



# Northumberland

## County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Little

Email: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Wednesday, 23 December 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL** to be held in **COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF** on **MONDAY, 10 JANUARY 2022 at 4.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

To Castle Morpeth Local Area Council members as follows:-

D Bawn, J Beynon (Chair), L Darwin, S Dickinson, R Dodd, L Dunn, J Foster (Vice-Chair (Planning)), P Jackson, V Jones, M Murphy, G Sanderson, D Towns (Vice-Chair) 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  
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## **AGENDA**

### **PART I**

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

- 1. PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS** (Pages 1 - 2)
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 14)

Minutes of the meetings of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday 11 October 2021, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. NB Any member needing clarification must contact the monitoring officer by email at [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.
- 5. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (Pages 15 - 18)

To request the committee to decide the planning applications attached to this report using the powers delegated to it.

*Please note that printed letters of objection/support are not circulated with the agenda but are available on the Council's website at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning.aspx>*
- 6. 21/01614/FUL** (Pages 19 - 38)

**Construction of 5 residential apartments with undercroft parking and associated landscaping (amended plans received 02/09/21 - design changes, further amendments 01/11/21)**  
**High End, 22 Thorp Avenue, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1JR**
- 7. APPEALS UPDATE** (Pages 39 - 50)

For Members' information to report the progress of planning appeals. This is a monthly report and relates to appeals throughout all 5 Local Area Council Planning Committee areas and covers appeals of Strategic Planning Committee.

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

To reply to any questions received from members of the public which have been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. Questions can be asked about issues for which the Council has a responsibility. (Public question times take place on a bimonthly basis at Local Area Council meetings: in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.)

As agreed by the County Council in February 2012, the management of local public question times is at the discretion of the chair of the committee.

Please note however that a question may possibly be rejected if it requires the disclosure of any categories of confidential or exempt information, namely information:

1. relating to any individual;
2. which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual;
3. relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
4. relating to any labour relations matters/negotiations;
5. restricted to legal proceedings
6. about enforcement/enacting legal orders
7. relating to the prevention, investigation of prosecution of crime.

And/or:

- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of this or another County Council committee in the past six months;
- the request repeats an identical or very similar question from the same person;
- the cost of providing an answer is disproportionate;
- it is being separately addressed through the Council's complaints process;
- it is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the county;
- it relates to planning, licensing and/or other regulatory applications
- it is a question that town/parish councils would normally be expected to raise through other channels.

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which for whatever reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly available.

Democratic Services will confirm the status of the progress on any previously requested written answers and follow up any related actions

requested by the Local Area Council.

## **9. PETITIONS**

This item is to:

**(a) Receive any new petitions:** to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner is entitled to briefly introduce their petition by providing a statement in writing, and a response to any petitions received will then be organised for a future meeting;

**(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:** no reports are due to be considered at this meeting;

**(c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

## **10. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

To receive a verbal update from the Area Managers from Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services in attendance about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work for the attention of members of the Local Area Council, who will also then have the opportunity to raise issues with the Area Managers.

The Area Managers have principal responsibility for highway services and environmental services, such as refuse collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance, within the geographic boundaries of the Local Area Council.

## **11. BUDGET 2022-23 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

This presentation will outline the Council's strategy to the 2022-23 Budget within the context of the Corporate Plan. The presentation will provide details of the approach to setting the budget for the next financial year and the broad impact this will have on the delivery of services.

## **12. YOUTH SERVICE**

To receive a presentation on the Youth Service within North Northumberland.

## **13. NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-26 CONSULTATION**

(Pages  
51 - 84)

The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 has been developed, providing data and analysis on key fire and rescue related risks, and information on how Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service will work with communities to address and mitigate those risks. The purpose of the report is to raise awareness of a public consultation on the Plan which opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022 and to provide

an opportunity for feedback from Local Area Council into the process.

**14. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages  
85 - 90)

To note the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items will require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting).

**15. 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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## Northumberland County Council

### PROCEDURE AT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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#### A Welcome from Chairman to members and those members of the public watching on the livestream

Welcome to also include reference to

- (i) Fact that meeting is being held in a Covid safe environment and available to view on a live stream through You Tube Northumberland TV
- (ii) Members are asked to keep microphones on mute unless speaking

#### B Record attendance of members

- (i) Democratic Services Officer (DSO) to announce and record any apologies received.

#### C Minutes of previous meeting and Disclosure of Members' Interests

#### D Development Control

##### APPLICATION

##### Chair

Introduces application

Site Visit Video (previously circulated) - invite members questions

##### Planning Officer

Updates – Changes to recommendations – present report

Public Speaking

Objector(s) (up to 5 mins)

Local member (up to 5 mins)/ parish councillor (up to 5 mins)

Applicant/Supporter (up to 5 mins)

NO QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS OR OF/BY LOCAL COUNCILLOR

**Committee members' questions to Planning Officers**

Chairman to respond to raised hands of members as to whether they have any questions of the Planning Officers

**Debate (Rules)**

Proposal

Seconded

DEBATE

Again Chairman to respond to raised hand of members as to whether they wish to participate in the debate

- No speeches until proposal seconded
- Speech may not exceed 6 minutes
- Amendments to Motions
- Approve/Refuse/Defer

**Vote(by majority or Chair's casting vote)**

- (i) Planning Officer confirms and reads out wording of resolution
- (ii) Legal officer should then record the vote FOR/AGAINST/ABSTAIN (reminding members that they should abstain where they have not heard all of the consideration of the application)

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At the meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Council** held at Meeting Space - Block 1, Floor 2 - County Hall on Monday, 11 October 2021 at 4.00 pm.

#### PRESENT

J Beynon (Chair) (in the Chair)

#### MEMBERS

D Bawn  
S Dickinson  
L Dunn  
G Sanderson

L Darwin  
R Dodd  
M Murphy  
R Wearmouth

#### OFFICERS

J Blenkinsopp  
L Dixon  
G Horsman  
W Laing  
L Little  
G Park  
E Sinnamon

Solicitor  
Democratic Services Assistant  
Principal Planning Officer  
Planning Officer  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Environmental Health Officer  
Development Service Manager

Around 6 members of the press and public were present.

#### 46      **PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS**

The Chair outlined the procedure which would be followed at the meeting.

#### 47      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Foster, Jackson, Jones and Towns.

#### 48      **DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Wearmouth advised that the applicant had stood for political office at the last local elections and as the Chair of the Northumberland Conservative branch he was required to sign the paper for their National Office in order that the candidate could use the Conservative emblem. He did this for every candidate selected and had no choice. He did not know everyone he signed for considered that this was not prejudicial and he was happy to consider the application with an open mind. Councillor Bawn advised of a similar non prejudicial situation in that the applicant had stood for election and whilst he knew him he was not a close personal friend and he had not had any discussion regarding the application.

49      **DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The report requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

50      **19/03659/VARYCO**

**Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 18/01707/VARYCO to allow for continuation on a permanent basis of the hours of 8am to 8pm on any day when aircraft can take off, land or move around within the airfield (circuit training - which shall continue to operate between 9am and 7pm only - and emergencies excepted)  
Bockenfield Aerodrome Ltd, Eshott Airfield, Felton, Morpeth,  
Northumberland NE65 9QJ**

G Horsman, Principal Planning Officer provided an introduction to the application with the aid of a Power Point presentation. Councillor S Dickinson arrived at 4.06 pm and in order to allow his participation in the debate on the application, Mr Horsman started his presentation from the beginning. Updates were provided as follows:-

- 10 further letters of objection and 1 further letter of support had been received since committee report had been published.
- New issues raised included a request that an independent aviation expert reviewed the management plan; NCC should enforce current alleged breaches; and a Noise Abatement Procedure condition should be added if permission was granted.
- One of the letters contained further Counsel advice received by a local resident and in summary requested the following:
  - If the Committee approved the 8am – 8pm hours this must be for trial period of 12 months and must have the correct monitoring in place to assess the impact on residents.
  - The wider impacts of this application needed to be assessed for the neighbouring settlements not just the immediate properties due to the significant change in aircraft noise since the original application, ie older noisier aircraft and helicopter activity. NCC was underestimating the level of harm to neighbouring settlements.
  - The Management Plan must be robust, clear and concise to enable NCC to take enforcement action should it not be adhered to.
  - A comprehensive circuit pattern must be put in place which avoided surrounding settlements from low overflying aircraft which NCC did have the authority to request and act upon should it not be adhered to.
  - An independent acoustic noise consultant should be appointed to assess the impact on neighbours and the surrounding settlements.

That Counsel advice on behalf of a local resident questioned the validity of the noise assessment methodology adopted by NCC Public Protection to assess the application.

Reference was also made to the committee report not fully assessing non-emergency training activities at the airfield and visits to the airfield by aircraft over the 5700kg weight limit.

Re-wording was suggested regarding proposed conditions 2 and 3 however Officers had assessed these and did not consider them to be necessary.

- Further comments had been received from NCC Public Protection following re-consultation regarding the change to extended hours. Having had regard to flight data provided by the applicant and commentary in the committee report regarding this data and correspondence received from residents regarding out of hours activity, they maintained their stance of no objection. In this regard they advised that the applicant had now amended the proposed extended hours from 0700-2300 to 0800-2000. This represented an additional one hour in the morning and one in the evening over the original hours permitted.
- Suggested amendments to the conditions as set out in the report were advised as follows:
  - Condition 2 - the extended hours of 8am to 8pm shall only apply once a management plan re airfield activities has been agreed by the LPA and even then such extended hours should be for a temporary period of 12 months to allow for monitoring of the acceptability of those extended hours.
  - Condition 3 – point (v) of the management plan parameters regarding the liaison group and its membership to reference the County Councillor for Shilbottle Ward (which encompasses Felton) as well as the County Councillor for Longhorsley.
  - Condition 3 – additional bullet point (vi) Arrangements regarding resources to be deployed and the allocation of administrative responsibilities to facilitate implementation of the management plan.

Mrs F Krzyzosiak addressed the Committee speaking in objection to the application on behalf of Mr Krzyzosiak and herself. Her comments included the following:-

- The original application which many had objected to had now been amended to 8 am to 8 pm; it was recognised a weight limit should apply to all aircraft and additional monitoring put in place to ensure the failing of the previous trial was not repeated.
- They contested much of the officer report but in the spirit of cooperation would support the recommendation for a trial period of 12 months with the additional monitoring and consultation conditions.
- Caveats needed to be applied to condition 3. The monitoring and consultation conditions needed to be agreed by all parties with a formal Terms of Reference/ and the Vague wording of the attendees addressed. Attendees should include Public Protection Officials who were responsible for NCC Health and Safety matters at Unlicensed

airfields. It needed to be in place and tested with some recent complaints to ensure they would work during the trial and only then should the twelve-month trial clock begin. As it was approaching winter and dark shorter days, this short delay would have no material impact so should be acceptable to all parties.

- The regulation oversight and enforcement powers for unlicensed aerodromes was devolved to Local Authorities by way of planning consents and conditions as well as public protection responsibility under health and safety laws, which was now understood by the Council.
- Since 2016, Air Accident Investigation Branch published at least 7 Investigation reports in connection with Eshott Aerodrome and in 2019 a French BEA report of two crashes involving Eshott aircraft which resulted in the death of a Pilot and an 18 year old passenger had stated none of the pilots had mountain experience.
- In 2019 a neighbour was falsely accused of endangering lives and aircraft, by putting up a fence and straw bales the CAA later confirmed this was nonsense. This statement had also been repeated on an all-party political group on general aviation and remained on its website.
- In 2020/21, Bockenfield Aerodrome Limited sought damages and an injunction to cut down all the trees of an adjacent neighbour. The claim for damages was lost and their costs were reduced by 20% for causation and were reduced by a further 10% due to dishonesty, during the trial. Only a very limited number of trees were trimmed or removed on the runway approaches only, under the terms of a property easement.
- There was a crash landing only 2 weeks ago in Felton, only 230m from Dene close houses and it was under investigation by the AAIB.
- As recently as last Friday, Felton Parish councillors witnessed an Eshott training aircraft, low flying over the settlement. Despite this being reported to Richard Pike and receiving a sympathetic response, the same aircraft was recorded later that day, doing exactly the same.

Nicola Allen, Trinity Chambers, addressed the Committee speaking on behalf of Thirston Parish Council. Her comments included the following:-

- Thirston Parish Council recognised that the airfield was well established and was now a commercial operation however there needed to be a balance between the airfield and the amenity of those in the parish.
- Since the 2018 permission the operation of the airfield had changed to the detriment of the area. It had been glossed over today, however there had been breaches of conditions and she asked that Members imagine the case of a chinook helicopter being refuelled within 200 metres of a house and whether this was be a breach that should be investigated.
- The appeal decision in 2007 was very important as it was for 4 microlights to land after 7 pm, the Inspector had found that the area was quiet and tranquil despite the proximity of the A1 and this small change would be an unacceptable annoyance to people in the area and nothing had changed since that time.
- In relation to breaches of conditions, questions had been asked of

applicant who always just replied that there was a reason and that was it.

- The EHO advised that he had visited the site to witness take off and landings, however it was the wider area that was affected not just the airfield and a large proportion of the area was not affected by the A1. His findings that the noise was not significantly harmful when taking account of the A1 was totally inconsistent with the previous appeal decision.
- Noise was key material consideration as the Council was the responsible body. The applicant was a commercial operator who was willing to breach conditions and had eroded trust locally.
- The report stated the applicant was benefitting economically from the non emergency military use and also advised that more disturbance had been caused during the extended hours since 2018. The extended hours and more intensive use would disturb more people, more businesses more often.
- The conclusion in Section 8 of the report was simply not made out in the evidence and she would ask you to look at the evidence.
- The MoD letter was referenced as advising that Eshott was the only airfield in reasonable range with military grade fuel, this was not true Newcastle International Airport provided the same fuel and was open 24 hours. The MoD stated that the airfield was significant in terms of training, this was not an emergency and this should stop.
- The Parish Council did engage with the idea of a management plan and would support this, but it needed to work for all parties and this should be agreed before any extended hours were agreed. The management plan to work must be properly drafted, be seen by Members and it must be signed off by them. The Parish Council would be very willing to engage in this process.

Mr R Pike, applicant addressed the Committee speaking in support of the application. His comments included the following:

- He asked that the Committee base their decision on what they have seen rather than what they have heard from the speakers. They should consider what the airfield already does i.e. the charity events, keeping the history of the site going, educational programmes and teaching students things they can't access anywhere else, visits by scouting and cadet groups and the good it does for the community.
- In relation to the history of objections, it was the same people who were objecting now and for the same reasons they had objected 20 years ago and this could be evidenced by looking at minutes from 20/30 years ago.
- 85% of the local population love the airfield or don't care, 10% were on the fence sometimes they might have a genuine grievance, which he admitted that on occasions mistakes or pilot error was made. However there were 5% who hated the airfield and were obsessive.
- During the trial period he estimated that there had been 48 movements over the year, over a handful of days and some of those movements would have been one minute past seven and were not all very late causing large disturbances.
- It had been stated that the MoD could fuel at Newcastle Airport

however this was not always the case. The airfield had been used to assist the RAF in supplying ventilators to Sunderland Hospital that was one of the reasons for the re-fuelling of helicopters and re-fuelling of pumas when they went to assist the Air Ambulance Service in Scotland when they were overwhelmed.

- His staff had slept on site for 4 months in isolation to help fuel the helicopters despite the bullying and on-line comments being made on social media by some people.
- The Military had said that the airfield was vital and it was not just training. The airfield had also helped the Coastguard services to refuel in order to extend their searches in the area as the nearest bases for these were in Humberside or Prestwick both of which were some distance away. However, if this application was agreed today, then this assistance to the Coastguard would no longer be permitted as their aircraft were over the 5.7 tonnes limit, but as there was nowhere else they could access the fuel locally then the airfield would continue to do so when it was necessary and a new application would be submitted to deal with that issue.
- In terms of employment, in relation to his own business they had employed 5 new staff this year who were employed in aircraft restoration. An aircraft would fly in and be on site for a number of weeks. There were also other businesses on the airfield who had a number of employees and he also stated that not all activity on the site had noise implications.

Councillor Sanderson advised that he would like some amendments/ clarification in relation to the management plan as follows:-

- He would request that a dedicated officer or impartial person be nominated in order to be a conduit for concerns and act if necessary or broker resolutions if concerns were unfounded and if necessary this could be a new resource with new funding provided.
- There needed to be a period of discussion of one or two months on how the management plan would be serviced and the key points discussed and process agreed if the application was approved, and it should also be referred back to this Committee after the work had been undertaken to allow the Committee's views to be provided.

In response the Development Services Manager advised that the application was not at that stage yet and work would be undertaken over the next 12 months with the applicant and all other parties pulling together and this would allow the understanding of any resources that would be required should the applicant come forward with an application for this to be permanent. This could not be conditioned and any additional resource would need to be the subject of a separate S106 agreement. If that was something which Members wished to implement today, then the application would need to be deferred for further detailed discussions on the details of the management plan. The additional bullet point (vi) in Condition 3 required details of the arrangements regarding resources to be deployed and the allocation of administrative responsibilities to facilitate implementation of the management plan.

In response to further questions from Members of the Committee the following



information was provided:-

- The 12 months would run from the time that the condition requiring the management plan had been discharged following agreement by the Planning Authority.
- Bullet Point (vi) of Condition 3 would ensure that agreement would need to be reached between the applicant and the Local Planning Authority in respect of the resources required for the implementation of the management plan. Any recompense for costs for additional resources would need to be the subject of a separate S106 legal agreement following the 12 month trial.
- Some work had already taken place on the management plan with a first draft already published on the Council's website with comments received on this. Changes to the conditions had come out of discussions which had already taken place however further detailed discussions were required. This was best dealt with through a condition and if the Committee wished to have control then it could be that the detailed content of the management plan could be reported back to this Committee for agreement.
- Officers advised that there had been issues with the previous monitoring of the trial period however the management plan would only start once it had been agreed and there would be no change of times until this occurred.
- There had been three types of breaches of conditions at the site i.e. incidents outside the take off /landing times; exceeding the weight limits and also in connection with noise from non-aircraft sources. All incidents had been investigated by the Enforcement Team with a judgement made that it was not expedient to take formal action.
- The applicant wished the change of times to be permanent but the LPA felt that a trial was required of 12 months to monitor the impacts of the extended hours.
- Training flights had a distinct pattern with more touch and go landings/take-offs undertaken as opposed to flights arriving which land straight away and flights taking off and moving out of the area. The management plan could require it to be made clear on the log if it was a training flight.
- The CAA was the regulatory body for aircraft in flight with the Secretary of State able to take enforcement action if breaches occurred.
- The airfield had advisory routes for circuits and pilots were encouraged to follow these routes allow it was recognised that it was not always possible for these to be strictly followed.
- If problems were experienced during the trial period in relation to the extended hours then a permanent extension did not need to be granted.
- The parameters of what happens to complaints and any further redress would be included within the management plan.

Councillor Sanderson proposed acceptance of the recommendation to grant permission subject to the conditions as outlined in the report and amended by the officer with a further amendment to the first paragraph of Condition 3 as follows:

Within 2 months of the date of this permission a management plan concerning

airfield activities shall be submitted in writing to the Local Planning Authority and thereafter the acceptability or otherwise of the management plan and associated discharge of condition application in respect of this management plan shall be determined by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council. The management plan shall include details in respect of the following matters

This was seconded by Councillor Bawn.

It was reiterated following concerns by Members that the extended hours could only be implemented following the agreement of the Management Plan and this must be provided within a period of 2 months. It was explained that using a management plan was typical in the case of the more unusual applications such as open casting and was a very good, effective management tool.

Following discussions between Officers and Councillors in relation to the suggested amended wording and the need to ensure that the management plan was reported back to this Committee for agreement, Councillor Sanderson agreed to withdraw the reference to resources at the current time and this was seconded by Councillor Bawn.

A vote was taken on the proposal to accept the recommendation to approve the application subject to the conditions as outlined in the report and as amended above as follows:- FOR 8; AGAINST 0; ABSTENSIONS 1.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report and amended conditions 2 and 3 as below:

02. For a temporary period of 12 months from the date of discharge by the Local Planning Authority of condition 3 below, aircraft using the airfield may take off, land and/or move around within the airfield between the hours of 8am and 8pm only on any day (except in an emergency). All training school flight activities including circuit training shall only take place between the hours of 9am and 7pm and are not permitted outside of these hours on any day. From the date of this permission until the date of discharge by the Local Planning Authority of condition 3 below and following the expiry of the above-mentioned 12 month temporary period the hours when aircraft using the airfield may take off, land and/or move around the airfield shall be 9am to 7pm only on any day (except in an emergency) unless a further planning permission has been granted by the Local Planning Authority for alternative hours of operation.

03. Within 2 months of the date of this permission a management plan concerning airfield activities shall be submitted in writing to the Local Planning Authority and thereafter the acceptability or otherwise of the management plan and associated discharge of condition application in respect of this management plan shall be determined by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council. The management plan shall include details in respect of the following matters:

- i) Effective use, promotion and monitoring of advisory routes for aircraft approaching and leaving the airfield including promotion of routes through airfield website, email to airfield members and navigation software apps;
- ii) Procedures and operational controls in respect of the refuelling of aircraft

including fuel storage, handling, dispensing and testing to be undertaken in accordance with relevant CAA guidance and identification of those locations on the airfield where refuelling activities shall take place (emergencies excepted);  
iii) Arrangements for the logging of all flights to/from the airfield and details regarding arrangements for the provision of this information to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and wider public including:

- a) Agreement with LPA on what detail is recorded in the flight log maintained by the airfield. This shall include landing/take off time (during core hours of 0900-1900, extended hours of 0800-0900 or 1900-2000 or outside these hours); helicopter or other aircraft type; military or civilian aircraft.
- b) Provision of statistics from flight log provided to LPA on a quarterly basis or access to log granted to LPA on a quarterly basis to allow LPA to compile statistics.
- c) Arrangements for flight log to be inspected on request by LPA at any other reasonable time.
- iv) Arrangements for a public complaint recording and management system to allow the LPA and airfield to consider all complaints from third parties including:
  - a) Complaints logging system has been set up on airfield website. Mechanism to be agreed for residents to also log their complaints direct with LPA if they wish.
  - b) Publicity to make third parties aware of agreed complaints logging system.
  - c) Agreed timescales for responses to complaints.
  - d) Mechanism for joint working between LPA and airfield in assessing complaints prior to responses being issued (e.g. publication by each party of regular summary of complaints received with opportunity afforded to the other party to comment before complaint response issued)
  - e) Agreement between airfield and LPA as to approach to be taken regarding repeat complaints raising matters that have already been responded to but where complainant remains unhappy with response received.
- v) Liaison group to be set up which meets on a regular basis to review the effectiveness of the above-mentioned measures and agree any changes to the management plan. Those invited to be a part of the liaison group shall comprise at least representatives from the following parties - applicant, County Council officers, County Councillors for Longhorsley and Shilbottle Wards, Thirston Parish Council and Felton Parish Council.
- vi) Arrangements regarding resources to be deployed and the allocation of administrative responsibilities to facilitate implementation of the management plan.

At all times following the approval of the management plan in writing by the Local Planning Authority that management plan shall be implemented in full.

51      **20/03851/COU**

**Change of use from field to construct a riding arena 22 metres x 40 metres for private use**  
**Land North West Of Hulwane, U6003 Ulgham To Ulgham Park Junction, Ulgham, Northumberland**

W Laing, Planning Officer provided an introduction to the report with the aid of a power point presentation. He advised that there was a slight amendment to condition 3 in that .... the access shall be retained and maintained **in perpetuity** and condition 6 .... Clear and public access to the public right of way **No 1**

## Footpath Ulgham ....

D Moore addressed the Committee speaking in objection to the application. Her comments included the following:-

- She owned the wood directly north of the application site and had right of access through the proposed site of the arena. She was a horse owner and competitor and had never come across an arena so disassociated with its buildings and involved crossing a public right of way.
- She questioned why the online report did not state which policies the application had been judged against stating that other arena applications seemed to be judged against the emerging Northumberland Local Plan and all fell within the curtilage of associated steadings, unlike this application.
- She could not understand why the Officer stated that the application site was not within the Green Belt when a previous application 21010204 was and also application 1903885/FUL for the stabling stated it was within Green Belt and also map 3.2 key diagram in the Northumberland Local Plan.
- She highlighted and quoted from Policies ENV2 3(a); ENV3 1 (3) (iii) (v) and (vi) in the Northumberland Local Plan which had been used in other applications. The application did not contribute positively and in fact detracted.
- It created a stand-alone feature in a separate field abounded by an ancient hedgerow and woodland and altered the topography of the landscape in a rural environment with its rubber surface as viewed from the public footpath.
- It would create additional pressure on the edge of Ulgham where a landowner is trying to create a caravan park.
- In relation to QOP1, the application did not make a positive contribution as it would alter the landform and topography and was a considerable distance from existing buildings.
- In relation to Policy QOP2 it would result in an adverse impact on neighbours as the arena would be clearly visible from the surrounding area and from the public footpath where it dissects the site.
- The site of the arena would be hazardous to the right of way users, footpath users and the applicant.
- Currently there were 8 horses kept as a herd by one person and to take one away created anxiety amongst the rest. The arena would be 100m from the stables, passing through four gates, across the vehicular right of access for her and the public footpath, both of which were entered as separate entities on her deeds.
- An agitated 400kg horse could cause a lot of damage, and some users of the footpath have been trapped by these horses when their curiosity is attracted by walkers and dog walkers and this was when accidents happened.
- The officer put great store by the fact that this was for personal use, as was also stated in the stable application, however additional horses have been kept there as liveryes.
- The land had covenants stipulating the location of any new fencing which had been ignored, displacing the original footpath route without

consultation to NCC or herself.

- If it was to be for private use, why, after the land purchase in 2019 was a hardstanding with additional fencing and gates across the footpath added and why was the arena so far away from the buildings.
- Why should the residents of Ulgham have to negotiate those additional hazards when using the public footpath.
- This was a stand alone development in a Green Belt which created hazards for other users.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee in relation to the possibility of the application site being in the Green Belt, advice was provided that all constraints on the site would have been brought up when the application had been validated. However Officers would give an undertaking to look again at the application as if it was in the Green Belt. Some uses were acceptable within the Green Belt including an exception for appropriate uses for outdoor sport or recreation, however this application had not been considered against Green Belt tests.

Councillor Sanderson left the meeting at 6.09 pm.

As clarification on the question of the application site being within the Green Belt was an important consideration, Councillor Bawn proposed deferment of the application for a definite answer and this was seconded by Councillor Wearmouth. A vote was taken as follows: FOR 7; AGAINST 0; ABSTENTION 1.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **DEFERRED** for clarification as to whether the application site was within the Green Belt.

52 **APPEALS UPDATE**

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

53 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting which was a Planning only meeting would be held on Monday 11 October 2021 at 4.00 pm.

54 **URGENT BUSINESS**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

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## Northumberland County Council

### CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

10 JANUARY 2022

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#### DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Report of the Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services**

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor C Horncastle

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#### **Purpose of report**

To request the Local Area Council to decide the planning applications attached to this report using the powers delegated to it.

#### **Recommendations**

**The Local Area Council is recommended to consider the attached planning applications and decide them in accordance with the individual recommendations, also taking into account the advice contained in the covering report.**

#### **Key issues**

Each application has its own particular set of individual issues and considerations that must be taken into account when determining the application. These are set out in the individual reports contained in the next section of this agenda.

#### DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### **Introduction**

1. The following section of the agenda consists of planning applications to be determined by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council in accordance with the current delegation arrangements. Any further information, observations or letters relating to any of the applications contained in this agenda and received after the date of publication of this report will be reported at the meeting.

##### **The Determination of Planning and Other Applications**

2. In considering the planning and other applications, members are advised to take into account the following general principles:
  - Decision makers are to have regard to the development plan, so far as it is material to the application

- Applications are to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise
  - Applications should always be determined on their planning merits in the light of all material considerations
  - Members are reminded that recommendations in favour of giving permission must be accompanied by suitable conditions and a justification for giving permission, and that refusals of permission must be supported by clear planning reasons both of which are defensible on appeal
  - Where the Local Area Council is minded to determine an application other than in accordance with the Officer's recommendation, clear reasons should be given that can be minuted, and appropriate conditions or refusal reasons put forward
3. Planning conditions must meet 6 tests that are set down in paragraph 206 of the NPPF and reflected in National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG, March 2014 as amended). They must be:
- Necessary
  - Relevant to planning
  - Relevant to the development permitted
  - Enforceable
  - Precise
  - Reasonable in all other respects
4. Where councillors are contemplating moving a decision contrary to officer advice, they are recommended to consider seeking advice from senior officers as to what constitutes material planning considerations, and as to what might be appropriate conditions or reasons for refusal.
5. Attached as Appendix 1 is the procedure to be followed at all Local Area Councils.

### **Important Copyright Notice**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

These are listed at the end of the individual application reports.

### **IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT**

**Policy:** Procedures and individual recommendations are in line with policy unless otherwise stated



<b>Finance and value for Money:</b>	None unless stated
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Equalities:</b>	None
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	None
<b>Sustainability:</b>	Each application will have an impact on the local environment and it has been assessed accordingly
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	As set out in the individual reports
<b>Customer Considerations:</b>	None
<b>Consultations:</b>	As set out in the individual reports
<b>Wards:</b>	All

Report author : Rob Murfin  
Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services  
01670 622542  
Rob.Murfin@northumberland.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX 1: PROCEDURE AT PLANNING COMMITTEES**

### **Chair**

Introduce s application

### **Planning Officer**

Updates – Changes to Recommendations – present report

### **Public Speaking**

Objector(s) (5mins)

Local Councillor/Parish Councillor (5 mins)

Applicant / Supporter (5 mins)

NO QUESTIONS ALLOWED TO/ BY PUBLIC SPEAKERS

### **Member's Questions to Planning Officers**

### **Rules of Debate**

Proposal

Seconded

DEBATE

- No speeches until motion is seconded
- Speech may not exceed 10 minutes
- Amendments to Motions
- Approve/ refuse/ defer

### **Vote (by majority or Chair casting vote)**

Chair should read out resolution before voting

Voting should be a clear show of hands.

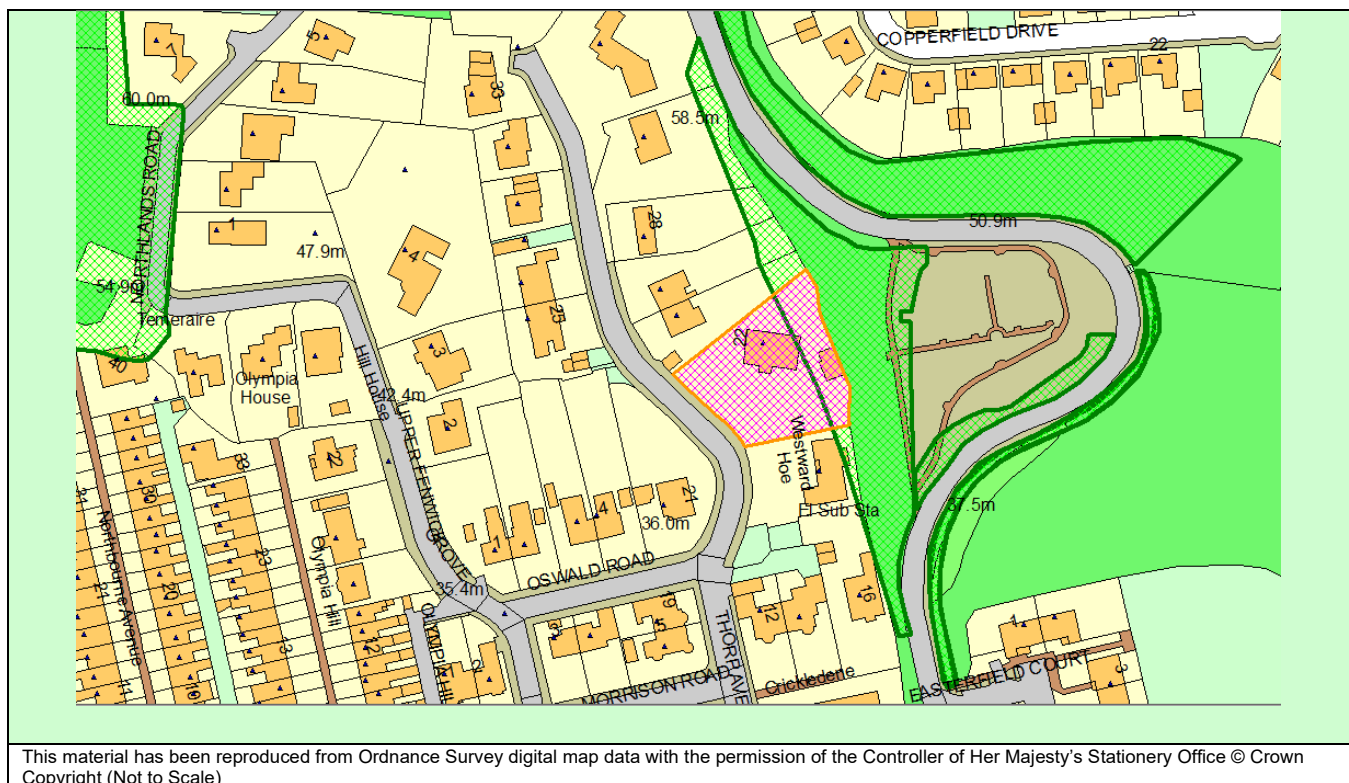


## Northumberland County Council

### Castle Morpeth Local Area Council Committee 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

<b>Application No:</b>	21/01614/FUL		
<b>Proposal:</b>	Construction of 5 residential apartments with undercroft parking and associated landscaping (amended plans received 02/09/21 - design changes, further amendments 01/11/21)		
<b>Site Address</b>	High End, 22 Thorp Avenue, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1JR		
<b>Applicant:</b>	Mr and Mrs David Nicholson Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley, Northumberland, NE65 8RP	<b>Agent:</b>	Mrs Katherine Pimblott 8 Hawthorn Road, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 4DE
<b>Ward</b>	Morpeth North	<b>Parish</b>	Morpeth
<b>Valid Date:</b>	7 June 2021	<b>Expiry Date:</b>	2 August 2021
<b>Case Officer Details:</b>	Name: Mr Ryan Soulsby Job Title: Planning Officer Tel No: 01670 622627 Email: Ryan.Soulsby@northumberland.gov.uk		

**Recommendation:** That this application be GRANTED permission



## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Under the Council's current Scheme of Delegation, as an objection was received by Morpeth Town Council and a number of residents, the application was referred to the Director of Planning and Chairs of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council for determination as to how the application should be decided. It was confirmed the application shall be determined at Local Area Council committee.

## **2. Description of the Proposals**

- 2.1 Planning permission is sought for the construction of a detached building to provide 5no residential apartments with associated parking provision and landscaping at High End, 22 Thorp Avenue, Morpeth.
- 2.2 The proposed building would measure 22.6 metres in width, including external balconies, by 27.3 metres in length. A pitched roof would be incorporated upon the structure that would measure 14.1 metres to the ridge from the lowest level of the land however, the sloping topography of the land ensures a ridge height of 12.4 metres from ground level towards the Northern boundary.
- 2.3 Internally, the 5no residential apartments would be situated across 3no floors with 2no at ground floor level, 2no at first floor level and 1no at second floor level. Parking provision and ancillary storage for the apartments will be provided at basement level below the building. Access will remain off the Thorp Avenue public highway albeit with a widened access allowing for appropriate ingress and egress at the application site.
- 2.4 Existing soft landscaping will be retained within the site where possible with additional soft and hard landscaping to be incorporated within the curtilage of the application site. Apartments 1-4 will have outdoor garden areas within the site whilst communal areas are also identified upon the submitted plans.
- 2.5 Materials used within the construction of the apartment block would consist of multi red brickwork, ashlar cut stone, off white render, slate roof tiles and grey aluminium window frames. Timber fencing and stone walling would represent the boundary treatments within the site along with the provision of hedging and shrubbery.
- 2.6 The application site is located within the settlement of Morpeth. A detached dwelling previously occupied the site but was demolished prior to submission of this planning application.
- 2.7 A pre application was submitted by the applicant prior submission of this full planning application. Within the pre application response, the LPA confirmed the principle of development as acceptable however, careful consideration was needed in relation to the design, scale and massing of the building and potential impacts upon the amenity of neighbouring residents.
- 2.8 Amended plans were provided by the applicant following comments from the Planning Officer. It is these amended details that will be assessed within the below appraisal.

### 3. Planning History

**Reference Number:** CM/94/D/476

**Description:** Conservatory

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** CM/98/D/078

**Description:** PROPOSED NEW EXTERNAL LEAF TO GABLE END

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** CM/84/D/363

**Description:** EXTENSION TO DININGROOM AND KITCHEN ERECTION OF ENTRANCE PORCH AND CONSERVATORY TOGETHER WITH OUTBUILDING COMPRISING GARAGE GARDEN STORE GENERAL STORE AND KENNEL (AS AMENDED BY LETTER RECEIVED 3RD AUGUST 1984)

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** CM/90/D/607

**Description:** EXTENSION TO LOUNGE, DININGROOM AND KITCHEN AND ERECTION OF UTILITY ROOM, LOBBY AND BATHROOM WITH BEDROOM ABOVE

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** CM/00/D/559

**Description:** ERECTION OF FRONT PORCH

**Status:** Permitted

### 4. Consultee Responses

Morpeth Town Council	Object. Concerns regarding overdevelopment, use of the site, impact on visual character, highway safety issues and land stability.
Highways	No objection subject to recommended conditions.
Northumbrian Water Ltd	No objection. Promote sustainable surface water management.
The Coal Authority	No objection subject to recommended conditions.
Forestry Commission	No response received.
County Ecologist	No objection subject to recommended condition.
West Tree And Woodland Officer	No response received.
Public Protection	No objection subject to recommended conditions.

### 5. Public Responses

#### Neighbour Notification

Number of Neighbours Notified	4
Number of Objections	51
Number of Support	0
Number of General Comments	0

#### Notices

General site notice, 17th June 2021  
No Press Notice Required.

### Summary of Responses:

51no objections were received against the application from neighbouring residents and members of the public across 3no consultation periods. Concerns were raised regarding:

- Overdevelopment;
- Impact on visual character;
- Impact on street scene;
- Concerns relating to residential amenity (overlooking, privacy, overbearing);
- Highway safety issues;
- Land stability concerns;
- Setting of a precedent;
- Flooding and drainage;

Material planning considerations shall be assessed within the below appraisal.

The above is a summary of the comments. The full written text is available on our website at: <http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications//applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRTGL0QSFUH00>

## **6. Planning Policy**

### 6.1 Development Plan Policy

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (Made version, May 2016) (MNP)

Policy Sus1 Sustainable Development Principles

Policy Des1 Design Principles

Policy Set1 Settlement Boundaries

Policy Hou3 Housing Mix

Policy Tra2 Traffic Congestion

Policy Tra3 Transport Requirements for New Developments

Policy Tra 4 Development of Footpath and Cycleway Networks

Policy Inf1 Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

Castle Morpeth District Local Plan (2003) (Saved Policies 2007) (CMDLP)

Policy RE5 Surface Water Runoff and Flood Defences

Policy RE6 Service Infrastructure

Policy RE8 Contaminated land

Policy RE9 Ground stability

Policy C1 Settlement boundaries

Policy C11 Protected species

Policy H15 New housing developments

Policy MC1 Settlement Boundary

### 6.2 National Planning Policy

### 6.3 Other documents/strategies

Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (Jan 2019) as amended by proposed Main Modifications (June 2021)

Policy STP 1 Spatial strategy (Strategic Policy)  
Policy STP 2 Presumption in favour of sustainable development (Strategic Policy)  
Policy STP 3 Principles of sustainable development (Strategic Policy)  
Policy STP 4 Climate change mitigation and adaption (Strategic Policy)  
Policy STP 5 Health and wellbeing (Strategic Policy)  
Policy HOU 2 Provision of new residential development (Strategic Policy)  
Policy HOU 3 Housing requirements for neighbourhood plan areas (Strategic Policy)  
Policy HOU 5 Housing types and mix  
Policy HOU 9 Residential development management  
Policy QOP 1 Design principles (Strategic Policy)  
Policy QOP 2 Good design and amenity  
Policy QOP 3 Public realm design principles  
Policy QOP 4 Landscaping and trees  
Policy QOP 5 Sustainable design and construction  
Policy QOP 6 Delivering well-designed places  
Policy TRA 2 The effects of development on the transport network  
Policy TRA 4 Parking provision in new development  
Policy ENV 1 Approaches to assessing the impact of development on the natural, historic and built environment (Strategic Policy)  
Policy ENV 2 Biodiversity and geodiversity 1  
Policy WAT 1 Water quality  
Policy WAT 2 Water supply and sewerage  
Policy WAT 4 Sustainable drainage systems  
Policy POL 1 Unstable and contaminated land  
Policy POL 2 Pollution and air, soil and water quality

## **7. Appraisal**

7.1 In assessing the acceptability of any proposal, regard must be given to policies contained within the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a material consideration and states that the starting point for determining applications remains with the development plan, which in this case contains policies from the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (Made version, 2016) (MNP) and Castle Morpeth District Local Plan (2003, saved policies 2007) (CMDLP). The main considerations in the assessment of this application are:

- Principle of development
- Design and visual character;
- Residential amenity;
- Highways safety;
- Ecological impacts;
- Contaminated land;

- Water management.

Paragraph 48 of the NPPF states that weight can be given to policies contained in emerging plans dependent upon three criteria: the stage of preparation of the plan; the extent to which there are unresolved objections to policies within the plan; and the degree of consistency with the NPPF. The Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (NLP) was submitted to the Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 29 May 2019, and is currently going through the examination process.

On 9 June 2021, the Council published for consultation, a Schedule of proposed Main Modifications to the draft Local Plan which the independent Inspectors examining the plan consider are necessary to make the plan 'sound'. As such the plan is at an advanced stage of preparation, and the policies in the NLP - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (Jan 2019) as amended by proposed Main Modifications (June 2021), are considered to be consistent with the NPPF. The NLP is a material consideration in determining this application, with the amount of weight that can be given to specific policies (and parts thereof) is dependent upon whether Main Modifications are proposed, and the extent and significance of unresolved objections.

### **Principle of development**

- 7.2 Paragraph 12 of the NPPF outlines that development plans form the starting point for decision making by local planning authorities. Taking this into consideration, policies from the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) (made version) are given weight in so far that they accord with the provisions of the NPPF. Weight is also given to Castle Morpeth District Local Plan (CMDLP) which was made in 2003, with saved policies in 2007.
- 7.3 Policy Set1 of the MNP, read in conjunction with the Proposals Map which accompanies the plan, seeks to direct development within existing settlements. These provisions are mirrored within policy C1 of the CMDLP.
- 7.4 The application site is located within the settlement of Morpeth, situated within a densely populated residential area with good links to Morpeth town centre. The site previously accommodated a detached residential dwelling which was demolished prior to the submission of this planning application.
- 7.5 The application proposes the construction of a detached structure to accommodate 5no apartments. The use class will therefore remain C3 as per the existing use on site. The site is clearly sustainable owing to its proximity to Morpeth Town Centre with everyday shops and amenities accessible via public footpaths or sustainable modes of transport. The principle of development is therefore acceptable in accordance with both local and national planning policy.

### **Design and visual character**

- 7.6 Policy Des1 of the MNP seeks to achieve good design within developments stating that *'the design and layout of the development achieves a sense of place by protecting and enhancing the quality, distinctiveness and character*



*of settlements'* and that application proposals should respect or enhance the character of the site and its surroundings in terms of *'proportion, form, massing, density, height, size, scale, materials and detailed design features'*.

- 7.7 Policy Hou3 is also relevant within this assessment and seeks to create a housing mix within residential areas. A range of housing assists in achieving a balanced housing market.
- 7.8 Policy H15 of the CMDLP states that proposals for new housing developments *'must be compatible with any distinctive vernacular character present in the locality in respect of layout, design and materials'*. At national planning policy level, paragraph 126 of the NPPF recognises *'good design as a key aspect of sustainable development'* whilst paragraph 130, part a) expects developments to *'function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development'*.
- 7.9 Whilst little weight can be given to policy QOP 1 of the emerging NLP at this stage, the aims of this policy mirror design policies within both local and national planning policy outlined above.
- 7.10 As part of the pre application enquiry assessment, and the assessment of this planning file, a site visit was undertaken by the Planning Officer consisting of a site walk around whilst also taking in views of the site from the wider surrounding area. The curtilage of the site is significantly larger than adjacent plots and has a significant sloping topography to the South. Residential properties bound the application site to the North and South and also to the West beyond the adjacent public highway. To the East, a mature tree belt provides a buffer between the site and a parcel of open space. Due to the topography of the application site, it is readily visible from neighbouring viewpoints and partially visible from areas further afield.
- 7.11 There is an evident housing mix within Thorp Avenue consisting of large detached properties, 1.5 storey dwellings and single storey bungalows. To the West of the site, terraced properties are prevalent whilst to the North East, new residential development is currently under construction. As well as a housing mix, there is a wide range of materials used within the construction of these dwellings which contributes to the visual character of the street scene and the wider area. The submitted details indicate materials used upon the proposed apartment block would mirror those incorporated upon existing dwellings.
- 7.12 The scale, form and massing of the proposed building is clearly large however, the footprint of the site, coupled with the sloping topography of the land allows the incorporation of a structure of this scale without representing harm to the street scene or the wider area. As part of the submitted details, the applicant has provided details plans which show the scale, massing and ridge height of the proposed building compared with existing dwellings. Discussions have been held between the Local Planning Authority and applicant as part of the application process following which the applicant agreed to reduce the ridge height of the building. The ridge is now viewed in line with the existing chimney upon the roof of 24 Thorp Avenue ensuring that the overall height of the structure would not represent an incongruous addition upon the immediate or surrounding landscape.

- 7.13 Fenestration has been appropriately sited in a uniform design upon the external elevations of the building whilst ensuring that habitable rooms within the building would benefit from appropriate levels of light. Whilst a large portion of glazing is incorporated upon the second floor of the West and South facing elevations, this is not unusual upon upper levels of apartment blocks and represents a modern design approach from the applicant as do the external balconies upon these elevations.
- 7.14 The design and access statement that forms part of the application submission references that design cues and material choices have been carefully considered, taking into consideration existing residential properties and the nearby Greystoke apartment block. Following the submission of amended plans to address initial concerns from the LPA, the proposed development now represents good design in accordance with both local and national planning policy referred to above. It would be appropriate for a condition to be attached upon the granting of any planning approval to ensure that precise material details and samples be submitted to the LPA for written approval prior to construction of the development above damp proof course level.

### **Residential amenity**

- 7.15 Policy Des1, part H of the MNP seeks to protect the amenity of residents stating development must *'not cause an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenities of occupiers of existing or proposed nearby properties'*. Policy H15 of the CMDLP can also be given weight within this section and states that *'the distance, between primary elevations of new and existing dwellings, particularly at first floor level or above should not fall below 20 metres unless it can be demonstrated by the development that allowances should be made because of the site specific circumstances'*.
- 7.16 At national planning policy level, paragraph 130, part f) states developments should *'create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience'*.
- 7.17 Policy QOP 2 of the emerging NLP, which can only be given little weight at this stage, states *'Development will be required to provide a high standard of amenity for existing and future users of the development itself and preserve the amenity of those living in, working in or visiting the local area'*.
- 7.18 As part of the site visit, an assessment was undertaken regarding the separation distances of the proposals to existing dwellings and how the development may impact upon the amenity of neighbouring residents, most notably the immediate dwellings to the North and South and also to the West beyond the Thorp Avenue public highway. Various alterations have been undertaken to the plans by the applicant following comments from the Local Planning Authority relating to design and amenity.
- 7.19 The proposed building would be located centrally within the application site, ensuring a buffer zone of soft landscaping to all boundaries. As outlined

earlier in the appraisal, the site has a significant slope Southwards therefore careful consideration must be given to the amenity of residents within the neighbouring two storey dwelling to the South, 20 Thorp Avenue. This dwelling is set across 2no floors however, the topography of the site ensures one level at ground floor with another level viewed as lower ground floor. A separation distance of 8 metres would be retained from the outdoor terrace area located towards the Southern boundary with a separation of 11.3 metres between the built form of the apartment block and the North facing gable of 20 Thorp Avenue. Due to the orientation of the 2no properties, there would be no direct facing primary elevations.

- 7.20 The submitted plans indicate the provision of outdoor terraces upon the South facing elevation of the proposed building that would serve apartments 3, 4 and 5. Whilst these outdoor areas will be South facing, it was noted by the Planning Officer when visiting the site that there would be no direct views from these balconies area into fenestration incorporated upon the front elevation of 20 Thorp Avenue. Whilst there would ultimately be some overlooking to the front garden area of this neighbouring property, outdoor space to the front of dwellings is not afforded the same level of protection as rear garden areas with it noted the front garden of 20 Thorp Avenue is readily visible when travelling along Thorp Avenue. The dwelling appears to have minimal outdoor amenity space to the rear with the property situated in proximity to the rear boundary. The provision of balconies upon this elevation would be to afford residents of the apartments views towards Morpeth and not to contribute to direct overlooking of properties to the South.
- 7.21 To the North of the application site is 24 Thorp Avenue which is a semi-detached two storey dwelling with outdoor amenity space located to the rear. A separation distance of 12 metres would exist between the nearest Northern building line of the apartment block and the South facing gable of no.24. A minimum separation distance of 5 metres would be retained between proposed building and the shared boundary. Whilst first floor windows are incorporated upon the South facing gable of no.24, appropriate separation would exist to ensure there would be no significant overshadowing caused with it noted these windows do not serve habitable rooms. The orientation of the proposed apartment block would ensure that windows upon the North facing elevation which aren't to be obscure glazed would not directly overlook the private outdoor amenity space of this neighbouring dwelling.
- 7.22 To prevent overlooking to no.24, a privacy screen would be incorporated upon the flat roof offshoot whilst a condition can secure that this area is not used as a raised platform and is only accessible for maintenance purposes. Use of this flat roof as a raised platform would result in overlooking of the neighbouring rear patio area along with partial views of fenestration incorporated upon the rear elevation of no.24.
- 7.23 Whilst objections have been raised from residents located to the South West upon Thorp Avenue and Oswald Road relating to overlooking, considerable separation distances exist between the proposed building and shared boundary to ensure that there would not be significant overlooking that may adversely impact upon amenity. A minimum separation distance of 24 metres would exist between the nearest first floor terrace and shared boundary with this increasing to the properties located upon Oswald Road.

- 7.24 As part of the landscape proposals for the site, the applicant has proposed retention of existing boundary treatments such as fencing along with additional soft landscaping which will provide further screening upon the site. An appropriately worded condition can secure landscaping be implemented on site within the first planting season following any approval of the application. Conditions have also been recommended by the Public Protection team restricting noisy working hours and construction/delivery collection hours.
- 7.25 Following alterations to the initial scheme in line with recommendations made by the Local Planning Authority, and subject to planning conditions, the proposal accords with both local and national planning policy in relation to protecting residential amenity.

### **Highway safety**

- 7.26 Paragraph 111 of the NPPF states that *'development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe'*.
- 7.27 Consultation was undertaken with Highways Development Management who, following the submission of amended details, raised no objection to the application proposals subject to recommended conditions. Access to the site would be sought off the Thorp Avenue public highway with a widened access allowing 2no vehicles to pass at the entrance therefore preventing vehicles stopping upon the public highway and causing obstruction issues. Adequate visibility splays have been demonstrated allowing for safe ingress and egress at the site.
- 7.28 Within the site, appropriate levels of parking provision would be provided that adhere with NCC parking standards. Cycle parking and refuse storage have also been indicated within the basement level of the development. To ensure highway safety during the construction phase of the development on site, a condition is recommended for a construction method statement to be provided prior to the commencement of development. Subject to appropriate conditions, and the applicant entering into a S184 agreement with the Highways team regarding the access works, the proposal accords with relevant highway policy.

### **Ecological impacts**

- 7.29 Policy C11 of the CMDLP outlines that *'the council will not permit development which would adversely affect protected species or their habitats unless it can be demonstrated that the reasons for the proposed development outweigh any adverse affect on the species or their habitat'*.
- 7.30 Paragraph 174, part d) of the NPPF states that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by *'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'*.

- 7.31 Consultation was undertaken with the local authority's ecologist who raised no objection to the application proposals subject to a recommended condition. The condition recommends appropriate mitigation on site to ensure there shall be no adverse impacts upon protected species or their habitats whilst also requesting the installation of 5no integrated bat/bird boxes into the development to represent biodiversity net gains in accordance with the NPPF.

### **Contaminated land**

- 7.32 Policy RE8 of the CMDLP stipulates that *'The Council will require proposals for the development of all land identified as being, or potentially being contaminated by previous developments or mineral workings, to be accompanied by a statement of site investigation outlining the tests undertaken and the evaluation of results, in order that the council may assess any direct threat to health, safety or the environment'*.
- 7.33 The application site is located within an area subject to former coal mining workings therefore, consultation was undertaken with The Coal Authority (TCA) for their comments. A Phase I desktop study & coal mining risk assessment and phase 2 site investigation report form part of the application documents. Within the consultation response provided by TCA, they concur with the recommendation of these reports that coal mining legacy poses a risk to the proposed development and remedial measures are required in order to ensure the safety and stability of the development. Appropriate conditions are therefore recommended upon the file to ensure the safety of the site for neighbouring residents and future occupiers of the proposed development.
- 7.34 Due to the site's location within a former coal mining working area, the development will also require ground gas protection to protect the health of any end user. Consultation was undertaken with Public Protection who raised no objection to the application proposals, subject to the submission of additional information, with conditions relating to ground gas protection, contamination and remediation works on site.
- 7.35 Subject to relevant conditions recommended by both internal and external consultees, the proposal accords with both local and national planning policy with regards to land contamination and site safety.

### **Water management**

- 7.36 The submitted details indicate that both foul sewage and surface water will be disposed of via existing mains. Consultation was undertaken with Northumbrian Water who raised no objection to this arrangement. The applicant will be required to agree discharge rates and connection points with NWL, out with the planning process.

### **Equality Duty**

- 7.37 The County Council has a duty to have regard to the impact of any proposal on those people with characteristics protected by the Equality Act. Officers have had due regard to Sec 149(1) (a) and (b) of the Equality Act 2010 and considered the information provided by the applicant, together with the

responses from consultees and other parties, and determined that the proposal would have no material impact on individuals or identifiable groups with protected characteristics. Accordingly, no changes to the proposal were required to make it acceptable in this regard.

### **Crime and Disorder Act Implications**

- 7.38 These proposals have no implications in relation to crime and disorder.

### **Human Rights Act Implications**

- 7.39 The Human Rights Act requires the County Council to take into account the rights of the public under the European Convention on Human Rights and prevents the Council from acting in a manner which is incompatible with those rights. Article 8 of the Convention provides that there shall be respect for an individual's private life and home save for that interference which is in accordance with the law and necessary in a democratic society in the interests of (inter alia) public safety and the economic wellbeing of the country. Article 1 of protocol 1 provides that an individual's peaceful enjoyment of their property shall not be interfered with save as is necessary in the public interest.
- 7.40 For an interference with these rights to be justifiable the interference (and the means employed) needs to be proportionate to the aims sought to be realised. The main body of this report identifies the extent to which there is any identifiable interference with these rights. The Planning Considerations identified are also relevant in deciding whether any interference is proportionate. Case law has been decided which indicates that certain development does interfere with an individual's rights under Human Rights legislation. This application has been considered in the light of statute and case law and the interference is not considered to be disproportionate.
- 7.41 Officers are also aware of Article 6, the focus of which (for the purpose of this decision) is the determination of an individual's civil rights and obligations. Article 6 provides that in the determination of these rights, an individual is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal. Article 6 has been subject to a great deal of case law. It has been decided that for planning matters the decision making process as a whole, which includes the right of review by the High Court, complied with Article 6.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1 The proposal represents an acceptable form of development which subject to recommended conditions, accords with both local and national planning policy referred to above. The submission of amended details has overcome the Local Planning Authority's initial concerns regarding impacts upon residential amenity.
- 8.2 The application is therefore recommended for approval, subject to conditions.

## **9. Recommendation**

That this application be GRANTED permission subject to the following:

Conditions/Reason

01. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

02. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the approved plans. The approved plans for this development are:-

- 1) Proposed first floor plan drawing no. 3030-5 011 L (received 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021)
- 2) Proposed roof plan drawing no. 3030-5 013 E (received 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021)
- 3) Proposed second floor plan drawing no. 3030-5 012 K (received 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021)
- 4) Proposed West and South elevations drawing no. 3030-5 015 E (received 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021)
- 5) Proposed site plan drawing no. 3030.05.005C (received 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021)
- 6) Basement plan drawing no. 3030-5 009 H (received 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021)
- 7) Block plan as proposed drawing no. 3030.05.004A (received 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021)
- 8) Proposed ground floor plan drawing no. 3030-5 010 J (received 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021)
- 9) North and East elevations drawing no. 3030-5 016 B (received 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021)
- 10) Ground gas protection statement (received 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021)
- 11) Visqueen gas barrier datasheet (received 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021)
- 12) Visqueen gas resident self adhesive membrane overview (received 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021)
- 13) Visqueen high performance damp proof membrane overview (received 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021)
- 14) Drainage strategy JC Consulting JCC21-095-C-02 (received 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- 15) Flood risk assessment JC Consulting JCC21-095-C-01 (received 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- 16) Phase 2 Site investigation JC Consulting JCCGEO20-029-02-SI (received 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- 17) Phase 1 Desktop study and CMRA JCCGEO20-029-01-DTS (received 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- 18) Landscape proposal drawing no. TAML1 Rev. A (received 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021)
- 19) Tree protection plan (received 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021)
- 20) Ecological impact assessment February 2021 (received 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021)
- 21) Arboricultural implications assessment (received 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

Reason: To ensure that the approved development is carried out in complete accordance with the approved plans.

03. Notwithstanding any description of the materials in the application, prior to construction above damp proof course level, precise details of the materials to be used in the construction of the external walls, roof and fenestration of the building shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. Development must not be undertaken above damp proof course level until approval from the Local Planning Authority has been provided in writing. All roofing and / or external facing materials used in the construction of the development shall conform to the materials thereby approved.

Reason: To retain control over the external appearance of the development from the outset in the interests of amenity and in accordance with the provisions of in accordance with the provisions of policy H15 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

04. Prior to occupation of the development hereby approved, details of the privacy screen as shown on drawing no. 3030-5 012 K must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved screen shall therefore be retained and appropriately maintained for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: To protect the amenity of neighbouring residents in accordance with policy Des1 of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, policy H15 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

05. The flat roof located at second floor level upon the West facing elevation, as shown on drawing no. 3030-5 012 K, must not be used as a raised platform with access only permitted for maintenance of this area.

Reason: To protect the amenity of neighbouring residents in accordance with policy Des1 of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, policy H15 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

06. During the construction period, there should be no noisy activity, i.e. noise from the construction activities which is audible at or beyond the site boundary, on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays or outside the hours: Monday to Friday - 0800 to 1800,

Reason: To protect residential amenity and provide a commensurate level of protection against noise

07. Deliveries to and collections from the demolition and/or construction phase of the development shall only be permitted between the hours:

Monday to Friday - 08:00 to 18:00 Saturday - 08:00 to 13:00

With no deliveries or collections on a Sunday or Bank Holiday.



Reason: To protect residential amenity and provide a commensurate level of protection against noise.

08. No building shall be constructed until a report detailing the protective measures to prevent the ingress of ground gases, including depleted Oxygen (<19%), to the CS2 standard for a Type B building specified in Table 4 of BS8485:2015 (Code of Practice for the design of protective measures for Methane and Carbon Dioxide ground gases for new buildings), have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The report must include cross-sectional drawings showing the proposed incorporation of a gas protection system including any active ventilation systems and gas resistant membranes. The report shall contain full details of the validation and verification assessment to be undertaken on the installed ground gas protection, as detailed in CIRIA C735 (Good practice on the testing and verification of protection systems for buildings against hazardous ground gases)

Reason: In order to prevent any accumulation of ground gas, which may potentially be prejudicial to the health & amenity of the occupants of the respective properties.

09. No building shall be brought into use or occupied until the applicant has submitted a validation and verification report to the approved methodology in Condition 8, which has been approved in writing by the LPA.

Reason: In order to prevent any accumulation of ground gas, which may potentially be prejudicial to the health & amenity of the occupants of the respective properties.

10. No development shall be commenced until a verification report detailing the position of all boreholes installed for the investigation of soils, ground gases, groundwater or geotechnical purposes (including grouting), shall be submitted to the Local planning authority. The verification report shall detail on how redundant boreholes have been decommissioned and how any borehole that needs to be retained, post-development, for monitoring purposes will be secured, protected and inspected.

Reason: To ensure that redundant boreholes do not form part of a source-pathway receptor linkage which could cause harm to human health by exposing future residents to harmful concentrations of hydrocarbon ground gases.

11. A written Method Statement (or Remediation Strategy) detailing the remediation requirements for the land contamination and/or pollution of controlled waters affecting the site shall be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and all requirements shall be implemented and completed to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. No deviation shall be made from this scheme without express written agreement of the Local Planning Authority. The land contamination was identified at this site within the Phase 2 – Site Investigation report – JC Consulting Rev 01, June 2021.

Reason: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and dwellings are minimised and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to any future occupants.

12. Prior to the development being brought into use or continuing in use the applicant shall submit a full closure (Verification Report) report to the Local Planning Authority for its written approval. The report shall provide verification that the required works regarding contamination have been carried out in accordance with the approved Method Statement(s). Post remediation sampling and monitoring results shall be Page 4 of 4 included in the closure report to demonstrate that the required remediation has been fully met. Should no contamination be found during development then the applicant shall submit a signed statement indicating this to discharge this condition.

Reason: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and dwellings are minimised and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to any future occupants.

13. If during redevelopment contamination not previously considered within any statement / report that has received the approval of the Local Planning Authority is identified, then a written Method Statement regarding this material shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority – the written method statement must be written by a competent person. No building shall be occupied until a method statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and measures proposed to deal with the contamination have been carried out. Should no contamination be found during development then the applicant shall submit a signed statement indicating this to discharge this condition. “Competent Person” has the same definition as defined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) ISBN 978-1-5286-1033-9

Reason: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and dwellings are minimised and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to any future occupants.

14. The development shall not be occupied until the car parking area indicated on the approved plans, has been implemented in accordance with the approved plans. Thereafter, the car parking area shall be retained in accordance with the approved plans and shall not be used for any purpose other than the parking of vehicles associated with the development.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

15. The development shall not be occupied until constructional details of the vehicular access, including surface water drainage measures, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and implemented in accordance with the approved details. Thereafter, the vehicular access shall be retained in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

16. The development shall not be occupied until cycle parking shown on the approved plans has been implemented. Thereafter, the cycle parking shall be retained in accordance with the approved plans and shall be kept available for the parking of cycles at all times.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety, residential amenity and sustainable development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

17. Notwithstanding details submitted, development shall not commence until a Construction Method Statement together with a supporting plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Construction Method Statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period. The Construction Method Statement and plan shall, where applicable, provide for:

- i. details of temporary traffic management measures, temporary access, routes and vehicles;
- ii. vehicle cleaning facilities;
- iii. the parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors;
- iv. the loading and unloading of plant and materials;
- v. storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development

Reason: To prevent nuisance in the interests of residential amenity and highway safety, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

18. The development hereby permitted shall be undertaken in accordance with the following, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority:

- i. No tree felling or vegetation clearance shall be undertaken between 1st March and 31st August unless a suitably qualified ecologist has first confirmed that no bird's nests that are being built or are in use, eggs or dependent young will be damaged or destroyed.
- ii. All work to be undertaken in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan by Woodsman Arboricultural Consultancy (DWG. TPP.HighEnd.No2) and guidance set out in BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction: Recommendations British Standards Institution, 2012.
- iii. All trenches and excavations deeper than 0.30m left open overnight should have a ramp installed at an angle of no more than 45 degrees to allow the escape of entrapped mammals.
- iv. Prior to first occupation or use of the development, a minimum of five integrated bird box and/or bat boxes must have been constructed within the fabric of the new building positioned following best practice guidance.
- v. All garden boundary fences, or walls will include a gap at the base measuring a minimum 13cm x 13cm to allow continued access through the site for hedgehog.

Reason: To conserve and enhance local biodiversity in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.

19. No development shall commence (excluding the demolition of existing structures) until remedial stabilisation works to address land instability arising from unrecorded shallow coal mining legacy has been carried out in full in order to ensure that the site is made safe and stable for the development proposed. The remedial works shall be carried out in accordance with authoritative UK guidance.

Reason: To ensure the development is not at risk from previous coal mining activity.

20. Prior to the occupation of the development a signed statement or declaration prepared by a suitably competent person confirming that the site has been made safe and stable for the approved development shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval in writing. This document shall confirm the completion of the remedial works and any mitigatory measures necessary to address the risks posed by past coal mining activity.

Reason: To ensure the development is not at risk from previous coal mining activity.

21. The landscaping of the site shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans within the first planting season following the commencement of development or within such other time as may be approved with the Local Planning Authority in writing beforehand. The landscaped areas shall be maintained to ensure establishment of the approved scheme, including watering, weeding and the replacement of any plants which fail within a period up to 5 years from the completion of the development.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and the satisfactory appearance of the development upon completion, and in accordance with the provisions of policy Des1 of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, Policy H15 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

22. Fenestration serving the en-suite, utility room and WC at first floor level upon the North East facing elevation along with fenestration serving the dressing room and en-suite at second floor level must be obscurely glazed and hereby retained in this condition for the lifetime of the development. These areas are identified upon drawing no's. 3030-5 011 L and 3030-5 012 K

Reason: To protect the amenity of neighbouring residents in accordance with policy Des1 of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, policy H15 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Informatives**

- 1) No external refuse or refuse containers shall be stored outside of the approved refuse storage area except on the day of refuse collection.

- 2) Building materials or equipment shall not be stored on the highway unless otherwise agreed. You are advised to contact the Streetworks team on 0345 600 6400 for Skips and Containers licences.
- 3) In accordance with the Highways Act 1980 mud, debris or rubbish shall not be deposited on the highway.
- 4) Using native species in landscaping schemes has many advantages. They are the most likely to support the most wildlife and avoid the risk of the problems that invasive species bring. Many of them are just as attractive as ornamental varieties and will bring a sense of local distinctiveness to planting schemes. A list of plant species native to Northumberland can be found online <https://www.northumberlandcoastalnb.org/files/Downloads/Botanical%20species%20native%20to%20Northumberland%20-%20Google%20Docs.pdf>

A list of suitable trees is available online from Northumberland Wildlife Trust <https://www.nwt.org.uk/what-we-donews-and-publications/publications> Please note Field Maple is not considered locally native to Northumberland and should not be widely planted, and it is no longer recommended to include Ash in planting schemes due to the prevalence of ash die back disease (Chalara). A species-rich grassland mix is now produced in Northumberland from seed harvested within grassland SSSIs in the Northumberland National Park, which can be bought through British Wildflower Seeds. It has a high proportion of yellow rattle, which is helpful to its establishment in existing grasslands. <https://britishwildflowermeadowseeds.co.uk/collections/wildflower-meadowseeds/products/northumberland-meadow-seed-mix> The Royal Horticultural Society's

Plants for Pollinators is also a useful reference for landscaping schemes. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

- 5) Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes, and/or any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of The Coal Authority, since such activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Failure to obtain permission will result in trespass, with the potential for court action. In the event that you are proposing to undertake such work in the Forest of Dean local authority area our permission may not be required; it is recommended that you check with us prior to commencing any works. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Coal Authority's website at: [www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property](http://www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property)
- 6) NWL encourage the developer to produce a surface water drainage solution by working through the following, listed in order of priority: Discharge into ground (infiltration) Discharge to a surface water body Discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system As a last resort, discharge to a combined sewer If sewer is the only option then the developer is encouraged to contact Northumbrian Water to agree allowable discharge rates and connection points into the public sewer

network. Further advice can be found at  
<https://www.nwl.co.uk/developers/predevelopment-enquiries.aspx>

**Date of Report:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Background Papers:** Planning application file(s) 21/01614/FUL



# Northumberland County Council

## Appeal Update Report

Date: January 2022

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### Planning Appeals

**Report of the Director of Planning**

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor CW Horncastle

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#### **Purpose of report**

For Members' information to report the progress of planning appeals. This is a monthly report and relates to appeals throughout all 5 Local Area Council Planning Committee areas and covers appeals of Strategic Planning Committee.

#### **Recommendations**

To note the contents of the report in respect of the progress of planning appeals that have been submitted to and determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

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

This report is relevant to all of the priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021 where identified within individual planning applications and appeals.

#### **Key issues**

Each planning application and associated appeal has its own particular set of individual issues and considerations that have been taken into account in their determination, which are set out within the individual application reports and appeal decisions.



# Recent Planning Appeal Decisions

## Planning Appeals Allowed (permission granted)

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

## Planning Appeals Split Decision

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

## Planning Appeals Dismissed (permission refused)

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
21/00128/FUL	<p>Change of use from public house at ground floor (Sui Generis) to 1no. self contained two bedroom apartment at ground floor (C3 Use). Retention of existing 7no. existing holiday let rooms at first floor (C1 use); 1no. existing self contained apartment at first floor (C3 Use); and 1no. existing self contained apartment at second floor (C3 use) (Amended description 06/04/2021) - Black Bull Inn, Main Road, Wylam</p> <p>Main issues: proposal is unable to provide sufficient on-site car parking with unacceptable adverse impact on highway safety; and no completed Section 106 Agreement to secure sport and play contributions.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No
21/01393/FUL	<p>Single-storey flat-roofed garage to rear of back garden – 7 First Avenue, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: design, scale and massing would result in an incongruous addition with a negative visual impact on the property and surrounding area.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No



21/00844/FUL	<p>Adjustment to front boundary, replace lawn with permeable surface to allow parking for 2 cars, addition of electric vehicle charging point, remove pedestrian access, create central 10 foot wide vehicle/pedestrian access, installation of wrought iron gates and dropped kerbs to highway - 51 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed</p> <p>Main issues: the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the Conservation Area and listed buildings and there are no public benefits to outweigh the harm.</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>	No
21/00845/LBC	<p>Listed Building Consent for adjustment to front boundary, replace lawn with permeable surface to allow parking for 2 cars, addition of electric vehicle charging point, remove pedestrian access, create central 10 foot wide vehicle/pedestrian access, installation of wrought iron gates and dropped kerbs to highway - 51 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed</p> <p>Main issues: the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the Conservation Area and listed buildings and there are no public benefits to outweigh the harm.</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>	No
20/02247/FUL	<p>Erection of a rural worker's dwelling – land south of Middle Coldcoats Equestrian Centre, Milbourne</p> <p>Main issues: fails to demonstrate the need for a rural worker's dwelling in the open countryside; inappropriate development in the Green Belt and there are no very special circumstances to outweigh harm; and fails to address pollution concerns with potential to affect protected species and failure to demonstrate ecological enhancement.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No
21/01205/AGTRES	<p>Prior notification for change of use of an existing agricultural building and conversion to 1no. Dwelling - land to east of Edgewell House Farm House, Edgewell House Road, Prudhoe</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information to establish if the proposal complies with relevant requirements regarding the last use of the building.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:</p>	No – claim refused

	Refuse	
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## Planning Casework Unit Referrals

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

## Planning Appeals Received

### Appeals Received

Reference No	Description and address	Appeal start date and decision level
20/03861/VARYCO	<p>Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 20/00297/FUL in order to allow new wall to be moved closer to boundary wall to underpin and give support. Also French doors have 3/4 height windows on either side and single window in extension will be replaced using existing 2no. sash windows and mullions – Ashleigh, 26 Cade Hill Road, Stocksfield</p> <p>Main issues: extension would be out of scale and character with the existing property and would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the site and surrounding area; and detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of the neighbouring property.</p>	<p>26 May 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
19/04660/FUL	<p>New external plant – Asda, Main Street, Tweedmouth</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information in relation to noise and potential impacts on residential amenity.</p>	<p>19 August 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/02536/FUL	<p>Retrospective - Installation of hard standing, electricity and water points, alterations to access and other ancillary works - land west of North Farm Cottages, Embleton</p> <p>Main issues: incursion into the open countryside and would erode the rural</p>	<p>26 August 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

	character of the site and its surroundings.	
20/03231/OUT	<p>Erection of 4no. dwellinghouses (C3 use class) with all matters reserved – land north-west and south-east of The Haven, Back Crofts, Rothbury</p> <p>Main issues: fails to address highway safety matters in relation to site access and manoeuvrability.</p>	<p>10 September 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/03542/FUL	<p>Change of use of land to site shepherd's hut for tourism accommodation – land east of Kingshaw Green, Tyne Green, Hexham</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; inadequate flood risk assessment; and insufficient information regarding foul water treatment.</p>	<p>13 September 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
19/01008/FUL	<p>Construction of 58no. dwellings with associated landscaping, access and infrastructure works – land to north of Fairmoor Centre, Morpeth</p> <p>Main issues: unacceptable in principle as the site is allocated in the development plan for employment use and it is considered that the site should be retained for such purposes; outstanding technical matters also remain to be resolved regarding surface water drainage and highways matters; and Section 106 contributions in respect of education, primary healthcare and affordable housing have not been secured.</p>	<p>16 September 2021</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>
21/01085/FUL	<p>Single storey front extension – 2 The Limes, Morpeth</p> <p>Main issues: the proposals would result in an incongruous and overbearing addition with visual harm to the property and wider street scene.</p>	<p>12 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/04369/REM	<p>Reserved Matters application in accordance with condition 1, 2 and 5 - seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping, including details of materials/finishes (residential development of up to 6 dwellings) pursuant to planning permission 13/00802/OUT - land north of High Fair, Wooler</p> <p>Main issues: layout, scale and massing would be out of character with surrounding area.</p>	<p>18 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/01578/OUT	<p>Outline permission with all matters reserved - demolition of existing garage, stable block</p>	<p>19 October 2021</p>

	<p>and tennis court and erection of 1 dwelling with associated driveway and landscaping (Self Build) - land west of Roecliffe, Ladycutter Lane, Corbridge</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; and encroachment into the countryside and would not respond to the character of the area.</p>	<p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/04343/LBC	<p>Listed building consent for metal railings to balcony – 8 Prospect Place, Alnmouth</p> <p>Main issues: less than substantial harm caused to the listed building.</p>	<p>19 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01918/FUL	<p>Demolition of modern agricultural sheds and development of six new residential dwellings, including gardens, car parking, and all ancillary works – Longbank Farm, Longhoughton</p> <p>Main issues: principle of housing in an isolated location in the open countryside is unacceptable; significant urbanising effects in the open countryside eroding the local landscape and not enhancing the Northumberland Coast AONB; insufficient information to assess off-site highway works; and no Section 106 Agreement completed to secure affordable housing.</p>	<p>26 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01600/FUL	<p>Development of 9no. affordable houses, including access road, gardens, car parking and other ancillary works - land north of B6350, Corbridge</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; development in an unsustainable location in the open countryside; results in encroachment into the countryside, loss of mature trees and visually intrusive and harmful impact on rural and open character of the site and setting of Corbridge; and loss of Grade 2 agricultural land.</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/03224/FUL	<p>Change of use of private dwelling into 4no. holiday lets and separate holiday home to rent and erection of 4no. holiday homes to rent with associated car parking – Bayview, Beachway, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: inadequate off-road car parking provision and resultant off-site impacts; increased noise and light pollution to the</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>

	<p>shoreline of the Northumberland Shore SSSI and harmful to bird species in that area; inadequate provision to mitigate the impact of increased recreational disturbance to designated sites of ecological importance; insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposals are acceptable in terms of coastal erosion vulnerability and surface water drainage; and insufficient information to demonstrate the proposals are acceptable in terms of impacts on the World War II pill box and setting of Blyth Battery.</p>	
20/04348/FUL	<p>Former Veterinary Clinic Converted to 4 x Residential Apartments – 37-39 Croft Road, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: harmful impact on residential amenity; fails to address highway safety matters in relation to parking provision; and lack of completed planning obligation in respect of a contribution to the Coastal Mitigation Service.</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/03777/FUL	<p>Change of use to dwelling with single storey extension and internal/external alterations – The Water House, Redesmouth, Hexham</p> <p>Main issues: no completed Section 106 Agreement to secure planning obligation of financial contribution for sport and play provision.</p>	<p>28 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/02282/LBC	<p>Listed building consent for replacement of all single glazed windows with double glazed units matching the current design – West House, Chillingham Castle, Chillingham</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed works are necessary or justified and the existing windows are beyond reasonable repair.</p>	<p>2 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/00667/FUL	<p>Conversion of agricultural buildings into 4no. residential units – High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington</p> <p>Main issues: retention and alteration of modern hay barn as part of conversion works is unacceptable in principle; and harmful design that would not be in keeping with the curtilage listed buildings.</p>	<p>2 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/01660/FUL	<p>Proposed erection of perimeter fencing and gates – site of former The Bungalow, High Pit Road, Cramlington</p> <p>Main issues: by virtue of siting, height and design the proposal constitutes an</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:</p>

	incongruous feature that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area.	Refuse
21/02878/FUL	Change of use of land for siting of shepherd's huts and associated development – land north of White House Farm, Slaley Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt.	4 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/03062/FUL	Proposed alterations and rear extension to dwelling house (retrospective) - 23 Shoresdean, Berwick-upon-Tweed Main issues: poor quality flat roof design with detrimental impact on the property and the character of the environment.	10 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/00656/FUL	Retrospective: replacement of all windows and doors – 67 Main Street, North Sunderland, Seahouses Main issues: proposal does not preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and results in less than substantial harm with no public benefits.	22 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/02916/FUL	Addition of a balcony to the first floor east facing gable elevation accessed by new door – 1 Elfin Way, South Shore, Blyth Main issues: incongruous feature on the property that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area; and harm to amenity.	24 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/00465/FUL	Resubmission: alterations to existing window opening on front elevation and installation of replacement balcony – Riverview, Shepherds Hill, Alnmouth Main issues: unacceptable impact on amenity of neighbouring properties; and detrimental impact on the AONB.	1 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/00705/FUL	Proposal for the erection of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping – Plot 28, Grange Road, Berwick Main issues: scale and visual impact would be detrimental to and out of character with the immediate surroundings.	1 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/02734/FUL	Demolish garage and erect two storey side extension and single storey flat roof rear extension – 23 The Beeches, Ponteland Main issues: disproportionate addition to the	7 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:

	property resulting in negative impact to the character of the area and inappropriate design.	Refuse
21/01136/FUL	<p>Construction of 1no detached dwelling (as amended) - land south of Embleton Hall and behind Front Street, Lonframlington</p> <p>Main issues: fails to protect and enhance the landscape character of the village; and forms an incursion into the open countryside, is not essential and fails to support the conservation and enhancement of the countryside.</p>	<p>13 December 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

## Recent Enforcement Appeal Decisions

### Enforcement Appeals Allowed

Reference No	Description and address	Award of costs?
None		

### Enforcement Appeals Dismissed

Reference No	Description and address	Award of costs?
None		

## Enforcement Appeals Received

### Appeals Received

Reference No	Description and address	Appeal start date
18/00223/ENDEVT	<p>Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB</p> <p>Main issues: material change of use of the land from agricultural for the siting of 4 caravans</p>	1 February 2021



18/00223/ENDEVT	<p>Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB</p> <p>Main issues: material change of use of the land for the siting of one caravan and the erection of fencing in excess of 2 metres in height</p>	1 February 2021
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## Inquiry and Hearing Dates

Reference No	Description and address	Inquiry/hearing date and decision level
20/02488/FUL	<p>Siting of upcycled shipping containers to provide retail and leisure facilities (use class A1, A3, and A4) and tented permanent roof covering as supplemented by note from agent received 07/09/20, additional details received 23/09/20, acoustic report received 25/09/20, and supplementary information received 20/10/20 - JH Laidler Storage Yard, Double Row, Seaton Delaval</p> <p>Main issues: loss of employment land; not demonstrated that the proposal satisfies the sequential test for main town centre uses in an out of centre location; and lack of information to be able to assess impacts on highway safety.</p>	<p>Hearing date: 27 September 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01932/FUL	<p>Construction of single dwelling with annex and ancillary accommodation, c.6.5 metre high wind turbine, associated landscaping and highway works (amended description) - land south of Church Lane, Riding Mill</p> <p>Main issues: isolated dwelling in the open countryside; inappropriate development in the Green Belt; insufficient information to fully assess ecological impacts; harmful impacts on the character of the site, wider area and countryside; lack of completed Section 106 Agreement to secure planning obligations for contributions to sport and play provision; and insufficient information to assess noise from</p>	<p>Hearing date: 18 January 2022</p> <p>Committee Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>



	wind turbine and impacts in residents and local area.	
21/01584/FUL	<p>Demolition of agricultural buildings. Replace and build on footprint 4 workers cottages and install solar panels – South Dissington Farm, Eachwick</p> <p>Main issues: development in the open countryside and no demonstrated need for new rural worker's dwellings; and inappropriate development in the Green Belt with no very special circumstances demonstrated.</p>	<p>Hearing date: to be confirmed.</p> <p>Committee Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

# Implications

<b>Policy</b>	Decisions on appeals may affect future interpretation of policy and influence policy reviews
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	There may be financial implications where costs are awarded by an Inspector or where Public Inquiries are arranged to determine appeals
<b>Legal</b>	It is expected that Legal Services will be instructed where Public Inquiries are arranged to determine appeals
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached?) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/a	Planning applications and appeals are considered having regard to the Equality Act 2010
<b>Risk assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime and disorder</b>	As set out in individual reports and decisions
<b>Customer consideration</b>	None
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	Each application/appeal may have an impact on the local environment and have been assessed accordingly
<b>Wards</b>	All where relevant to application site relating to the appeal

## Background papers

Planning applications and appeal decisions as identified within the report.

## Report author and contact details

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## Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE : CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 10 JANUARY 2022

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**TITLE OF REPORT:** Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Consultation

**Report of** Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Colin Horncastle, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Fire Authority Chair

### **Purpose of report**

Following guidance from NCC Legal and Democratic Services, The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is being presented as part of the consultation process which opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Senior Officers have the opportunity, should you wish, to present our Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, and that each Local Area Council contributes to the consultation.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

Living – ‘we want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for’.

### **Key issues**

- Under the [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#) (2018) all fire and rescue authorities are required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. This is now called a Community Risk Management Plan.
- According to the framework, each plan must:
  - Reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority.
  - Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources.
  - Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks.
  - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat.

- Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework.
- Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners;
- Be easily accessible and publicly available.

## **Background**

- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-21 was extended by one year.
- Reasons for extending the plan for one year were deemed to 'have merit' during a recent inspection undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is now consulting on its Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, supporting the Fire Authority to meet its responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018).
- Consultation opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.
- Consultation questions can be completed online by clicking the link <https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmpconsultation2022/> or by email [fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk) to request a hard copy.
- Copies of the consultation questions can be provided in an alternative language on request. Please email your request to [fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk).
- The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 has now been developed, providing data and analysis on key fire and rescue related risks, and information on how Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service will work with communities to address and mitigate those risks.

## **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 will inform all key policies for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 includes information on finance and how prevention, protection and community risk and response resources are utilised to remove or to mitigate key risks across the county of Northumberland.
<b>Legal</b>	Northumberland Fire Authority has a legal responsibility to produce a Community Risk Management Plan, and to consult on it.
<b>Procurement</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources</b>	N/A

<b>Property</b>	N/A
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and is attached for reference.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is a risk-based document, capturing key fire and rescue related risks across Northumberland, and how the Service will mitigate those risks.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Details on crime and disorder are captured within the plan.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	The plan is customer focused, written to capture key risks to residents across the county, and providing details on how the Service will mitigate those risks.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	A carbon impact assessment has been completed.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Details on health and wellbeing are captured within the plan.
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Background papers:**

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26.  
Equality Impact Assessment.

**Report sign off.**

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

## **Author and Contact Details**

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**Northumberland  
Fire and Rescue Service**

# Community Risk Management Plan 2022/26



**Northumberland  
County Council**

| Making Northumberland Safer  
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## FOREWORD

### Welcome to our Community Risk Management Plan

#### Welcome to Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26.

As Fire Authority Chair of Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Chief Fire Officer for NFRS we are pleased to be able to provide this four year plan for our local communities, residents and visitors. The plan sets out how we intend to deliver our mission of 'Making Northumberland Safer' and to outline how we seek to give assurance that Northumberland is served by a highly efficient, highly effective and high performing fire and rescue service.

The CRMP identifies our analysis of current and future risks within the county, identifies emerging risks and trends, and outlines how we will balance prevention, protection, and response activities to reduce the impact of risk on communities by making the best use of our people and resources. We will continue to work with internal and external partners to ensure that we maintain our efforts to mature our ability to better identify, understand and analyse all of the risks we Northumberland faces.

We welcome comments on the plan and our proposals. We have worked hard to improve our social media presence and develop a bespoke NFRS website to enhance our community interaction, because improving our engagement with the public and raising awareness of all of our service activity is a priority for us.





**Cllr Colin Horncastle**  
Cabinet Member for Community Services  
and Fire Authority Chair

The Service was subject to its second independent assurance inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) from mid-June – mid August 2021. Whilst the judgment was that we Require Improvement against Effectiveness, Efficiency and People, it was pleasing to note the positive comments and acknowledgements from the inspectorate of the improvements and progress we've made since 2019.

## “THE COVID PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING RESILIENT PLANS IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH MAJOR INCIDENTS, EMERGENCIES AND BUSINESS INTERRUPTIONS”

Our new Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF), which was formally launched in January 2022, will be the mechanism by which we ensure we drive and assure integrated and continuous improvement in the performance, governance, and delivery of the Service.



**Paul Hedley**  
Chief Fire Officer  
and NCC Director

Strategically, we are committed to extending our reach and integration with partners into Northumberland communities and vulnerable groups to develop more effective community safety initiatives and interventions. Building more resilient, inclusive, and effective relationships with partners within NCC, Northumbria Police, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC), NHS, voluntary and charity sector and other fire and rescue services (FRS) will be key to achieving that success.

As a small service covering a very large area and diverse risk, we know that maximising the availability of fire cover from our 15 fire station sites across Northumberland is fundamental to providing the Community Risk and Response capability necessary to better meet the expectations of our residents. We will be undertaking reviews of our operational response model, on-call capability and specialist response as well as looking to provide enhanced functionality through partnership and mutual aid with neighbouring FRS.

The Covid 19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having resilient plans in place to deal with major incidents, emergencies and business interruptions. In addition, the Covid 19 response also emphasised the importance of ensuring we have integrated planning and response

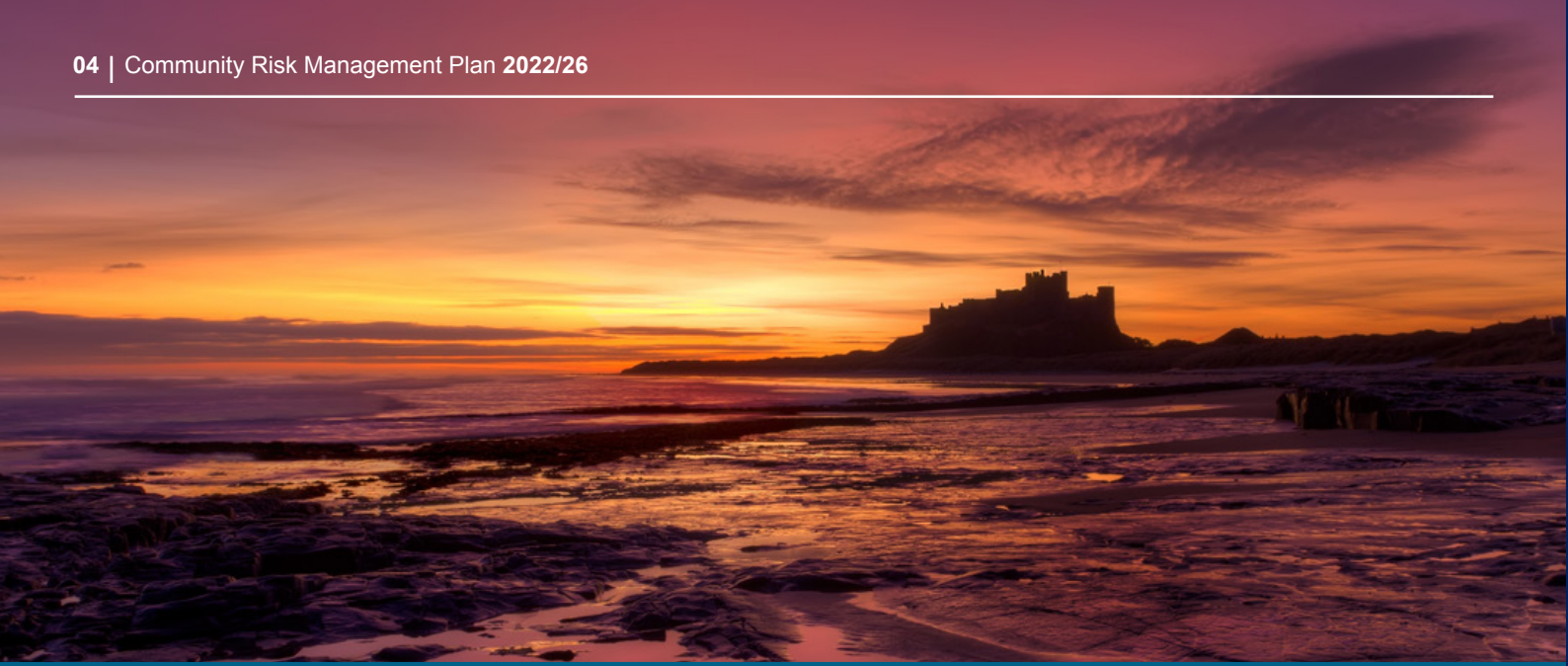
frameworks within NCC as well as effective multiagency response and mutual aid support from our Local Resilience Forum (LRF), FRS National Resilience and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) arrangements. We will continue to review and update those arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

We have already started our ambitious plans to focus upon improving our internal staff engagement and staff development, putting our values and values-based behaviours at the heart of all we do. We continue to strive to be an 'employer of choice' within Northumberland, with a highly skilled and motivated workforce that reflects our Service values and who see our Service as an engaging, positive, and rewarding place to work. We have revised our recruitment and promotion policies to ensure we have eliminated obstacles to recruiting the brightest and best from all our communities. Our NFRS People Strategy compliments this CRMP and provides more detail on our 'All Included, All Involved and All Engaged' aspirations.

By being open and responsive to change, and through exploring and investing in new and innovative technologies and ways of working, we will continue to improve the safety and wellbeing of the diverse communities we serve.

There are many interdependencies within the CRMP planning process, and for this reason we intend to monitor our progress and review the measures set out in this document through an annual CRMP update. We are committed to ensuring our plans are always current, appropriate and detail what we have delivered, how we have performed and what our delivery priorities are for the coming year.

As Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority and Chief Fire Officer we value your opinion and encourage you to offer feedback on our plans. We look forward to hearing from you.



# OUR COUNTY PROFILE

The county is home to major road and rail links, the Port of Blyth, modern industrial developments, one top tier Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) site and two Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP).

- Northumberland covers an area of **5013 km squared**.
- We have a population of **323,820**, living in **152,000 dwellings**.
- The county is the most sparsely populated county in England with **65 people per km squared**, with **96.7 percent** of the area considered rural.
- **51 percent** of people live in **3 percent** of the area, mainly situated in the southeast.
- We have an ageing population, with the number of those aged 85+ forecast to increase by **102 percent** by 2043.
- **23 percent** of children aged 16 and under live in a family considered to be low income.
- **12 percent** of the population live in **10 percent** of the most deprived areas in England.
- **98.4 percent** of residents are white, with **92.7 percent** white British.
- **12.9 percent** of the population in Northumberland are smokers.
- Compared with England, Northumberland has **higher rates** of hospital admissions due to alcohol related problems, and the rate is rising.
- **Employment** is dominated by health, retail, and manufacturing.
- With a business community that is resilient, our biggest industries are **agriculture, forestry, fishing, construction, professional, scientific and technological services**, and **accommodation and food**.



## OUR VALUES

Our values and behaviours help us to work well together to deliver an efficient and effective service and to ensure that we look after our people and our communities.

### Our agreed values are:

- Residents first – here for you.
- Excellence and quality - listening and learning to improve your service.
- Respect – you are valued.
- Keeping communities safe and well – your safety and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do.

### Our values are underpinned by our leadership commitments:

- Be professional and provide leadership by example.
- Be open to challenge and change.
- Be fair, honest, and transparent, acting with integrity.
- Communicate openly and demonstrate empathy to all.

# YOUR FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

## YOUR AREA:

• Area	5013 km squared
• Population	323,820
• Dwellings	152,000
• Non-Domestic Premises	20,729
• Community Fire Stations	15
• Fire Engines and Specialist Vehicles	37
• Support Vehicles	37
• Average annual incidents attended	3,355

## THE PEOPLE WHO DELIVER YOUR SERVICE:

• Community Risk and Response whole time (including Officers)	130
• Community risk and Response On-call (Retained Duty System)	141
• Fire Control	18
• Corporate	38
• Establishment as of 1st December 2021	327

■ Wholtime
● Retained
◆ Day staffed
□ Garage
* Shared services delivered from these sites



## RESPONSE STANDARDS FOR 2022/23

It is important for us that we can provide consistent Response Standards to all emergency incidents across Northumberland. This is the time it takes us to get to an emergency incident from the point of receiving the call into our Fire Control. As we are a predominantly rural service, with each community fire station covering an average area of 334 km squared, and where seventy percent of our firefighters are on-call/retained, this is a challenge for us.

Our Response Standards for 2022/23 are outlined in the table below:



### STANDARD 1

We will strive to ensure that the first mobilised fire engine attends all property fires within 10 minutes of alerting on 80% of occasions.



### STANDARD 2

We will strive to ensure that the second mobilised fire engine attends all property fires within 13 minutes of alerting on 80% of occasions.



### STANDARD 3

We will strive to ensure that the first mobilised fire engine attends all road traffic collisions within 15 minutes of alerting on 80% of occasions.



### STANDARD 4

We will strive to ensure that the second mobilised fire engine attends all road traffic collisions within 20 minutes of alerting on 80% of occasions.





# OUR PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

**Our People Strategy was launched in May 2021, recognising that our people are our most valued asset.**

We need those people to have the right skills, qualities, values and attitude to ensure that we can meet the needs and expectations of our communities across Northumberland – by having the right people working for our residents and visitors, we have a much greater confidence of being able to fully deliver on our mission of ‘Making Northumberland Safer’. We recognise the unique role and profile we enjoy within our communities and want to enhance that conspicuous position by developing our staff as role models and community ambassadors.

By ensuring that we have a working environment where our people feel valued, listened to, empowered, and trusted, we will continue to develop as an integrated and mature organisation which works collaboratively and innovatively to support and protect our communities.

We are committed to ensuring that we are seen as an employer of choice for everyone within our communities as we recognise that

by promoting inclusion, and having a more balanced and representative workforce, we are better able to understand the needs of people from diverse backgrounds and shape our Service more effectively to meet their needs. We remain committed to taking deliberate and positive action to promote the service to underrepresented groups.

Our People Strategy is based on a set of 12 guiding principles which underpin and cut across all areas of service and six key commitments to assist in ensuring that the strategy can deliver on our strategic aims and objectives and better support the role of the Service within our council, communities and partnerships.

We recognise the importance of ethical and authentic leadership at all levels of the Service, and we will build on the significant work with staff to develop our values and behaviours as this is an essential prerequisite to demonstrating our commitment to fairness, equality, diversity, respect and continuous improvement.



## OUR COMMITMENTS

- 01 Develop a ‘learning culture’ that promotes fairness and trust, and values the contribution of all.
- 02 Recognise and demonstrate equality and diversity in our workforce and across our activities.
- 03 Encourage and promote effective leadership and management at all levels of our organisation.
- 04 Provide high quality learning outcomes for our workforce.
- 05 Promote the health, wellbeing and fitness of our staff.
- 06 Support and develop ways of working that are flexible and adaptable to changing needs/demands.



## OUR PRINCIPLES

Every fire and rescue service is unique, but whilst NFRS may have different cultural and people determinants due to our differences in leadership, governance, service delivery model and size, there are common goals and principles which should be consistent throughout the sector.

We have taken the underpinning principles within the NFCC People Strategy and Draft Code of Ethics to develop a suite of guiding principles which will be used to govern the service and shape our thinking and decision making.

### 01 We want to be an employer of choice

We will seek to position the service as a career of choice across all sectors and communities of Northumberland to attract and retain the best people. Where we identify barriers that may prevent that aspiration, whether real or perceived, we will tackle them.

### 02 Our values define us

Our core values and behaviours, personal and organisational, will underpin everything we do. We will challenge negative and undermining behaviour to ensure we are fair, consistent and honest in the way we treat each other.

### 03 We always try to make a positive difference for our communities

We will continue to make a positive contribution to the lives of our communities, residents and visitors on a daily basis – we will work to make Northumberland safer and stronger through our involvement, engagement and presence.

### 04 The Health, Safety and Welfare of our staff is our priority

The health, safety and welfare of all of our people will continue to be at the heart of all that we do. We will support the well-being of our staff through dedicated programmes and take specific action to tackle the stigma around mental health and celebrate difference.

### 05 We will embrace new ways of working

We will deliver flexible solutions that are correctly positioned to support our increasingly mobile workforce, whilst being agile enough to adapt to future changes in business requirements and working practices.

### 06 We will have excellent communication

We will build an effective internal communications framework to ensure that our messaging is honest, clear and delivered in the most appropriate format. Externally we will continue to grow our ability to engage and communicate with residents, businesses and partners.

### 07 Staff Engagement and Involvement are key to our success

We will involve our staff in decision making and policy development ensuring that they are properly engaged and consulted with regards to the future direction of the service. We recognise the importance of being able to respond to staff suggestions and the importance of every member of the service having their voice heard.

### 08 We will champion equality, diversity and inclusion

We will actively promote equality across our workforce and through our services in the community, and will try to increase the diversity and balance of our workforce through positive action programmes to ensure we reflect the communities we serve and attract the best possible talent available to us.

### 09 We will develop a workforce of leaders

We will enhance, facilitate and encourage leadership at all levels of the service, devolving responsibility and accountability to the lowest level and creating a high performance culture to improve performance and outcomes.

### 10 We are a learning organisation

We will become skilled at creating, acquiring, and transferring knowledge, and at modifying our behavior to reflect new knowledge and insights. We accept and welcome scrutiny and challenge and recognise new ideas and different thinking is essential if learning is to take place.

### 11 Strong collaboration and partnership

We will actively support working and sharing information with our partners, and will develop our relationships with partner organisations to promote and deliver services which add real public value and improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

### 12 We are 'OneTeam'

NCC's vision is 'One Council That Works For Everyone' – as part of our contribution to achieving that vision we will develop a 'One Team' culture within NFRS to break down internal barriers and encourage a collaborative and outcome focused mind-set.



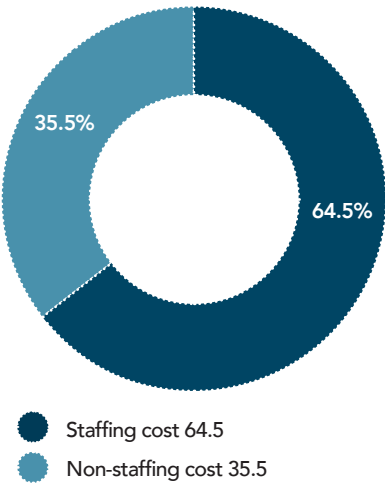


# OUR BUDGET

We had a total budget of £16,136,360 to deliver your service during 2020-21. Much of this budget was spent on our people, and this is reflected in **Chart 1** below. **Chart 2** shows how this money is spent by role. Finally, **Chart 3** shows how non-staffing budget is used to support our Prevention, Protection and Community Risk and Response activity.

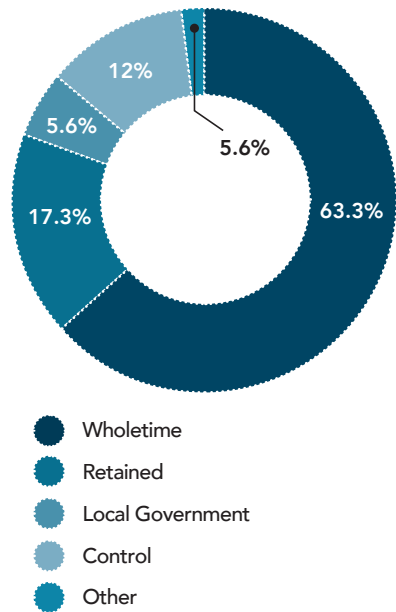
**CHART 1**

How our budget reflects staffing and non-staffing costs for 2021-22.



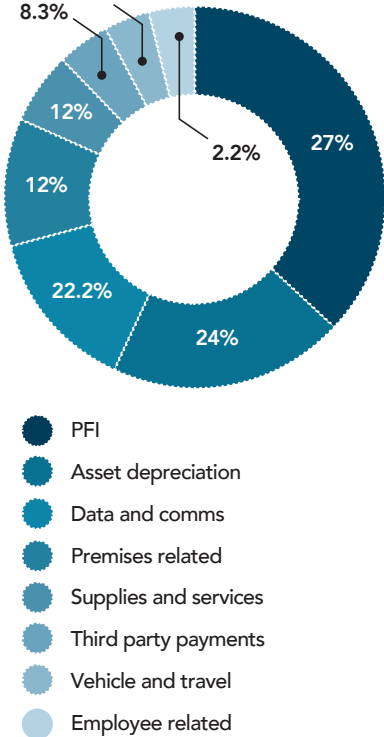
**CHART 2**

How our budget has been divided by roles during 2020/22.



**CHART 3**

How our budget reflects non-staffing costs for 2021-22.



# OUR COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Fire and rescue authorities (FRA) have a number of duties as set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.**

When carrying out their core functions under the Act, FRAs must:

- Secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment.
- Secure the provision of training for personnel.
- Secure arrangements for dealing with calls and summoning assistance.
- Secure arrangements for obtaining information for the discharging of their functions.
- Secure arrangements for reasonable steps to be taken to prevent or limit damage to property resulting from the discharge of their functions.

- To collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.
- To be accountable to communities for the service they provide.
- To develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.

**The core functions of an FRA are:**

- Promote fire safety, including the provision of information and publicity on how to prevent fires, and on the means of escape from buildings in case of fire.
- Extinguish fires and protect life and property in the event of fires.
- Rescue people and protect people from serious harm in the event of road traffic collisions.
- When necessary, deal with emergencies other than fire and road traffic collisions.

FRAs in England have further responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) to 'assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities'.

**The Framework identifies five priorities for fire and rescue authorities:**

- To make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents.
- To identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face.

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Authority (NFRA) is also legally responsible for the enforcement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The Order places a duty on a responsible person within an organisation to carry out fire risk assessments to identify, manage and reduce the risk of fire within public and commercial buildings, and in communal and external areas of residential premises with two or more dwellings.

In order to support the Fire Authority, we carry out audits of premises, provide education, advice and guidance to responsible persons on fire safety. Where serious fire safety issues are found, we will take appropriate enforcement action to improve fire safety. We will also prosecute when it is in the public interest to do so.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the FRA has a duty to work with partners in their LRF to plan and train for risks identified in a joint Community Risk Register (CRR). This assists in risk management planning, and risks identified in the CRR are reflected in our plan.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a duty on police, fire and ambulance services to work together in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency services. NFRS works in collaboration with Northumbria Police, the OPCC and, through a North East Strategic Delivery Board, the 4 North East FRS' to ensure NFRA meets its responsibilities under the Act.

Our CRMP will support change within NFRS, setting out our strategic priorities and how we intend to manage the existing and future risks within the county.

# UNDERSTANDING RISK

NFRS defines risk as a **'combination of the likelihood and consequence of a hazardous event'**. This supports the NFCC definition and strategic risk management framework.

In the case of fire and rescue related risks, hazardous events are the emergency incidents that we attend. We have a responsibility to our communities to identify what type of incidents we attend, and to work with our communities and key partners to minimise or prevent the likelihood of these happening.

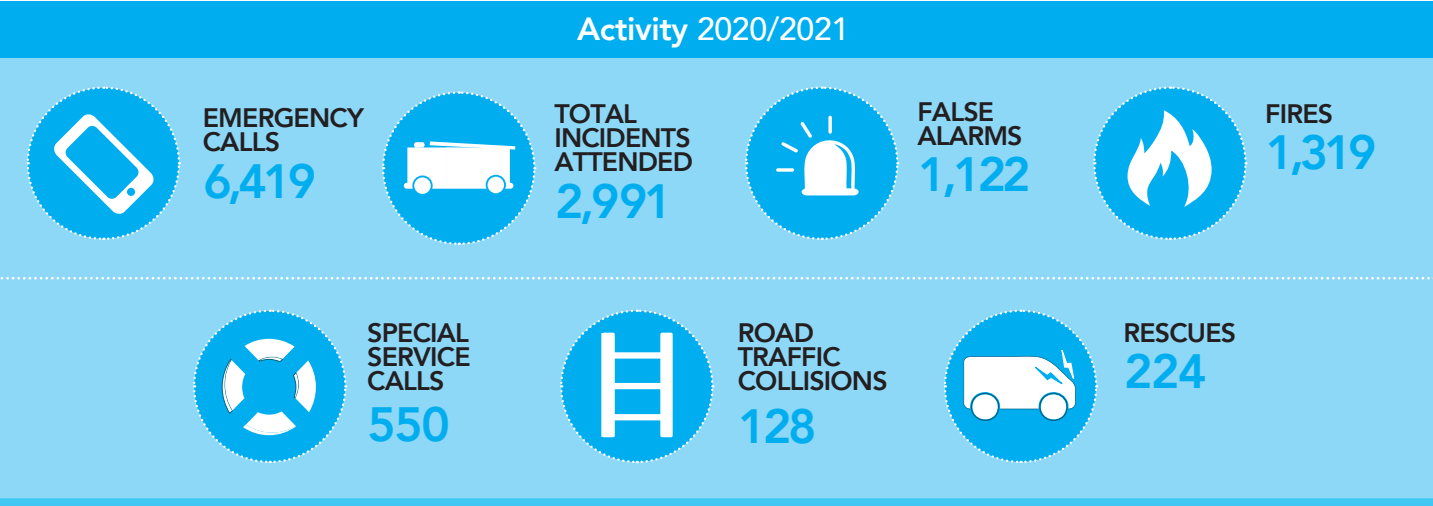
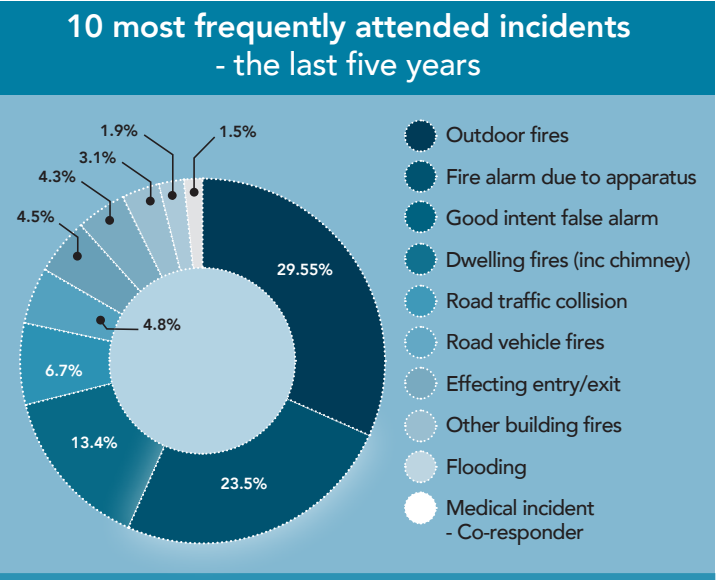
We know that over the last 10 years, working closely with our communities and key partners, we have reduced the

total number of incidents we attend by 21 percent. The total number of incidents we attended during 2020/21 is likely to have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, however the total number attended is the lowest in the last 10 years, and 11 percent less than the previous year (2019/20).

To understand the risks faced by our communities, we need to know what type of incidents we attend. We know that we attend up to 30 different types

of incidents, however we also know that only 10 of these account for over 90 percent of all attendances. By focusing on these we will maximise our efforts to reduce risk and mitigate consequences.

The types of incidents we attend the most rarely change, which gives us confidence that we can target our resources effectively, implementing both short and long-term interventions. The charts below show the types of incidents we attend.





“WE KNOW THAT OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND KEY PARTNERS, WE HAVE REDUCED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WE ATTEND BY 21 PERCENT.”

Working in collaboration with **Operational Research in Health (ORH) Ltd** we have developed a fire and rescue risk profile for Northumberland. Applying analysis and statistical modelling, we have:

- Analysed incident and response data of all incident types attended by the service.
- Identified multiple data sources relating to fire and other risks, such as population and demographics, building and road network data.
- Applied random forest modelling to determine risk scores, and to identify which characteristics have the strongest relationship to the likelihood of incidents occurring. For instance, we know that there is a strong relationship between deliberate outdoor fires and crime deprivation (this is the recorded crime for four major crime types, violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage).
- Assessed these relationships to consider risk across Northumberland.

This process allows us to determine a risk score by Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA). A LSOA is a geographical area of approximately 1500 people or 650 households, and there are 197 in Northumberland. The risk score is relative to Northumberland, and to the highest risk LSOA.

Our profile helps us to determine where we target our resources to address risk, and what factors impact on both the likelihood of an incident happening, and the severity of any resulting consequence. This in turn influences our Prevention and Protection programmes, as well as ensuring we have our Community Risk and Response resources where we need them most.

Risk is dynamic, and we will continue to review risks to our communities, our people, our reputation and the delivery of our statutory responsibilities.



# DWELLING FIRES

During 2020/21 we attended 199 house fires in Northumberland, 90 percent of which were accidental. These incidents can have a devastating affect on those involved, sometimes leading to injury and even death. Our risk profile uses multiple data sets to inform our programmes, and we enhance our profile with data

that allows us the opportunity to target our prevention towards those most likely to have an accidental fire in their home. Our partners help us with this by sharing, where appropriate, information and data on individuals and families who would benefit most from our support. Where we can, we will work with our

partners collaboratively to develop our programmes and strengthen our reciprocal training and referral processes to ensure we can help and support the people who need us the most.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

- ▶ Deliver a targeted safe and wellbeing programme, ensuring people remain at the heart of what we do.
- ▶ Work in collaboration with partners to develop our prevention policy.
- ▶ Deliver robust safeguarding referrals leading to positive outcomes for those at risk.
- ▶ Deliver training for Community Risk and Response personnel and assess operational and command competence.
- ▶ Undertake fire investigations to ensure learning.
- ▶ Undertake case reviews to inform learning.
- ▶ Continue to develop our use of social media platforms to share key messages with our communities.

**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

- ▶ Introduce additional measures to monitor the success of our safe and wellbeing programme, ensuring we are targeting those who are at high or very high risk of having a fire in their home.
- ▶ Introduce community safety training and qualifications for Community Safety and Community Risk and Response personnel.
- ▶ Work with partners to further share relevant data to assist risk profiling and targeting.
- ▶ Pilot the NFCC national model for dwelling fires as a 'proof of concept'.
- ▶ Launch a dedicated NFRS website.
- ▶ Develop and implement Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS) online services to allow for online referrals.
- ▶ Implement robust quality assurance processes.
- ▶ Evaluate the success of our safe and wellbeing programme.





# AUTOMATIC FALSE ALARMS (AFA) IN DWELLINGS

These are incidents we attend where a smoke alarm has activated in the home, but there is no fire present.

Our risk profile tells us that factors influencing the likelihood of an AFA in the home are social deprivation, social residential buildings and the population who are over 65 years of age. As there is no fire, the risk of injury is low. However, we should consider these incidents as a warning that risks may be present.

With an ageing population, there is potential for numbers of this incident type to increase, potentially also leading to an increase in actual dwelling fires. Working with our partners, therefore, becomes more important than ever.

## What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Two or more AFAs in dwellings result in a referral to our Community Safety Department, who will visit the home to carry out a risk assessment.
- ▶ Ensure our risk modelling includes data on members of our community who are 65 years old or older.
- ▶ Ensure our referral pathways are clear and implemented appropriately.
- ▶ Provide information to signpost individuals and families to further help and support when they are not ready for a referral to be made.
- ▶ Deliver training for Community Risk and Response personnel and assess operational and command competence.

## What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Undertake additional analysis in order to better understand AFAs in dwellings.
- ▶ Continually monitor and analyse AFA data to understand and target resources and advice, where underlying trends are identified.
- ▶ Work with the NFCC to implement and support campaigns and initiatives.





# OUTDOOR FIRES

During 2020/21, over 29 percent of the incidents we attended were to outdoor fires. 75 percent of these were started deliberately, typically involving rubbish, grass and woodland. Although we attend a lot of outdoor fires, the risk of injury remains low. However, there are significant financial

and environmental impacts associated with this type of incident. Our incident profile tells us that outdoor fires typically occur in the South East of the County, and our risk profile suggests outdoor fires occur in our more deprived areas where there is a higher crime rate (there is a strong

correlation between outdoor firesetting and anti-social behaviour). There is also a strong relationship between outdoor firesetting, anti-social behaviour and young people under the age of 17.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

- ▶ Monitor performance through our Performance and Assurance Framework.
- ▶ Collaborate with our neighbouring North East FRSs to support research into the culture of deliberate outdoor firesetting.
- ▶ Deliver our 'Extinguish' Programme for young people involved in firesetting.
- ▶ Deliver our schools education programme in the areas where outdoor fires are most likely to happen.
- ▶ Engage children and young people in rapid local interventions.
- ▶ Work in partnership to enhance arson reduction.

**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

- ▶ Collaborate with our neighbouring North East FRSs to support research into the consistency of reporting and recording of deliberate fires.
- ▶ Collaborate with key partners on the development of target area profiles.
- ▶ Further develop our key partnerships in order to strengthen core programme delivery.
- ▶ Develop robust quality assurance processes.
- ▶ Evaluate the impact of our proactive prevention programmes.
- ▶ Evaluate our reactive interventions.



# WILDFIRES

Extended periods of warm, dry weather can help support the development of large vegetation fires – fires which we call wildfires. While wildfires tend to be more common in the spring and summer, they can occur at any time of the year.

The number of wildfires occurring in Northumberland is relatively low (17 incidents between 2016/17 and 2020/21), however they can

escalate quickly and spread across large areas. Wildfires can cause major disruption to life, property and infrastructure and have catastrophic consequences for the environment, flora and fauna. 70 percent of wildfires in Northumberland have been accidental and have burned for periods of between a few hours, up to one month.

The Met Office climate projections

for the UK indicate significant temperature rises in the decades ahead for both winter and summer. Extreme weather could become more frequent and intense.

We have measures in place to monitor both climate change and wildfire risk in order to ensure we have the correct resources where and when we need them most.

The following definition has been used for a wildfire; a fire  $\geq$  1 hectare (10,000 sqm) and/or  $\geq$  4 fire engines or vehicles and/or  $\geq$  6 hours duration and/or flame length  $\geq$  1.5 m and/or serious risk to life, environment, property or infrastructure.

## What we do to reduce risk:

Work closely with the Met Office and Natural Hazards Partnership so that we obtain early warning that wildfire risk is elevated/severe/extreme. We also monitor the Daily Hazard Assessment.

Monitor the Met Office Fire Severity Index (FSI).

Provide wildfire prevention and preparedness advice to residents, businesses and visitors in line with our Wildfire Communication Plan.

Create and review detailed fire plans for sites that are considered at highest risk of wildfires.

Utilise a wildfire scoresheet in partnership with Northumberland National Park Authority and Natural England, subsequently published by the Uplands Management Group.

Chair the NFCC Wildfire Group sharing good practice for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response around the UK.

Facilitate the multiagency Northumberland Fire Group. [www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Group.aspx](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Group.aspx)

Provide Specialist Personal Protective Equipment for all Community Risk and Response personnel.

Maintain four specialist wildfire hub stations.

Train Wildfire Support Officers to support locally.

Train and provide National Wildfire Tactical Advisors.

Work in Partnership to support the sharing of assets.

Support Northumberland County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23.

## What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

Design and implement an annual wildfire exercise to test the response to wildfire incidents, which will aim to include partner agencies and neighbouring Fire & Rescue Services.

Use the wildfire risk scoresheets developed with our partners to obtain a more detailed and localised understanding of wildfire risk across Northumberland.

Work with colleagues at Northumberland County Council to help develop plans for planting the Great Northumberland Forest.



# NON-RESIDENTIAL FIRES (OR OTHER BUILDING FIRES)

These are fires in commercial buildings, such as the retail sector, industrial, manufacturing, hospital and educational facilities.

These incident types account for four percent of all incidents attended, and we attended 93 of these in 2020/21.

Risk from injury is relatively low, however the impact of non-residential fires on the economy can be significant.

Our risk profile has indicated that, in addition to the implementation of a risk-based inspection programme, protection work should prioritise retail buildings and areas with high deprivation.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

- Continue to support the business community in legislative responsibilities.
- Deliver a risk-based inspection programme.
- Provide information, advice and guidance to businesses, enforcing legislation when necessary.
- Engage with businesses, introducing innovative methods of delivery.
- Increase the inspection capability of Fire Safety by introducing Level 3 Inspectors into Community Risk and Response and establishing Associate Inspectors.
- Work with regional fire and rescue services to collaborate on Business Fire Safety.
- Implement actions identified following national incidents such as the Grenfell Tower tragedy.
- Implement a Site Specific Risk Information policy to ensure Community Risk and Response personnel are aware of the risks relevant to each high-risk commercial building.



**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

- Expand the Community Risk and Response Fire Safety Level 3 qualification to all operational Watch and Crew Managers.
- Educate and advise businesses on the completion of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS).
- Consider the fire safety implications of the new Building Safety Bill, and implement recommendations as appropriate.
- Target all commercial premises involved in a fire for a post fire safety inspection.
- Ensure that all inspecting officers who hold a Fire Safety Level 4 diploma qualification are aligned to the 3rd party accreditation process identified by the NFCC.
- Develop an on-line self-assessment process for businesses to register their fire safety compliance.
- Monitor a series of identified targeted measures to inform and enhance fire safety delivery across the commercial sector.
- Develop a communications strategy to utilise social media platforms to inform and advise businesses.
- Identify emerging significant risks in the built environment and assess the impact of these on our service provision and the risks they present to our communities from initial awareness through planning, construction, occupation and its ongoing use.
- Further develop the use of our associate fire safety inspecting team to carry out fire safety audits in support of our risk-based inspection program.
- Continue to develop our action plan on petroleum.

## AUTOMATIC FALSE ALARMS (AFA) IN NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

These are incidents we attend where the automatic fire detection equipment or alarm system has activated and there is no fire.

As there is no fire, the risk of injury is low, however as 34 percent of all incidents we attend are to false alarms, there is a significant impact on fire

and rescue resource which could be available for other incidents where risk of injury or even fatality is greater.

### What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Work with businesses to provide advice and guidance on the management and maintenance of automatic alarm systems.
- ▶ Manage a cost recovery process to encourage better management and maintenance of automatic alarm systems.

### What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Target businesses who are identified as having frequent AFA calls to their premises and work with them to reduce impact on NFRS.
- ▶ Continually monitor and analyse AFA data to understand and target resources and advice to business, where underlying trends are identified.
- ▶ Work with NFCC to implement and support campaigns and initiatives.

## ROAD VEHICLE FIRES

During 2020/21 we attended 143 vehicle fires, and many of these had been started deliberately. Perhaps not surprisingly, our risk profile tells us road vehicle fires are more likely to occur in our more deprived areas where there is a higher crime rate.

### What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Maintain robust partnership with Northumbria Police to inform our understanding of why these incidents are happening in Northumberland.
- ▶ Share information and intelligence with partners where appropriate.
- ▶ Attend regular partnership meetings such as Victim Offender Location (VOL) meetings to share intelligence, improve learning and effectively target prevention resources.
- ▶ Maintain Fire Investigation qualifications and competence.
- ▶ Develop robust regional and national partnerships to share good practice.

### What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Continue to strengthen our relationship with Northumbria Police and other partners to ensure the effective sharing of information and intelligence.
- ▶ Further develop the role of Community Risk and Response Station Managers with key partners, and with the wider community.
- ▶ Increase Fire Investigation knowledge, experience and capacity within NFRS.





## ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Each year people die or suffer serious injuries on the roads of Northumberland. We typically attend only the most serious collisions and attended 128 during 2020/21. Our

profiling tells us that 78 percent of all road traffic collisions involved at least one driver who lives in Northumberland. The North East Road Safety Resource provides us

with additional road traffic collision data, helping us to understand how we compare with both England and other local authorities across the region.

### What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Maintain membership of the Northumberland Road Safety Coordination Group (NRSCG).
- ▶ Contribute to the Northumberland Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.
- ▶ Monitor road safety performance utilising analysis provided by the North East Road Safety Resource.
- ▶ Deliver a road safety programme in schools as directed by our risk profile.
- ▶ Deliver key road safety messages on all prevention programmes with young people.
- ▶ Use social media platforms to share key messages.
- ▶ Maintain a Community Risk and Response capability across Northumberland.
- ▶ Train firefighters in the latest trauma management techniques in collaboration with North East Ambulance Service to ensure a high quality of casualty management.
- ▶ Provide all front-line fire engines with specialist training and equipment to deal with road traffic collisions and potential casualties quickly and efficiently.

### What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Identify a road safety lead.
- ▶ Work in collaboration with Northumberland Road Safety Co-ordination group to monitor and identify emerging road safety issues affecting the residents of Northumberland.
- ▶ Provide road safety education in the community-based upon identified risks specific to geographical areas.
- ▶ Provide road safety education in schools based on identified risks and targeted at relevant age groups.
- ▶ Further develop and enhance public 'Biker Down' sessions to inform and educate motorcyclists on the dangers of, and actions to be taken following motorcycle collisions.
- ▶ Continue to engage with the wider fire and rescue service sector to stay informed of any updates and changes to ensure that we take advantage of the latest available technology and procedures where appropriate.



# FLOODING AND WATER RESCUE

We attended 276 flooding incidents between 2016/17 and 2020/21. These incidents can devastate parts of the community and leave an impact that can last for years.

While numbers have remained constant, we attended a number of incidents in August of 2019/20, and these were the result of heavy rainfall. The Met Office claims that as the world warms, fewer rainy days in summer are

expected. Winter rains could remain as likely as they are now. In 2008, widespread flooding in Northumberland affected 1,200 properties.

In 2012, flooding events impacted 240 properties. Smaller, more isolated flooding events occurred in 2013 and 2014. We have measures in place to monitor flooding risk in order to ensure we have the correct resources where and when we need them most.

We also respond to water rescue incidents, not related to flooding. Although numbers are small, 48 were recorded between 2016/17 and 2020/21, the number of incidents of this type has been increasing. Almost 44 percent of those rescued from water were from moving water such as rivers or the sea. Such events can be devastating for those involved.

## What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Implement a schools education programme, delivering key messages on water safety.
- ▶ Utilise social media platforms to share water safety messages and both national and local campaigns.
- ▶ Maintain Swift Water Rescue capability at strategic locations across Northumberland.
- ▶ Work with partners during the response and recovery phase of flooding events.
- ▶ Undertake local and multi-agency planning, training and exercises.
- ▶ Work with NCC partners to develop and implement the Northumberland Local Risk Management Strategy.
- ▶ Work with partners to develop multi-agency flood plans.
- ▶ Support NCC Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23.

## What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Expand our Swift Water Rescue Capability by upskilling additional personnel at key locations across the county.
- ▶ Identify areas of risk and address with prevention measures as appropriate.
- ▶ Continue to train our personnel in the latest techniques and procedures to ensure maximum effectiveness at water rescue incidents.



# NATIONAL RESILIENCE

The term resilience refers to the ability to withstand a crisis and recover from it quickly. This could include events impacting on national security, wide scale flooding or wildfires, or pandemics such as Covid 19.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) confirms that the Government has responsibility

for fire and rescue related national resilience assets and capabilities but that these should be managed through local fire and rescue services.

A national programme called New Dimensions, identified the need for 47 High Volume Pumps (HVP) across the country to support water or flood related incidents. We host one of these

HVPs in Northumberland, situated in the southeast of the county but ready to deploy across the county and indeed the country when required. These incidents are low in likelihood, but the impact is significant, with the possibility of building collapse, large scale environmental damage and the evacuation or rescue of people.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

- ▶ Complete and regularly review risk assessments for Northumberland.
- ▶ Deliver a programme of site visits.
- ▶ Participate in national exercises.
- ▶ Ensure continuous improvement by implementing actions to address recommendations identified following site visits or national exercises.
- ▶ Maintain HPV capability and competence.

**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

- ▶ Observe and evaluate operational incidents and exercises, implementing recommendation identified.
- ▶ Review systems, processes and procedures.
- ▶ Provide support to HPV operators, instructors and Tactical Advisors with competence standards, continuous professional development, and acquisition training.
- ▶ Maintain an effective governance process for the HPV capability.

# EFFECTING ENTRY/EXIT

Sometimes we are asked to help Northumbria Police or North East Ambulance Service to gain access to someone’s home. This may be because they need urgent medical help or because someone is trapped in a room and can’t get out.

We will only do this where we consider there to be a risk

to life, and we will gain entry in the least destructive way possible.

Over the last few years, these types of incidents have been increasing, and we attended 135 incidents of this type in 2020/21. Due to the nature of this incident type the risk of injury and even death is high.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

- ▶ Maintain Community Risk and Response competence.
- ▶ Ensure lock pulling kits are available on all fire engines.
- ▶ Continue to provide training and instruction to operational personnel in methods of entry.

**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

- ▶ Work in partnership with Northumbria Police, North East Ambulance Service and regional FRS’, to frequently review current arrangements to inform how we all can continue to provide an appropriate response to these incidents in the future.
- ▶ Research and review further equipment that may provide alternative methods of entry where appropriate.

# MEDICAL INCIDENT – CO-RESPONDER

Between January 2016 and September 2017, we responded to 293 medical incidents.

This was a programme delivered in collaboration with North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), involving our firefighters attending high priority calls including patients who were unconscious and/or not breathing. Due to the nature of this

incident type, the risk of injury and death is high, with 634 casualties and 60 fatalities per 1,000 incidents.

Although this pilot programme has concluded, we will continue to review the possible benefits of delivering this programme in the future.

# MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACKS (MTA)

Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTAs) are fast-moving, violent attacks where assailants move through a location aiming to find and kill or hurt as many people as possible.

The likelihood of this type of incident occurring in Northumberland is low, however there is significant risk of injury or death should an incident like this happen. It is important that

we have robust planning in place, and that we work closely with other emergency services so that a response is coordinated at every level.

The foundation to every multi-agency response is the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP), however we may need to take other factors into consideration when responding to attacks.

The JESIP Joint Operating Principles (JOPs) for terrorist attacks have been developed from operational experience from the three emergency services, as well as learning taken from actual attacks and exercises.

The overwhelming priority will always be to respond quickly and proactively to protect the public.

**What we do to reduce risk:**

All appropriate operational staff have received training regarding the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP), aligned to the JESIP Joint Doctrine document.

All appropriate operational staff have been provided with associated JESIP aide memoires to assist commanders and responders in dealing with critical multi-agency incidents.

To support multi-agency operations at terrorist related, or other critical incidents, NFRS has trained a number of officers known as National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers (NILOs). These NILOs have appropriate knowledge, skills and security clearance to be able to respond to these types of incidents effectively. Further, these NILOs proactively engage with local, regional and national networks to ensure that information is appropriately exchanged between our multi-agency partners and stakeholders.

All appropriate operational staff have received training regarding the JESIP JOPs for terrorist type attacks - including an active exercise programme to apply and test this specific learning.

NFRS has a number of terrorist attack response planning documents to ensure that the Service is prepared for these types of incidents.

**What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:**

NFRS will continue to provide appropriate JESIP refresher training (including specific refresher training regarding terror attacks), alongside our multi-agency partners and stakeholders.

NFRS will continue to engage in our active exercise programme alongside our multi-agency partners and stakeholders, thus ensuring that the learning provided is being periodically applied and tested in a realistic manner. Any learning from these exercises will be fed back into the Service and the wider sector, ensuring continuous improvement for both the Service and our partners.

NFRS will continuously keep all of our terrorist attack pre-plans under close critical review, amending them as appropriate - with subsequent testing of these amended plans via our active exercise programme.





## EMERGING RISKS

In addition to the range of incidents outlined in our CRMP, we must be prepared to respond to incidents that are currently infrequent yet have the potential for high impact to our communities, and continue to monitor any potential increase in the risk of likelihood and/or impact.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides assessments on climate change, implications and future risks. Climate change is bringing increased temperatures, but this is leading to multiple changes such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall and extreme weather events such as storms. These changes increase the likelihood of incidents such as flooding and wildfires, but they also increase the likelihood that the Service will be required to respond to potentially devastating events, as we saw with Storm Arwen and Barra, and to support our communities in the recovery from such extreme occurrences.

We will continue to debrief and review every response to extreme weather events to ensure we have the necessary policies, procedures, training and equipment available to provide an effective and resilient operating model. NFRS supports NCC in its delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-23. In recent years the council has reduced its carbon emissions by a third and the county is now ranked as one of the greenest in the country. However, there is still work to be done in both further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions and providing leadership to encourage residents, businesses and other organisations to take action to cut their own carbon footprint with the aim of reaching a net-zero Northumberland by 2030. As we support the delivery of the action plan, we recognise that the positive impacts on health and



climate may take many years. As such, NFRS must continue to monitor climate change and continuously assess our resilience in responding to this increasing risk ensuring we continue to have the right people, in the right place, with the right skills.

### PANDEMIC

A pandemic is an outbreak of infectious disease, occurring over a wide geographical area, and generally affecting a significant proportion of the world's population, usually over the course of several months. In December 2019, the World Health Organisation learned of a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2, now known as Covid-19. NFRS works

closely with our colleagues in NCC Business Resilience and Emergency Planning and Public Health, and with partners in Northumbria LRF and nationally through the NFCC to ensure risks are captured in our CRR, and to ensure our business continuity arrangements are robust. The Service reacted quickly to the worsening pandemic to revise our operating model and service delivery to ensure that the people of Northumberland were protected.

On 22 January 2021, following a Covid-19 thematic inspection, a report was published by HMICFRS on how well the Service had responded to the current pandemic. Pleasingly, inspectors found that the Service



had adapted and responded to the pandemic effectively. Implementing several measures to protect personnel and managing arrangements through our Business Interruption Management Team (BIMT) our fire control and community fire stations remained available as normal. In addition, the Service was able to provide fire prevention advice to the most vulnerable members of our community by adapting our approach and introducing a triage process. At the time of publishing this CRMP, the county is still in the midst of the pandemic and the Service continues to adapt and develop

will outnumber children younger than 5 years. In 2050, 80 percent of older people will be living in low and middle-income countries, and the pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past. This shift in demographics can be seen in Northumberland, with the number of those aged 85 and over forecast to increase by 102 percent by 2043. As people age, they are more likely to experience several health conditions at the same time. Older age is also characterised by the emergence of several complex health states, often the consequence of multiple underlying factors including frailty, falls and delirium.

An increase in age and associated health conditions, may also result in an increase in risk from fire. As such, we will continuously review our risk model to ensure we are aware any additional factors that may influence risks to our communities; whilst continuing to strengthen our partnership arrangements in order to effectively deliver our prevention programmes to those who require our services the most.

**FUTURE HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines a local plan as: ‘The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community’.

NCC consulted on modifications to its Local Plan during 2021 and NFRS continues to work closely with our partners across the council to ensure we are aware of and can plan for, emerging risk in relation to future residential, commercial and industrial developments.

We have strengthened our process of identifying emerging risks, enabling us to consider all impacts to our communities and our service.



its offering to the communities of Northumberland to maintain its high standards of delivery whilst ensuring it continues to protect the people of Northumberland and staff.

**AGEING POPULATION AND INCREASED VULNERABILITY**

According to the World Health Organisation, between 2015 and 2050 the proportion of the world’s population over 60 years will nearly double from 12 percent to 22 percent. By 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older





We have provided detail on two such emerging risks below:

BRITISHVOLT

Britishvolt is building the first Gigaplant in the UK, at a site in Northumberland, where it will build sustainable low carbon battery cells. At full capacity in 2027, the Gigaplant will produce cells for around 300,000 electric vehicle battery packs per year.

NFRS started consulting and engaging with partners at a very early stage, with the first virtual online meeting taking place in January 2021. Since that time, we have engaged in regular virtual and on-site meetings with significant stakeholders.

The Gigaplant is proposed to provide 3,000 jobs for the North East, many from the local area. Further jobs are expected to be created in the supply chain. NFRS will continue to monitor the potential increase in associated risk.

As the site will come under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) regulations we have discussed with Britishvolt what materials will be used and stored on site during the manufacturing process to gain a greater understanding of the hazards this will pose to our Community Risk and Response crews. However, work in the early stages by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency has ensured compliance with COMAH regulations.

Our Community Risk and Response firefighters have made site visits to familiarise themselves with the site

during the construction phase. Once construction of phase 1 has been completed, firefighters will carry out a site inspection, completing a site-specific risk information (SSRI) document to record potential risks. This information will be added to our mobile data terminals (MDT), ensuring firefighters attending an incident have all the risk information they need.

We will consider specialist firefighting requirements and pre-determined attendances (PDA) based on the hazard information provided by Britishvolt.

NORTHUMBERLAND TRAIN LINE

NFRS continue to work with partners throughout the development of the Northumberland Train Line (Ashington to Blyth rail link), which will connect the South East of the county to central Newcastle. The reopening of the Northumberland Line will deliver 18 miles of upgraded track and six new stations, five located in Northumberland at Ashington, Bedlington Station, Bebside, South Newsham and Seaton Delaval. The scheme is planned to be completed by winter 2023 and is intended to:

- Improve access from towns such as Ashington and Blyth to employment hubs like Newcastle, as well as opening up new opportunities for education and travel.
- Provide a real incentive for potential employers to relocate to and invest in the area.

- Provide vital infrastructure to help deliver the region’s aspirations for population and economic growth. Help to attract visitors and improve local tourism. Enhance public transport connectivity within and beyond the region.
- Help to reduce congestion and improve air quality on key corridors by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport.
- Support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering.
- NFRS have advised and assisted the planning team on fire precautions required at the proposed sites and are reviewing Community Risk and Response requirements to ensure an appropriate emergency response is provided. Our fire safety inspectors will continue to work with partners to identify new and developing businesses to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations, and responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.





# AIMS AND PRIORITIES

NCC has a vision of **'one council that works for everyone'** underpinned by the five key principles of:

**Living** – we want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for.

**Enjoying** – we want you to love where you live.

**Connecting** – we want you to love having access to things.

**Learning** – we want you to achieve and realise your potential.

**Thriving** – we want to attract more and better jobs.

To support NCC vision and principles, and to deliver our mission statement of **'Making Northumberland Safer'** NFRS has developed the following aims to:

Reduce the number of fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies in the community.

Reduce the number of deaths and injuries and mitigate the commercial, economic and social cost of emergency incidents.

Safeguard the environment and heritage sites (both built and natural).

Support communities to protect themselves from harm.

Provide money through the provision of a lean, efficient and resilient service.

Working towards our vision, NFRS has identified the following priorities for 2022-23

## 01 Deliver service improvements as outlined in our Continuous Improvement Plan.

The service has a comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) detailing a suite of actions against HMICFRS Areas for Improvement, CRMP priorities, and Priority programmes and projects. The Strategic Performance Board will monitor progress as part of the Service's Performance and Assurance Framework.

## 02 Deliver the NFCC risk model for dwelling fires as a pilot in Northumberland.

The NFCC in collaboration with Operational Research in Health has developed an evidence-based methodology for dwelling fires. We will enhance the risk model for use locally and implement a pilot in Northumberland to help us target our safe and wellbeing programme effectively and efficiently.

## 03 Undertake a review of protection delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.

The review, and subsequent implementation of recommendations, will ensure we are a fire and rescue service that improves the safety and wellbeing of our communities by reducing risks and incidents in the built environment, as outlined in the fire standard. Protection activities will educate and regulate those responsible for keeping buildings safe.

## 04 Undertake a review of prevention delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.

The review, and subsequent implementation of recommendations, will ensure we are a fire and rescue service that works to educate our communities to adopt safer behaviours, improving their safety, health and wellbeing, as outlined in the fire standard. Prevention activities will be effective, efficient and targeted.

## 05 Apply robust risk modelling to inform and further develop our community risk and response operating model.

We will work in collaboration with Operational Research in Health to produce an analysis of Community Risk and Response provision across Northumberland.

This will allow the service to assess the optimum distribution of our stations, fleet, equipment and specialist response to meet our risks, and will be used to inform our strategy for future estate and operational resource procurement, provision, and resilience.

## 06 Undertake a review of response standards for Northumberland.

We will review our response to emergency incidents across Northumberland, ensuring we continue to provide an effective and efficient service to our communities.





## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

Good performance management and assurance will ensure our service is effective and efficient.

### Internal:

- ◆ We monitor and assure our performance through a Performance and Assurance Framework.
- ◆ Our Strategic Performance Board provides high level oversight of all of our performance and assurance arrangements across the service.
- ◆ Priorities and Service Improvements are monitored through a Continuous Improvement Plan to ensure we are a service that is continually improving.
- ◆ We review risk annually to inform our CRMP, refreshing priorities and service delivery strategies.
- ◆ Our annual Statement of Assurance continues to provide confidence that we are delivering on our statutory responsibilities.
- ◆ NCC undertakes service reviews with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring continuous improvement.

### External:

- ◆ HMICFRS will provide external assurance to the communities of Northumberland, through the delivery of regular programmes of inspections, additional thematic inspections, and robust monitoring arrangements.
- ◆ We will use learning from National Operational Learning and Joint Organisational Learning to ensure continued improvement of our service delivery.
- ◆ Our Training, Assurance and Safety Department has achieved the Skills for Justice Quality Mark, ensuring robust external assurance of training delivery.
- ◆ Our Community Safety Department is Matrix Accredited ensuring good quality delivery of information, advice and guidance to our communities.
- ◆ Our Prince's Trust programme is both internally and externally verified.

# YOUR VIEWS

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) reminds us that we are accountable to the communities we serve, and that we must consult regularly on our risk management plan.

In our plan, we have told you about the types of risks communities face in Northumberland and set out the things we are doing and plan to do to remove or to mitigate those risks. Thank you for taking the time to read our plan, we would now love to hear your views.

We would like to ask you four questions which you can answer by completing our survey online:

[www.haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmpconsultation2022/](http://www.haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmpconsultation2022/)

This consultation opens on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** and will close on **Wednesday 16th February 2022**.

An Easy Read copy of our plan can also be found on our website at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire).

This can also be provided in hard copy. If you would like to receive an Easy Read copy please email us at [fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk)

## QUESTION 01

In our Community Risk Management Plan, we have explained that there are 10 types of incidents that account for over 90 percent of all the incidents that we attend. Do you agree that we should focus our prevention, protection and community risk and response resources on these incidents?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If NO, please explain why here:

## QUESTION 02

Against each incident type, we have explained what we do, and also what we plan to do to address the risks we have identified. Are there any other activities you feel we could consider?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please provide details of the activities you would like us to consider:

**QUESTION 03**

Are there any fire and rescue related risks you feel we have not identified, and that we should consider as a priority for our prevention, protection and community risk and response resources?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please detail the risks and how you feel we should use our resource to address them:

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**QUESTION 04**

We will monitor progress against the priorities described in our plan in our Continuous Improvement Plan. Would you like us to tell you how we are doing?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please let us know how you would like us to provide you with an update:

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**QUESTION 05**

If you have anything else you would like to tell us, please include it in the box below.

Additional comments:

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**Northumberland**  
County Council

**Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service**

West Hartford Business Park  
Cramlington NE23 3JP

**Tel** 01670 621111

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire)



@NlandFRS

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**Northumberland County Council  
Castle Morpeth Local Area Council  
Work Programme 2021-22**

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.



- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.

## ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

**Standard items updates:** Planning Applications (monthly), Public question time (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), petitions (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), members' local improvement schemes (quarterly)

### To be listed:

Off-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points  
Cycling and Walking Board  
Enforcement

Northumberland County Council  
Castle Morpeth Local Area Council  
Work Programme 2021-22

### 10 January 2022

- Planning and Rights of Way
- Budget Presentation
- Local Services Update
- Youth Services Provision – Presentation
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Consultation

### 14 February 2022

- Planning and Rights of Way

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Transport Plan</li> </ul>
<b>14 March 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Members Local Improvement Schemes</li> <li>• Enhanced Services with Town and Parish Councils</li> </ul>
<b>11 April 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - CASTLE MORPETH MONITORING REPORT  
2021-22**

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	12.07.21	<b>Appointments to Outside Bodies</b>	<p>Appointments to outside bodies were confirmed as follows:-</p> <p>Choppington Education Foundation – M Murphy  Druridge Bay Regeneration Partnership – S Dickinson  Friends of Morpeth Museum – D Bawn  Greater Morpeth Development Trust – R Wearmouth  Linton Village Hall Management Committee – L Dunn  Lynemouth Welfare Management Committee – L Dunn  Stakeford/Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre – J Foster and M Murphy</p> <p>The Chair would contact Choppington Welfare to ascertain if it was appropriate for a Councillor to be appointed as this had been removed from the list previously as Ex-Councillor Ledger had been involved.</p>	
2	13.09.21	<b>Local transport plan update</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	

3	13.9.21	<b>Policing Update</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	
4	08.11.21	<b>Dualling of the A1</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	
5	8.11.21	<b>Northumberland Communities Together</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	