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report, subject to consideration of the issues raised.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 18 November 2021

14.	17 November 2021	Corporate Plan Refresh 2021-24	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report, subject to consideration of the issues raised.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 18 November 2021
15.	17 November 2021	Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-25	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report, subject to consideration of the issues raised.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 18 November 2021.
16.	6 December 2021	Household Support Fund	RESOLVED the Committee agreed to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations in the presentation, subject to consideration of the issues raised above.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 7 December 2021. A further update will be presented to the OSC.
17.	6 December 2021	NCTA Digital Programme	RESOLVED that the presentation be received.	No further action required at this stage.
18.	6 December 2021	Debt Recovery Update	RESOLVED that the report be received.	The OSC will continue to receive six monthly updates.
19.	6 December 2021	Trading Companies Financial Performance 2021-22	RESOLVED that the recommendations in the report be supported and to continue to receive quarter reports as they are prepared for the Cabinet.	The OSC will continue to receive regular updates.
20.	7 February 2022	Budget 2022-23 and MTFP 2022-26	RESOLVED the Committee agreed to note the recommendations subject to further consideration of the proposal to increase Housing rents.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022
21.	7 February 2022	Revenues and Benefits Policies for 2022/23	RESOLVED the Committee agreed to note the recommendations	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022
22.	7 February 2022	Budget Consultation Report	RESOLVED the committee agreed to note to recommendations.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022
23.	7 February 2022	Northumberland Line	RESOLVED the Committee agreed to support the recommendation	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022
24.	7 March 2022	Household Support Fund	RESOLVED members agreed to note and support the recommendations in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022
25.	7 March 2022	Trading Companies Financial Performance 2021-22 - December 2021	RESOLVED members agreed to note and support the recommendations in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 8 February 2022.

