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Northumberland County Council

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Enquiries to: Nichola Turnbull

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Date: Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC** to be held in **MEETING SPACE - BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2022** at **2.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Communities and Place OSC members as follows:-

J Reid (Chair), M Mather (Vice-Chair), S Bridgett, E Cartie, G Castle, R Dodd, B Gallacher, C Hardy, N Morphet and M Richardson

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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 1
- 18)

Minutes of the following meetings of the Communities and Place OSC, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair:

- a) 12 January 2022
- b) 2 February 2022

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

N.B. Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager at monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this Agenda letter.

4. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

(Pages
19 - 26)

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

SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORT

The following report will be considered by the Cabinet on 8 March 2022. The Committee's comments will be presented to the Cabinet by the Chair when it determines the report. The Committee is requested to consider issues arising from the report.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following item is Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

(Pages
27 - 46)

The report provides an update on progress against the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23, published in January 2021.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following items is Councillor Jeff Watson, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives.

6. LIBRARY SERVICE STRATEGY 2021-2025

(Pages
47 - 58)

The report provides an update on the development of the Library Service Strategy 2021-2025. Members previously received briefings covering the key findings from the Library Service Public Consultation completed in June 2020.

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

7. COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MONITORING REPORT

(Pages
59 - 66)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates within a work programme which is agreed at the start of the Council year. The programme is reviewed at each meeting so that it can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Committee and take account of any changes to the latest Forward Plan (which outlines decisions to be taken by the Cabinet). The Committee is asked to review and note its work programme for the 2021/22 council year.

8. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

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

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

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

3. Non-participation in Council Business

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

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

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

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee** on Wednesday, 12 January 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Reid
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Cartie, E.	Hardy, C.
Castle, G.	Mather, M.
Dodd, R.R.	Morphet, N.
Gallacher, B.	

CABINET MEMBERS

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

J. Dennitts-Seal	Corporate Complaints Manager
K. Gardner	Interim Senior Service Director – Improvement and Innovation Service
H. Hinds	Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead
P. Hunter	Senior Service Director - HR/OD and People Services
S. Nicholson	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator
N. Turnbull	Democratic Services Officer

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bridgett, Richardson and Wearmouth.

40. MINUTES

The Scrutiny Coordinator reported that following the discussion at the previous meeting, reports had been requested on a number of issues, including:

Market Strategy
Enforcement in 20 mph speed limit areas

Minute 34.1 Active Travel and Road Safety for the Journey to School

The last sentence at the bottom of page 3 of the minutes be amended to read:

'Sarah Rowell, Principal Transport Officer informed members that current data showed that 37% of children walked to school with 6% either **cycling** or scooting, with 6% parking away from the school and walking the remainder of the journey.'

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Communities & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 1 December 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendment.

41. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of key decisions (August to November 2021). (Schedule enclosed with the signed minutes).

Members agreed that the following item be included within the Committee's work programme:

Bus Service Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

42. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

42.1 Complaints Improvement Framework - Update

The report provided an update on the work being undertaken as part of the Complaints Improvement Framework and subsequent steps for 2022. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes.)

Julie Dennitts-Seal, Corporate Complaints Manager and Kelly Gardner, Senior Service Director – Improvement and Innovation Service, presented the report. The Corporate Complaints Manager explained that following a restructure the Complaints section were now included within the Improvement and Innovation Service. This had provided a further opportunity to review the Improvement action plan, the implementation of which had been delayed due to the pandemic and requirement to maintain delivery of frontline services.

She confirmed that policies were in the process of being refreshed. The revised Unreasonably Persistent and Vexatious Contact Policy had been agreed and would be of benefit both staff and residents whilst consultation was underway on the Corporate Feedback Policy. A new bespoke system was in the process of being procured which would enable comprehensive recording and management of complaints and trend analysis to be able to

provide more detailed information when requested and enable continuous learning and improvement from the data.

The following issues were discussed:

- The number of complaints recorded had increased during the pandemic but normally increased each year. This was comparable with the national position. The existing system would be able to provide details of numbers. Information was currently being collated on the effect of the pandemic on complaints management and would be included in the next report. The Corporate Complaints Manager was a member of the National Complaints Managers Forum who were working with the Local Ombudsman on trends and the impact of the pandemic. She was also working with the Customer Services team to identify trends and how the Council responded to them.
- There had been a 42% overall increase in the number of complaints. She stressed that reference also need to be made to the number of complaints which were upheld and not upheld and where an individual's expectations had not been met. It was important that the new system was able to provide that analysis and that the Council became proactive, rather than reactive, improving the accessibility of information so that requests for information did not turn into a complaint.
- Social media was an important method of interaction between the Council, Councillors and members of the public. Rules were needed to differentiate between posts on social media and formal requests via email. The Corporate Complaints Manager welcomed free feedback via social media as it was a useful source of information and a tool for the Council to improve what it was doing. Staff needed to be in place to be able to filter that information and analyse trends and how information was shared. The new system would record the method of contact.
- It was noted that it was difficult for elected members who were active on social media to be able to process requests received after the normal business hours. There was also concern regarding the possible impact on an individual's mental health, particularly when things became personal; there should safeguards in place to ensure they were protected.
- A bespoke system was to be acquired for complaints management, but would be linked to customer service case management system for customer contact which would be able to interact, be more secure and provide more detailed information than contact for a service request.
- The Central Feedback Team was separate to the Customer Response Strategy Working Group, which complaints were one element of.
- Actions identified from the Improvement Framework.
- Implications be included under the Equalities section in future reports.
- An annual complaints report was timetabled for September.

RESOLVED that the report be received, and the next steps noted.

43. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report

Ch.'s Initials.....

Communities and Place OSC, 12 January 2022

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the 2021/22 council year. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes).

Following the discussion earlier in the meeting regarding inclusion of the Bus Service Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership in the work programme, it was noted that some of the items listed for February and March may need to be deferred to April.

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator confirmed that he was liaising with officers for reports on the issues raised at December's meeting.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

44. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that he had agreed that a scoping report on the review of the Storm Arwen response be included on the agenda for the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Philp Hunter, Interim Senior Service Director - HR/OD and People Services, introduced the report which set out the suggested scope of the review of the Storm Arwen response; examining the disruption, identifying gaps in policies and plans in the Council, partner organisations and communities to improve resilience to future extreme weather events, should they occur. The report suggested engagement with members of the public, a list of partner organisations and other parties and a proposed a timetable for the review.

Helen Hinds, Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead, explained that the role of the Civil Contingencies Team was to ensure that the Council fulfilled its obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Under the Act, local authorities were defined as Category 1 responders along with the emergency services, Environment Agency and some health organisations and worked with Category 2 responders including utility companies and other bodies.

She provided a brief summary of the meetings that had taken place following receipt of the red weather warning from the Met Office and the meetings of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), which had included the 6 local authorities within the police force area, Northumbria Police, the Tyne and Wear and Northumberland fire and rescue services, maritime and coast guard agency and voluntary sector agencies. Approximately 30 meetings of the tactical coordinating group had had been held between 26 November and 12 December 2021 as well as 7/8 meetings of the strategic coordinating group.

The following issues were discussed for potential inclusion in the review:

- The timing of the decision to declare a major incident and involvement of the military. It was confirmed that representatives of the military were an

integral part of the Local Resilience Forum and had sat on the tactical coordination meetings.

- Information should be obtained as quickly as possible from the different demographic groups across the county. A dedicated email address be established and use of social media to encourage constructive suggestions of what could have been done better.
- The review should not be construed negatively. A number of Council departments and other organisations needed to be congratulated for their response in difficult circumstances.
- Whether the Council's Emergency Committee should have met.
- Reliance on equipment for connectivity and alternative means of disseminating information to residents who did not have power or access to information on websites, following the storm. This could include use of local radio stations.
- Sharing realistic time frames as residents and communities had been unable to make plans.
- Preparation by communities and residents such as purchasing generators in remote communities for a central location and manual override of equipment.
- A review of trees in terms of safety and planting to provide shelter. It was confirmed that a report on the tree and woodland policy had been requested and would be included within the committee's work programme. It was suggested that this should include Ash die back and the Government's Environmental Land Management Scheme.
- Dissemination of contact names and numbers to elected members of officers on standby as it had been difficult to contact the Council on its main telephone number immediately following the storm.
- Backup systems were needed for care homes, schools and included within planning conditions for new builds.
- Concern regarding the condition of properties following the storm and enforcement or identification of those that could potentially be dangerous.
- Staff provided with training to use equipment in case of emergencies.
- How vulnerable residents were identified, particularly if care was arranged privately.
- What support the County Council could provide to assist town and parish councils with their own emergency response plans.
- Whether feedback should be obtained from care homes, GPs and hospitals and their emergency plan preparation/response.

The Committee considered the list of recommendations:

- The review be concluded in time for a report to be considered by Council in July. Sufficient time was required to collect and review the evidence and the final report should only be brought forward, if this was feasible or perhaps an earlier report on a particular aspect, if thought beneficial.
- A separate email address be established for the review. Residents and communities be encouraged to participate whether it be by written correspondence, by emails sent directly or forwarded on their behalf by elected members. Notification would be sent to county councillors and

town and parish councils of the email address to be used or portal for communication.

- Using the After Disasters Network and researchers at Durham University to work with communities to facilitate conversations and ensure all voices were heard. This could also include questionnaires at community centres or other locations. Members debated whether a survey should be sent to one location. Others felt that if a survey were to be utilised, it should be sent to all homes in Northumberland, or not at all. Consideration be given to an appropriate method to get a representative sample as the difficulties in rural areas were very different to those in urban areas.
- The list of consultees and interviews be finalised when responses were received and categorised, in addition to the partner organisations identified on page 3. It was noted that organisations would be invited but could not be compelled to participate.
- The review committee comprise no more than 8 members. As a task and finish group it did not need to be proportional. It was suggested that it was important to include a Health and Well-Being member and for there to be geographical representation. It was acknowledged that involvement would require a significant commitment by all parties and that any future changes to committee membership would not change the membership of the Review Committee, once established.
- Whether the terms of reference should include other disasters such as flooding or fire. However, it was agreed that focus should remain on the storm as arrangements and procedures were in place for the other issues mentioned and processes could be transferred to other situations. Matters may arise as the evidence was received although it was important that completion of the review not be delayed, and these may need to be considered separately. It was intended that following consideration of the report by Council, the conclusions would be reviewed by the committee at an appropriate point in the future.
- The format of the Review Committee's meetings could be a mixture of remote meetings and in person, depending on what was appropriate for a particular session. There would be added value of some being held face to face.

RESOLVED that:

1. The current terms of reference and scope of the review, on pages 2 - 3 of the report, be agreed subject to any changes deemed necessary by the Review Committee.
2. The membership of the Review Committee include:
Councillors Castle, Dodd, Gallacher, Hardy, Mather, Morphet and Reid.
Councillor Bridgett be invited to be a member of the Review Committee.
3. The final list of consultees / interviews be agreed when the evidence is reviewed, in addition to those identified on page 3 of the report.
4. Consultation with communities be sought via email, letter, survey via representative sample and use of researchers.
5. The proposed timetable on page 4 of the scoping report, be agreed.
6. The findings of the review be ultimately reported to Full Council.

Ch.'s Initials.....

Communities and Place OSC, 12 January 2022

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee** on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Reid
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Cartie, E.	Hardy, C.
Castle, G.	Mather, M.
Dodd, R.R.	Morphet, N.
Gallacher, B.	Richardson, M.

CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C.	Community Services
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

G. Binning	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
P. Hedley	Chief Fire Officer
J. McNeil	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
E. Morgan	Interim Executive Director for Public Health and Community Services
R. Murfin	Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services
S. Nicholson	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator
J. Stewart	Strategic Housing Manager
N. Turnbull	Democratic Services Officer

Councillor K Nisbett was also in attendance.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bridgett.

46. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of key decisions (February to May 2022). (Schedule enclosed with the signed minutes).

In answer to a question, the Chair explained that an update on the Leisure Review – Phase 1 would be included as part of the Active Northumberland Update at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

47. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORT

The Committee were advised that the following report would be considered by the Cabinet on 8 February 2022. Members were requested to comment on the proposals in the report.

47.1 Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Consultation

The report raised awareness of the consultation and the background to the development of the NFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes.)

Paul Hedley, the Chief Fire Officer referred to the presentation that had been given to all five Local Area Council's the previous month and explained that all fire and rescue authorities were required to produce a Community Risk Management Plan which must:

- reflect up to date risk analyses;
- demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities would best be used to prevent and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities;
- outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources;

The plan provided information to explain the risk analysis process and the 10 most frequently attended incidents in the previous 5 years. Over 93% of attendances were attributable to these incident types.

Officers believed the plan built on previous iterations of the document and provided more detail about the risk management process. Feedback was sought from residents, interested parties and identified stakeholders on the draft plan and whether there were any gaps. The consultation was open from 5 January to 16 February 2022 and available on numerous platforms including the county council's website, the new bespoke Fire and Rescue Service website and social media platforms, advertised through press and published media and publicly accessible meetings.

The CRMP was not a static document but would evolve and be subject to an annual review of performance, an assessment of the priorities and risk analysis of incident types and emerging risks which should give assurance on the risks and action required to address them.

Reference was made to the 6 priorities identified within the plan. During 2022/23 a review would be undertaken of operating models and service delivery to ensure that risks arising from British Volt and the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Rail Line to ensure there was service capacity, training and equipment to respond effectively to those new risks.

Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to respond to the consultation on the plan which was in a draft form and would be shaped by the feedback.

Comments from the committee and responses from the Chief Fire Officer(s) were as follows:

- Officers were liaising with the Climate Change Team to ensure that the information from the Met Office in the Flooding and Water Rescue section on page 23 was accurate.
- Members expressed their support for the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and the very clear report and CRMP.
- To date, 30 responses had been received during the CRMP consultation which included 4 elected members, some neighbouring fire and rescue services and the majority from residents.
- The first year of the CRMP, which proposed a review of operating models and service delivery, was not contentious and therefore unlikely to generate a large number of consultation responses unlike past proposals.
- Group leaders were requested to encourage participation by members. Other members were of the view that they had participated in the consultation process at the Local Area Council meetings and did not feel that they needed to provide a separate response as they were supportive of the plan.
- Best practice and external advice had recommended inclusion of the demographic data.
- Experience following the recent severe storms had highlighted the problems caused by lack of power which had impacted on mobile technology masts, particularly in rural areas. It was queried whether information could be released in the future via a local radio station. Lack of communication was to be included within the Storm Arwen Review and officers hoped that outcomes would build in additional resilience including the capability and increasing capacity of satellite communication.
- An update would be provided to the committee on consultation responses and changes made to the CRMP.

Councillor Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services, which included responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service, commented on the comprehensive nature of the plan and the action being taken to safeguard residents from the identified risks. He complimented officers on the Community Risk Management Plan and encouraged everyone to view the new dedicated website at www.northumberlandfireandrescue.gov.uk as it was a valuable tool.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that the comments be noted.

48. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

48.1 Update on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Round 2 Inspection report into Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)

The report provided an update on the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following the publication of the second inspection report into Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) on 15 December 2021. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes.)

Paul Hedley, Chief Fire Officer, introduced his colleagues also in attendance: Graeme Binning, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, and Jim McNeil, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, both of whom had been actively involved in the action plan, inspection and review of the service.

He explained that whilst the findings of the second inspection were that NFRS continued to Require Improvement, the narrative was much more positive and balanced than the report in 2019. He reported that the inspection had been brought forward by 6 months, which had impacted on preparation time and there had been a loss of activity against the first action plan due to a change in the ways of working due to the Covid-19. The latter had resulted in delivery of different service model which had supported the Council and Northumberland Communities Together's response to the pandemic.

The Committee were informed that the Lead HM inspector had acknowledged that there had been 'significant improvements since the last inspection in 2019' and that NFRS was 'an improving service'.

Additional investment in 2020 had enabled the capacity and resource issues to be addressed and the significant efficiencies target had been removed.

Jim McNeil, Assistant Chief Officer provided a synopsis of actions taken in response to the Cause of Concern (CoC) and plans for the future. A detailed explanation was provided of the 2-tiered safeguarding arrangements for those firefighters who provided dual on call / wholetime contracts, by Fire Control and Duty Managers to continually adjust rotas and start times, if required. He gave assurance that the 3 aspects raised in the CoC had been addressed. Furthermore, dual contractors enabled the service to maximise appliance availability and would only be used as an interim solution until the on-call recruitment strategy increased resilience of the service to provide 24-hour cover, 365 days per year. 3 on-call courses would be held in the next 6 months, the first of which was starting the following week. Variation of contracts and a reduced number of hours were assisting recruitment.

The HMI provided an opportunity for an independent review and benchmarking of the service and the 25 areas identified for improvement were issues that were at various stages of being addressed.

Graeme Binning the Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that following his appointment, every system, process and department had been subject to review including strategic planning and performance as well as collaboration and partnerships. The Integrated Risk Management Plan had been extended and a performance and assurance framework developed. Monthly meetings and oversight of core measures and service measures were then provided at a quarterly Strategic Performance Board. Assurance was then provided to the Service Leadership Team on the corporate health of the organisation which allowed emerging risks to be monitored and the flexing of resource, finance or external support where required. The service was under continuous review and officers were optimistic regarding the future.

Comments from the committee and responses from the Chief Fire Officer(s) were as follows:

- Clarification was provided regarding the adjustment of start times for those on dual contracts if called out for less than an hour or an accumulation of several incidents via monitoring of incident summary sheets. The safeguarding review monitored both day and night shifts. Duty managers were responsible for confirming start times and arranging cover, if required.
- Results from the previous analysis, identified that 80% of incidents were under one hour duration and was evenly split between whole time and on call incidents.
- They aspired to provide 100% availability across all appliances, operating with a 4% variation to enable recruitment and retention. Some appliances had 98-98.5% availability and the recruitment strategy would be focussing on cover at those fire stations via flexibility of contracts.

Members gained assurance from the officers' presentation and information contained within the report.

Councillor Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services, was confident that the service was moving in the right direction and had full confidence in the officers and service.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

48.2 Empty Homes in Northumberland

The report provided an overview regarding the issue of empty homes in the county, the measures the Council were undertaking to bring them into use and the challenges that this represented. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes.)

Elizabeth Morgan, Interim Executive Director for Public Health and Community Services, and Julie Stewart, Strategic Housing Manager, gave a brief outline of the work that had been taking place around empty homes. The following information was highlighted:

- Comparison of data provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities showed that 1.35% of properties eligible for Council Tax in Northumberland were empty which compared with the national average of 1.93%.
- There had been a slight increase in the number of long-term empty properties from 1,985 at 5.11.2019 to 2,070 at the present time.
- The highest number of empty properties were mainly located in urban areas, Ashington and Blyth. There had been a significant reduction in Ponteland and new areas of concern in Alnwick and Amble.
- The Private Sector Housing Team comprised 4 officers and worked closely with colleagues in Environmental Health, Environmental Protection and Planning and had brought 800 properties back into use in the last 5 years. Most had arisen as a result of negotiation with owners and some use of other initiatives such as Empty Dwelling Management Orders. A brief explanation of the complicated and lengthy process was provided. 15 properties were currently being managed for a 7-year period.
- Purchase and Repair had enabled acquisition of 12 properties with funding from Homes England, unfortunately this funding was no longer available.
- An updated Property Accreditation Scheme would be launched in the near future.
- It was acknowledged that some long-term empty properties were a cause for concern for neighbours. They were mostly uninhabitable or where no owner could be identified following the death of the previous proprietor. An Empty Homes Working Group had been formed to consider these difficult properties and comprised colleagues from Housing Services, Environmental Health, Environmental Protection, Legal, Planning and Building Control. Their combined powers were used to address these dwellings. They had a budget of £50,000 and focussed on a small number of these properties due to the complexity of the issues.
- A Housing review was considering the most effective use of resources to target problematic areas.
- Case studies had been included to provide examples of the complexity of the process.

The following issues were raised by members:

- A review undertaken by the Family and Children's Services OSC approximately 10 years ago had considered the limited legislative powers available; many properties empty then remained empty now.
- Empty properties in some wards attracted crime and anti-social behaviour which was having a significant detrimental impact on the health of neighbours. They were frustrated that the process could not be speeded up.

- Properties whose condition was so poor and were uninhabitable were not subject to a Council Tax charge and therefore there was no debt which could be used as a leverage for court action.
- There was demonstrable need for a dedicated Empty Homes Team.
- A review of delegations for Private Sector Housing Officers were being carried out to see if they could support inspections normally undertaken by Environmental Health and Environmental Protection.
- A comprehensive review was needed of some areas, such as Cowpen Quay, where there were a lot of absent landlords, properties in poor condition and fly tipping. Housing was aware of the regeneration programme in Blyth and were party to some of the discussions. A report on the potential for Selective Licensing in these areas was in the process of being finalised, funding sought and would be of assistance in that area. Unfortunately, due to the small size of the team, there was not enough capacity for a dedicated resource for that area.
- It was suggested that more of the long-term problem properties needed to be addressed rather than those that were easily solved as well as a review of certain areas. More enforcement was needed with stronger penalties. The team also needed to be given sufficient resource to address the issue an area at a time.
- The Landlord Accreditation Scheme sought to improve property standards to support tenant's health and well-being. These were voluntary and less successfully when landlords did not engage with the process. Enforcement powers generally sat within Environmental Protection and Environmental Health and the relevant teams were proactive and issued notices where this was appropriate and took actions where it could be recharged.
- It was acknowledged that the issue was a significant challenge, there were limited resources and needed all parties to work together.
- Funding opportunities for Purchase and Repair had ended. However, the Housing Delivery Team considered the potential to repurchase former Right to Buy properties where it was possible to bring them back under housing stock, where the condition and cost of bringing the property into a lettable condition, were viable.

Members supported the work of the Housing Team who they acknowledged had limited resources.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

48.3 Northumberland Infrastructure Funding Statement

The report explained the purpose of an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and summarised what was reported for the year 2020 / 2021. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes.)

Rob Murfin, Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services, explained that this was the second statement to be produced which reported on developer contributions via Section 106 agreements. The statement, which was submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities,

ensured transparency and accountability of contributions which were critical in delivering much needed affordable housing, necessary infrastructure and mitigation measures.

During 2020/21 the following figures were reported:

- The total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations entered was £5,628,195.06.
- The total amount of money received from planning obligations was £1,568,156.24 3.
- 328 affordable homes had been agreed along with 175 school places.
- £1,117,970 had been secured by s278 Highway agreements for highway improvement works.
- The total amount of money from planning obligations allocated towards infrastructure and mitigation was £2,834,401.29.
- The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year was £7,699,318.41.

Figures were broadly similar to the previous year with the exception of money received, which was approximately £700,000 lower. This was thought to be due to a decline in the number housing development commencements and completions, most likely due to the pandemic and delayed receipt of developer contributions.

Not only was the statement about a submission of information, but also to raise awareness about the process. Positive feedback had been received on the statement which was described as an 'excellent document, very clear and informative'. Members of the public could also provide feedback on how it could be improved in future years. The emerging Northumberland Local Plan would provide new policies against which planning obligations were secured and planning reform which might introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the data to be provided to each Local Area Council.

Members were supportive that the recording system had been improved to ensure that all monies were collected. They commented that:

- They were in favour of localism so that the community that was most affected by the adverse impacts of a development, also benefitted.
- There should be flexibility in the use of developer contributions in that if circumstances changed between the planning and implementation, use of the funds should not be rigidly adhered to if this resulted in subsidisation of a bus service which was not used.
- Whether funds should be allocated within a shorter period, e.g. three years. The Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services suggested that a longer period was more beneficial as it might take the amalgamation of funds from several schemes to be able to fund improvements to education or healthcare.

- It would be beneficial if a monthly report was submitted to the Local Area Councils.
- Reference to Ashington Town Team within the statement should perhaps be amended to Ashington Town Council, as the former organisation was defunct.

In answer to a question, the Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services, stated that often there were many demands for funding across all areas which were more than a development could support. A strategic approach therefore needed to be adopted to determine priorities. He was of the opinion that the statement improved reporting and provided transparency. Policies within the new plan would make it clearer to developers on the level of contributions expected. He welcomed suggestions from Councillors and members of the public on how the statement could be improved.

Councillor Horncastle was in agreement that the statement provided clarity on section 106 contributions.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The purpose and requirement for an Infrastructure Funding Statement, be noted.
- b) The summary of the Infrastructure Funding Statement content for the financial year 2020/21, be noted.
- c) The forthcoming changes to the Council's approach to developer contributions, upon adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan, be noted.
- d) A summary be provided to the Local Area Councils.

49. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the 2021/22 council year. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes).

Committee members were encouraged to contact the Scrutiny Co-ordinator with any proposals for inclusion in the work programme.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Forward Plan

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS MARCH TO JUNE 2022

DECISION	PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATE	CABINET DATE
<p>Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2021-22 - Position at the end of December 2021 The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2021-22 (R. Wearmouth/M. Calvert - 01670 620197) (Confidential report)</p>	CSEG 7 March 2022	8 March 2022
<p>Financial Performance 2021-22 - Position at the end of December 2021 The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue financial position as at 31 December 2021 for the Council against the Budget for 2021-22. (R. Wearmouth/S. Dent 01670 625515)</p>		8 March 2022
<p>Final Decision on statutory proposals for Atkinson House This report sets out an analysis of the representations (responses) received from interested parties to the statutory proposal published in relation to prescribed changes for Atkinson House Special School in Seghill, a secondary provision for boys with Social, Emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs in Northumberland during the four week statutory consultation that began on 13 January and closed</p>	FACS 3 March 2022	8 March 2022

<p>on 10 February 2022.</p> <p>Cabinet will be required to make a final decision on whether or not to approve the prescribed changes set out in the Statutory Proposal for implementation with effect from 1 September 2022.</p> <p>(G. Renner Thompson/S. Aviston - 01670 622281)</p>		
<p>Household Support Fund Update</p> <p>This briefing paper provides an update of Northumberland County Council's progress for delivery of the DWP Household Support Fund (HSF) for the period 06th October 31st December 2022 and the initial MI report submitted to DWP on 21/01/2022.</p> <p>(G. Wearmouth/M. Taylor/P. Brooks - 07770981864)</p>	<p>CSEG 7 March 2022</p>	<p>8 March 2022</p>
<p>RDA relocation from Tranwell (Pegasus Centre) to Kirkley Hall Campus (Northumberland College)</p> <p>To summarise an evidence-based cost proposal to prepare Kirkley Hall equestrian area in readiness to accept Morpeth Group RDA as a base for their ongoing operation.</p> <p>(Confidential report)</p> <p>(G. Renner Thompson/ N. Dorward - 07811 020 806)</p>	<p>FACS 3 March 2022</p>	<p>8 March 2022</p>
<p>Longframlington Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>To seek approval to formally 'make' the Longframlington Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan passed independent</p>		<p>8 March 2022</p>

<p>examination in October 2021 . A local referendum held in the Parish of Longframlington on 20th January 2022 returned a majority vote in favour of using the Plan to make decisions on planning applications. The Council is now obliged by statute to make the Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that doing so would breach European Union obligations.</p> <p>(C. Horncastle/Chris Anderson 07966 329338)</p>		
<p>Development of the Potland Burn Biodiversity Net Gain Site A report setting out the expenditure required for the creation and management of new habitats at Potland Burn former surface mine to provide biodiversity net gain for Britishvolt, and setting out likely net gain requirements for future inward investment such as for supply chain companies associated with Britishvolt. (C. Horncastle/D. Feige - 01670 622653)</p>	TBC	8 March 2022
<p>Climate Change Update To update on progress against the climate change action plan 2021-23 and next steps (G. Sanderson/M. Baker - 07957 385638)</p>	C&P 2 March 2022	8 March 2022
<p>Adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan (2016 – 2036) To present the Inspectors’ Report into the independent examination of the Northumberland Local Plan and to seek Cabinet’s approval to recommend that the Council approve</p>		29 March 2022 Council 30 March 2022

<p>the adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan (2016-2036), including the Policies Map, as amended by main modifications and additional minor changes, following its Independent Examination by the Planning Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State. (C. Horncastle/ Joan Sanderson (01670 623626))</p>		
<p>Blyth Relief Road To provide an update on progress made towards Blyth Relief Road and secure approval for next steps. The report will outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Route alignment proposals - Key information from the Outline Business Case - Next steps <p>(W. Ploszaj/S. McNaughton 07827 873139)</p>	<p>CSEG 11 April 2022</p>	<p>12 April 2022</p>
<p>Berwick Partnership Organisation This report sets out the findings of the informal meetings that have taken place with schools in the Berwick Partnership since April 2021 to discuss the organisational issues facing the partnership and to identify potential models of organisation that could address those issues. The results of an informal survey with parents and the wider community in the area served by Berwick Partnership are also included in the report. Cabinet is also asked to permit the initiation of a further period of informal consultation with stakeholders in the area served by Berwick Partnership schools to establish whether</p>	<p>FACS 7 April 2022</p>	<p>12 April 2022</p>

<p>any models of organisation that may be brought forward at a later date for consultation should consist of only 3-tier models of organisation or include 3-tier and 2-tier (primary/secondary) models of education. (G. Renner Thompson/S. Aviston - 01670 622281)</p>		
<p>Bus Service Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership For Cabinet to approve, subsequent to a prior consultation and objection period and statutory consultation period, the proposed Enhanced Plan and Scheme(s). The Enhanced Plan and Scheme is a proposed statutory partnership with regards to a statutory transport plan including the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Cabinet is asked to approve prior to the Enhanced Plan and Scheme(s) being submitted to Central Government by 30th April 2022. (W. Ploszaj/R. O'Farrell/H. Lancaster – 01670 623323)</p>	C&P 6 April 2022	12 April 2022
<p>English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) Reimbursement Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, at the behest of the Department of Transport (DfT) and the Cabinet Office, NCC have continued to reimburse bus operators at pre Covid levels in respect of concessionary travel reimbursement. DfT have now advised transport authorities to revert to reimbursing concessionary travel based on actual usage with effect from the 1st April 2022, albeit with a phased approach to the reduction of payments during the early part of the 2022/23 financial year. This report will seek endorsement to implement the DfT recommended approach. (W. Ploszaj/ N. Easton - 07979 233477)</p>		12 April 2022

<p>Community Chest 2022/23 To consider proposed changes to the operation of the Community Chest scheme in line with recommendations made by Elected Members as part of the recent review of Local Area Councils. (B. Flux/T. Kirsop - 07917 266864)</p>		12 April 2022
<p>Procurement of Specialist Dementia Service The report will seek approval for funding of a Specialist Dementia Service. Cost of the service is approximately £967,000 per year. The costs will be shared with the NHS and come from within existing resource. (W. Pattison/Neil Bradley 01670 622868)</p>		12 April 2022
<p>Financial Performance 2021-22 – Provisional Outturn 2021-22 The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue financial position as at Provisional Outturn for the Council against the Budget for 2021-22 (R. Wearmouth/S. Dent 01670 625515)</p>		7 June 2022
<p>Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2021-22 - Position at the end of March 2022 The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2021-22 (R. Wearmouth/M. Calvert - 01670 620197) (Confidential report)</p>	6 June 2022	7 June 2022

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

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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2nd March 2022
Cabinet – 8th March 2022

Climate Change Update - *For Information and to agree the key recommendations.*

Matt Baker, Service Director for Climate Change, Business Intelligence and Corporate Performance

Report of Cabinet Member: Cllr Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council

Purpose of report

To provide an update on progress against the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23, published in January 2021.

Executive Summary

At the end of the first year of the Climate Action Plan the following **key achievements** should be noted:

1. The Council's Climate Change Action Plan was ranked 25 / 409 (covering all local authorities in the UK) by a recently published independent assessment completed by Climate Action UK.
2. The Council has been awarded nearly £14.5 million across a broad range of low carbon grants.
3. More than 25,000 residents have been engaged through different climate initiatives with Climate Change Champion representation across 44 wards.
4. Four public webinar Q&As have been held, each of these has been well attended with audiences of over 100 at each event.
5. Nearly 18,000 trees have been claimed by residents and community groups through the Free Tree Scheme.
6. By the end of the financial year there will be 100 Council owned on-street electric car chargers across 27 wards.
7. 110 low income and high carbon homes have been upgraded as part of the Green Homes Grant Scheme.
8. By the end of the financial year nearly 3 million new trees will have been planted in support of the Great Northumberland Forest initiative.
9. The Council has reduced the emissions it is directly responsible for, by more than 50%.

It has only been possible to deliver these outcomes through a wide-ranging cross service partnership, that is aligned to a common purpose to deliver net zero by 2030. Every service in the Council has made a direct contribution to the delivery of one or more of these outcomes. The supporting role of the Climate Working Group and the Climate Change Steering Group with representation from across the county (residents, towns, urban areas, rural communities, business and the third sector) has also been a key factor in the results achieved in the past 12 months.

In the second year of the Climate Action plan the following **key aims** should be noted:

1. Continue to work closely with our residents and communities, through established partnership and engagement activities, additional projects with schools, strengthening connections with our business community and the annual free tree scheme.
2. Enhancing our partnerships with rural communities, to provide support to the farming community and at the same time help deliver the Great Northumberland Forest.
3. Lead the way nationally in delivering net zero through 'electrification' of transport and our estate, by: installing at least 75 EV charge points every year for the next three years, continuing to upgrade the Council fleet and start to build the solar car port at County Hall.
4. As part of the Net Zero Investment Strategy work with the business community, including British Volt, to create a world class supply chain in Low Carbon Technology.
5. Delivering schemes, through increased 'in-house' capability, that help our residents to tackle Climate Change directly every day. Including:
 - Deliver the Warmer Home programmes to more than 500 households to reduce carbon emissions, improve heating efficiency and resilience.
 - Pilot solutions for food waste, glass recycling and synthetic heating fuels.
 - Complete the District Heat Scheme Feasibility Studies for Alnwick, Ashington, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hexham and Morpeth alongside detailed feasibility studies in Blyth and Cramlington.
6. Publish the Climate Change Action Plan v2.0, including adaptation and the route to net zero for Council owned emissions.
7. Accelerate staff engagement through mandatory online climate change training alongside continued in depth carbon literacy training including the Cabinet and Executive Team.

The following **key challenges** should be noted:

1. The scale of resident and community partnerships is increasing, creating a fantastic opportunity to enable the behavioural changes needed to deliver net zero. This will require even more communication and engagement activities in 2022. Recent weather events have brought the significance of high value communications into even sharper focus.
2. The interdependencies with national and local policy decisions, including decarbonisation of the national grid, national planning standards, tariffs on synthetic fuels and incentives for low carbon solutions, especially for transport (active and public), power and heating.
3. The increased emphasis on in-house delivery will offer the opportunity for greater value for money and an improved resident experience. This will be an incremental change in nature of the Council's role and further increase the importance of cross service collaboration.
4. The nature of the District Heat Schemes service delivery model will be critical to ensure the schemes are viable and affordable for customers (domestic or commercial).
5. As the low carbon supply chain develops this will bring high quality jobs to the region, including low carbon manufacturing, the impact of positive and negative emissions from this supply chain needs to be accounted for.
6. As national and global commitments to Climate Change evolve, the scope of work considered as part of any comprehensive Climate Change programme will increase, for example to include: Adaptation, Methane, and Green Finance.
7. The information provided through BEIS on the progress being made to deliver net zero lags project activities by two years.
8. Ensuring funding is secured with realistic conditions (e.g. timescales for delivering grants), including work to get the most from all our devolution deals and partnership arrangements.

Recommendations

1. Formalise the role of Climate Change Policy Group in the Council governance processes, with closer links to the Executive Team and Members, through quarterly reports on the impact of policy decisions on the Council's ability to deliver net zero.
2. Executive Directors and Cabinet Members should query reports, where the Carbon Impact Assessment has not been completed and it is expected to impact on the council's ability to deliver net zero, as part of the council's governance arrangements.
3. Executive Directors and Cabinet Members should complete carbon literacy training in 2022.
4. The online Climate Change module should be included in statutory and mandatory training for all staff.
5. The provision for targeted grant funding (Climate Change Community Fund £50,000 recurrent) for community climate change initiatives, that has been made in the upcoming Council budget, should be approved.
6. Continue running the Free Tree Scheme each year up to the 2030 net-zero target with the intention of offering a tree for every household in Northumberland.

Link to Corporate Plan

An update on the work underway to support the delivery of the council's ambition for Northumberland to be a net zero county by 2030. A key component of the Corporate Plan.

Key Issues

1. The scale of resident and community partnerships is increasing, creating a fantastic opportunity to enable the behavioural changes needed to deliver net zero. This will require even more communication and engagement activities in 2022. Recent weather events have brought the significance of high value communications into even sharper focus.
2. The interdependencies with national and local policy decisions, including decarbonisation of the national grid, national planning standards, tariffs on synthetic fuels and incentives for low carbon solutions, especially for transport (active and public), power and heating.
3. The increased emphasis on in-house delivery will offer the opportunity for greater value for money and an improved resident experience. This will be an incremental change in nature of the Council's role and further increase the importance of cross service collaboration.
4. The nature of the District Heat Schemes service delivery model will be critical to ensure the schemes are viable and affordable for customers (domestic or commercial).
5. As the low carbon supply chain develops this will bring high quality jobs to the region, including low carbon manufacturing, the impact of positive and negative emissions from this supply chain needs to be accounted for.
6. As national and global commitments to Climate Change evolve, the scope of work considered as part of any comprehensive Climate Change programme will increase, for example to include: Adaptation, Methane, and Green Finance.
7. The information provided through BEIS on the progress being made to deliver net zero lags project activities by two years.
8. Ensuring funding is secured with realistic conditions (e.g. timescales for delivering grants), including work to get the most from all our devolution deals and partnership arrangements.

1. **Background**

This report will outline progress made against the *Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23* and will build upon the previous *Northumberland Climate Change Update* submitted in September 2021.

The Climate Change Action Plan identifies 7 priority action areas under which projects are delivered. Additionally, the Climate Change Action Plan considers the Council's own carbon footprint which we pledged to reduce by 50% by 2025 (from 2010 levels).

The Climate Change service is far reaching and is built upon cross-organisational collaboration with the shared ambition to deliver net zero by 2030. Integral to the delivery is a coalition of support from elected Members, resident and community groups, partner organisations and businesses across the county and beyond. The continued support of residents, colleagues and partners across these areas is essential to the continued success of the programme.

In the financial year 2021/22, the Climate Change service has been successful in attracting nearly £14,500,000 in funding for low-carbon schemes benefiting both our Council estate and our residents.

Project Name	Capital (£)	Revenue (£)	Total (£)
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 1	3,012,580		3,012,580
Green Homes Grant LAD1b	2,923,176		2,923,176
Green Homes Grant LAD2	2,214,042		2,214,042
Sustainable Warmth Competition (LAD3 & HUG)	5,626,407		5,626,407
Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU)		200,000	200,000
OZEV On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme	96,620		96,620
Hexham Hydro Feasibility		100,000	100,000
Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund 2 Round 1	304,152		304,152
	14,176,977	300,000	14,476,977

In the full report that follows, a number of **recommendations** have been made. These recommendations will appear in a green box for ease of reference.

In the full report that follows, a number of **key points** have been made. These key points will appear in a purple box for ease of reference.

2. Key Priorities for 2022

The key priorities for the Climate Change service in 2022 are:

Continue to work closely with our residents and communities.

- Hold quarterly public engagement events, extend our community climate champion network, strengthen connections with our business community and engage residents through continuation of the annual Free Tree Scheme.
- Work closely with rural communities, to provide support to the farming community and to help deliver the Great Northumberland Forest as we look to expand upon the 500 ha being planted by 2025.

Lead the way nationally in delivering net zero through ‘electrification’ of transport and our estate.

- Install at least 75 EV charge points every year for the next three years, continue to upgrade the Council fleet with the target to have 50% of eligible vehicles upgraded to EVs by 2025 and build a solar car port at County Hall.
- Work with the business community, including British Volt, to create a world class supply chain in Green Technology.
- Increasing the amount of renewable electricity we generate as a Council and undertaking a number of additional pilot projects.

Deliver schemes that help our residents to tackle Climate Change directly every day.

- Roll out the Warmer Home programmes to more than 500 households to reduce carbon emissions, improve heating efficiency and resilience.
- Continue to pilot solutions for food waste, glass recycling and synthetic heating fuels.
- Complete the District Heat Scheme Feasibility Studies for Alwick, Ashington, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hexham and Morpeth as well as detailed feasibility studies in Blyth and Cramlington.

Alongside continuing high levels of community engagement a key focus in 2022, learning from the delivery experience of 2021, will be to take greater ownership for delivering schemes in-house, especially for schemes relating to sustainably heating homes and EV charge point installation.

3. Climate Change Action Plan Delivery

More than 30 projects are either at initiation or delivery stage across the priority action areas. Plans for additional projects or pilots are also under development.

Monitoring the CO2 impact of the projects delivered through the Climate Change service are dependent on data from BEIS, published two years in arrears. Work is underway with the Business Intelligence service to determine whether an in-house mechanism for monitoring CO2 emissions could be developed, to provide access to a more up to date emissions trajectory.

Further information on the progress made, plans and recommendations for each of the Climate Change Action areas is provided below.

3.1. Policy

3.1.1. Climate Policy Group

A dedicated Climate Change policy group has been established with Service Directors and Heads of Service from across all areas of the Council. The purpose of this group is to act as a central point for reviewing key policy and procurement decisions that could impact Climate Change. This forum is co-chaired by the Service Director, Climate Change and the Service Director, Policy.

Recommendation 1

Formalise the role of Climate Change Policy Group in the Council governance processes, with closer links to the Executive Team and Members, through quarterly reports on the impact of policy decisions on the Council's ability to deliver net zero.

3.1.2. Carbon Impact Assessments

In the previous Climate Change Cabinet update, it was agreed that all decisions going to Cabinet should have a carbon impact assessment (CIA) attached. The CIA form is now available on the top tasks intranet homepage and has been agreed with service directors at the Climate Change policy group.

Recommendation 2

Executive and Cabinet Members should query reports, where the Carbon Impact Assessment has not been completed and there is an impact on the council's ability to deliver net zero as part of the council's governance arrangements.

3.1.3. Staff Training

Monthly Carbon Literacy training sessions, built on training undertaken by the Climate Change service from the Carbon Trust, for Council employees have now been established. To date 83 staff Members have undertaken the training and are now classed as 'carbon literate'. We have also developed a carbon literacy toolkit on behalf of the Carbon Literacy Trust which is aimed at resident community groups.

In order to become a Bronze certified Carbon Literate organisation, senior leaders are required to undertake carbon literacy training.

Recommendation 3

Executive Directors and Cabinet Members should complete carbon literacy training in 2022.

An online module introducing Climate Change in the Northumberland context has been developed and is available on Learning Together. A paper will be submitted to Workforce Committee on 4th February recommending its inclusion in statutory and mandatory training.

Recommendation 4

The online Climate Change module should be included in statutory and mandatory training.

3.1.4. Planning

A process has been put in place to ensure the Climate Change service are a consulted party for all planning applications that could impact NCC's ability to deliver Net Zero by 2030.

3.1.5. Future of Farming

Given the rural nature of the county and the importance of the farming community to our rural economy, work is underway with the Economy & Regeneration team, Policy and the Climate Change service to deliver an evidenced based review of the future of farming, in partnership with Newcastle University.

3.2. Partnerships and Engagement

3.2.1. Community Climate Champions

A second cohort of Community Climate Champions have been added to the pilot group meaning that there are now 25 locations in Northumberland which have a Community Climate Champion. These champions have received training to support them develop Climate Change action plans for their communities which align to the Council's county-wide Climate Change Action Plan. Community Climate Champions have, in nearly all cases, identified a need for small amounts of funding to help them get their plans off the ground. A fund has been identified in the Council's upcoming budget which would be distributed through the Community Chest scheme.

Recommendation 5

The provision for targeted grant funding (Climate Change Community Fund £50,000 recurrent) for community climate change initiatives, that has been made in the upcoming Council budget, should be approved.

3.2.2. Working Group and Steering Group

The supporting role of the Climate Working Group and the Climate Change Steering Group with representation from across the county (residents, towns, urban areas, rural communities, business and the third sector) have been a key factor in the results achieved in the past 12 months.

3.2.3. Town and Parish Councils

A survey of all town and parish Councils has been conducted asking whether they had declared a climate emergency or had plans to address Climate Change. Of those who responded, the vast majority wanted to develop plans but identified a need for support. We are therefore in the process of developing a town and parish council Climate Change toolkit to support local climate action further. This toolkit could also be used by other community groups.

3.2.4. Free Tree Scheme

All 15,000 of this year's free trees have been allocated (5,691 to individual residents, 9,310 to groups). 2,200 have so far been handed out. Distribution was interrupted by Storm Arwen and rescheduled hand out events will take place in late February. Any trees not collected will be passed to the Great Northumberland Forest team for planting in Blyth and Cramlington as part of the Local Authority Treescape Fund.

Recommendation 6

Continue running the Free Tree Scheme each year up to the 2030 net-zero target with the intention of offering a tree for every household in Northumberland.

The benefits of the Free Tree scheme reach far beyond the carbon sequestered by each tree. Nevertheless, given that the average tree absorbs 10kg of CO₂ per year for the first 20 years of its life, we can estimate a carbon saving of 350,000kg over the two years the scheme has been running. By continuing to hand out 15,000 saplings per year for 10 years, the Free Tree Scheme alone has the potential to sequester approximately 8,250,000kg of CO₂ between 2020-2030, a figure which will only increase in future years as the trees mature.

3.2.5. Live Events

We have now held a four public webinars (three last year and one this January) and Q&As using Zoom. Each of these has been well attended with audiences of over 100. Across these events 295

questions were asked. We intend to continue holding live events on a quarterly basis and are currently analysing all 295 questions for emerging themes, which include: Green Finance, Active Transport and opportunities for Community Engagement. The answers to the most frequent questions will form the basis of future events and communication activities.

In addition to the online events, the Climate Change service have been asked to attend community led events across the county. These have ranged from Town and Parish Council meetings to stands at markets. Continuing to support these events demonstrates our commitment to community engagement.

3.2.6. Wider community engagement

We have two major communication channels with the wider Northumberland community. 6270 residents are now signed up to the Climate Newsletter. This provides a monthly update on the climate-relevant schemes and events happening in Northumberland, as well as providing useful information and tips for individuals to take action on Climate Change.

The Climate inbox is also an extremely valuable point of communication that allows direct communication with the Climate Change service. On a weekly basis, we get between 20-25 new queries to the mailbox alongside ongoing communications. To reach our net zero targets we will need to engage with and work alongside many different actors and sectors across Northumberland. The Climate Mailbox is often the first point of contact for this work and is therefore crucially important in facilitating our wider aims.

3.2.7. Net Zero Investment Strategy

Working with Advance, the Skills and Education service, Regeneration & Economy and Policy teams, the Climate Change service has created a Net Zero Investment Strategy. The Net-Zero Investment Strategy is the framework we will use to attract the investment and build the supply chain that the county needs to become net-zero, by 2030. The strategy focuses on the following areas:

- Natural Resources
- Generating, Supplying and Storing energy
- Changing the fabric of our homes and communities
- Moving around and through our county

Building on this strategy work is now underway with Newcastle University to complete further research and development activities into supply and demand for Synthetic Fuel and how this could enable rapid decarbonisation for:

- Complex rural issues (e.g. kerosene powered heating), where electric heat pumps may not be viable due to the fabric of older homes; and,
- Complex transport issues, where the cost of electrification is prohibitively high e.g. Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Three linked but separate projects will be started this year, the first looking at the demand side for heating, the second looking at the demand side for transport and the third looking at the supply side for all demand.

3.2.8. Future Projects

We are working to develop further means of engaging key stakeholders. A Schools Engagement Strategy is under development with support from colleagues in Education. We are also developing a

Business Engagement Strategy and hope to also be able to provide a toolkit for tourism providers this year.

3.3. Heating New and Existing Buildings

3.3.1. Warmer Homes Projects

The Council has successfully bid for a series of grants BEIS (Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy). In total these grants are worth £10.8 million and will improve energy efficiency in more than 500 of the most vulnerable homes in Northumberland.

Although each grant has their own specific criteria, they are all focussed on a 'fabric first' approach towards improving the energy efficiency of homes, or a conversion to low carbon heating.

The grants are all aimed at helping those households most at risk of fuel poverty, and the coldest/least energy efficient homes first. For eligible households in Northumberland (eligibility is slightly different for each scheme, but in general applies to properties with household income of less than £30,000 and an EPC rating of E or below) a range of measures can be used like external wall insulation, loft insulation, Air Source Heat Pumps, and solar photovoltaic panels, depending on what is most suitable for each home.

These funds will help NCC bring Social Value benefits to stakeholders at all levels (households, communities, delivery partners, and the NCC itself) through the following social value priority policy themes, Fighting Climate Change, Tackling economic inequality, Wellbeing and Covid 19 recovery.

Delivering Warmer Homes in 2022

Rather than relying exclusively on the Private Sector, we intend to deliver future schemes including Green Homes Grants LAD2 and the Sustainable Warmth Fund through an in-house retrofit team.

This team will be line managed within the Housing Team, with strategic, business intelligence and project management support from the Climate Change service. Adverts are currently live. Posts are funded through the grant funding awarded. This will enable us to have far greater control on the quality and value for money we offer through these schemes. We will still however, be reliant on resilient supply chains being able to deliver the materials and technologies to be installed. This will require a robust and well-managed procurement process.

Key Point 1

Note intention to deliver warmer homes schemes in house requiring close collaboration between colleagues in Climate Change, Housing and Customer Services. A dedicated report on the progress of warmer homes projects will be presented at Communities and Place OSC on 8th April 2022.

3.3.2. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Climate Change service successfully secured two phases of funding to decarbonise heating at a range of NCC properties including leisure centres, schools and fire stations. Phase 1 will be complete by June 2022, with five sites having a ground source heat system installed that will reduce carbon emissions. Phase 1 had a total grant value of £3,012,580 for Willowburn leisure centre, Belford Fire Station, Swarland, Stamfordham, Stannington, and Alwick Lindisfarne School. Phase 2 is in the process of being approved, with one bid for £148,210 waiting on a grant offer letter, and the second bid for £2,720,037 in the technical queries stage awaiting approval.

3.3.3. District Heat Schemes

Having completed heat mapping feasibility studies for low carbon district heat schemes in Blyth and Cramlington, we successfully applied for funding for the next stage – techno-economic feasibility studies. These will be procured and delivered during 2022. Schemes identified as feasible will then be progressed to business cases and bids for capital delivery.

A key aspect of this work will involve determining the best service delivery model for these schemes, to ensure they are commercially viable and affordable. This work will be undertaken in partnership with the Climate Change service, NCC Procurement and the North East LEP, to utilise their technical expertise in this area and involve assessment of other local, national and international delivery models for this type of scheme.

Key Point 2

Note the significance of the work needed to develop and agree the optimal service delivery model for District Heating Schemes in the county. The options under consideration and the recommended option will require Executive team and Member sign off.

We have also received funding to undertake stage one heat mapping in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alnwick, Morpeth, Ashington and Hexham. These have been procured and will be delivered in quarter 1 of the 2022/23 financial year. We will then progress any feasible schemes to techno-economic stage.

3.3.4. Building Net Zero Schools

Work is underway, in partnership with the Education team, to support the build programme for new schools. The goal is to help facilitate the creation of new schools that can operate as 'net zero schools' and potentially as catalysts for district heating and / or community energy schemes.

3.4. Transport

3.4.1. Electric Vehicle Charging

We have continued to increase our electric vehicle charging provision across the county. This work takes place in collaboration with colleagues in Highways. A successful bid to the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) has led to the installation of 30 new EV chargers targeted at residents who park on the street. This project is currently underway and all chargers will be commissioned and in service by the end of March.

Additionally, colleagues in Local Services have continued installing EV chargers in car parks, particularly where new car parks are being developed. This will lead to an additional 22 chargers serving up to 44 vehicles simultaneously by the end of 2021/22 financial year. This means that by the end of March we will operate over 100 chargers across the County making us one of the leading Local Authorities for EV charging.

Delivering EV Chargers in 2022 and Beyond

Going forward, it is intended that we significantly scale up our EV charging provision, focusing primarily on serving residents who park on-street and are therefore unable to install their own EV chargers at home. We will also continue installing chargers in key destinations and new car parks. A new bid to OZEV is being developed for 75 new on-street chargers in 2022/23. Further bids will follow on an annual basis.

To manage the quality of this work, these chargers will be installed and maintained by Council staff. This team will be line managed within the Highways team, with strategic, business intelligence and project management support from the Climate Change service.

Key Point 3

Note the intention to scale up EV charging provision through in-house delivery, funded through a combination of bids to the national OZEV scheme and NCC capital funding. The detail of the funding required will be specified in a standalone report and reviewed through the appropriate governance forums.

3.4.2. Synthetic Fuels

Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a synthetic fuel which can be used as a substitute both for diesel in vehicles and for kerosene in heating. Burning HVO emits 90% less CO₂ than its fossil fuel equivalents.

This presents an opportunity to rapidly decarbonise our larger fleet vehicles, from 3.5 tonne tippers up to HGVs, where there are no economically or operationally viable electric alternatives currently available. Work is currently being undertaken to identify any issues or constraints regarding the implications of using HVO on manufacturers warranties on vehicles/engines etc.

This information is being used to help inform the development of a ~12 month pilot scheme for the use of HVO within some of the fleet vehicles at one of the depots, which will seek to assess the financial, operational and environmental performance of HVO. If successful, its use could then be quickly rolled out to our entire large vehicle fleet. This project will be delivered jointly by the Fleet team and the Climate Change service.

Key Point 4

Note intention to develop the business case for piloting HVO in Council owned large fleet vehicles where no viable electric alternatives are currently available. The detail of any funding required for this pilot will be specified in a standalone report and reviewed through the appropriate governance forums.

3.4.3. Fleet Replacement

Decarbonisation of our small van fleet has continued. 56 of our small vans have now been replaced with electric alternatives. Charging facilities have been installed in respective depots. Replacement of petrol-powered handheld equipment with battery alternatives is also continuing.

By 2025, assuming affordability assumptions remain stable and subject to availability of vehicles / robustness of the supply chain, 198 petrol or diesel vehicles in the NCC fleet will be replaced with electric alternatives. This will mean 50% of the eligible vehicles will be electric in the Council's fleet by 2025.

3.4.4. Active transport

There are twelve Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) entering consultation in February 2022, this is later than expected.

Following the assessment of the consultation feedback these plans will be further developed. The Levelling Up Fund may be able to support the capital infrastructure cost, the next application window is due to open in summer 22.

Key Point 5

Note progress with LCWIPs, assist in the communication of open consultations and support future developments, including closing links between the Climate Change service and the Active Transport team.

3.4.5. Other Projects

Several other key projects including the Northumberland Line and Blyth-Bebside cycle corridor are also continuing, led by colleagues in Economy and Regeneration. These will also contribute to reduced carbon emissions. The Climate Change team is also supporting the Transport team with mandatory carbon assessments of the Blyth Relief Road project and in discussions about the opportunity to decarbonise the school transport system.

3.5. Renewable Energy

3.5.1. Solar Car Port

The County Hall solar car port which will harvest energy from the sun through solar panels suspended above the County Hall car park, has encountered some delays over the past year. The issues have now been resolved and it is anticipated that the design, install and commissioning process will be completed within the 2022/23 financial year. The car port will also include 120 EV chargers for staff working at County Hall. Once complete this project will provide a blueprint for the sustainable use of further car parks, both private car parks within NCC's own estate and public car parks.

This project will be delivered jointly by the Climate Change service and Estates team.

3.5.2. Hexham Hydroelectricity Plant

A detailed feasibility study is being prepared into the possibility of hydroelectricity generation on the Tyne River at Hexham. The project has developed initial designs which are currently going through consultation with both Planning Authority and the Environment Agency. A proposal on how to take this forward from the Environment Agency is expected in February 2022 and subject to a mutually agreeable approach the feasibility should conclude in Summer 2022. If the scheme is identified to be feasible, a business case to fund construction will be presented to Cabinet via the Council's capital strategy governance route.

Key Point 6

Note, subject to the findings of the feasibility study and consultation, the intention to develop the business case for the Hexham Hydroelectric scheme.

3.5.3. Solar PV at Scale

The Climate Change service will be assessing the Council estate across the next three months to identify assets where solar PV can be installed to increase our renewable energy generation capacity and lower our carbon footprint. These will primarily be buildings but may also include car parks and historic landfill sites. Where projects are feasible, business cases will be created for consideration at Capital Strategy Group.

Key Point 7

Note intention to develop further business cases for installation of solar PV across Council estate, which will be specified in a standalone report and reviewed through the appropriate governance forums.

3.6. Carbon Sequestration

3.6.1. Great Northumberland Forest

The Great Northumberland Forest programme formally launched in autumn 2021. In reality, work has been taking place in support of this initiative since 2019. Land is identified for tree planting either at a large scale (woodland creation) or a small scale (hedgerows or individual trees). By the end of March 2022, 1,587 hectares of woodland will have been created and 321,893 further trees will have been planted since 2019. This means that in total, by the end of March 2022, nearly 3 million new trees will have been planted supporting the delivery of the Great Northumberland Forest initiative.

This project will be delivered jointly by the Climate Change service and the Great Northumberland Forest team.

3.6.2. Forest / Woodland management

Work is underway to develop a business case for a Woodland management team. This work is being completed jointly by the Climate Change service and the Great Northumberland Forest team.

Key Point 8

Note intention to develop a business case for creating a Woodland management team, which will be specified in a standalone report and reviewed through the appropriate governance forums.

3.6.3. Northumberland Peat Partnership

Peat has an important role to play in absorbing carbon dioxide. Restoring peatlands across the county will be a priority of the next Climate Change Action Plan as it delivers real-time carbon benefits. The Climate Change service is now represented on the Northumberland Peat Partnership alongside Ecology. In autumn 2021, the Peat Partnership was successful in being awarded £779,000 in revenue funding. This will largely fund project management positions to oversee conditional surveys and restoration projects for Northumberland's peatlands.

This project will be delivered jointly by the Climate Change service and the in-house team of Ecologists, working with our external Peat Partners, including both National Parks.

3.6.4. Biodiversity Net-Gain

The Climate Change Team will work closely with colleagues in planning to support the policy of biodiversity net-gain. Alongside this the projects above, whilst associated primarily with Carbon Sequestration, will improve biodiversity as a secondary objective.

3.7. Waste

3.7.1. Glass Recycling Pilot

The kerbside glass recycling pilot scheme has been running since November 2020 providing a once monthly collection of glass from around 4,000 households. Data from the period November 2020 to September 2021 shows that the trial scheme has been well received by participants with high satisfaction levels, requests for retention of the service and high yields of glass per household.

The costs of implementing the pilot scheme are as planned, with capital costs for purchase of bins being £63,000 and revenue costs for undertaking the collections and delivering on-going communications activity at £43,000.

The 301.3 tonnes of glass expected to be collected during the 12-month trial provides a positive contribution to tackling Climate Change, even after taking into account the CO₂ emissions from the collection and transportation of the recovered glass, with the trial delivering an overall net saving of 98 tonnes of CO₂e as of November 2021.

Going forward this data will be reviewed monthly to calculate carbon savings to report within the climate performance team.

3.7.2. Food Waste Pilot

A key element of delivering net zero in the county by 2030 is helping residents to understand the waste hierarchy and provide solutions for their waste. The Environment Act, recently passed into law, will mandate the separate collection of recycling waste streams for all English Local Authorities, one such being food waste.

We have been working with Waste Services to develop a proposal for a food waste pilot which will focus initially on the cost, performance and impact on residual waste that separate collections will have.

Using modelling provided by WRAP (<https://wrap.org.uk/about-us>), we can assume an average yield of 1.3 kg food waste per household per week, a pilot across 4288 properties will generate a yield of around 5.5 tonnes per week. This creates the opportunity to reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 12,220 kg CO₂e per year through diverting from Energy from Waste to Anaerobic Digestion, as well as increasing resident awareness of food waste and the impact that reduction can have both on the environment and on their household bills. This project would be delivered jointly by the Climate Change service and the Waste Services team.

Key Point 9

Note the intention to deliver a food waste pilot for the county, which will be specified in a standalone report and reviewed through the appropriate governance forums.

3.7.3. Repair Hubs

Working in partnership with the Communities Together Team, work is underway to identify sites and trades that could be part of Repair Hubs to help extend the life of everyday items for our residents.

3.8. Northumberland County Council Carbon Footprint

Analysis and evidence shows that NCC's organisational emissions have been dropping over the last 10 years of reporting and have now reached a 50.1% reduction against our 2009/10 baseline. It should be noted however that a significant drop in 2020/21 occurred due to reduced business mileage as a result of lockdowns. The Council's carbon footprint is now being measured biannually and reported through the corporate performance system.

Having met the Council's 50% reduction in operational emissions four years early, the Climate Change service is now developing a pathway to net zero for the organisation.

The strategy will support the key action areas developed in the 2021-23 action plan and will prioritise the decarbonisation of heat, transport and electricity across the estate. Net-zero for our operations will require the adoption of a methodology change to consider sequestration from Council owned and managed woodlands.

Since 2019 NCC has operated a travel salary sacrifice scheme, marketing primarily foreign holidays to staff. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the scheme has been on hold since March 2020. Alternate low carbon schemes will be considered as part of the route to net zero for Council owned options, this could include access to low carbon heating, power and storage solutions for staff.

The proposal may also include analysis and proposals of the impact of green finance on our credentials as a low carbon Council.

It is expected that the Net-Zero plan for Council owned emissions will be available for consideration by Cabinet on or before June 22.

Key Point 10

Note the intention to develop plans to make the Council a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, which may also include proposals to change the salary sacrifice scheme.

3.9. Climate Change Action Plan 23-25

Work will be completed throughout 2022 to develop the Climate Change Action Plan for the 23-25. This will extend on the previous action plan and consider changes local, national and international knowledge and priorities. With the scope likely to include: Adaptation, Methane, and Green Finance.

It may also include Biodiversity, but given the scope and complexity of this area it is more likely that this will be the subject of a separate strategy and action plan and will require additional resources to complete.

Key Point 11

Note the intention to develop the next version of the Climate Action Plan, for 23-25, with a draft report being available for Executive Team and Member review in Autumn 2022.

Implications

Policy	Proposes Council policies should be aligned to mitigate Climate Change and support carbon reduction.
Finance and value for money	There are no direct financial implications associated with this report Notes that Climate Change work will be subject to corporate performance reporting in order to monitor success including value for money.
Legal	The Climate Change Act 2008 establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
Procurement	Refers to corporate social responsibility procurement policy.
Human Resources	Training of staff in carbon literacy.
Property	Projects for low-carbon heating and solar on NCC property
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Where possible projects and programmes will assist residents in fuel poverty and try to bring about fairer and more equal access to more affordable energy.
Risk Assessment	See corporate risk register
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	Residents can expect the Council to lead a move to a net zero target by 2030. The Council will work to involve all residents and businesses in this process.
Carbon reduction	Adopting recommendations in this paper will either directly or indirectly lead to significant carbon savings.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23
Northumberland Climate Change Update September 2021

Report sign off.

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

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Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2 MARCH 2022

BRIEFING PAPER - Library Service Strategy 2021-26

Report Author: Maureen Taylor - Interim Executive Director - Communities and Business Development

Cabinet Member: Cllr Jeff Watson, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives

Purpose of report

To provide members of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the development of the Library Service Strategy 2021-2025. Members have previously received briefings covering the key findings from the Library Service Public Consultation completed in June 2020, and the resulting three-stage approach to service redesign based on:

- (A) Strengthening of the core service
- (B) The establishment of Library Hubs within each Locality area
- (C) Extending reach and partnerships

Recommendation

It is recommended that members of the Committee consider the contents of the report.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Living** - Libraries offer a wide range of information which support public health and wellbeing activities as well as their own space for social activities to help individuals be active and well
- **Enjoying** - Libraries offer social support networks and information and support for residents of Northumberland to seek advice/support within their communities

- **Thriving** - Libraries provide a first point of contact for individuals seeking support with gaining new skills; for those seeking employment and business support, all of which directly contributes to economic growth and the regeneration of communities and their development
- **Learning** - Libraries provide a significant role in the development of literacy skills across Northumberland with activities such as Storytimes and the Summer Reading Challenge being established initiatives across the county for children and families.

Key issues

The Northumberland Library Service

Library Services within Northumberland have previously been subject to significant structural and leadership changes. This included the transfer of the complete service to a charitable leisure trust in 2015 and a phased return to NCC from 2016. Following the return to County Council management, an internal review was carried out in late 2017. The review identified some examples of innovative engagement, but also opportunities to reinvigorate and improve the service whilst considering the financial impact and ongoing issues of continuing the current model of provision.

The significant structural and operational changes introduced since the 2017 review have stabilised and improved the service, however it was acknowledged that detailed insight was required to design a Library Service to effectively meet the current, and future needs of our residents and communities. In September 2019 Cabinet agreed the proposed methodology and timeline for an extensive consultation exercise, the findings from which have been used to inform future Library Service provision for Northumberland based on evident and agreed need.

The Library Service Consultation

The results from the consultation demonstrated the important role the Library Service plays in the lives of Northumberland residents, particularly amongst the County's population of older people and those who use the service regularly. In addition to the provision of books, computers and resources, the value of the Library Service was recognised as a safe, inclusive, social space for community members. The full Libraries Consultation Report can be reviewed through the following link [NCC Libraries Consultation Report - Final](#)

Libraries Connected, the Arts Council Sector Support Organisation for Libraries, has developed a framework of four Universal Offers that support the core public library offer and drive library innovation and development. These Universal Offers are

- Digital and Information
- Health and Wellbeing
- Culture and Creativity
- Reading

From the consultation findings, it was evident that whilst the Northumberland Library Service appears to be achieving reasonably well across all four offers there is room for improvement.

Progress Update on Service Development

The extensive consultation provided a clear insight into the views and opinions of residents, staff and stakeholders on the strengths and of the service, and areas for improvement. The Council has incorporated the learning from this robust consultation to build a comprehensive and efficient Library Service based on evident and agreed need. Three interrelated phases provide a framework in which a detailed Service Strategy can be produced and delivered. The three phases are:

- (A) Strengthening the core service
- (B) Establishment of Library Hubs within each Locality Area
- (C) Extending reach and partnerships

As a snapshot of current performance, the Quarter 3 (October – December 2021) data reported 2231 new Library Service members, 96,311 physical book issues, 26,135 mylibrary.co.uk sessions, 32,952 Pressreader sessions, 4,238 hours of public PC usage, 11,051 Ebook downloads, 11,867 Eaudio downloads and 230 in person / virtual events attended by 2468 people.

(A) Strengthening the Core service

The Digital Offer

Borrowbox, the single provider for eBooks and eAudio continues to be popular and the collection has been extended to include audiobooks to support users to learn a range of foreign languages.

Full advantage is taken of titles that are guaranteed to be available for a month with no queue. The loan period remains reduced to maximise availability (This creates a ghost copy for the existing reader but releases the title for loan). As with physical books, waiting lists are monitored, and duplicate titles are bought sparingly to maintain a wide range of reading options.

Pressreader has also been introduced which offers access to over 6,000 magazines and newspapers from over 100 countries in 60+ languages.

In response to lockdown, service delivery of the Universal Offers moved online where possible. The following initiatives are now available online:

- Creative writing groups
- Family history chat groups
- Story time and craft sessions for pre-schoolers
- The Summer Reading Challenge for primary age children
- Live streamed events to support national, regional and local initiatives e.g. The Big Green Draw

Regular varied author talks include a programme entitled *Author Afternoons* which led to the staff member being awarded Librarian of the Year 2021 by the Romantic Novelists Association.

The nationally agreed extension to home use of *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* has come to an end but the public can now book to use them on a pc in their local Library.

The Service has established a Digital Helpline to provide support by phone to residents experiencing problems with computers, websites, tablets and phones. This is being promoted to partners as well as through mainstream media channels.

A small pilot to explore the best way the Service could support individuals who were loaned, or gifted devices, by Northumberland Communities Together (NCT) has recently led to an individual using one of the devices to gain employment.

Further development of the face to face digital offer is now dependent on libraries being able to reduce spacing between pcs; the easing of restrictions on events and recruiting new volunteer Digital Champions to complement and extend the work of the staff.

Staffing Structure

The staffing structure to support the establishment of Library Hubs, designed to address the evidenced priorities and needs of each Locality Area, includes a Supervisor role in each area to provide a renewed focus on providing more accessible contacts for colleagues and partner organisations across the County. This approach enables the Librarian team to lead on strategic service development relating to the Universal Offers through working in a dynamic outreach role to promote and support use of the service in collaboration with the front-line staff. Recruitment to the Supervisor roles is now complete and an exercise to fill the resulting vacancies is underway. A new Librarian post has been filled to add capacity to the county wide team and facilitate an increased focus on our digital offer. The temporary appointment of a Digital Resources Assistant has furthered this work and alongside the recruitment to Supervisor and Librarian posts has provided progression opportunities for existing staff. Current recruitment to Library and Information Assistant vacancies will conclude this phased approach to recruitment.

In view of the workforce profile, several apprenticeship posts have been created across the County. Four are currently in place (Berwick, Morpeth, Cramlington, Schools Library Service) and a further four are currently being recruited to start in April (Alnwick, Hexham, Prudhoe and Business Admin at Sycamore).

Opportunities to bring additional capacity and skills to the service through project work are continually sought and pursued. There are currently two half time Reading Facilitators delivering the Reading for Wellbeing project in Newbiggin.

Resources

In September 2019, in addition to the county wide consultation, Elected Members agreed an allocation of up to £100,000 non recurrently from the Strategic Management Reserve to support the accelerated transformation of the service over the next 12 months. This timeframe has been impacted by the pandemic, but this allocation has enabled the Service to enhance available stock in the libraries at Alnwick, Cramlington and Ponteland as they reopened in their new locations, to enhance our digital newsletter and make minor improvements elsewhere.

A further injection of new reading resources has been possible at all libraries, thanks to the allocation of Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) to the value of £150k. This is supporting those who continue to maintain a cautious approach by using our Select and Collect option and enhance the selection for those who return to select for themselves.

The Desktop Refresh project was completed during 2020 which reduced the number of traditional public workstations, but the introduction of other devices e.g., tablets for public use has been delayed due to the issues presented by Covid-19.

The pandemic significantly accelerated reinforcement of the County's digital library offer to help mitigate the restrictions on physical visits. An additional resource of £25k since March

2020, has been invested in eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines from Service budgets.

The number of digital titles issued since March 2020 has increased by 186% and the number of visits to the library website have averaged over 25,500 per month during the same period, compared with an average of 9,000 per month during the same period in 2019.

Self-service kiosks enable customers to issue and return their books independently, which means they can use library resources outside staffed hours, which is particularly valuable where libraries are co-located with partners who can offer extended access to premises. The kiosks allow staff to focus on higher value interactions with customers who need them. The first phase of installation is now complete with new kiosks in Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Berwick, Blyth, Cramlington, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Morpeth, Ponteland and Prudhoe. Card payment facilities will follow in phase two in addition to kiosks in Bedlington Station and Newbiggin.

A range of self-service options will then follow:

- Wifi Printing (whereby a user can print, pay for and release their wifi print jobs without any staff intervention)
- Self-service PC booking – a user can review PC availability and reserve a PC for immediate or future use
- Self-service guest sign up – a visitor can sign up as a guest to use the PCs. A receipt can be printed with their username and password
- The ability to top up their *netloan* account – users can top up their account via the kiosk to use the credit at a later date for paying for their prints

Capacity

The capacity of the Service can be enhanced with the support of volunteers, and volunteers themselves benefit in many ways including social cohesion, skill development and a sense of fulfilment. Many of the Library Service volunteers are in the age vulnerable category and as a result of the pandemic, some will not return, some plan to in the future, and a small number already have. Orientation sessions on the changes and risk mitigation that have taken place are being provided.

A bid to the Arts Council England (ACE) Volunteering Futures Fund is being prepared to enable the service to work with partners from statutory and voluntary organisations across the County on a 2-year programme. If successful, the project will create volunteering opportunities particularly for young people in Northumberland Libraries and the wider cultural sector.

Service Improvement / New Ways of Working

New ways of working have been adopted during the pandemic to maintain access to the diverse resources and support the service can provide.

The Select and Collect service has given staff the opportunity to provide customers with books by new authors and cultivate discussions over the phone and online about reading likes and dislikes. Library staff have encouraged young readers with lucky dip selections of books and craft activities at key points in the year e.g., Halloween and Christmas.

The enhanced digital resources and online events programme, combined with the service's Digital Helpline, now offer a holistic approach to supporting people to get online.

This assists residents to gain confidence in using virtual services and IT for other day to day purposes.

The Librarian team, in the process of revising their work to focus on face-to-face outreach, have adapted to work on virtual outreach as well. Partnerships with Leading Link, Children's Centres and NCT in particular have helped raised awareness of the service in the wider community.

The opportunity to realise a new Mobile Library fleet has been taken and work is underway to create multi-purpose, more agile, vehicles that will be used by both the Library Service and NCT.

Marketing / Awareness

The need for more general information and awareness about the Service was identified in 2019 which prompted the production of 'Rediscover your Northumberland Library' materials. This requirement to increase awareness was also highlighted through the consultation.

A portion of the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (£15k) has been allocated to improve awareness of the service and its locations. Professionally designed and produced publicity material has been commissioned and improved local signage will increase visibility of the branches as the public begin to move throughout their local area more freely.

The distribution of the new material through key locations and organisations will be used as part of Service recovery, and outreach work. The Service has established a regular monthly newsletter that is distributed by email to over 3,000 library members. Please see the following link for access to the latest Newsletter <https://nland.uk/FebNewsletter>

The Service's presence on social media has also been reinvigorated, including the introduction of Family History Chat on Facebook (over 200 members) and the development of a 'voice' that has proved effective in attracting attention.

(B) The Establishment of Library Hubs Within Each Locality Area

As England's largest and most sparsely populated County, providing an effective and sustainable Library Service for Northumberland cannot be achieved through a standardised model of operation. Building on the findings of the consultation, and considering the learning from operating during the pandemic, a series of Hub Libraries is being established serving each of the diverse Locality Areas.

The designated Hub Libraries provide coordination of the wider network of smaller 'Satellite Libraries' and other forms of provision available throughout the Locality. The Universal Offers will remain central to the overall provision however their delivery in each Locality will be programmed according to known local needs and ambition. This approach gives capacity at an area level to enable the service to prioritise different aspects of the Service at a local level with a strong central digital core.

It was necessary to begin the establishment of the Hub libraries to support the further steps in Service redesign. This phased approach to redesign of the Service will enable coordination with the evolving Community Hub initiative led through Northumberland Communities Together (NCT). Each Library Hub will offer:

- Flexible and welcoming community spaces for group and individual activities such as storytimes, family learning, group and individual study, reading and writing groups, wider community activity determined in collaboration with local residents

and joint activities with partners to meet common objectives e.g., health, education and skills

- Well identified town centre positioning with convenient access from a local transport hub
- Access to IT offering support to use different devices, including their own, to residents who have little/no IT skills and/or no access to IT at home for their own purposes including job searching, personal business and keeping in touch. Where feasible this will extend to a wider range of services, such as 3D printing, to support building digital confidence, education, economic recovery and the delivery of the Universal Offers
- An events and activities programme that supports the delivery of the Universal Offers in line with local priorities and national initiatives
- Local studies resources for loan and reference with a focus on the specific local area
- A wide and changing range of books and resources for loan
- Facilities sited on one floor where possible to ensure the most efficient delivery of service

Berwick, Blyth, Cramlington, Hexham and Morpeth are the County's designated Hub Libraries.

(C) Extending Reach and Partnerships

It must be emphasised that the potential designation of the five 'Hub Libraries' is not intended to be in anyway reduce the significance of the Services provided through the smaller stand alone, or co-located Libraries. To plan for a sustainable and flexible Service it is necessary to seek new ways of working, develop new partnerships and increase collaboration with strong central support and coordination.

The Libraries Team are working closely with Northumberland Communities Together to develop a network of needs led, locally facilitated opportunities. So far this work can be seen in operation at the Hub in Cramlington and is also being developed in preparation for the Community Hubs at Haltwhistle and Newbiggin. A complementary approach to provision will be taken in communities where the library and hub are not co-located.

During this phase opportunities are being investigated to work more closely in partnership with communities to secure support for those libraries that may become satellites supported by the Hub libraries. Models of delivery will be explored which aim to more effectively, and sustainably, meet the needs and aspirations of communities. Discussions are underway regarding the style of future provision at Allendale, Corbridge, Lynemouth, and Wylam. Bedlington Station Library is currently being relocated through a new partnership with the nearby Community Centre.

The Library Service Manager continues to establish links with colleagues in Council departments, and other organisations, who have shared objectives with the Service. This, combined with the county's integrated response to Covid 19, has resulted in heightened awareness of the library service and has significantly increased partnership working. There will be a particular focus on developing partnerships with the health sector such as the Reading for Wellbeing project, conceived and part funded by Ann Cleeves, which is bringing additional capacity to the service to pilot focused reading support. With the NHS Trust and the Glendale Trust, the service has introduced the *Attend Anywhere* initiative at the Cheviot Centre in Wooler.

The Service continues to work with Advance Northumberland to complement the development of local Business and Intellectual Property Centres (BIPC) at Berwick, Hexham and Morpeth supported by the regional centre in Newcastle and funded by the British Library.

Partnership work will continue to be developed by the Librarian team, both at Locality level e.g. Berwick and Morpeth Book festivals and as part of countywide initiatives, such as Thriving Communities which resulted in the 'In our Footsteps' project, aimed at supporting people in the early stages of dementia. The project, piloted in Ashington and Haltwhistle, delivered a series of workshops which encouraged people to create a heritage trail by working together with a family member or friend to share stories and memories.

Development of a Library Strategy

A Library Service Strategy is being developed to support the findings and recommendations arising from the consultation which will provide a clear vision and identify the key ambitions for delivery within the context of the consultation findings, and the Universal Offers framework. The consultation was the crucial first stage in creating this Strategy and provides robust evidence to inform future direction in terms of accessibility, quality and sustainability. The Strategy will be guided by the seven principles endorsed as good practice by the library sector as detailed in the DCMS report 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021' (section 6.1) The Strategy will:

- Meet legal requirements
- Be shaped by local needs
- Focus on public benefit and deliver a high-quality user experience
- Make decisions informed by evidence, building on success across the sector
- Support the delivery of consistent England wide core offers (the Universal Offers)
- Promote partnership working, innovation and enterprise
- Use public funds effectively and efficiently

Background

National Context

Library authorities have a statutory duty under the [Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964](#) 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area (section 7). In providing this service, councils must, among other things:

- encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service
- lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area

The DCMS report Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021 (section 2.2) states 'Libraries are vital community hubs - bringing people together and giving them access to the services and support they need to help them live better. Our ambition is for everyone to; choose to use libraries, because they see clear benefits and positive outcomes from doing so, understand what library services offer and how they can make the most of what's available to them, be introduced to new ideas and opportunities, then given confidence and quick and easy access to tools, skills and information they need to improve their quality of life, and receive trusted guidance through the evolving information landscape and build the skills needed to thrive in a changing world

The DCMS also highlight that library services contribute to 7 outcomes critical to the individuals and communities in their areas:

- cultural and creative enrichment
- increased reading and literacy
- improved digital access and literacy
- helping everyone achieve their full potential
- healthier and happier lives
- greater prosperity
- stronger, more resilient communities

The Universal Offers

Libraries Connected, the Arts Council Sector Support Organisation for libraries, has developed a framework of four Universal Offers that support the core public library offer and drive library innovation and development. The Universal Offers as shown in the diagram below are:

- Reading
- Digital and Information
- Health and Wellbeing
- Culture and Creativity



Implications

<p>Policy</p>	<p>Libraries are uniquely placed to help the Council and its partners deliver their strategic objectives, whether linked to community cohesion, health and wellbeing, economic growth, promoting independent living or increasing life chances.</p>
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Finance and value for money	No implications beyond existing budget allocations
Legal	<p>Library Authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area (section 7). In providing this service, councils must, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage both adults and children to make full use of the Library Service • lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area
Procurement	None at this stage
Human Resources	None at this Stage
Property	Property Services are engaged in any potential asset considerations
<p>Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No x N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The self-completion survey asked for demographic information from consultation respondents related to the protected characteristics to comply with the Equality Act.</p> <p>Libraries provide safe spaces in the heart of their communities, and provide many services targeting people who are living on a low income, people who are lonely, unemployed, or elderly, and people with long term medical conditions or disabilities.</p>
Risk Assessment	None at this stage. Assessments will be undertaken on an individual project basis if required
Crime & Disorder	Libraries provide opportunities which foster community engagement and cohesion whilst offering diversionary activity.
Customer Consideration	<p>Libraries are trusted spaces, free to enter and open to all. In them, people explore and share reading, information, knowledge and culture.</p> <p>The consultation was widely publicised in Libraries, via council channels, media and social media and youth council etc. A total of 5,068 respondents completed the self-completion survey; of these over 1,400 responses were received as paper copies, with the rest online. Information drop-in sessions were held at all 30 Libraries across the County for people to find out more about the consultation. Telephone interviews conducted with residents to</p>

	provide more in-depth views on factors driving some of the key findings from the self-completion survey.
Carbon reduction	Increasing digital access reduces the need for journeys by car or public transport to collect books and material. The Library Hubs will be situated within close proximity to public transport links. Libraries play an important and unique role in wider community communications about resiliency, climate change and a sustainable future.
Health and Wellbeing	Libraries offer a wide range of health information, both online and through quality-assured reading lists dealing with the more common health conditions. In their role as community hubs, libraries also offer non-clinical spaces in localities where health and wellbeing groups can work with the community in a trusted and non-threatening venue.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Deputy Section 151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Executive Director	Maureen Taylor
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Jeff Watson
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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2021-2022

1. Terms of reference:

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the County Council and Active Northumberland, Woodhorn Museum Charitable Trust and Northumberland Tourism.
- (2) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Development Planning
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Conservation
 - Housing
 - Climate Change
 - Countryside, Biodiversity and Landscape Quality
 - Waste Management and Energy Use
 - Public and Community Transport Network and Travel to School
 - Highway Maintenance, Streetscape and the Local Environment
 - Local and Neighbourhood services
 - Crime, Community Safety, and Fear of Crime, including CONTEST, Prevent and Channel
 - Antisocial Behaviour and Domestic Violence
 - Fire and Rescue
 - Emergency Services and Emergency Planning
 - Customer Services
 - Provision of Cultural and Leisure Facilities
 - Improving Quality of Life through Access to Culture and Leisure;
 - Supporting Economic Growth in the Arts, Culture and Leisure Sectors

2. Issues to be Timetabled/Considered

Market Strategy

Tree and Woodland Strategy

Enforcement of 20 mph Zones

Active Northumberland

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021-2022

2 March 2022

Library Service Strategy 2021-26

To update the Committee on the implementation of the Strategy.

Climate Change

To receive an update on the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

6 April 2022

Bus Service Improvement Plan

To seek the Committee's comments on this report prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Concessionary Travel Reimbursement

To seek the Committee's comments on this report prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Local Services – Highways Maintenance

To receive an update on the development of the partnership agreement, membership numbers, challenges, business plan and priorities.

To provide an overview on the operation and challenges of Highways Maintenance.

27 April 2022

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2021-2022

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	30 June 2021	Funding for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	RESOLVED that, the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations contained in the report.	Cabinet noted the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 13 July 2021.
2.	30 June 2021	Unreasonably Persistent and Vexatious Contact Policy	RESOLVED that, subject to members' comments, the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations contained in the report.	Cabinet noted the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 13 July 2021.
3 Page 62	4 August 2021	Draft Private Sector Housing Strategy 2020-23	RESOLVED that, the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	The Committee's comments will be considered by the Cabinet when it determines the report on 6 September 2021.
	4. 5.	4 August 2021 Active Northumberland Annual Outcome Report 2020-2021 Active Northumberland Annual Service Report April 2020– April 2021	RESOLVED that: 1. Active Northumberland's Annual Outcomes Report 2021-21 and Annual Service Report for 2020-21, be received. 2. Active Northumberland be thanked for their work during the pandemic, including support to communities, schools and health services, which had been incredibly valuable as well as reopening centres quickly when permitted. 3. The Committee were encouraged by the optimism for the future whilst noting the challenges ahead. 4. An update on the development of the partnership agreement, membership numbers, challenges, business plan and priorities be presented to the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early 2022.	The Committee will receive an update on the development of the partnership agreement, membership numbers, challenges, business plan and priorities on 2 February 2022.

6.	25 August 2021	Overview of the Fleet Replacement Programme in 2020/2021	RESOLVED that: 1. The work undertaken to deliver a challenging fleet replacement programme during 2020/21 and 2021/22, be noted. 2. Cabinet be recommended to consider an invest to save or business case to acquire more gulley wagons to increase capacity as part of the capital programme budget discussions.	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue through annual reporting.
7.	25 August 2021	Northumberland Waste Management Strategy - Kerbside Glass Collection Trial Update	RESOLVED that: 1. The contents of the report be noted. 2. The success of the glass recycling trial scheme to date, in terms of high customer satisfaction levels and very high yields of glass collected per household, be noted. 3. The Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the trial and expansion of glass recycling across Northumberland.	A further report will be presented to the Committee on 27 October 2021 prior to determination by the Cabinet on 9 November.
Page 63	6 October 2021	Integrated Domestic Abuse Services for Northumberland – Permission to Tender	RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations in the report, subject to consideration being given to extending the length of the contract to three years, with an option for a further one year to provide greater stability of service	Cabinet considered the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 12 October 2021. Further reports on the implementation of the Council's Domestic Abuse strategies will be presented to the Committee annually.
9.	6 October 2021	Northumberland Climate Change Update	RESOLVED that the recommendations be agreed and further updates be presented to the OSC.	A further update will be presented to the Committee in six months.
10.	6 October 2021	NE Bus Service Improvement Plan	RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.	Further reports will be presented to the Committee as appropriate.
11	27 October 2021	Northumberland Waste Management Strategy – Outcome of Kerbside Glass Recycling Collection Trial	RESOLVED that, subject to the comments above, the Cabinet be advised that the Committee positively supported the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 9 November 2021.

12.	27 October 2021	Policy for Street Naming and Numbering	RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report subject to a review of the consultation process with Town and Parish Councils.	Cabinet considered the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 9 November 2021.
13.	1 December 2021	Local Services – Neighbourhood Services	RESOLVED that the presentation be received.	The Committee to consider issues arising from the report including the Tree and Woodland Policy and Markets Strategy.
14.	1 December 2021	Active Travel and Road Safety for the Journey to School	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	The Committee requested that a report discussing enforcement of 20 mph zones be prepared for a future meeting.
15.	1 December 2021	Destination Management – Structure and Future Funding Arrangements	The Committee therefore resolved that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations in the report, subject to the comment made.	Cabinet considered the Committee's comments when it determined this report on 7 December 2021.
Page 64	12 January 2022	Complaints Improvement Framework - Update	RESOLVED that the report be received, and the next steps noted.	The Committee will receive the Annual Complaints report in September.
	17.	12 January 2022	Storm Arwen Review	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current terms of reference and scope of the review, on pages 2 - 3 of the report, be agreed subject to any changes deemed necessary by the Review Committee. 2. The membership of the Review Committee include: Councillors Castle, Dodd, Gallacher, Hardy, Mather, Morphet and Reid. Councillor Bridgett be invited to be a member of the Review Committee. 3. The final list of consultees / interviews be agreed when the evidence is reviewed, in addition to those identified on page 3 of the report. 4. Consultation with communities be sought via email, letter, survey via representative sample and use of researchers. 5. The proposed timetable on page 4 of the scoping report, be agreed.

			6. The findings of the review be ultimately reported to Full Council.	
18.	2 February 2022	Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Consultation	RESOLVED that the report be received and that the comments be noted.	An update on the outcome of the consultation be provided to the Committee in due course.
19.	2 February 2022	Update on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Round 2 Inspection report into Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive updates as required.
20.	2 February 2022	Empty Homes in Northumberland	RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive updates as required.
Page 65	2 February 2022	Northumberland Infrastructure Funding Statement	RESOLVED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The purpose and requirement for an Infrastructure Funding Statement, be noted. b. The summary of the Infrastructure Funding Statement content for the financial year 2020/21, be noted. c. The forthcoming changes to the Council's approach to developer contributions, upon adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan, be noted. d. A summary be provided to the Local Area Councils. 	The Committee will receive an update as an Annual report.

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