

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Heather Bowers

**Email:**

Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622609

**Date:** 11 January 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL** to be held in **MEETING SPACE - BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2022** at **4.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council members as follows:-**

**L Bowman, W Daley, C Dunbar, P Ezhilchelvan, D Ferguson, B Flux, S Lee (Vice-Chair), M Robinson, P Scott, M Swinburn (Chair), C Taylor and R Wilczek (Vice-Chair (Planning))**

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**  
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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 - 16)  

Minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Delaval Local Area Council held on 17 November 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 Legal Services, on 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.
5. **URGENT BUSINESS**
6. **DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  

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 no longer circulated with the agenda but are available on the Council's website at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning.aspx>*
7. **21/02154/FUL** (Pages 17 - 30)  

**Loft conversion to increase ridge height plus dormers, single-story front & rear extensions  
Woodland View, 4 Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, NE22 6AL**
8. **APPEALS UPDATE** (Pages 31 - 42)  

For Member's 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.

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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.**

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

## **11. 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.

## **12. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness will be in attendance to give an overview and answer questions about policing and community safety matters in the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley area.

## **13. 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.

## **14. YOUTH SERVICE PRESENTATION**

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

**15. NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-26 CONSULTATION** (Pages 43 - 76)

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.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22 February 2022** (Planning only).

**17. WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 77 - 84)

**18. URGENT BUSINESS**

If any.

**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

### CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council** held on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 4.00 pm.

#### PRESENT

Councillor M Swinburn (Chair in the Chair)

#### MEMBERS

W Daley  
P Ezchilchelvan  
S Lee

M Robinson  
P Scott  
C Taylor

#### OFFICERS

H Bowers  
P Brooks

M Bulman  
M Carle  
T Gribbin

R Laughton  
J Murphy

J Robertson

Democratic Services Officer  
Head of Northumberland  
Communities Together  
Lawyer  
Highway Services Area Manager  
Neighbourhood Services Area  
Manager  
Planning Officer  
Development Manager – Area  
Manger South East  
Principal Environmental  
Enforcement Officer

#### 28. PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS

The Chair explained the procedure for planning committees as outlined in the report.

#### 29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowman, Dunbar, Ferguson, Flux and Wilczek.

The Chair conveyed his congratulations to Councillor Wilczek on the birth of her baby.

### 30. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

A member queried whether members would receive a community safety update. The Chair stated that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending the January meeting.

### DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

### 31. DETERMINATIONS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The committee was requested 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.

### 32. 20/03863/VARYCO

**Variation of conditions 2 (materials) and 3 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 18/00515/FUL in order to install flat roof rather than a pitched roof.**

**41A Southward, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, NE26 4DQ**

Richard Laughton, Planning Officer reminded members that the planning application had previously been considered by the committee in July.

To recap, the extension to 41a Southward had not been constructed in accordance with the approved plans and the application sought retrospective consent through a variation of condition for the development, as built.

Members deferred the application until the November meeting to allow the applicants time to consider making changes to the built extension that would be acceptable on planning grounds.

To date, the applicants had not been in contact with the planning department to discuss and no further plans had been submitted. Therefore, the application had been brought back to committee with a recommendation for refusal.

Mr Laughton continued to describe the application by presentation and plans on screen.

Following the presentation, Mr Laughton explained that the recommendation was for refusal and informed the committee that the wording had been slightly amended to include the impact of the external staircase, to read:-

## **Refusal Reason 1**

The two storey rear extension and proposed external staircase, by virtue of their siting, scale, mass and design do not respect or complement the style or character of the existing dwelling and constitute incongruous additions to the street scene, resulting in significant harm to the visual amenities of the locality. This would be contrary to polices DC1 and DC28 of the Blyth Valley District Local Development Framework: Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (2007), Policy ENV 2 of the Blyth Valley Core Strategy and the NPPF.

## **Refusal Reason 2**

The two storey rear extension by virtue of its siting, scale, mass and height results in significant adverse impact on the amenities of the occupiers of the adjoining property at 39a Southward Avenue in terms of unacceptable loss of daylight/sunlight, visual outlook, structural proximity and an overbearing presence and the proposed external staircase would result in significant harm to the amenities of the occupiers of the neighbouring property at 41 Southward by virtue of increased overlooking of their rear elevation and rear garden. This would be contrary to polices DC1 and DC28 of the Blyth Valley District Local Development Framework: Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (2007) and the NPPF.

Mrs Burt, applicant, was in attendance and spoke in support of the application:

- Members would recall that the decision at the July meeting was to defer the application to allow changes to the extension.
- However, plans before the committee were those that were considered earlier this year. Since that meeting, no further objection or comments had been submitted and no further objections since her parents-in-law who resided next door, had since relocated.
- She still believed the proposed extension would not result in any significant impact.
- They had consulted the neighbour next door who had not objected.
- Both properties enjoyed a good outlook with long day time and evening sunshine with the overshadowing effect being short lived.
- The extension was appropriate and constructed with matching materials
- Properties nearby had flat roof extensions and other properties nearby having approved plans for raised balconies.
- Each application must be assessed on its own merits and the issues in the report were subjective and she hoped the committee would recognise that the application followed the established pattern of the estate.
- The Building Control Inspector was fully aware of the deviation of plans and at no time had he told them to stop building and it was he who had put them in this position.
- There had been no objections from neighbours and she kindly asked the committee to grant the application.

Mr Burt was also in attendance and raised the following.

- He had built the extension himself and had relied on the Building Inspector's advice. When he had asked about extending the flat roof, had been advised by

the Building Inspector that he would sign the work off so as long as the neighbour did not complain.

- Mr Laughton had also indicated to his wife by telephone, that if there had been no objections, the work would have been signed off. He questioned the guidelines from the Council and stated that he had been given the wrong advice.

In response to questions from Members the following information was provided:-

- The application had been brought back by members to give the applicants the opportunity to amend the plans and come back with a design, that was acceptable in planning terms, which they had not done.
- The application was separate to the retrospective permission for partial change of use of downstairs of property to childcare which had been granted temporary permission for 2 years for change of use to allow the applicants to seek alternative premises.
- There had been one objection from the neighbour to the south of the property who had since moved. There had been no objections from anyone else.
- For clarification, Mrs Murphy advised the planning committee that the application went against policies and guidance. The extension as built, did not correspond with the plans previously approved in that it was a different design and larger.
- Mr Laughton reported that he had tried to contact the Building Inspector but he had left the Authority. However he commented that building control regulations were different to planning regulations and it was the applicant's responsibility to ensure that plans were in accordance.
- Mr Laughton stated that the applicants had only contacted him briefly in response to correspondence he had sent to the applicant.
- In response to a question regarding an evidence trail, Mrs Murphy explained that Planning and Building Control were separate departments. It was not up to the Building Inspector to ask the Planning Department whether an applicant had planning permission. It was the applicant's responsibility to make sure that planning permission and building regulations were in place.

A member was concerned about the lack of contact surrounding the application and suggested a review of making contact count.

In response about whether Building Inspection and Planning came under the same directorate, it was advised that Building Inspection fell under Public Protection and Planning fell under Planning and Economy.

Councillor Echichelvan raised concern about the serious breach of trust and was unsure whether he could support refusal of the application. He stated that the process should be revisited and proposed that the committee should disregard the decision for refusal as there was no case of precedence and also the Planning Authority had a responsibility to the public regarding trust.

Ms Bulman, Solicitor, advised to refuse officer recommendation, there would need to be planning reasons. The issue with the Building Inspector would need to be looked at separately, precedence issues were not a planning reason and the application needed to be looked at in planning terms.

Councillor Scott proposed the recommendation for refusal, which was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

Debate took place and it was stated that the Committee had tried their best to give the applicants time to amend plans back in July. The whole process of the application should be investigated to see what had happened. Concern was raised that the applicant had invested a lot of money and had relied heavily on building control. However, the applicant was aware the extension was not as to the plan and had been given a chance in July to reach a solution. The applicants had very little contact with the planning department since July and had relied heavily on there being no objections, which was not a material planning matter.

Upon being put to the vote the results were as follows:-

**FOR: 5; AGAINST: 2.**

It was therefore:-

**RESOLVED** that the application be **REFUSED** permission subject to the amended conditions/reasons.

### **33. APPEALS UPDATE**

The report provided information on the progress of planning appeals.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**A short recess took place at 16:47 to allow planning officers to vacate the meeting.**

**The meeting recommenced at 17:04.**

### **34. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions had been received.

### **35. PETITIONS**

This item was to:

a) Receive any new petitions:

No new petitions had been received.

b) Consider reports on petitions previously received: Petition for CCTV n Mill Lane, Seghill.

John Robertson, Principal Officer, Environment Enforcement explained that a petition had been received requesting CCTV to be placed on Mill Lane, Seghill to prevent fly-tipping.

It was estimated that, whilst 4 cameras could be placed at regular intervals along the lane at least 6 cameras would be required to cover all events with enough detail to be used as evidence if a prosecution was to be progressed and successful.

The amount of equipment and resource required to maintain and supervise the deployment would incur additional costs from the budget. The use and deployment of existing deployable cameras would also have a detrimental impact on other parts of the county.

Seaton Valley Council had been asked to assist, but they had no budget for this type of activity.

Incidents were reported to the area Neighbourhood Waste Teams and Environmental Enforcement Team who would investigate any illegal fly tipping. If a particular area was targeted, consideration would be given to the placement of covert cameras. In order to do this, NCC had to adhere to the RIPA Act 2000 (RIPA) to ensure that deployment was lawful and proportionate.

A further option for consideration for Mill Lane itself could be having the area target hardened at a cheaper cost to prevent vehicular access with a gate or barrier allowing necessary traffic for farmland etc, but preventing its use as a short cut could become a rat run.

At the time of the report, the Seghill area overall had 49 reports of fly-tipping, with Mill Lane itself having 19 fly tipping incidents so far this year.

In response to a question regarding an existing fixed camera, Mr Robertson reported that it was hard to get evidence because of the length of the lane.

Councillor Scott, as Ward Councillor stated that he would be happy to use his small scheme budget and was willing to have a conversation with Mr Robertson and his team out with the meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1) To continue with current methods of using deployable CTV equipment to investigate fly tipping events.
- 2) Options to undertake target hardening of the location to prevent vehicles access be investigated.

**36. YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION**

This item had been deferred to January's meeting.



### **37. NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

Paul Brooks, Head of Northumberland Communities Together was in attendance to give a presentation on the work of Northumberland Communities Together (NCT) which had been borne out of the pandemic to help and support people who needed it most. (A copy of the presentation was enclosed with the signed minutes).

He explained that the last 18 months had seen a number of challenges and the service was now a formal structure which came under Adult Services, and would support vulnerable people in our local communities, using the skills and assets in the community.

The aim was to prevent residents becoming more vulnerable, addressing the social determinants of health which included access to healthcare, housing, transport, hunger, fuel and tackling inequalities. The key role as a Local Authority was to work with partners and the voluntary community sector to deliver on behalf of the residents and to identify which individuals were struggling and sign post them to the most appropriate support.

The team was split across front line operational delivery and programme and project delivery with collaboration with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Support Officer with a member of staff on secondment from the Northumberland Lottery to help facilitate the best use of some of the grant funding.

The Council had been successful in a funding bid from North of Tyne Combined Authority to establish community hubs, the first of which had been developed in Cramlington. The library had relocated and the hub was being used by many organisations in the community and was to be replicated in other localities.

There had been a recent review of the VCS commission to support the VCS organisation to work together and provide services that communities needed.

The response hub was open 7 days a week, between the hours of 9 am and 6 pm and could be contacted by telephone and email and out of hours emergency contact.

Pop up activities had been held during lockdown which had enabled contact with vulnerable families, providing advice and assistance. Events had been repeated on request and some communities were now running their own events.

Statistical information included details of:

- Support provided including contacts to clinically extremely vulnerable residents including welfare visits, emergency food parcels, PPE and wellbeing parcels.
- The distribution of statutory aid.
- Community enrichment.

The NCT model had been recognised nationally and was one of five local authorities chosen to develop future plans around the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.

Anonymised case studies were provided of the intervention and assistance given to residents which had enabled them to maintain jobs and tenancies.

A summary was provided of the priorities and focus over the winter months, particularly keeping warm and the types of assistance available. Digital connectivity was crucial to enable participation and ensure residents weren't restricted by their location.

NCT were now embedded within the Council as a service and officers were grateful for the support from community groups who had embraced partnership working and had established good relationships. They welcomed opportunities to connect further with new groups as all played a vital role.

The Chair thanked Mr Brooks for his presentation and was amazed at what had been achieved in such a short space of time.

Members echoed their support and a member was pleased that the building in Cramlington had been brought back into use. It was the centre point for the community and the cafe would provide opportunities for those who might not have been able to gain employment. The staff were welcoming to members of the public and provided a 'meet and greet' service.

The community hub in Cramlington had been a great success and was being used as a showcase, with a teaching and learning cafe and a safe base to offer opportunities. This should be promoted regionally and nationally and members were encouraged to visit the Cramlington hub.

Staff were thanked for their incredible amount of work.

Members asked the following questions:

- Were the holiday activities open to all? The DfE had provided funding to engage in activity and had targeted provision to those who were eligible for FSM. However, a wider universal offer was open to those who might not be eligible for FSM but who might want to engage with that type of provision.
- Did NCT have connections with food banks? NCT was a key partner and one of the pathways was bringing like-minded groups together with food partnerships across Northumberland coming together.
- An invitation was extended to meet with West Bedlington Town Council to set up a youth group. Mr Brooks stated that discussion could take place with the Locality Co-ordinators to see if it was appropriate for the town.

The Chair reiterated his thanks to Mr Brooks for the helpful and informative presentation.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be received.

### **38. WINTER SERVICES PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE**

The report which was an information item was to provide an overall update of the pre-season preparations ahead of the forthcoming winter services season.

The following information was provided in response to member queries:-

- Front line salt was in place.
- There was a policy and scoring mechanism for grit bins based on locations. An Inspector would visit the locations of Lanercost Park/Beech Avenue.
- Grit heaps tended to be in the rural areas.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

### **39. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

Members received the following updates and explanation of the impact of Covid-19 on front line services from Tony Gribbin, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager:

#### **NEAT – Grounds Maintenance:**

##### **Covid**

Staff in all sections continued to deliver high profile services despite the continued challenges of COVID. Revised working practices and continued self-isolation conditions.

##### **Bereavement Services (SE)**

Thankfully cremation service numbers and burial number were as expected around this time of year.

##### **Grass Cutting**

Grass cutting has been completed for the season

There had been some challenging period throughout the year with very wet the periods of very hot weather

The team was currently on cut 10 in Bedlington, cut 18 in Seaton Valley and 12/13 in Cramlington, as some areas were too wet to complete the 13<sup>th</sup> cut in some areas

##### **Street Sweeping**

The team was working through their normal areas but have moved to leaf hot spots and members were thanked who had assisted in identifying accumulations  
As usual, any areas of attention should be brought to the team

##### **Winter Works**

The programme has commenced and would continue until March 2022.

## **Waste Service:**

Residual, recycling and garden waste collection services were all operating well

The collections rounds and resources were currently be reviewed in the south east due to the current housing developments.

Glass recycling facilities continued to be well used and additional collections were being targeted in those areas showing high usage. The trial area in this LAC are was Bedlington. The trial had been extended for an additional 12 months to capture more data to ensure the data captured so far had not been distorted by COVID/lockdown and the new Environment Bill Legislation was also being consulted on. Also, it was expected that Central Government would provide burden funding so it did not directly cos NCC council tax payers.

Demand for bulky waste collections remained high and a temporary crew had been deployed to address the increased demand. This would be reviewed post Christmas.

Domestic waste tonnages remained higher than pre-lockdown, operation adjustments had been made in an effort to cope with the demand, but the situation remained a significant challenge for the service.

There would be a change of collection days over the Christmas period.

Members asked a number of questions including:-

- Service delivery and climate change - how was that being reflected in policies in the Cramlington area?
- Grass cutting in certain areas.
- Residents and motorists had complained about the height of the weeds at Broadoaks roundabout, which blocked their view. A scheme had been intimated to get rid of the weeds and had anything been done about it?
- The removal of weeds in Bedlington
- Where were the pilot projects for glass collection ?
- Was the hedge and bush cutting in the programme?
- A bottle bin had been requested to the Community Centre in Bedlington but nothing had been received.
- Leaf clearance on cycleways and estates
- Problems with gully cleaning and leaves
- When will the overgrown weeds at the islands at roundabouts, Barns Park and the Burn be addressed ?

Mr Gribbin reported as follows:

- A harder approach would be taken cutting back the shrubs and hedges, so when it grew back it would not encroach.
- Regarding the grass cutting, he had spoken to the contractor who would assess whether to mulch or cut and remove
- The maintenance of the Broadoaks roundabout was the developer's responsibility, but from a safety point of view, Mr Gribbin said the team would try and resolve this.

- There had been a delay in treating the weeds in Bedlington as the machine had broken down and was awaiting repair.
- The pilot scheme for glass collection was in West Bedlington. There had been a series of pilot areas across 11,000 houses which would be escalated to 13000 and the trial would be extended for another 12 months. The scheme had been very successful. The Council wanted to ensure that the data they have received is not artificial because of lockdown. It was hoped that funding would be available from Central Government to implement the costs.
- There was a 22 week winter maintenance period. Grass cutting starts in March depending on weather conditions.
- He had asked for a bottle bin to be placed at the community centre.
- The leaf clearance in the estates had not been done yet. A driver and vehicle had been requested from another area
- The problems with gully cleaning and autumn leaf fall was a problem. The Council did not have the resources and had to target the resources they had as strategically as possible. It was hoped to get a machine as soon as they could or blow the leaves away with backpacks and use the small machines.
- The new mechanical ripping machine was going to be used on the roundabouts, but the condition of the surface was a concern in case it was damaged. He had hoped to have a meeting with the Environment Agency regarding riparian ownership. He had met with one of the flood defence officers and had emailed for an update. Once he received this information, it would be shared.
- He had reported the problem of the footbridge to colleagues in the countryside team, however, the bridge was not registered to anyone but he would chase this up and report back.

Members received the following updates from Mick Carle, Highways Delivery Services Area Manager:

All Highways Inspectors and maintenance crews continued to work inspecting, fixing carriageway defects, making repairs and making safe category one defects across the South East area.

The gully emptier was fully deployed dealing with reported issues and cyclic maintenance.

**Larger Tarmac Patching had been carried out in the following locations:**

- St. Johns Road, Bedlington
- Hartford Road, Bedlington
- Cheviot View, Seghill
- Exeter Close, Cramlington
- Rear Tintagel Close, Cramlington
- Lower End of Totness Drive, Cramlington
- Rear Brockwell Centre
- Whitsun Grove, Bedlington

**Drainage Improvements:**

Drainage Improvements had been carried out in the following area:

- Beatty Road, Bedlington

The area teams were continuously looking and programming future planned works both patching and drainage improvements.

### **LTP - Carriageway Resurfacing**

LTP Carriageway Resurfacing schemes had been carried out in the following areas:

- Cumbrian Road, Cramlington
- Stead Lane, Bedlington
- Bedlington Bank
- Beaconhill, Cramlington
- A189 Spine Road North of the A19 Moor Farm
- Fisher Lane, Cramlington
- Nelson R/A, Cramlington
- East Hartford, Cramlington

Footway and Carriageway LTP Resurfacing had been identified and programmed for the following areas:

- Stead Lane, Bedlington
- Arcot Avenue, Cramlington
- A192 East Hartford, Cramlington

### **Winter Maintenance**

A Winter Services Preparedness Report had been previously reported as an information item.

Members raised the following questions:-

- Was there an update for the speed sign request for Attlee Bank?
- Resurfacing of bank on Bedlington bank on the Blyth side
- Traffic speed signs study. Had the signs been effective?
- A report was requested regarding the consistency of speed indicators signs across the county, what is a good sign, what is good practice and why the signs were different in Cramlington. The Chair agreed that a report should be forthcoming.
- The repair work Shields Road was going to be in the LTP but was not in the programme
- A request for missing streets signs and one to be moved in Cramlington village, no action had been taken. The Chair would forward the email to Mr Carle to chase up.
- The carpark behind Dewley shops at Cramlington which was in a bad condition and believed to be owned by Shenstone. Was there any update on negotiations?

Mr Carle responded as follows:-

- The request for the speed sign had been passed on when it had been raised and he would chase this up.
- The bank was done with micro asphalt the year before and was in good order
- The traffic speeds signs were the responsibility of the Integrated Transport Team. Some signs could be switched off but still record and download the information and could also record whilst switched off. He would speak to colleagues regarding this.
- Regarding Shields Road, it would depend how high that had scored, but he would check and chase this up.
- He would speak to Russell Mason regarding the carpark behind the shops and also Shenstone.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points above be followed up.

#### **40. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

A list of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings was circulated. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes.)

Members were invited to email any requests to the Chair and / or Democratic Services Officer between meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

#### **41. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 22 December 2021. (Planning only).

#### **42. URGENT BUSINESS**

The following urgent items were raised:-

Ongoing road safety across the county especially at Crowhall Lane. The Chair agreed with this.

The transfer of the Sporting Club to the local academy school. The Chair reported that a number of issues had been discussed with the school, whilst it was very informative he was very surprised as it had not been discussed with members. He had requested that a representative from Active attend the meeting, but no one was able to attend.

The Chair relayed information he had received from the Sporting Club.

**RESOLVED** that a report be requested from Highways regarding road safety across the county, specifically ongoing road safety at Crowhall Lane, Cramlington.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....



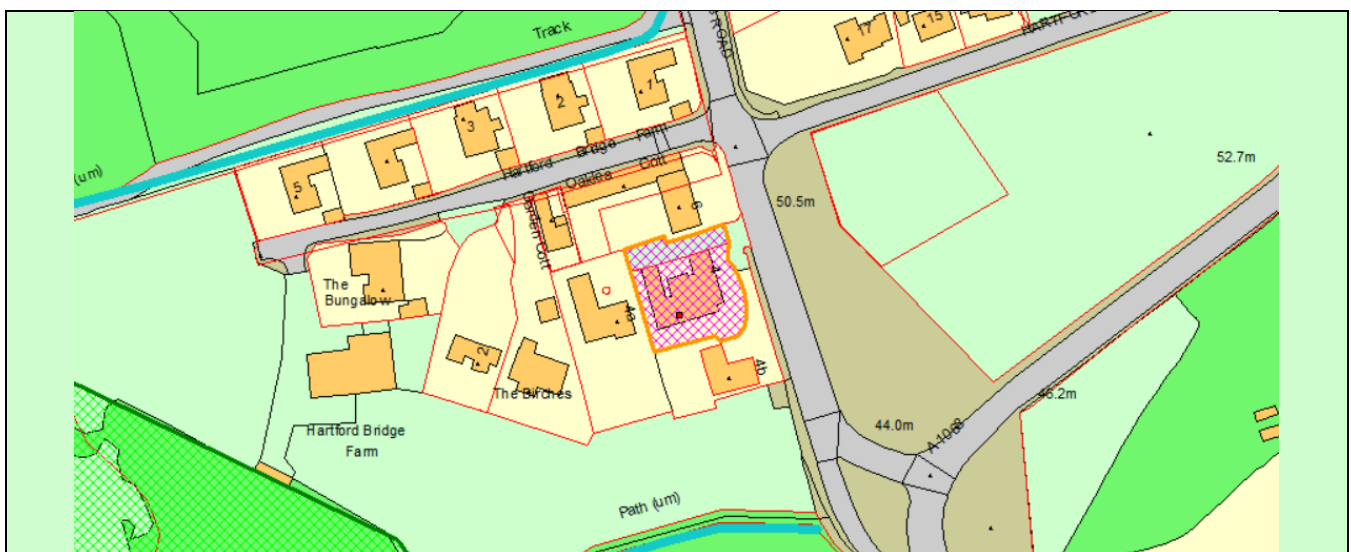


## Northumberland County Council

### Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

<b>Application No:</b>	21/02154/FUL		
<b>Proposal:</b>	loft conversion to increase ridge height plus dormers, single-story front & rear extensions		
<b>Site Address</b>	Woodland View 4 Shields Road Hartford Bridge NE22 6AL		
<b>Applicant:</b>	Mr & Mrs Whale Woodland View 4 Shields Road Hartford Bridge NE22 6AL	<b>Agent:</b>	Mark English The Grainger Suite Dobson House Regent Centre Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 3PF
<b>Ward</b>	Bedlington West	<b>Parish</b>	West Bedlington
<b>Valid Date:</b>	19.08.2021	<b>Expiry Date:</b>	21.01.2022
<b>Case Officer Details:</b>	Name: Mr Richard Whittaker Job Title: Planning Technician Tel No: 0345 600 6400 Email: richard.whittaker@northumberland.gov.uk		

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



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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This application was referred to the Executive Director of Planning and Chairs of the relevant Local Area Council committee for a decision on how the application was to be determined for the reason it raises issues of strategic, wider community or significant County Council interest. It was confirmed that the application should be referred to members for a Local Area Council committee decision

## 2. Description of the Development

2.2 The application site is located within a small collection of dwellings which are grouped along the A192 just to the north of the River Blyth and the north west of the Hartford Hall Estate.

2.3 The site hosts a single-storey detached dwelling which fronts the highways and features a conservatory to the south-facing side elevation and a shared driveway which also services no.4a Shields Road which is located to the rear of the application site.

2.4 The locality exhibits a range of dwelling designs and sizes fronting the highway with no uniform theme linking the properties together. Both the southern neighbour (no.4b) and the northern neighbour (no.6) exhibit strong gable ends which front the highway.

2.5 The topography of the land leaves a gradient that ascends the highway northward. With the southern neighbour (no.4b) exhibiting two stories in height and the northern neighbour (no.6) exhibiting 1.5 stories in height there is no set continuous roofline shared by the properties that front the street scene.

2.6 The application seeks permission to increase the roof height of the dwelling to allow for the formation of a first-floor aspect which would include the installation of rooflights and dormers. The proposals would also include the erection of a two-storey extension to the front which would form a glazed gable end projection that would front the highway and a rear projection to the west allowing for the enlargement of some of existing rooms.

2.7 It is noted that initial plans detailed the introduction of south facing dormer windows with Juliet balconies. These have since been removed and replaced with rooflights in amended plans.

2.8 A site visit was conducted by the case officer on 01.09.2021.

## 3. Planning History

**Reference Number:** 98/00097/FUL

**Description:** Alterations to existing bungalow and construction of new dwelling.

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** 09/E/00344/FUL

**Description:** Resubmission: New domestic dwelling, two storey detached with attached double garage

**Status:** Permitted

**Reference Number:** 10/S/00362/DISCON

**Description:** To discharge condition numbers 3, 4, 10 and 11 for application number 09/E/00344/FUL

**Status:** Permitted

#### 4. Consultee Responses

West Bedlington Parish Council	The proposed development is out of character with the other buildings in the immediate vicinity. A site visit is necessary, and the application should be determined by a Planning Committee not via Officer Approval
Highways	No objection subject to conditions.
Forestry Commission	No response.
Northumbrian Water	No response.
Local Lead Flood Authority	No comment.

#### 5. Public Responses

##### Neighbour Notification

Number of Neighbours Notified	10
Number of Objections	17
Number of Support	0
Number of General Comments	0

##### Notices

No Site Notice Required.

No Press Notice Required.

##### Summary of Responses:

During the consultation process 17no objections were received which raised the following issues;

- Overlooking
- Loss of light
- Design (style, scale and materials)
- Potential impact on the surrounding highway network
- Separation distance reduced
- Proposed 2 metre fence to rear would cause loss of light
- Impact on foundations
- Potential impact on sewerage and drainage

- Construction hours
- Potential of heavy machinery
- Potential siting of a portaloos on site
- Concern regarding respectfulness of contractors
- Plans amended 'by stealth'
- Issues regarding the red-line boundary

### ***Response –***

#### Overlooking

- The initially proposed south-facing dormers have been removed and replaced by rooflights which would be installed at such an angle that would reduce any potential overlooking to a level that could already be achieved under PD rights within the existing roof arrangement.
- Given the angle of the rooflights that would serve Bedroom 4 and their location with regard to the conservatory at no.4A there is not considered to any issue regarding overlooking.
- The proposed works would not introduce any windows that would face north therefore there would not be impact upon the privacy of no.6 Shields Road.

#### Loss of Light

- 6 Shields Road has no windows on its southern elevation therefore would not be affected by the development in terms of access to light.
- Given the layout of the locality and its orientation the proposed height increase is not considered to significantly impact the conservatory at no.4A Shields Road in terms of loss of light.
- The proposed 2m high fence along the southern boundary of the site is not considered to result in any level of increased shading to no.4B due to the orientation of the site.

#### Design

- The locality exhibits a range of finishing materials on the existing dwellings meaning there is no uniform style in which to deviate from. As such, the proposed materials are not considered to constitute a negative addition to the character of the area.
- Increase in height is not an issue in design terms considering the neighbouring properties to the north and the south are both two-storey in nature. Shields Road is set on a gradient which means a combination of the two-storey dwellings on either side of the application dwelling (a bungalow) means there is no uniform roof line to deviate from.

- There is no uniform design style within the locality however the proposed two-storey gable fronted projection to the front would share some resemblance with the gable front exhibited to the front of northern neighbour no.6 Shields Road.

#### Impact on Highways

- Highways have been consulted and have stated no objections subject to the implementation of conditions.

#### Reduced Separation Distance

- The separation distance between the application property and no.4A Shield Road was agreed twenty years ago under now obsolete planning guidance. No.4A does not exhibit any windows on its east-facing elevation and as such the impact is considered to be limited.

#### Impact on Foundations

- This is not a planning matter and would be assessed under a building control application in the event of an approval.

#### Impact on Sewerage and Drainage

- The Local Lead Flood Authority and Northumbrian Water have both been consulted since this has been raised. The LLFA have responded with no objection to the proposal. Northumbrian Water have not responded to consultation. It is noted by the case officer however that there may be a legal agreement between the application property and its neighbours regarding the treatment of sewage and that this may need to be addressed as a legal matter before any alterations to the existing arrangement take place.

#### Construction Hours

- Unless it is recognised that an issue regarding public protection would arise from a development it is not considered to be a planning matter. If there are concerns of excessively intrusive work being carried out during the construction process then it is advised that the Public Protection department at the council are contacted.

#### Potential Use of Heavy Machinery

- The impact of heavy machinery on the foundations of dwellings will be addressed by Building Control. If the works are excessively loud then it is advised that the Public Protection department at the council are contacted.

#### Portaloo on Site

- This cannot be conditioned.

#### Respectfulness of Contractors

- It is common for Highways to recommend informatives that highlight the requirement of equipment or waste not to be stored in the highway whilst construction takes place, however anything beyond this cannot be conditioned.

### Amendments to Plans ‘by Stealth’

- The superseded plans have not been removed for any other reason than the fact that it is standard procedure as to not confuse users.

### Red Line Boundary

- One objection raised the issue that the red line boundary does not reflect that of the true deeds to application property. The agent has since confirmed that the submitted red line boundary is correct. If this is correct then there is a legal issue with the burden on the Applicant/Agent to conduct an application in the correct manner. In this case it would require a ‘Certificate B’ to be submitted (with a Notice 1 form being served on the true owner) to validate the planning process. The agent has since confirmed that the submitted red line boundary is correct.

The above is a summary of the comments. The full written text is available on our website at: <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

## **6. Planning Policy**

### 6.1 Development Plan Policy

Wansbeck Residential Extensions Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (2007)

Wansbeck District Local Plan (WDLP) 2007:

- GP1 Location of Development
- GP30 Visual Impact of Development
- H8 Extension to Existing Housing

### 6.2 National Planning Policy

- NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021
- NPPG - National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as updated

### 6.3 Emerging Policy

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

- STP 1: Spatial strategy (Strategic Policy)
- STP 2: Presumption in favour of sustainable development (Strategic Policy)

- STP 3: Principles of sustainable development (Strategic Policy)
- HOU 9: Residential development management
- QOP 1: Design Principles (Strategic Policy)
- QOP 2: Good Design and Amenity
- QOP 5: Sustainable design and construction

## **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 Wansbeck District Local Plan. The main considerations in the assessment of this application are:

- Principle of the development
- Design and visual character
- Impact on residential amenity
- Highway safety
- Water management

7.2 In accordance with Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this case the development comprises policies in the Local Plan and the SPD identified above. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2021) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) are material considerations in determining this application.

7.3 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.

7.4 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 the Development**

7.5 The application proposes works that are domestic in nature within residential curtilage. The application site is located within a recognised settlement boundary.

The principle of development is therefore acceptable in accordance with Policy GP1 of the WDLP, the NPPF and the Emerging Local Plan.

## **Design and Visual Character**

7.6 Paragraph 126 of the NPPF states that the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve, further expanding to note that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.

7.7 Paragraph 130 of the NPPF states that decisions should ensure that developments should function well whilst adding to quality of the area over the lifetime of the development, be visually attractive, be sympathetic to local character and history, establish or maintain a strong sense of place, optimise the potential of sites, and create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible.

7.8 Paragraph 134 of the NPPF states that development that is not well designed should be refused. Significant weight should be given to development which reflects local design policies and government guidance and/or outstanding or innovative designs.

7.9 The Wansbeck Residential Extensions Design Guidance SPD sets out guidance for householder development. In this case sections 8, 9, and 12 are relevant.

7.10 Section 8 of the SPD considers the impacts of two-storey rear extensions. Section 9 of the SPD considers the impacts of porches and front extensions. Section 12 of the SPD considers the impacts of roof extensions and alterations.

7.11 It is noted that the proposed works would increase the bulk of the existing dwelling, however the general form of the dwelling would be retained. Paragraph 12.1 of the SPD states that any roof alterations or extensions must be assessed against any possible detrimental effect to neighbouring residents and in particular, the appearance of the original house and character of the local area. Furthermore, paragraph 12.2 of the SPD states that dormers located to the front of the dwelling will not normally be considered acceptable unless they, if properly designed, enhance the appearance of the property and character of the street scene, or where front dormers are already characteristic of the immediate area or street scene.

7.12 The increase in roof height adds to the increase in bulk (as do the front and rear extensions as well as the dormers) however the C-shaped footprint of the dwelling would remain as would the pitched roof. Whilst a first floor would be added the bungalow style would remain and would echo the themes of the application site's northern neighbour (no.6 Shields Road) which already exhibits 2no dormers to the front. These alterations are not recognised to be substantial enough to be considered insubordinate to the original dwelling. This would be in line with guidance set out in Policy H8 of the Local Plan and the guidance set out in section 12 of the SPD.

7.13 It has been noted at the beginning of this report that there is no strict uniform style of dwelling (in terms of design, size, or height) within the locality of the site. The



increase in height is therefore not considered to deviate from a set roofline, this is compounded by the fact that the street scene is set out on a sloping gradient.

7.14 The introduction of the gable ended two-storey extension to the front would deviate from the existing frontage of the house which partially clashes with paragraph 9.1 of the SPD, which states that extensions to the front of the house must be minor and not alter the overall appearance of the house or dominate the character of the street. This is echoed in paragraph 9.3 which focuses explicitly on porches and sets a 7.5 metre limit in terms of projection. However, with both neighbouring properties (no.4B and no.6) exhibiting large two-storey gable end features that front the highway this aspect of the proposal is not considered to be hugely out of keeping with the immediate street scene therefore according with paragraph 9.1. Furthermore the front extension aspect does not exceed the 1.5 metre projection set out in paragraph 9.3.

7.15 It has been noted that the application of natural slate rather than red pantiles being used would deviate from the style of the locality. Whilst the locality does exhibit a predominance of red pantiles, it is further acknowledged that these pantiles are of a mixed style of design and although the proposed works would deviate from this general colourway natural slate is not considered to be an unattractive material and is therefore considered to be acceptable.

7.16 The materials used for cladding and fenestration have also been raised as an issue, however with the locality exhibiting a range of claddings fronting the highway, the proposals are not considered to be out of keeping with the area.

7.17 It is noted that the proposals do contravene some parts of the guidance set out in the SPD, however it is further noted that this document is to be used as guidance alongside the context of a site. With the application site being located within a street scene which exhibits a gradient with a range of dwelling styles and sizes (both northern and southern neighbours are two-storey dwellings) the proposed alterations do not have a uniform design style or roof line to deviate from.

7.18 The works would largely be in keeping with the appearance of the existing building in terms of form. Whilst the frontage of the dwelling would be altered, it would be keeping with the street scene. On balance the visual impact is therefore considered acceptable and in accordance with the Wansbeck Residential Extensions Design Guidance SPD, Policy H8 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan, Policy GP30 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan, Policies QOP 1 and QOP 2 of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan and the NPPF.

### **Impact on Amenity**

7.19 Paragraph 130 of the NPPF states that decisions should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users.

7.20 Policy H8 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan states that proposals for extensions to existing dwellings will be permitted provided that they do not have a significant adverse effect on neighbouring properties in terms of loss of daylight,

sunlight, privacy or outlook, and reasonable garden or yard space is retained for the extended dwelling.

7.21 The Wansbeck Residential Extensions Design Guidance SPD sets out guidance for householder development. In this case sections 8, 9, and 12 are relevant.

7.22 Section 8 of the SPD considers the impacts of two-storey rear extensions. Section 9 of the SPD considers the impacts of porches and front extensions. Section 12 of the SPD considers the impacts of roof extensions and alterations.

7.21 Section 12 of the SPD considers the impacts of roof extensions and alterations, however this is not covered in a capacity which relates to impact upon amenity, however it is understood that roof alterations (particularly dormers) can lead to loss of privacy through overlooking. With regard to this application, initial plans were submitted which featured proposed dormers which would face south and would overlook the rear garden of no.4B, these have since been removed from the proposal in the interests of residential privacy of neighbouring properties.

7.22 The installation of rooflights is not considered to result in overlooking in the same manner dormer extensions would. It is further noted that the installation of rooflights can be achieved under permitted development rights and therefore a similar level of overlooking could be achieved without planning permission being required. The angle of the proposed rooflights would not give rise to any significant overlooking.

7.23 It is noted that the proposed extension to the west would encroach 2.2 metres toward western neighbour (no.4A). The most relevant guidance relating to this is section 8 of the SPD which covers two-storey rear extensions (although the encroachment would better be described as part of an overall increase in footprint, the impact must be assessed). Paragraph 8.3 of the SPD states that two storey rear extensions will only be considered acceptable if they do not extend beyond a 45-degree line of sight taken from the mid-point of the first floor or ground floor window of any room of the neighbouring property. Obviously, this section of the guidance does not consider the potential impacts raised by the unorthodox layout of the locality – specifically the potential impact upon the neighbour to the rear. The 45 degree angle impact upon the northern and southern neighbours would not result in any greater loss of light or outlook than the existing arrangement. Without specific reference from the SPD it is recognised that the closest elevation neighbouring property 4A (to the rear) has to the application property does not feature any windows and is obscured heavily by a substantial boundary treatment. It is therefore concluded that this aspect of the proposed works would result in no greater reduction in outlook for no.4A than the existing arrangement.

7.24 Whilst some of the habitable rooms of the application dwelling would enjoy very little outlook and natural light from their windows (due to adjacent boundary treatments) it is noted that these rooms already had a limited enjoyment of outlook and natural light in the existing arrangement and as such there is no significant loss on the existing residential amenity currently enjoyed at the application dwelling.

7.25 The proposal has been assessed and is not considered to have a significant impact on residential amenity. The proposals are therefore considered acceptable and in accordance with the Wansbeck Residential Extensions Design Guidance SPD, Policy H8 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan, Policy GP30 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan, Policies QOP 1 and QOP 2 of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan and the NPPF.

### **Highway Safety**

7.26 Highways have been consulted and have stated a response of no objections subject to the implementation of conditions which would need to be discharged via a discharge of conditions application.

7.27 With the proposed works not considered to result in any significant negative impact upon the surrounding highway network, the proposed works are recognised to be acceptable and in accordance with relevant guidance.

### **Water Management**

7.28 With sewerage and drainage issues raised during public consultation the Local Lead Flood Authority and Northumbrian Water have both been consulted. The LLFA have responded with no objection to the proposal. Northumbrian Water have not responded to consultation. It is noted by the case officer however that there may be a legal agreement between the application property and its neighbours regarding the treatment of sewage and that this may need to be addressed as a legal matter before any alterations to the existing arrangement take place.

### **Equality Duty**

7.29 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**

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

### **Human Rights Act Implications**

7.31 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.

7.32 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.

7.33 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 in accordance with both local and national planning policy. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions.

## **9. Recommendation**

That this application be GRANTED planning permission subject to the following:

### Conditions/Reason

#### 01. Planning Permission

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. Materials

The facing materials and finishes to be used in the construction of the development shall be in accordance with details contained in the application. The development shall not be constructed other than with these approved materials.

Reason: In the interests of the satisfactory appearance of the development upon completion and in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF.

### 03. Approved Plans

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. Location Plan drawing no. 303-1017-LOCATION (uploaded 16th December 2021)
2. Existing Site Plan drawing no. 303-1017-LEX (uploaded 16th December 2021)
3. Existing Ground Floor Plan drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
4. Existing Roof Plan drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
5. Existing East and South Elevations drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
6. Existing North and West Elevations drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
7. Proposed Site Plan drawing no. 303-1017-LPROP (uploaded 16th December 2021)
8. Proposed Ground Floor Plan drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
9. Proposed First Floor Plan drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
10. Proposed Roof Plan drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
11. Proposed East and South Elevations drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
12. Proposed North and West Elevations drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
13. Proposed Courtyard East Elevation drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)
14. Proposed Courtyard West Elevation drawing no. 303-1017-1 (uploaded 13th October 2021)

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

#### 04. Construction Method Statement

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

#### **Informatives**

- 1) The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848. Further information is also available on the Coal Authority website at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority)
- 2) The granting of planning permission does not override any existing legal claim of ownership of, or access to, the land or property identified in the documents associated with this application.
- 3) 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.
- 4) In accordance with the Highways Act 1980 mud, debris or rubbish shall not be deposited on the highway.

**Date of Report: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Background Papers:** Planning application file(s) 21/02154/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>	No – claim refused

	Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: 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	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  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.	26 May 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
19/04660/FUL	New external plant – Asda, Main Street, Tweedmouth  Main issues: insufficient information in relation to noise and potential impacts on residential amenity.	19 August 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/02536/FUL	Retrospective - Installation of hard standing, electricity and water points, alterations to access and other ancillary works - land west of North Farm Cottages, Embleton	26 August 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer

	Main issues: incursion into the open countryside and would erode the rural character of the site and its surroundings.	Recommendation: Refuse
20/03231/OUT	Erection of 4no. dwellinghouses (C3 use class) with all matters reserved – land north-west and south-east of The Haven, Back Crofts, Rothbury  Main issues: fails to address highway safety matters in relation to site access and manoeuvrability.	10 September 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/03542/FUL	Change of use of land to site shepherd's hut for tourism accommodation – land east of Kingshaw Green, Tyne Green, Hexham  Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; inadequate flood risk assessment; and insufficient information regarding foul water treatment.	13 September 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
19/01008/FUL	Construction of 58no. dwellings with associated landscaping, access and infrastructure works – land to north of Fairmoor Centre, Morpeth  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.	16 September 2021  Appeal against non-determination
21/01085/FUL	Single storey front extension – 2 The Limes, Morpeth  Main issues: the proposals would result in an incongruous and overbearing addition with visual harm to the property and wider street scene.	12 October 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/04369/REM	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  Main issues: layout, scale and massing would be out of character with surrounding area.	18 October 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse

21/01578/OUT	<p>Outline permission with all matters reserved - demolition of existing garage, stable block 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>19 October 2021</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>27 October 2021</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>

	<p>Main issues: inadequate off-road car parking provision and resultant off-site impacts; increased noise and light pollution to the 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 incongruous feature that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area.</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/02878/FUL	<p>Change of use of land for siting of shepherd's huts and associated development – land north of White House Farm, Slaley</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt.</p>	<p>4 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/03062/FUL	<p>Proposed alterations and rear extension to dwelling house (retrospective) - 23 Shoresdean, Berwick-upon-Tweed</p> <p>Main issues: poor quality flat roof design with detrimental impact on the property and the character of the environment.</p>	<p>10 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/00656/FUL	<p>Retrospective: replacement of all windows and doors – 67 Main Street, North Sunderland, Seahouses</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>22 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/02916/FUL	<p>Addition of a balcony to the first floor east facing gable elevation accessed by new door – 1 Elfin Way, South Shore, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: incongruous feature on the property that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area; and harm to amenity.</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/00465/FUL	<p>Resubmission: alterations to existing window opening on front elevation and installation of replacement balcony – Riverview, Shepherds Hill, Alnmouth</p> <p>Main issues: unacceptable impact on amenity of neighbouring properties; and detrimental impact on the AONB.</p>	<p>1 December 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/00705/FUL	<p>Proposal for the erection of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping – Plot 28, Grange Road, Berwick</p> <p>Main issues: scale and visual impact would be detrimental to and out of character with the immediate surroundings.</p>	<p>1 December 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

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 property resulting in negative impact to the character of the area and inappropriate design.	7 December 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/01136/FUL	Construction of 1 no detached dwelling (as amended) - land south of Embleton Hall and behind Front Street, Lonframlington  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.	13 December 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse

## 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	Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB	1 February 2021

	Main issues: material change of use of the land from agricultural for the siting of 4 caravans	
18/00223/ENDEVT	Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB  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	1 February 2021

## Inquiry and Hearing Dates

Reference No	Description and address	Inquiry/hearing date and decision level
20/02488/FUL	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  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.	Hearing date: 27 September 2021  Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/01932/FUL	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  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	Hearing date: 18 January 2022  Committee Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse



	<p>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 wind turbine and impacts in residents and local area.</p>	
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 (Impact Assessment attached?)</b> <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 : Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 19 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 2022-2026



## Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service

West Hartford Business Park

Cramlington

NE23 3JP

Tel 01670 621 111

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



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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

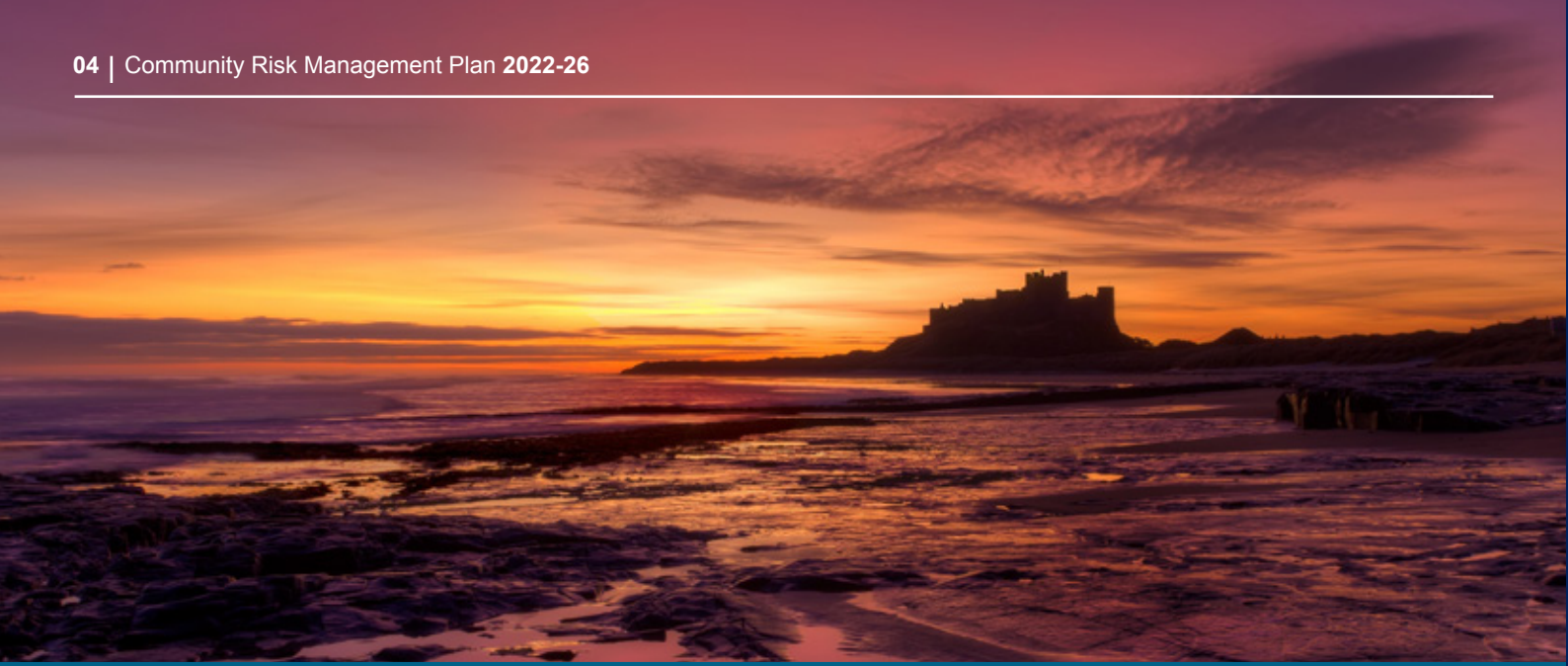
frameworks within NCC as well as effective multiagency response and mutual aid support from our Local Resilience Forum (LRF), FRS National Resilience and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) arrangements. We will continue to review and update those arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

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

- Wholetime
- 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:

**80%**  
10 mins

### 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.

**80%**  
13 mins

### 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.

**80%**  
15 mins

### 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.

**80%**  
20 mins

### 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 which has already taken place with our 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.

<p><b>01</b> We want to be an employer of choice</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>02</b> Our values define us</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>03</b> We always try to make a positive difference for our communities</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>04</b> The Health, Safety and Welfare of our staff is our priority</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>05</b> We will embrace new ways of working</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>06</b> We will have excellent communication</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>07</b> Staff Engagement and Involvement are key to our success</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>08</b> We will champion equality, diversity and inclusion</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>09</b> We will develop a workforce of leaders</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>10</b> We are a learning organisation</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>11</b> Strong collaboration and partnership</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>12</b> We are 'OneTeam'</p>	<p>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.</p>

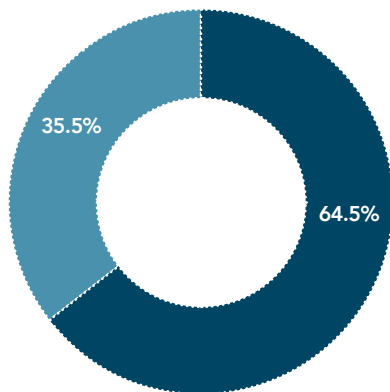


## OUR BUDGET

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**

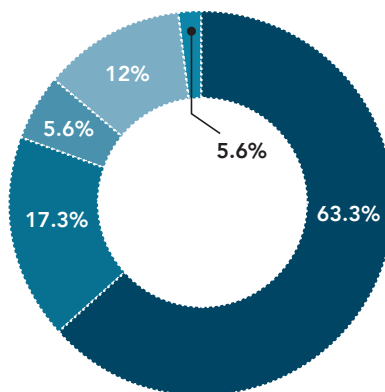
How our budget reflects staffing and non-staffing costs for 2021-22.



- Staffing cost 64.5
- Non-staffing cost 35.5

**CHART 2**

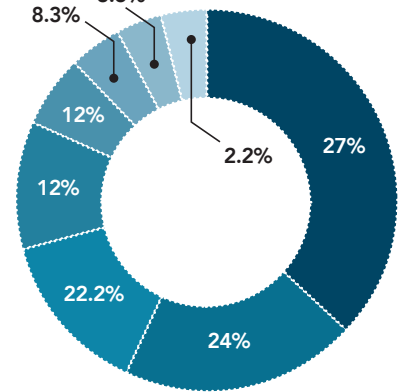
How our budget has been divided by roles during 2021-22.



- Wholetime
- Retained
- Local Government
- Control
- Other

**CHART 3**

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



- PFI
- Asset depreciation
- Data and comms
- Premises related
- Supplies and services
- Third party payments
- Vehicle and travel
- Employee related

# 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.

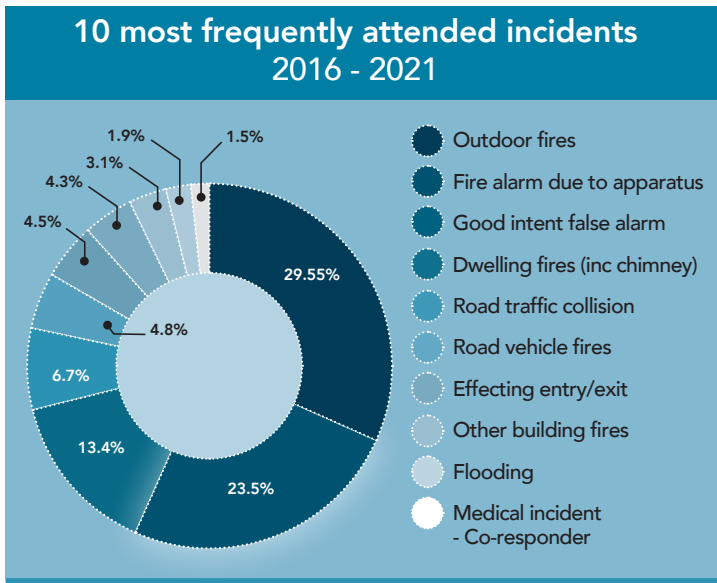
We know that over the last 10 years, working closely with our communities and key partners, we have reduced the

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.



### Activity 2020/2021

 <b>EMERGENCY CALLS</b> <b>6,419</b>	 <b>TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED</b> <b>2,991</b>	 <b>FALSE ALARMS</b> <b>1,122</b>	 <b>FIRES</b> <b>1,319</b>
 <b>SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS</b> <b>550</b>	 <b>ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS</b> <b>128</b>	 <b>RESCUES</b> <b>224</b>	



“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.

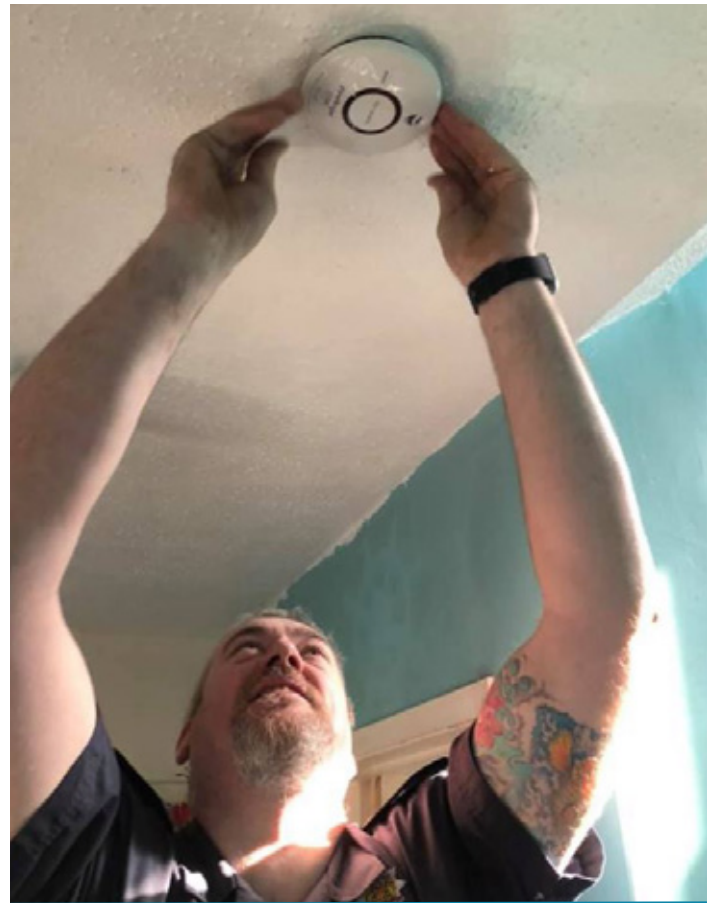
Deliver training for Community Risk and Response personnel and assess operational and command competence.

## 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 FRs 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 FRs 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  $\geq$  1hectare (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 personnel 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 HVP 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 HVP operators, instructors and Tactical Advisors with competence standards, continuous professional development, and acquisition training.
- ▶ Maintain an effective governance process for the HVP 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 of 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.

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## 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.

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## 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/crpmconsultation2022/](http://www.haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crpmconsultation2022/)

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:

.....

.....

.....

### 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:

.....

.....

.....

### 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**  
**Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council**  
**Work Programme 2021-22**

Heather Bowers: 01670 622609 - [Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk)

**UPDATED: 11 November 2021**

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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.
- (m) To exercise the following functions within their area:-
  - (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.
  - (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
  - (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
  - (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.
  - (v) the Council's role in encouraging wider access for all to the County's network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

## **ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED**

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

**To be listed:**

Enhanced Services with Parish and Town Councils  
Off-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points  
Cycling and Walking Board  
Enforcement  
Speeding across Northumberland

Northumberland County Council  
Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Council  
Work Programme 2021-22

21 July 2021

- Planning
- Petition Report
- Local Services Update
- Appointment to Outside Bodies
- Members' Local Improvement Schemes

18 August 2021

- Planning and Rights of Way

20 September 2021

- Petitions – Fly tipping in Seghill
- Policing in the Community - update
- Local Services Update
- Police & Crime Commissioner (*deferred to January*)
- Local Transport Plan Update

20 October 2021

- Planning and Rights of Way (*Meeting cancelled*)

17 November 2021

- Planning and Rights of Way
- Petition Report
- Youth Services
- Northumberland Communities Together
- Winter Preparedness and Resilience
- Local Services Update



22 December 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>
19 January 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Police and Crime Commissioner</li> <li>• Budget Presentation</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> <li>• NFRS – Community Risk Action Plan</li> </ul>
22 February 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Transport Plan</li> </ul>
23 March 2022	
Page 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Members Local Improvement Schemes</li> </ul>
20 April 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>

Northumberland County Council  
Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council  
Monitoring Report 2021-22

Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
21.07.21	Petition for additional parking at Mayfield Dale, Cramlington	The report be deferred to allow for further information	It was suggested that an officer report on the issue could be taken to Scrutiny and possibly Cabinet.
Page 82	Local Services Issues	That the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points be followed up.	
	Members Local Improvement Schemes	That the report be noted	
	Appointments to Outside Bodies	That the information be noted.	
22.09.21	Petition from Seghill Clean Team regarding fly-tipping in Seghill	Report to be organised for future meeting.	
	Policing and Community Safety Update	That the information be noted.	

	Local Services Issues	That the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points be followed up.	
	Local Transport Update	That the information be noted.	
	Leasehold Reform	That the information be noted.	
17.11.21 Page 83	Petition from Seghill Clean Team regarding fly-tipping in Seghill	<p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <p>1) To continue with current methods of using deployable CTV equipment to investigate fly tipping events.</p> <p>2) Options to undertake target hardening of the location to prevent vehicles access be investigated.</p>	
	Youth Service Provision	<i>Deferred to January's meeting</i>	
	Northumberland Communities Together	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the presentation be received.	

	Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	
	Local Services Issues	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points above be followed up.	
	Urgent Business	<b>RESOLVED</b> that a report be requested from Highways regarding road safety across the county, specifically ongoing road safety at Crowhall Lane, Cramlington.	