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Northumberland County Council

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Enquiries to: Nichola Turnbull

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Tel direct: 01670 622617

Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC** to be held in **CONFERENCE ROOM 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** at **2.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

To Communities and Place OSC members as follows:-

N Oliver (Chair), M Mather (Vice-Chair), D Carr, E Cartie, G Castle, A Dale, B Gallacher, N Morphet, J Lang and J Reid



Dr Helen Paterson, 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
- 10)

Minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Place OSC, held on 8 March 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required where a matter arises at a meeting;

- a) Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.
- b) Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.
- c) Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.
- d) Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.
- e) Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registerable Interest or Non Registerable Interest in a matter being considered in exercise of their executive function, they must notify the Monitoring

Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with it.

NB Any member needing clarification must contact monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

- 4. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS** (Pages 11 - 12)
- To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the Committee.

SCRUTINY

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following items is Councillor Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services.

- 5. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY FOR NORTHUMBERLAND 2022 – 2026** (Pages 13 - 36)
- Cabinet considered and approved this report on 8 March 2023 when review and agreement was sought for the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2026.

The Committee is requested to consider and comment on the implementation of the proposals.

OVERVIEW

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following items is Councillor Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services.

- 6.1 Social Housing Regulations Bill** (Pages 37 - 48)
- Although this report will be considered by Cabinet on 11 April 2023, its purpose at this meeting is to inform members of the impending Social Housing Regulations Bill and the implications that has for housing, in particular the introduction of a regulatory regime.
- 6.2 S106 Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021-2022** (Pages 49 - 84)
- To present the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) to the Committee. It provides a summary of all financial and non-financial developer contributions, within Northumberland, for the financial year 2021/2022.

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

- 7. COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MONITORING REPORT** (Pages 85 - 90)
- 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 2022/23 council year.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

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

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

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

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body

	<p>where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
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* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature
 - ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
 - iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

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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** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor N. Oliver
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Cartie, E.	Morphet, N.
Dale, A.	Reid, J.
Mather, M.	

CABINET MEMBER

Horncastle, C.	Community Services
Riddle, J.	Local Services

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

D. Laux	Head of Technical Services
R. McCartney	Highways Infrastructure Manager
J. McNeil	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
S. Nicholson	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator
N. Turnbull	Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT

1 member of the press.

36. Membership

The Chair reported that he had been appointed as Chair of the Communities & Place OSC with Councillor Dodd being removed as a member.

He thanked Councillor Reid for the work that had been undertaken whilst he had been the Chair since November 2021.

Reference was made to the review of scrutiny and changes to the model which included less emphasis on the scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and more focus on the issues which concerned residents. When the Committee felt that it was appropriate to review Cabinet decisions it was proposed that this would generally be a few months after implementation when the effect could be measured. A member commented that across the scrutiny function, there had

been very small number of call-ins and it was hoped that would remain the case in the new system.

Members would have an opportunity to discuss and comment when the matter was discussed by council.

37. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr, Castle, Gallacher and Lang.

38. MINUTES

Minute No 31.1

7 December 2022

Leisure Review - Findings of the Review of NCC Supported Leisure Provision and Consideration of Future Management and Procurement Arrangements

Councillor Morphet enquired whether 'preventable' should replace 'preventative' in the following sentence in the final paragraph on page 7:

"Marianne Donnelly, Service Director - Wellbeing-Adult Services, explained that some elements of the review had been undertaken in collaboration with Public Health to address inequalities within Northumberland, including *preventable* ill-health."

Minutes No 34.1

11 January 2023

Storm Arwen Review – Adult Care

In answer to a question, the results of scenario testing had not yet been made available but would be requested by the Scrutiny Officer. Future reports would be considered by the Health and Well-Being OSC.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings of the Communities and Place OSC, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendment:

- a) 7 December 2022
- b) 11 January 2023

39. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of key decisions (March to July 2023). (Schedule enclosed with the signed minutes).

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator reported that:

- The Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022 would be considered by the committee at the next meeting on 5 April 2023.
- In line with the new ways of working, reports on issues which had been determined by Cabinet, would typically be reviewed 3 or 4 months after the decision had been made by Cabinet. This would allow identification of any issues which would enable a more informed view. Previously matters had been considered by scrutiny at the meeting immediately following the Cabinet decision. The Forward Plan would continue to be circulated with the agenda papers.
- Transport Asset Management Plan Policy and Strategy related to minor updates regarding technical terminology which enabled maximum funding from the Department for Transport. It was confirmed that the documents were available to all on the Council's website when the Cabinet agenda was published. Decisions were also published within a few days of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

40. OVERVIEW

40.1 Utility Companies on the Highway

John Riddle, Portfolio Holder for Local Services, commented that the Street Works Permit Scheme had been introduced in February 2020 and its implementation meant that local authorities were following the same government guidance and standards which made things simpler for utility companies. The scheme enabled the local authority to manage and coordinate essential street and roadworks by statutory undertakers, such as the Council's Highways department and utility companies. It did not include all work and other arrangements were in place for private contractors, developers etc. It was intended that the scheme be cost neutral which required a fine balance between cost of staffing and timely processing of an undetermined number of applications.

Robin McCartney stated that James Richards was Interim Network Manager following departure of Lynne Ryan. He outlined the key objectives of the permit scheme and explained that the administration costs of administering the permits for the Council's highways works was met from existing Technical Services budgets. It was expected that at the end of the current year, there would have been approximately 22,000 applications. He was pleased to report that the new scheme was running well with positive impacts on the number of days saved from disruption and collaborative working and there was also only a small overall surplus in the first 2 years of the scheme. The DfT required submission of an annual report in the first three years, and these were available on the Council's website.

The following information was provided in answer to questions from members:

- Officers attended North East Coordination meetings with the statutory undertakers and meetings with North East Highways colleagues where issues of fairness were discussed openly, although there was no documentary evidence of this and it was acknowledged that recipients of penalties were perhaps unlikely to agree.
- The Council had to show parity in how it treated its own applications for works in the highway and those of the utility companies. This was the team's ethos. Feedback from the utility companies at the North East meetings was that the Council was dealing with permit applications fairly. One example given was the approval of requests for extensions.
- The position with regard to costs and cost neutrality was being monitored with annual submissions to the DfT for the first three years and three yearly thereafter. At the end of year 3, they would reassess whether the cost of permits needed to be amended. In year 1 there had been difficulties processing all permits in as timely a manner as desired, which had resulted in the appointment of additional staff and explained the difference in the amount of surplus and deficit between years 1 and 2. The cost of permits would be adjusted, if necessary to achieve a cost neutral year end position. The number of applications was also a factor which could not be predicted. There had been an increase in the number of permits for fibre broadband in the last few years and more resource may be needed. Increased collaboration would also have an impact on timescales.
- The scale of charges for permits varied and would be circulated to members after the meeting.
- Generally, applications were dealt with on a 'first come first served' basis unless the proposed work would have an impact on traffic in a community with work planned on the network nearby. One of the purposes of the Coordination meetings was to discuss the future programme of works. The Streetworks team had exceptionally good working relationships with the utility companies. A permit occasionally may need to be cancelled and work rearranged if emergency repairs were required which necessitated variations to permits already issued. Originally the wording on permits had been quite prescriptive but clauses within the new system had enabled the council to be more flexible and encourage collaborative working. The type of road defined what hours could be worked to minimise disruption to residents and road users.
- The Council's role was to coordinate the installation and maintenance of infrastructure located within the highway by statutory undertakers for use by homes and businesses, whilst keeping traffic moving.
- As the installation programme for Electric Vehicle Charging Points matured, it was hoped that the Council would be able to benefit from having a long-term plan which would enable savings from collaborative working with the utility companies if they had a permit for work at the same location.
- Any person was able to monitor work in the highway via the one.network system. It was acknowledged the system could be more widely promoted on the Council's website and other communications.
- There should be signs displayed for all roadworks which state the permit number and who is carrying out the work.

- Engagement with utility companies varied; some were very active attending all coordination meetings whilst others did not participate as much and their standard of work was poorer. There had been a steep learning curve for all parties with the implementation of the new permit scheme. It had been identified that additional resource was required to enable better dialogue with local areas offices which would be implemented within the following year.
- Any concerns regarding repairs to the network following work by utility companies could be emailed to the Streetworks Mailbox for inspection and follow up action as necessary. Inspections and monitoring were carried out daily by the team. Poor repairs were discussed at the Coordination meetings with the imposition of financial penalties for defects. A company had requested a meeting due to the level of defects in order to better improve their work. Poor repairs needed to be identified within a set period of time to ensure that these were rectified at no cost to the Council or taxpayers if not done correctly in the first instance.
- The digging of trenches in the highway network created discontinuity, joints and movement although whilst the highways team would prefer affected areas to be resurfaced over a wider area, this was not required by the national specifications which set out the standard required for repairs. However, this affected the longevity and standard of the road surface.

Members commented on the excellent service they received by officers in the Streetworks team.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

40.2 Update on Recruitment and retention of On-Call Firefighters

Councillor Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services, explained that the fire and rescue service in Northumberland was made up of whole-time firefighters and retained firefighters at many of the rural fire stations in Northumberland. Whilst they were trained to the same standards as the full-time firefighters, they were on-call from their home or workplaces which had to be located within 5 minutes of their local fire station. A significant amount of work had been undertaken by AFCO McNeil recently to make progress with recruitment and the position was vastly improved.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer James McNeil, gave a brief summary of his background and highlighted the following key aspects of the report:

- There was no difference in the level of risk whole-time or on-call firefighters were exposed to which was referenced by the recent fire in Haltwhistle.
- In recent years, the staffing model for Northumberland had a shortage of 45 on-call firefighters. With only 1 or 2 training courses per year, this had not been sufficient to meet the leaving or retirement profile.
- They now ran 3 or 4 training courses per year with an increased number of candidates which meant they hoped to achieve their recruitment target by the end of the summer 2023.

- Consideration of incident data and risk profiles identified stations where Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing needs needed to be increased at key locations or for certain periods of time and had been were used to set priorities for recruitment.
- Review of the agreement with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in relation to incidents on the boundary between the two areas.
- Introduction of 2 on-call support officers who could be deployed around the county and ensured stations could be manned with additional community risk reduction duties including inspections, visits, safety checks etc.
- Variation to monthly contract hours of on-call firefighters from 90 or 120 hours to 40 or 50 hours to increase availability during daytime hours which would hopefully close the gap between operational activity and appliance availability between 08.00 and 18.00.
- Looking at the staffing needs of individual stations to create bespoke plans to ensure the whole-time staffing equivalent was met at each location. This meant that if they needed to employ more staff with smaller contracts, they would do so.
- Changes to category 1 and 2 calls which required less cross border assistance from the Tyne and Wear fire and rescue authority for incidents on the county's borders.
- Review of e-learning opportunities to improve training for On-Call firefighters who currently had 2 hours of each training per week compared with 42 hours per week for whole-time firefighters.
- There was no differentiation between the bravery and risks experienced between whole time or on-call firefighters; they all risked their lives to save people they did not know.

The following information was provided in response to questions from members:

- Increasing the time from 5 to 8 mins for on-call firefighters to get to their local fire station added to the time before a fire truck could depart, this was more viable timewise for rural stations, such as Bellingham, where it would take more than an hour for an appliance to travel on blue lights from the next nearest station. The response time was also likely faster than the other blue light services in rural areas.
- The right people on the right contracts were expected to be in place by the end of summer following training there would be an improved position on staffing availability. Availability was currently:
 - Prudhoe 97.15%
 - Allendale 92.27%
 - Haltwhistle 93.68%
 - Rothbury 93.43%
 - Seahouses 89.56%
 - Alnwick 96.73%
 - Bellingham 93.42%
- Officers had to manage the risk on a day-to-day basis that staffing decisions would not leave an appliance unmanned when an incident occurred and

likely demand in 4-hour blocks. He hoped that availability at all stations would exceed 95 - 97%.

- An appliance normally required a minimum of 4 firefighters to mobilise an appliance with the on-call support officers being used to ensure this figure was achieved. They hoped to increase the number of on-call support officers to ensure that there was one available in each of the four fire station clusters and move between station so appliances could be brought on-line at key times.
- At some stations a phased response could be arranged with a crew of 3 firefighters, depending on the incident type. This was kept under review with the use of the on-call support officer enabled an appliance to respond to a wider range of incident types.
- Individuals who worked full-time during the day may be on-call during evenings and weekends. Nightshift workers could provide availability during daytime hours. As part of the innovation of the service they were now considering individuals who could provide 40/50 hours.
- A trial was being run at Alnwick/Amble/Rothbury fire stations, with the on-call watch management team were coordinating their own availability which had increased to 100%.
- Retained firefighters received 10% of a wholetime firefighters' salary as well as a disturbance payment of approximately £20 plus an hourly rate if mobilised.
- Currently the service was 23 people short of the target operating model. The cost of which was included within current budgets.
- The next recruitment drive would prioritise gaps at Pegswood, Ponteland, Wooler, Berwick and Belford.
- The ability to scale up recruitment and training to replace 40 firefighters annually outweighed the previous staffing shortage issues. Retention was not normally an issue as most on-call firefighters were driven by community spirit and their own pride. They also did not have any recruitment issues with candidates filling places on the next few training courses.
- Some of the whole-time staff based at Berwick, Pegswood, West Hartford and Hexham operated dual contracts when they were not on shift under their primary contract. Dual contracts had been raised as an issue by the HM Inspectors, but they were utilised as stop gap measure and not backfill.
- Whole-time firefighters with the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service were able to have a dual contract with Northumberland if they lived in close proximity to a Northumberland fire station.
- The profile of individuals who had submitted a notification of interest in becoming an on-call firefighter would be provided to members after the meeting.
- The service used a system called Garstang system which them to manage staffing availability and if dealing with an incident ensure that there was cover in 4-hour blocks, bringing extra staff on duty, if this was required. The operating model should enable the service to respond to 2 simultaneous 5 fire engine fires at any given time.
- On-call firefighters needed to be at least 18 years old. There was no upper age limit as such, but candidates needed to pass a fitness test. A recent

successful candidate was 57 years old. One of the benefits with age came maturity and life experience.

- Large scale fires which involved runoff in nearby water courses were reported to the Environment Agency.

Members thought it had been beneficial for the committee to receive the report to better understand the fire and rescue operation, particularly when decisions were required to be made in respect of budget or investment. Councillor Mather who had previously been an on-call firefighter commented that training needed to be positive and supportive, particularly for on-call firefighters. He also suggested that councillors could provide support to the service and encourage residents to engage and fill vacancies and the stations identified earlier in the meeting to provide the level of cover to enable appliances to turn out. Members were keen to provide support and share campaigns on social media.

ACFO McNeil was pleased to report that:

- There would not be industrial action by firefighters as the pay deal had been supported.
- Firefighters were 7 times more likely to be diagnosed with some cancers due to their working environment. They were therefore looking to increase education, equipment and uniform to enable decontamination of firefighters following major fires etc to reduce the risk. There were potential revenue implications to implement new practices including building alterations within stations to provide separate clean and dirty zones. He hoped to attend another meeting of the committee in the future to share how they hoped this would be addressed.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The committee supported the efforts being made by the Fire and Rescue Service to improve recruitment.
- c) A report on issues to be implemented to address contamination be added to the work programme.

41. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the 2022/23 council year. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes).

Issues raised by Members included:

- Public bus services in rural areas. The Scrutiny Co-ordinator reported that officers were waiting for an announcement on funding from the Government and the matter considered when the position and likely

impact on services was known. He agreed to seek information on the likely timescale. The Chair also made reference to the transport element within the Devolution deal. Members requested a copy of the list of current subsidised bus services.

- Clarification be obtained regarding the timescales for the Tree and Management Policy and Tree and Woodland Strategy.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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**FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS
APRIL TO JULY 2023**

DECISION	PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATE	CABINET DATE
<p>Energising Blyth: Energy Central Campus Phase 1: Learning Hub This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval and key decisions regarding the Full Business Case and Delivery Approach of the Energy Central Campus Phase 1: Learning Hub. The Energy Central Campus (ECC) is a transformational, business-led skills, education and innovation development supporting growth in the low carbon energy sector in Blyth and the wider Northeast. This project is part of the Energising Blyth Regeneration Programme including projects supported by the Future High Streets Fund and Blyth Town Deal. (W. Ploszaj/Lara Baker - 07919 217457)</p>	N/A	11 April 2023
<p>Governance of Council Companies The purpose of this report is to propose the adoption of strengthened Governance arrangements in relation to the Council's companies and the relationship between the Council and those companies. The proposals address recommendations of the Caller Independent Governance Review to provide the foundation for decision making and the development of a comprehensive company governance framework for companies wholly or partly owned by Northumberland County Council (NCC). (G. Sanderson/Suki Binjal - 07592269310)</p>	CSEG OSC 17 April 2023	11 April 2023
<p>Leisure Programme Update To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme (J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463)</p>	N/A	11 April 2023
<p>Service Charges in Sheltered Accommodation The report will request permission to introduce Service Charges to all tenants in 8 Sheltered Housing Schemes in line with those currently charged at Arnison Close in Allendale. The HRA is currently subsidising these tenants at a cost of approx. £200k per year. (C. Horncastle/S. Ogle – 07976851270)</p>	N/A	11 April 2023
<p>Social Housing Regulations Bill To inform members of the impending Social Housing Regulations Bill and the implications that has for housing, in particular the introduction of a regulatory regime. (C. Horncastle/ S. Ogle 07976 851270)</p>	Communities and Place OSC 5 April 2023	11 April 2023
<p>Energising Blyth – Culture Hub and Market Place</p>	N/A	9 May 2023

<p>Outline Business Case</p> <p>The report will provide details on:</p> <p>The proposed facilities, design and cost of the Culture Hub building in Blyth, including the landscaping improvements on the market place.</p> <p>The procurement process for the main operator, the operating model, the approach for Creative Play and ongoing revenue contribution.</p> <p>The two stage approach to the construction contractor including the programme and key milestones.</p> <p>(W. Ploszaj/F. Ford - 07816 110340)</p>		
<p>Financial Performance 2022-23 – Position at the end of February 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 28 February 2023.</p> <p>(R. Wearmouth/K. Harvey - 01670 624783)</p>	TBC	9 May 2023
<p>Outcomes of Phase 2 Consultation about Education in Berwick Partnership</p> <p>This report sets out the feedback received from stakeholders arising from Phase 2 of informal consultation with stakeholders in the Berwick Partnership area and other relevant parties on the possible models of school organisation within both the current 3-tier system and within a 2-tier (primary/secondary) system.</p> <p>(G. Renner Thompson/S. Aviston - (01670) 622281)</p>	TBC	9 May 2023
<p>Leisure Programme Update</p> <p>To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>(J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463)</p>	N/A	12 December 2023
<p>Leisure Programme Update</p> <p>To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>(J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463)</p>	N/A	9 April 2024



Northumberland County Council

CABINET

DATE: 14TH MARCH 2023

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY FOR NORTHUMBERLAND 2022 – 2026

Report of Cabinet Member: Councillor Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services

Executive Director: Gill O'Neill, Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities

Purpose of report

The following report presents members with the new **Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022 - 2026**. The strategy provides updated details of the strategic objectives for the Council's Homelessness & Housing Options Service for the following five years.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the refreshed Homelessness Strategy, which supports the delivery of the Council's statutory obligations for our residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the priorities included in the Northumberland County Council Corporate Plan 2021-2024 which states:

***Enjoying, Connecting** - We will maintain, protect and enhance the environment, prioritising our commitments on Climate Change*

***Living, Learning** - We will care for our residents, support the most vulnerable in our society and help people to live healthy lives.*

Key issues

1. The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a duty on local authorities to carry out a review of homelessness in their area and formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy

based on the findings from the review. The original strategy, adopted in 2016, was written in accordance with this legislation and statutory guidance.

2. The Housing Act 1996, Part 7 has most recently been amended by the **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA)**. This new Act represents fundamental amendments to the existing homelessness legislation. It introduces new requirements to prevent and relieve homelessness and, in that context, sets out a range of new duties. These amendments came into force in April 2018.
3. The Northumberland Homelessness Strategy 2016-2021 was refreshed in 2019 to include measures set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 as well as responding to respond to the Government's vision set out in their **Rough Sleeping Strategy (2018)** '*to support every person who sleeps rough off the streets and into a home*'.
4. In November 2021 consultation was carried out with partners and stakeholders to establish whether our current objectives were still relevant and that they would enable the council to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the County and meet the requirements of the HRA.
5. The new **Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022 – 2026** reflects the consultation input and the needs and demands for homelessness service and housing options advice and support across the county.

Background

1. The Council's Homelessness Strategy for Northumberland 2016- 2021 detailed 5 key strategic priorities for the delivery of homelessness and housing options support for Northumberland residents. Since that strategy was published in 2016 changes in national policy impacted upon the services we needed to provide.
2. **The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** was the most notable change to legislation relating to homelessness in over 40 years. It transformed the way homelessness services are expected to be delivered and introduced new duties. The Act made changes to the current homelessness legislation contained in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, with a renewed focus on preventing homelessness.
3. It placed duties on local authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness in their areas. It required local authorities to provide new homelessness services to all those affected, not just those who are protected under existing legislation. There was also a new duty on public services including NHS Trusts, prisons and Jobcentre Plus to notify the local authority if they meet someone that they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, called the Duty to Refer.

4. **The Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 (CoG 2018)** was published in February 2018 in readiness for the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The CoG 2018 must be considered alongside the legislation when assessing and dealing with applications for assistance under either the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 or Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.
5. The Government's **Rough Sleeping Strategy (August 2018)** set out the 2027 vision to support every person who sleeps rough off the streets and into a home. This was the beginning of Government plans to meet their 2027 ambition, when the ambition is that no one must sleep rough again.
6. The Northumberland Homelessness Strategy 2016-2021 was refreshed in 2019 to include measures set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 as well as responding to respond to the Government's vision set out in their Rough Sleeping Strategy (2018) 'to support every person who sleeps rough off the streets and into a home'. This led to the publication of the council's **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for Northumberland 2019 – 2021**
7. This strategy supported the Council's priorities for the delivery of our statutory obligations to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness whilst also supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Priorities and the delivery of the principle within the Housing Strategy for Northumberland that having a decent home is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Northumberland.

The priorities identified within that updated strategy were;

- I. Prevent homelessness by improving support to vulnerable client groups
 - II. Increase options for, and ensure access to, suitable temporary accommodation
 - III. Support people through Welfare Reform, particularly Universal Credit
 - IV. Remove barriers to permanent accommodation
 - V. Prevent youth homelessness
 - VI. Develop Services for Rough Sleepers
8. As this strategy ended in 2021 a new strategy has been drafted, reflecting the consultation that took place earlier this year and the needs and demands for homelessness services and housing options advice and support across the county.
 9. The proposed new Homelessness Strategy, **Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022–2026**, sets out the priorities and future actions for tackling homelessness over the next five years A detailed action plan will be produced to further explore how the priorities can be implemented and monitored to ensure delivery of the identified priorities.
 10. The priorities within this strategy have been identified as follows;

Priority 1 - Improve services and accommodation options for rough sleepers and single homeless people

Priority 2 - Provide early intervention, prevention, and relief of homelessness through effective partnership working

Priority 3 - Improve access to suitable, affordable, and quality permanent, temporary, and emergency accommodation across all sectors

Priority 4 - Link health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected by homelessness

Priority 5 - Develop homelessness pathways for specific groups including victims of domestic abuse, young people, prison leavers and armed forces veterans

11. The Council will ensure services are delivered with a renewed strategic focus on preventing homelessness and rough sleeping, through the development of this refreshed strategy and associated action plan which will identify the resources, prevention and relief activity and the supply of settled and temporary accommodation required to meet local needs.

Implications

Policy	Supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the priorities within the Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2022 and the Private Sector Housing Strategy 2021-2023
Finance and value for money	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Sustaining tenancies and reducing homelessness has a positive impact on the budget.
Legal	The Homelessness service is a Statutory Service and is delivered in line with requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions reserved to Full Council
Procurement	none
Human Resources	none
Property	Details the council's ambitions for homelessness & housing options services This is likely to lead to an increase in council-owned stock being used as temporary accommodation.

Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An EIS will be completed to ensure that fair access to housing for all residents is considered.
Risk Assessment	none
Crime & Disorder	Rough sleepers are far more likely to be victims of crime, including violent assault, abuse and intimidation, compared to the general public. Homelessness is a major factor which influences criminal activity amongst, particularly young people facing housing insecurity and the inability to access suitable and stable housing can force them toward a cycle of homelessness and offending behaviours.
Customer Consideration	Enables provision of suitable accommodation for all residents
Carbon reduction	none
Health & Wellbeing	Sustaining tenancies and reducing homelessness & rough sleeping will have a positive impact upon the health & wellbeing of residents.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022-2026

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer / Legal	Neil Masson
Executive Director of Finance and S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Elizabeth Morgan
Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
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Northumberland
County Council

Draft

**Homelessness and Rough
Sleeper Strategy for
Northumberland 2022 - 2026**

Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a duty on local authorities to carry out a review of homelessness in their area and formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy based on the findings from the review.

The Housing Act 1996, Part 7 was amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which fundamentally amended the existing homelessness legislation. It introduced new requirements to prevent and relieve homelessness and, in that context, sets out a range of new duties which came into force in April 2018.

This new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out what we intend to do over the lifespan of the strategy and the priorities we will be focusing on.

The Council has also taken this opportunity to review and refresh our current priorities, services, and support, to ensure they meet the needs of households in Northumberland who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness.

In November 2021, an online consultation using the Council's Citizen Space Consultation platform was carried out with partners and stakeholders to establish whether our current objectives were still relevant and that they would enable the Council to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the county and meet the requirements of the Act. This refreshed strategy reflects the consultation input.

Background

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for Northumberland has been developed in the context of a wide range of national, regional, and local policies, strategies, and plans.

Homelessness legislation is set out in part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017). When carrying out their duties under this legislation local authorities must have regard to the Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018.

Since 1977 local authorities have had a duty to make enquiries when they become aware that a household is at very real risk of homelessness. If, on completion of their enquiries, they decide that a household is eligible for assistance, in a priority need category and unintentionally homeless then the local authority has a duty to secure accommodation for them. This duty is known as the Main Homelessness Duty. Eligibility for assistance is linked to immigration and/or residence status.

The categories that determine whether or not an applicant falls into a **'priority need category'** are set out in the 1996 Housing Act (s189) and include:

- Households that include dependent children or pregnant women.
- People who become homeless as a result of a fire, flood, or other disaster.

- All 16- and 17-year-olds and 18- 20-year-old care leavers.
- Households that include someone who is vulnerable because of old age, mental illness, physical disability, or other special reason.
- Vulnerable care leavers, former members of the armed forces and former prisoners.
- People who are vulnerable because they are fleeing violence.

The issue of vulnerability can be very difficult to assess and over the years has been the subject of much case law.

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) was implemented on 3rd April 2018 and placed two new duties on local authorities. The legislative changes are as follows:

- Extending the period where someone is threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days
- Introducing a 56 day 'Duty to Prevent' homelessness
- Introducing a 56 day 'Duty to Relieve' homelessness
- A requirement that all households have a comprehensive housing assessment where they are threatened with homelessness within 56 days
- The introduction of Personalised Housing Plans (PHPs)
- A Duty to Refer those households who are threatened with Homelessness within 56 days placed on various named bodies such as Probation and Children's Services
- New extended review rights for applicants
- Earlier referrals to other local authorities for those households without a local connection who are at the relief stage of homelessness
- A duty to cooperate on applicants.

This change in legislation did not require a wholesale change in approach for Northumberland as we had pursued a prevention approach towards homelessness since 2011, engaging with households facing homelessness as early as possible and attempting to find innovative ways to prevent homelessness.

Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities 2018

The Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 (CoG 2018) was published in February 2018 and must be considered alongside the legislation when assessing and dealing with applications for assistance under either the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 or Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

The Government's strategy **Ending Rough Sleeping for Good**¹ was published in September 2022. This strategy outlines the ongoing plans to end rough sleeping, detailing 4 primary outcomes:

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Recovery
- Transparent and Joined-up System

It identifies funding opportunities and expectations on local authorities to tackle rough sleeping with its vision of more effective support to prevent rough sleeping happening in the first place, and a tailored offer of support where it does happen, so people can build an independent life off the streets.

The purpose of our Strategy

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy seeks to tackle all forms of homelessness, including those who are owed a statutory duty of assistance, as well as people who are staying in supported housing, sleeping rough on the streets, or have other transient arrangements (e.g., sleeping on a friend's sofa).

The Strategy sets out how the Council will work with partners to deliver services to households in Northumberland who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. It sets out the key challenges that exist in Northumberland, and the context in which the Strategy is delivered. This Strategy refresh was informed by a consultation event held with partners and stakeholders which took place from November to December 2021.

Respondents of the consultation thought that previous priorities were still relevant but that some of them could be updated and merged with others. There was also a recommendation to include a section for specific areas of support such as domestic abuse and armed forces veterans.

The Strategy will be accompanied by a refreshed Action Plan which will set out what the Council hopes to achieve and by when. The Action Plan will be agreed with partners, stakeholders and service users and will be used to monitor progress over the period of the strategy.

Aims and objectives

¹ [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The objective of this strategy is to support those households in most need to find, secure, and retain homes by ensuring the best use of the housing stock within the county across all tenures. To achieve this ambition we will require a multi-agency approach to ensure that the necessary support to be provided to those tenants or residents who need it.

We aim to support the most vulnerable members of our community with their accommodation needs and to reduce homelessness and end rough sleeping in Northumberland.

The Corporate Plan 2021-2024 has two overarching themes which help inform the priorities of this strategy:

- Ensuring the Council does all it can to support economic recovery and growth across the county; and,
- Tackling inequalities within our communities, supporting our residents to be healthier and happier

Our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will contribute to the delivery of these primary priorities, to ensure Northumberland is a stronger place both economically and socially.

National Context

There have been several Government interventions aimed at assisting those who are homeless and sleeping rough.

Everyone In

The Government aim was to ensure that the 37,000 vulnerable people and rough sleepers had somewhere to stay during the Pandemic. About 26,000 of those supported by the programme are now in long term accommodation.

Next Steps Accommodation Programme

Funding has been allocated for 3,300 new homes for rough sleepers. Over £150 million has been made available across England to provide a permanent place to live for some of those who are the most vulnerable.

Through NSAP funding in 2020 the Council secured £18,000 capital funding and £52,500 revenue funding to support the delivery of a dedicated Tenancy Support Worker and 3 units of accommodation to support entrenched rough sleepers, providing them with supported, transitional accommodation.

Protect and Vaccinate Programme

A scheme to help protect vulnerable people in our communities from COVID-19 which provided extra support to areas that needed it most. £15 million was allocated to support the ongoing efforts to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during the pandemic, aimed at the areas that required additional support most during the restrictions and throughout winter. The Council was awarded £57,861 under this scheme in January 2022.

Rough Sleeper Initiative

Rough Sleeper Initiative fund is for short-term interventions to reduce rough sleeping. In September 2022 DLUHC announced funding available from a £500m funding pot as part of the Government's rough sleeping programme.

In a joint bid co-ordinated by Durham, the north-east region Local Authorities secured £3,777,842 from RSI5 funding 2022 to 2025. Of this Northumberland has been allocated £815,568 over 3 years (or £271,856 per annum) to support the delivery of the Homeless Response Service and the Somewhere Safe to Stay scheme.

Housing First

Pilots in Greater Manchester, Liverpool and West Midlands are supporting around 800 vulnerable people off the streets and into secure homes; 600 are now in permanent accommodation. Over 2,000 other Housing First places have been created, many funded through the Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Vision for our Strategy

To provide a coherent vision for housing, planning and homelessness on a countywide basis, this Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is informed and influenced by a number of other Council documents particularly the Northumberland Local Plan 2016-2036, the Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2022 (which is currently being reviewed), and the Northumberland Private Sector Housing Strategy 2021-2023.

The Housing Strategy for Northumberland defines how the Council, working with partners, will deliver its statutory duty and requirements. It sets out the Council's ambitious plans for meeting people's housing needs through the delivery of new affordable housing, improvements to existing housing stock and the provision of housing support to those who need it.

Key challenges

Delivering this strategy will be a key priority for the council and we will need to do so against a backdrop of local and national challenges and policy areas. Key challenges are

- Local Housing Allowance (LHA) levels are currently frozen which has a knock-on effect on housing benefits, and this presents a challenge for individuals on a low income who rent privately. This has an effect on the numbers of affordable properties to rent available in the county and limits the council's ability to negotiate with private landlords who seek to charge rents at a local market value.
- There is a limited amount of social rented housing in parts of the county and a high demand for affordable homes to rent both generally and more acutely in smaller rural and coastal settlements.

- A challenging, and often expensive, private market for housing, making it difficult for households to access housing due to the prohibitive costs, either for rent or purchase.
- Ensuring that we continue to support victims of domestic abuse in the most appropriate way whilst also meeting the requirements of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

More recently and particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased emphasis on assisting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping with opportunities to provide specialist support and accommodation. Successful Rough Sleeper Initiatives and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Services will continue to play a key role in ending rough sleeping.

Local Context

The Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2022 states:

Having a decent roof over your head is fundamental to health and well-being. None of you should be forced to live on the streets, or in a “home” that is a health hazard or physically impedes independence.

The priorities within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy have been developed and informed around themes which council colleagues, partners, agencies and residents helped to identify.

These priorities have been identified as key areas which impact people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, including rough sleepers.

We have identified some of the specific challenges that can increase the threat of homelessness and rough sleeping for people.

The recent impact of the Cost of Living crisis, as well as the ongoing after-effects of the pandemic, are likely to compound the existing challenges faced by individuals already in precarious housing situations as well as statutory and third sector organisations managing finite resources.

Our strategy will aim to put in place interventions and support to help reduce the impact of these issues. Our themes include:

- Prevention of homelessness across all client groups
- Provision of suitable temporary and emergency accommodation
- Reduce/end rough sleeping
- Meet the needs of individuals with health and social care issues impacting on homelessness
- Target groups requiring specific support, including those who have fled their home due to domestic abuse, young people, and Armed Forces Veterans

Underpinning all of this we will endeavour to take a strengths-based approach reflecting the Northumberland Inequalities Strategy and action plan.

There are substantial challenges ahead. The demand for affordable suitable homes for some of our most vulnerable residents continues to outstrip supply. These needs can be met by providing new houses and by bringing empty properties back into use.

We also need to deal with an increased demand on housing and housing-related support services. Homelessness is not just a housing issue, and many homeless people have complex needs which require a varied and tolerant approach. We aim to continue to work with partners to forge strong working relationships to deliver bespoke and effective packages of support, advice, and accommodation to clients. to ensure they get the help and support that they need.

We can meet these challenges with five priority areas defining our focus over the period of this strategy:

1. Improve services and accommodation options for rough sleepers and single homeless people
2. Early intervention, prevention, and relief of homelessness through effective partnership working
3. Improve access to affordable and quality permanent, temporary, and emergency accommodation across all sectors
4. Link health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected by homelessness
5. Develop homelessness pathways for specific groups including victims of domestic abuse, young people, prison leavers and armed forces veterans

Priority 1

Improve services and accommodation options for rough sleepers and single homeless people

Sleeping rough is the most obvious and harmful form of homelessness, especially when it becomes long term in nature. It can be difficult to address for a host of reasons, especially when those who are impacted feel disenfranchised and have never had a settled home of their own. Additionally, there can be background circumstances such as trauma or an undiagnosed mental health illness, and these often lead to illicit drug use, which is often a gateway to dependency. Addressing this needs to involve each person and an understanding of their strengths, needs and aspirations.

Respondents to the consultation thought that rough sleeping should remain a priority. The consultation also recommended that this priority should be broadened to include single homeless people as lack of services and accommodation for this group will lead to an increased number of rough sleepers.

Key issues and challenges

- Lack of accommodation for clients with complex multiple needs where the use of shared accommodation is not appropriate
- Client group can be difficult to engage with services due to past trauma and previous experience of trying to achieve stability
- The County covers a large geographical area which can mean the outreach services are over stretched

To improve services for rough sleepers and single homeless people the Council will:

- Ensure effective partnerships are built and maintained to tackle rough sleeping and known rough sleepers
- Ensure a rapid response to rough sleeping reports across Northumberland
- Ensure that support is offered or provided to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping that meets their needs identify strengths and goals that the person wishes to work towards and placing the individual at the heart of the process.
- In times of severe weather, all efforts are made to ensure nobody is sleeping rough in Northumberland
- Increase the amount of flexible emergency accommodation options for homeless people, including those with pets.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding practices are embedded across the Homelessness Partnership, inclusive of further developing a robust multi-agency safeguarding approach for rough sleeping
- Develop ways to work with individuals who have lived experience of multiple and complex needs: homelessness, offending, substance misuse and mental health but also building on their assets
- Work across the region to establish reconnection policies and develop cross boundary services and policies
- Ensuring people with lived experience of homelessness are at the heart of finding solutions.

Priority 2

Provide early intervention, prevention, and relief of homelessness through effective partnership working

Early intervention not only prevents homelessness and reduces its impact, but also prevents and reduces a lot of the harm that is often caused or results from the related impact.

Consultation with partners and stakeholders identified that improved intervention and support to vulnerable households would enable them to remain in their current home where they may have established support networks and community links.

Key issues and challenges

- Difficult to engage landlords of any tenure to participate in early identification protocols for tenants at risk of homelessness
- High demand on the homelessness and housing options service means upstream prevention work is limited

To provide early prevention, intervention and relief, the Council will:

- Work alongside landlords to create robust early alert systems and ensure protocols are in place for tenancies at risk or when properties are going to be removed from the market
- Develop a web-based housing advice platform for anyone seeking advice, guidance, and support if homeless or threatened with homelessness
- Provide flexible approaches, according to need, and ensure that no one is left behind or falls between provisions
- Use data, feedback, and evidence to understand ways to work smarter to manage demand and to inform how we improve prevention and relief intervention services
- Work in partnership with other organisations such as health services (including mental health and drug and alcohol services); advice agencies; money advice; voluntary and community sector groups; the Police and other emergency services; and domestic abuse services to set up an early warning system to identify those at risk of homelessness.
- Understand the client groups that services work with and how they can work more closely with the Council

Priority 3

Improve access to suitable, affordable, and quality permanent, temporary, and emergency accommodation across all sectors

There are many obstacles to gaining suitable accommodation, especially for those with significant mental ill-health, or cumulative support needs (i.e., substance misuse issues) clients can be viewed by supported housing providers as being too high need for their services. In turn, they may be perceived as being below the threshold for specialist mental ill health / adult social care funded beds.

Key issues and Challenges

- Accessing accommodation is difficult for clients with complex needs, rent arrears or criminal behaviour. Clients can be excluded from both permanent and temporary accommodation
- Service providers offering high needs support often exclude clients with the most complex needs
- Personal housing plans need to be used to address these issues on an individual basis
- There are few options for people who are homeless with pets and do not want to be separated from them

The Council will:

- Ensure homeless applicants are being appropriately prioritised using the social housing allocations schemes
- Ensure that homeless clients are assisted and are enabled to access suitable accommodation in the private sector
- Ensure that the temporary accommodation offered in Northumberland is of a high standard
- Increase the amount of flexible emergency accommodation options for homeless applicants, including those with pets.
- Improve the availability of suitable supported accommodation
- Work with Adult Social Care to provide more accommodation through the Complex Housing Panel

Priority 4

Link health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected by homelessness

Poor health can lead to increased risk of homelessness, and likewise health can be affected by the risk of losing a home. People can lose their jobs due to being unable to work, particularly in the case of longer-term health conditions. This can exacerbate existing mental health conditions and lead to poorer mental wellbeing due to the often-constant pressure caused by conditions such as stress, anxiety, and depression.

Key issues and challenges

- Finding accommodation is often seen as the only solution to an individual's chaotic and traumatic life, however, underlying health issues, especially mental health, can exacerbate their housing situation and lead to multiple exclusions from all providers
- We will look to build upon the health and social care partnerships strengthened during the COVID-19 response, to ensure a holistic response to tackling common challenges.

To link health, well-being, and housing together, the Council will:

- Ensure the health implications of homelessness are understood and are part of our strategic and operational approach taking also into account the wider determinants of health such as poverty and loneliness.
- Ensure that the Domestic Abuse Act is fully implemented across Northumberland
- Ensure effective links are built and maintained between the Homelessness and Housing Options Team and health and social care teams
- Ensure that support needs are identified in all homeless households
- We will work with our partners in homelessness to ensure all local services are flexible and responsive in terms of local need, and are willing to consider amending practice, if necessary, to ensure strategic relevance and to offer the most effective solutions to those at risk of homelessness

Priority 5

Develop homelessness pathways for specific groups including victims of domestic abuse, young people, prison leavers and armed forces veterans

To prevent homelessness for people at the point of leaving care or on discharge from the armed forces and other institutions there is a need for timely intervention to ensure they do not become homeless or rough sleeping.

Key issues and challenges

- Too many people are leaving institutions without a forward plan in place for housing and other support services
- Lack of specialist support in some cohorts of homeless people

The consultation confirmed that youth homelessness should remain a priority, however other priority groups were identified as requiring specific support.

- Provide timely housing options planning and support advice to all care leavers, and other relevant under 19-year-olds, which supports their pathway plan
- Provide targeted support and early intervention to all groups at greater risk of homelessness, including the 'hidden homeless' and those in precarious accommodation and relating to health, frailty, and complex cross-cutting challenges
- Ensure any victim of domestic abuse has somewhere safe to stay and receives support.
- Provide early advice and housing options services to people leaving the armed forces and prioritise veterans for housing and support.
- Improve our understanding and service offer to ethnic minorities, the LGBT+ community and other minority groups.

By delivering against these Priorities, we will ensure that we support people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness to secure and retain, safe, warm accommodation ensuring that their health and wellbeing needs are met.

Meeting the requirements of new legislation

To ensure that the Council is fully compliant with the new duties, new procedures, and measures to prevent and relieve homelessness have been developed and implemented. All internal processes and procedures have been updated to ensure they are compliant with the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) whilst communication with customers has been key, ensuring that they know how and where to approach the service and what to expect.

In addition, the updated Strategy introduces a priority focussed upon the needs of rough sleepers, reflecting the requirements of the Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018.

To ensure that the Council meets all requirements of new legislation the Council will:

- Continue developing and improving the Council's Homelessness Prevention Service to continue to provide free advice and assistance.

- Allocate funding for homelessness prevention and relief measures and pursue additional funding as it becomes available - ensuring that funding which is intended to prevent or relieve homelessness is used in the most effective way.
- Review the Northumberland Homefinder Policy to ensure that it contributes positively to homelessness prevention and relief, enabling access to social housing for households that require it to prevent or relieve their homelessness; and
- Engage with public bodies that have the Duty to Refer, in order that appropriate advice and support can be put in place to prevent homelessness

Monitoring and Review of the Strategy

An Action Plan will be developed which will be reviewed and updated to detail the actions that the Council proposes to undertake under each of the five priorities. It will focus upon the outcomes the Council would like to achieve and will clearly set out how progress will be measured for each action.

The Council will use the Action Plan to direct its workload and will report annually on the progress made; this will be reported to Members.

The Action Plan and the corresponding targets will also be reviewed annually and where necessary changes made to meet changing priorities and to ensure effective delivery of existing priorities. In addition, a quarterly monitoring group will be set up to review progression against the Action Plan.

If changes occur that significantly affect the Council's ability to deliver on the priorities (for example new legislation) then the Strategy will be reviewed following an annual review.

Equality and Diversity Statement

The Strategy and Action Plan will be tested to ensure it does not discriminate either directly or indirectly on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Appendix 1

Definitions

Homelessness means not having a home. A home is a place that provides security, and links to a community and support network. It needs to be decent and affordable. Under the law, even if someone has a roof over their head, they can still be homeless. This is because they may not have the right to stay where they live, or their home may be unsuitable to live in.

Someone is homeless if:

- They have no accommodation that they are entitled to occupy
- They have accommodation and they are entitled to occupy it, but it is so bad that they cannot reasonably be expected to occupy it.²

Rough sleeping is defined by the Government as ‘people sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on the streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or ‘bashes’) ³

A Household is defined as “one person or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence and for a group, either share at least one meal a day or share the living accommodation”⁴

² Housing Act 1996

³ Shelter England

⁴ ONS

Appendix 2

The Legal Framework

This is the legal framework, which we must follow to meet our statutory obligations to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. Below is a summary of the legislation along with a link to the full legislation.

Housing Act 1996

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>

The Housing Act 1996 (HA 1996) came into effect 20 January 1997. Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 is the overarching piece of legislation that relates to homelessness. The Act has been amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, the Localism Act 2011 and more recently by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Homelessness Act 2002

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>

The Homelessness Act 2002 introduced the following amendments to Part 7 of the HA 1996:

- Changes to appeals against the suitability of accommodation;
- Exclusion from eligibility for assistance of anyone refused housing benefit on eligibility (immigration) grounds;
- Provisions relating to Allocations;
- Right of Appeal against the refusal by the Local Authority to provide accommodation pending an appeal to the County Court on the homelessness decision;
- Cooperation between a local housing authority and a social services authority; and
- Late appeals to the County Court

Localism Act 2011

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents>

The Localism Act 2011 amended Part 7 of the HA1996 with effect from 9 November 2012. It introduced powers for a Local Authority to end the main housing duty, owed to applicants where a homeless duty had been accepted, by arrangement of a suitable offer of accommodation through the private rented sector.

Welfare Reform Act 2012

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/contents>

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 (WRA 2012) came into effect 1 April 2013. Amongst the provisions of the WRA 2012 are the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments, the benefit cap, under-occupation reduction in entitlement and changes to the 'Social Fund' now known as Local Welfare Assistance.

The Care Act 2014

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents>

The Care Act 2014 prescribes that local authorities must promote wellbeing when carrying out their care and / or support functions when working with clients. One of

the areas, which the Act details is the suitability of living accommodation, therefore, we should consider the suitability of living accommodation in line with this Act.

De-regulation Act 2015

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/contents>

The Deregulation Act 2015 came into effect 1 October 2015. It aims to prevent notices being issued in retaliation for complaints made about the condition of the property. It also introduced more stringent rules around the validity of notice, ensuring notices could only be served, if certain processes had been followed by the landlord at the beginning or during the tenancy.

Housing and Planning Act 2016

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/22/contents>

The Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduced several changes and new initiatives. These include measures to tackle rogue landlords within the private sector, extension of Right to Buy to include tenants of housing associations.

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents>

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 details the primary duties for Local Authorities. These are:

- Duty to prevent homelessness
- Duty to relieve homelessness

All Local Authorities are required to provide or secure services to give people free information and advice on:

- Preventing homelessness;
- Securing accommodation if homeless;
- Housing Rights; and
- Help that is available to resolve their housing crisis and how to access that help

Services need to be designed to meet the needs of specific groups of people who are deemed to be more likely to become homeless. These groups include care leavers, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving the armed forces, people leaving prison or those who suffer with a mental illness or impairment.

There is also a duty to assess all applicants and agree a personal plan, which must be provided to the client in writing and outline the steps that they and the Authority will need to take to ensure accommodation is either retained or alternative accommodation secured.

Local authorities must take 'reasonable steps' to prevent or relieve homelessness and these must be written down in a personalised plan, which must be regularly reviewed and updated.

The duties can be discharged if accommodation is secured and has a reasonable prospect of being available for the next six months.

The Duty to Refer came into effect on 1st October 2018. This places a duty on a specified list of agencies to refer someone (with their permission) to a Local Authority of their choice for advice if they are at risk of homelessness within 56 days.

Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a969da940f0b67aa5087b93/Homelessness_code_of_guidance.pdf

The Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 (CoG 2018) was published in February 2018 in readiness for the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The CoG 2018 must be considered alongside the legislation when assessing and dealing with applications for assistance under either the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 or Part 7 of the HA 1996.

Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England 2011

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7532/2033676.pdf

The housing strategy sets out a package of reforms to:

- Get the housing market moving again.
- Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective, and stable housing market in the future
- Support choice and quality for tenants; and
- Improve environmental standards and design quality

The strategy addressed concerns across the housing market making it easier to secure mortgages on new homes, improving fairness in social housing and ensuring homes that have been left empty for years are lived in once again.



Northumberland County Council

CABINET

DATE: 11TH APRIL 2023

Social Housing Regulation Bill

Report of: Cllr. Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Community Services

Lead Officer: Philip Soderquest, Director of Housing & Public Protection

1. **Purpose of report**

To provide members with information relating to the Social Housing Regulation Bill, which is intended to reform the regulation of social housing.

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the development of the Social Housing White Paper and the progress through parliament of the Social Housing Regulation Bill.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the content of the report and future requirements and expected outcomes of the legislation when enacted.

That Cabinet agree to:

- Undertaking within service a peer review exercise with an appropriate local authority or registered social housing provider.
- Receive future updates on the implementation of the Social Housing Regulation Bill and implications for Northumberland County Council.
- Receive future updates on any identified service improvements arising from in-service improvement plans, including planning and preparing for inspection, with the support of the Executive Director for Adults, Ageing and Wellbeing.
- Receive details of the named senior officer roles within the council that will be responsible for, lead and ensure compliance with health and safety and consumer standards.

3. **Link to Corporate Plan**

The Plan is linked to key aims of the corporate plan 2021-24 specifically:

Living - We will care for our residents, support the most vulnerable in our society and help people to live healthy lives

Connecting - We will deliver high-quality services in all our communities and secure investment in housing and transport across the County

How - In everything we do, we will listen to and communicate with residents, businesses, and partners and, ensure value for money in our services. We will pull our weight regionally and nationally, working with our partners to secure maximum benefit for residents and businesses.

4 Key Issues

4.1 The Bill aims to deliver the proposals set out in the Social Housing White Paper “The charter for social housing residents”, by introducing a number of measures to give tenants greater powers, improve access to swift and fair redress, and enhance the powers of the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH).

The Bill seeks to improve the regulation of social housing by bringing forward a stronger and more proactive regulatory regime and putting in place the measures set out in the Social Housing White Paper.

The measures announced under the Bill will for example:

- Enable the regulator to intervene with landlords who are performing poorly on consumer issues and guarantee timely action where the regulator has concerns about the decency of a home.
- Enable the regulator to inspect landlords and arrange emergency repairs to ensure tenants are provided with good quality accommodation.
- Provide tenants with greater transparency about their landlord’s performance by introducing a new set of Tenant Satisfaction Measures
- Enable tenants to access information related to the management of social housing.
- Add safety to the regulator’s objectives and require registered providers to appoint a health and safety lead.
- Require the housing ombudsman and the regulator to cooperate to provide better protection for tenants.

The proposed reforms represent some of the most significant changes to social housing regulation and are a direct consequence of the Grenfell Tower disaster, which claimed the lives of 72 people, and place tenants at the centre of the new proposals.

The Bill is currently moving through Parliament having completed its Committee Stage in the Commons on Tuesday 29th November and a date is awaited for the commencement of Report Stage and Third reading of the Bill which is expected to receive Royal Assent during the Spring 2023

Subject to the Bill being passed in Spring 2023 and receiving the necessary directions from government, the RSH expects to implement the new approach from April 2024.

5 Background

5.1 In 2020, the Government published a White Paper ‘the charter for social housing residents’, in which it committed to reforming the regulation of social housing, by strengthening the ability of the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) to regulate the condition of social housing and the quality of the services provided by all registered providers, non-profit organisations such as housing associations and Local Authorities.

The Bill represents the statutory framework for the new regulations and is currently making its way through parliament which has completed the third reading and is entering the final stages of consideration of amendments, prior to Royal Assent. The Bill will bring about one of the most fundamental changes to social housing regulation for over a decade. It will set new expectations on the services that landlords need to provide for their tenants, introduce regular consumer inspections of social landlords and give the regulator stronger powers to hold landlords, including for the first time, Local Authorities with retained stock, to account.

5.2 The aim is to ensure that landlords listen to their tenants, communicate effectively, have good quality information about the condition of their homes and provide responsive and accessible landlord services. It further aims to drive up standards in the housing sector and hold landlords to account over the services they provide to their tenants.

6 Regulator of Social Housing (RSH)

6.1 On the 12th of January 2023, the RSH published ‘Reshaping consumer regulation: Our Implementation plan’ which outlines their approach to preparing for and implementing the requirements of the new legislation.

It is proposed that new consumer regulation will be implemented from April 2024 under the Social Housing Regulation Bill which makes changes to their objectives and strengthens their powers to regulate the sector effectively, including the use of legal interventions and sanctions where necessary.

6.2 The new legislation will mean that the RSH will have the following consumer objectives added to their remit:

- Safety
- Transparency
- Energy Efficiency

6.3 The RSH has outlined their “path to implementation” which will allow them to put in place all the elements needed to deliver the new approach which include:

- Standards which underpin proactive consumer regulation
- Enforcement powers
- Piloting new approaches
- Tenant satisfaction measures

- Building capacity

6.4 The new consumer standards will be outcome focussed looking at what landlords achieve for customers without dictating how they do this and focussing on the following themes:

- Meeting diverse needs and treating tenants with respect
- Safety
- Quality
- Neighbourhood
- Transparency
- Engagement and accountability
- Tenancy

6.5 This will mean that in our case, the Council, will be held responsible for ensuring that the housing landlord service is managed effectively and that it complies with all requirements by:

- Providing assurance to the Regulator that we are compliant with the standards.
- Supporting tenants to shape and scrutinise delivery to hold councillors to account.

This places the onus on the council as a landlord to comply with the standards and be able to demonstrate compliance to tenants and the RSH. They will continue to apply a co-regulatory approach that they have used for their economic standards.

The new approach will include inspecting all large social landlords against the new standards, including local authorities, every four years. These inspections will build on the RSHs experience in carrying out its current intensive and challenging in-depth assessments for economic regulation with housing associations.

The outcomes of regulatory assessments and inspections will be shared publicly with the RSH using the 'name and shame' approach to any failures by landlords. They are still to develop this and will be using learning from the pilot inspections, that will be carried out with seven organisations including Bernicia and further consultation with landlords to inform their approach for implementation.

The RSH's implementation plan describes the progress it has already made in enhancing and developing the new consumer regulation, as well as the next steps over the coming year. Subject to the Bill being passed and receiving the necessary directions from government, the RSH expects to implement the new approach from April 2024.

7 The Social Housing Regulation Bill

7.1 The Social Housing Regulation Bill provides the legal basis for many of the measures set out in the 2020 social housing white paper. The paper intended to

deliver “transformational change” for social housing residents and fulfil the Government’s 2019 manifesto pledge, to empower residents, provide greater redress, better regulation, and improve the quality of social housing.

With the Bill, the Government intends to strengthen the regulatory regime to change the behaviour of landlords of social housing to focus on the needs of their tenants. It also aims to ensure landlords are held to account for their performance.

It aims to deliver the proposals set out in the Social Housing White Paper by introducing several measures to give tenants greater powers, improve access to swift and fair redress, and enhance the powers of the RSH.

The bill contains three key themes which are;

- Safety in the Home
- Increased power to tenants and the regulator and
- Understanding how well (or not) landlords are performing.

7.2 The measures announced under the Bill will enable to RSH to intervene with landlords who are under performing or where the regulator has concerns about the decency of a home. It will result in proactive inspections for Local Authorities for the first time and enable the regulator to arrange emergency repairs to ensure that tenants are provided with good quality accommodation.

It will also provide tenants with greater transparency about their landlord’s performance by introducing a new set of Tenant Satisfaction Measures and allow tenants to access information related to the management of social housing. Health and Safety will be added to the regulator’s objectives and require all social landlords to appoint a health and safety lead.

7.3 The Bill also contains provisions to empower the Housing Ombudsman to issue a code of practice on complaint handling and monitor compliance with the code; and to formalise and strengthen the relationship between the RSH and the Housing Ombudsman.

Social housing providers will have to ensure that all their staff - from neighbourhood housing officers to senior management - have the right skills, experience, and knowledge to deliver a high-quality service for their tenants. This will be set out and enforced by the RSH to increase the standard of service delivery and make sure social housing staff are better equipped to support tenants, deal effectively with complaints, and ensure homes are of a good quality.

The core objectives of the Bill are to:

- Facilitate a new, proactive consumer regulation regime and
- Strengthen the Regulator’s powers to enforce the consumer and economic regimes

7.4 **Facilitate a new, proactive consumer regulation regime**

This means that the RSH will make safety, transparency, and energy efficiency part of its fundamental objectives. It will enable the RSH to set standards for the

competence and conduct of staff working for registered providers of social housing. It will require the nomination of a designated person for health and safety issues and provide the Secretary of State power to introduce new requirements for registered providers relating to electrical safety checks.

It will also mean there will be regular inspections of housing providers and there will be a power for the RSH to direct registered providers to collect and publish performance information.

7.5 **Strengthen the Regulator's powers to enforce the consumer and economic regimes**

This would ensure the RSH can effectively intervene when required. Key provisions include removing the 'serious detriment' test, which is a legislative barrier to the RSHs action on consumer issues. It will also give the RSH the power to require a registered provider to prepare and implement a performance improvement plan.

It will also remove the cap on the level of fines the RSH can issue and order emergency repairs and access homes at short notice

We will be required to show how we have sought out and considered ways to improve tenant engagement.

- Landlords will have to demonstrate how tenants are included in scrutinising and shaping service delivery and that co regulation/design is a priority. (Co design means shaping and developing services with tenants and including their input from the very beginning.)
- The introduction of measures which deliver more power to tenants, giving them improved access to redress in cases where things may have gone wrong, and to strengthen the powers of the RSH.

7.6 The Bill contained proposals which align with three key themes:

- Safety in the Home
- Increased power to tenants and the regulator
- Understanding how well (or not) landlords are performing

Safety in the home

All Social Landlords will be required to identify a formally designated lead officer responsible for health and safety within their housing organisation or service; and the Bill will define the role that this person should have within the organisation. Their details will have to be published to ensure that Landlords are open and transparent with their tenants. The lead officer will be required to monitor compliance with health and safety requirements, assess risks if the organisation fails to do so, and to provide advice to address any such risks. The Social Landlord will have to provide all necessary training and resources to enable the lead officer to perform effectively in the role.

The Bill will also require social landlords to undertake electrical safety checks in the same way that private landlords are required to.

In the event of any serious risks arising from maintenance issues being found, the RSH will be able to order emergency repairs. They will be able to recharge the landlord and to seek interest in respect of the sum due.

The RSH is being given more powers to respond to cases where there are health and safety or other maintenance issues impacting the property. The RSH will be able to undertake inspections at short notice with the notice period falling from 28 days to 48 hours. Specific properties can be inspected with only 24 hours' notice being given to the tenant or other resident.

The RSH will also be able to "name and shame" failing landlords who are failing to provide a safe, good quality home and to levy unlimited fines if a landlord is persistently underperforming.

A recent amendment has been made to the Bill in that social landlords will have to investigate and fix damp and mould in their properties within "strict new time limits,"

7.7 Increased power to tenants and the regulator

Landlords will be required to show how they have sought out and considered ways to improve tenant engagement and will have to demonstrate how tenants are included in scrutinising and shaping service delivery as co regulation/design is a priority. The introduction of measures which deliver more power to tenants, giving them improved access to redress in cases where things may have gone wrong, and to strengthen the powers of the RSH.

These changes and powers will move housing providers and the RSH from a reactive regulatory regime to a proactive, consumer-led one with significant impact on how we work and how our performance will be measured and assessed.

7.8 Understanding how well (or not) landlords are performing

Introduce a new access to information scheme for social housing tenants of housing associations and other private registered providers of social housing, so that information relating to landlords is easily available.

There will be a requirement for Landlords to publish information on management costs, how income is being spent and other key performance indicators by means of an Annual Report on a yearly basis.

Landlords will be required to identify a senior person within their organisation to ensure they comply with the consumer standards set by the regulator.

The new framework will facilitate better consistency in how performance metrics are reported and interpreted, so that genuine accountability and benchmarking is possible.

8 Tenant Satisfaction Measures

8.1 The RSH is creating a new system for assessing how well social housing landlords in England are doing at providing good quality homes and services. In addition to introducing revised consumer standards, this will involve a set of

tenant satisfaction measures that social housing landlords must report on. The RSH has published a set of tenant satisfaction measures (TSM's) for landlords and all Landlords must publish their performance against the measures from 1 April 2024. This will allow tenants to compare the performance of their landlord with that of others

The TSM's place the greatest importance on:

- tenant satisfaction and communication
- understanding our tenants, their ethnicity/diversity and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable
- hearing the voices of our silent majority of the tenants, not just the vocal
- transparency and clear information (user-friendly dashboards) and proactive engagement on decisions/policy and spend
- property safety
- decent homes and stock management/sustainability,
- repairs performance and communications around repairs
- complaints management

The TSMs include both tenant perception measures, collected through landlords' surveys of tenants, and landlord management information measures.

9 Consumer Standards

9.1 The RSH sets consumer standards. Currently the regulator's role is reactive in response to referrals or other information received and to intervene where failure to meet the standards has caused, or could have caused, serious harm to tenants. These consumer standards apply to all registered providers, including local authorities.

The current consumer standards are:

- **Home Standard** - quality of accommodation and repairs and maintenance
- **Tenancy Standard** - how properties are allocated/exchanged and terms around tenure
- **Neighbourhood and Community Standard** - issues around neighbourhood and communal areas and anti-social behaviour
- **Tenant Involvement and empowerment Standard** - customer service and complaints, tenant rights and involvement.

9.2 The Bill will introduce new mandatory consumer standards which will be the basis for all pro-active inspection and all Social Landlords will be expected to meet these standards

The RSH has set out the broad themes of the new consumer standards, which cover

- **Safety - including** safety in the Home and communal areas
- **Quality** - quality of the home, communal areas, and services to tenants
- **Neighbourhood**, - landlords role working with other agencies to contribute to the wellbeing of the Neighbourhoods in which tenants live

- **Transparency** - landlords role in making information accessible to tenants so tenants know who has responsibility matters relating to the consumer standards
- **Engagement and accountability** – engagement between landlords and tenants, including how complaints are handled. Treating tenants with fairness and respect
- **Tenancy** –requirements in respect of tenancies, including allocation polices and opportunities for tenants to move

The RSH will be consulting with tenants, landlords and other stakeholders on the consumer standards. The consultation will be launched by summer 2023 and all Social Landlords will be required to meet these standards from April 2024.

10 Monitoring compliance, self reporting, and performance measures

- 10.1 Landlords will be required to monitor compliance with the standards and to self-report where they fail; or in cases where there is a risk that they will fail to comply. There will also be a requirement for Landlords to publish information relating to the salaries of senior Officers (although the Council already does so), income, management costs and other expenditure by means of an Annual Report to tenants on a yearly basis

The Bill will enable the RSH to set standards for Landlords relating to the provision of information to tenants and to the RSH. A new system of performance monitoring will be introduced by the RSH, and landlords will be assessed regarding their ability to meet the consumer standards, including complaint handling.

11 Further regulator interventions, inspections, and new relationship with Housing Ombudsman

The RSH will be able to intervene in cases where Landlords fail to meet requirements relating to information and transparency and some of the sanctions include enforcement notices, financial penalties, and the power to require a performance improvement plan.

In addition, the RSH will have the power to undertake inspections of Housing Providers and we may see the introduction of a cyclical ‘Ofsted’ style regime.

- 11.1 The RSH and Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) will work more closely together and the names of landlords who are served with a maladministration finding by the Housing Ombudsman will also be published. The Bill will require both organisations to co-operate and to publish and maintain a memorandum setting out how this will work in practice.

The HOS will be able to direct Housing Providers to examine their own policies and procedures if, as a result of investigating a complaint, they find that something relating to the policy framework is an underlying cause of the issue referred to them.

12 NCC approach to ensuring that we are ready

We have been preparing for the passing of the new legislation by completing a gap analysis to identify areas where focus was required to ensure that we will be compliant with the new legislation. We have leads for each of the areas with responsibility for delivery.

This analysis is being used to develop improvement plans to help drive the changes that are needed.

Improvement plans for each of the seven chapters of the white paper are being created and we are collating evidence in the areas of where we assess ourselves of meeting the requirements, and areas where we need to explore further. This action plan is being monitored by our Housing Operations Manager and our Director of Housing and Public Protection is receiving regular updates.

- 12.1 The passing of the Social Housing Regulation Bill may change some of the areas, they may not all appear in the final Bill, so we are monitoring the pilots and government amendments to the bill closely to ensure we are in the best position to meet new regulation and are in regular contact with Bernicia Homes who are part of the formal inspection pilot.

For example, the government on the 7th February 2023, has tabled amendments to the Social Housing Regulation Bill to introduce “Awaabs Law” which will require landlords to fix reported health hazards within specified timeframes. The new rules will form part of the tenancy agreement so tenants can hold landlords to account by law if they fail to provide a decent home.

In August 2021, a comprehensive review of the Housing Service was carried out led by the Improvement and Innovation Service. One of the findings was that the service was surviving, not thriving and part of this was due to insufficient capacity from the Management Structure downwards to deal with the additional pressures that will be placed on the service due to these regulatory changes.

As a result, funding has been identified within the Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-24 to restructure parts of the service as failure to invest in service provision will expose the council to greater risk of intervention by the Regulator whilst also reducing the ability as a landlord to provide the services that our tenants, not only pay for, but have the right to expect.

13 Conclusion

- 13.1 The White Paper has given housing organisations an informed steer on the new direction the government and the regulator will be taking in the future and the sector awaits the new Social Housing Regulation Bill. Until the regulators pilots and further consultations are complete then final detail about the inspection regime is still uncertain, but we are confident that we are in a strong position following the work completed.

It is anticipated that the Social Housing Regulation Bill will gain royal assent by the Spring 2023 and the new approach to be implemented from April 2024.

Implications

Policy	Not applicable
Finance and value for money	Not applicable at this stage. Although it will be a future requirement to be able to demonstrate best value under the new statutory arrangements
Legal	None at this stage
Procurement	None
Human Resources	<p>To ensure compliance by the proposed April 2024 implementation date, a working group of senior officers has been established and leads assigned. An initial gap analysis has taken place to ensure that the areas that require additional resource and time commitment to ensure compliance are prioritised.</p> <p>Social housing providers will have to ensure that all their staff - from neighbourhood housing officers to senior management - have the right skills, experience, and knowledge to deliver a high-quality service for residents. This will be set out and enforced by the regulator to increase ensure housing staff are better equipped to support tenants, deal effectively with complaints, and make sure homes are good quality.</p>
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	The proposal within this report do not adversely impact on any member of staff, or public due to individual or multiple protected characteristics
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon Reduction	None

Health and Wellbeing	None
Wards	All of those where NCC own and manage housing as part of the Housing Revenue Account

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Ashley Turkington
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Janice Rose
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Briefing Note to Communities and Place OSC

Directorate:	Planning & Local Services
Subject:	Briefing Note – For information: S106 Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) 2021-2022. Including breakdown of funds for each Local Area Committee.
Date:	8 th February 2023

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations require all planning authorities that enter into S106 planning obligations to publish a yearly statement.

This is the third report to be submitted and published. This year's statement, following specific requests from members, now includes a breakdown of all S106 funds for each of the 5 Local Area Committees (LACS). It should be noted that in all areas, funding for education and healthcare are considered as ringfenced for future schemes and are shown as 'allocated' but not yet spent. This is because the timeframe for these types of infrastructure can span several years.

The addition of the LAC breakdown data is one of the first steps we are introducing to be more transparent about S106 agreements and to help everyone understand more about the financial and non-financial obligations contained within them.

Feedback from DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities) on last year's Infrastructure Statement was very positive, they commented

“ The Northumberland CC IFS for 20/21 (as for 2019/20) really was one of the very best: clear, concise, informative, very well presented case studies, great design overall and meeting all regulatory requirements”

“The key thing of course though for an IFS is the provision of clear information to developers and local residents, and your IFS appears to be exemplary in that”

Recommendations

This paper is for information purposes only.

Report Author

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Northumberland
County Council

Northumberland Infrastructure Funding Statement

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From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

www.northumberland.gov.uk

About This Statement

This Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is a report providing a summary of all financial and non-financial developer contributions, within Northumberland, for the financial year 2021/2022.

This is the third Infrastructure Funding Statement produced by Northumberland County Council. Recent changes to legislation (The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations – Regulation 121A and Schedule 2) mean the Council is required to publish such a statement annually.

How to use this statement

The Infrastructure Funding Statement is intended to provide users with a guide to developer contributions in Northumberland. In summary, the statement comprises the following:

Executive Summary: This sums up the IFS, including the key headlines.

Section 1 provides an introduction and background.

Section 2 details the total amount of money agreed under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions agreed in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.

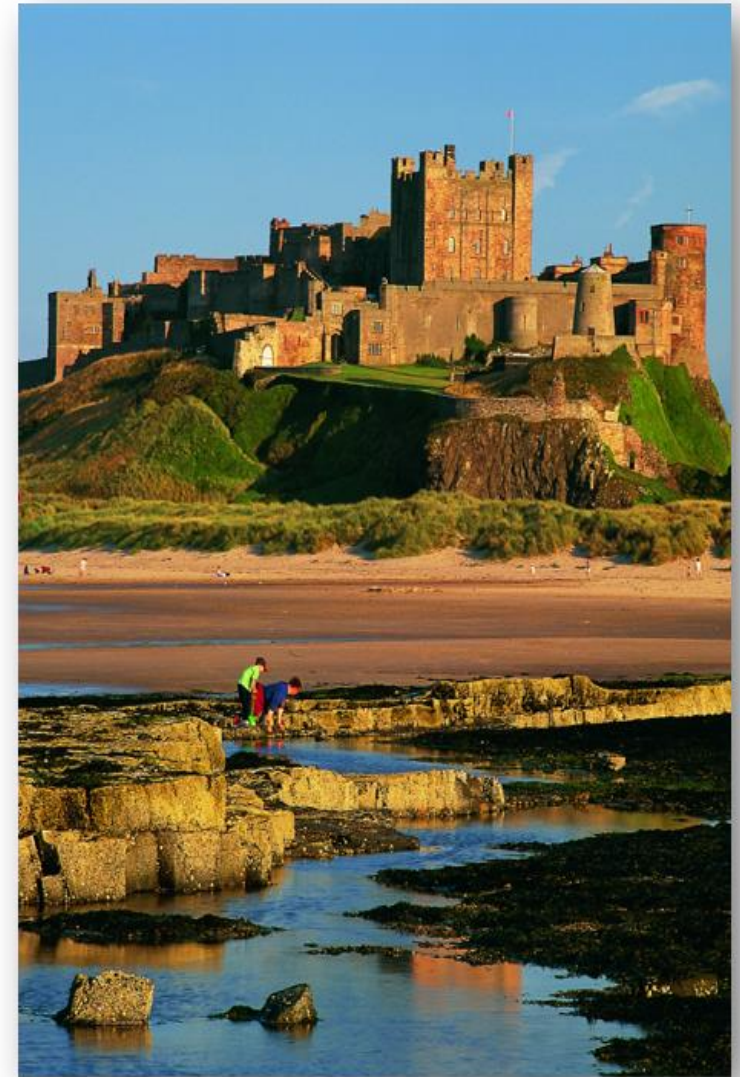
Section 3 details the money from planning obligations spent and committed in the financial year, and the money not yet spent.

Section 4 details the money agreed from Section 278 Agreements (Highways)

Section 5 offers some summing up and consideration of future priorities.

Appendix: case studies, some background to developer contributions to the Coastal Mitigation Service and an example affordable housing scheme

Glossary – There is a jargon busting glossary at the end of this document.



Executive Summary

This is the third Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) produced by Northumberland County Council.

As Northumberland County Council is not currently a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Authority, this IFS does not report on CIL. It instead focusses on Section 106 agreements, and additionally reports on Section 278 (Highway Agreements).

The total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered during the reported year is **£13,674,643.51**.

The total amount of money received from planning obligations during the reported year was **£4,631,842.89**. These contributions will play a critical role in delivering much needed affordable housing and necessary infrastructure and mitigation measures, including education, healthcare, sport and play and coastal mitigation.

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The delivery of **167** affordable homes have been agreed in the reported year along with **193** school places.

There was also **£3,485,334.18** secured by s278 Highway agreements during this year for highway improvement works.

The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year is **£10,830,516.24**. The Council will work to ensure the money is effectively and lawfully spent.

Section 1. Introduction

Planning Obligations are planning tools that can be used to secure financial and non-financial contributions, and to put in place certain requirements or restrictions, to ensure new development can be made acceptable in planning terms.

The terms 'Planning Obligations' and 'Section 106 agreements' usually refer to the same thing. They are legal agreements which can be attached to a planning permission to support development and mitigate the impacts of development.

The term 'developer contributions' may also be used. This can refer to the same thing, but can also encompass other 'contributions', namely the Community Infrastructure Levy and contributions for highway works linked to new development.



Northumberland County Council currently secures planning obligations. It is therefore the authority's responsibility to ensure that the requirements for obligations are necessary, fair and reasonable. It is also the authority's responsibility to ensure that contributions are spent lawfully and effectively and that these are reported on. The aim of this Infrastructure Funding Statement is to improve transparency of monitoring and reporting, specifically in respect of Section 106 agreements for financial and non-financial contributions, but also Section 278 Agreements.

A Community Infrastructure Levy In Northumberland

The Community Infrastructure Levy, is a fixed rate levy, charged per square metre of new development. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure required to support development across the local authority area. To date, **Northumberland County Council is not a charging authority i.e., there is currently no Community Infrastructure Levy charge in Northumberland.**

The government has signalled potential reforms to the Levy and to wider system of developer contributions. The Council is closely monitoring the proposals, and potential implications for Northumberland.

Should the Levy be introduced, details of the money collected and how it is spent will be reported in future versions of the Infrastructure Funding Statement.

Detailed guidance on CIL is provided in national Planning Practice Guidance.



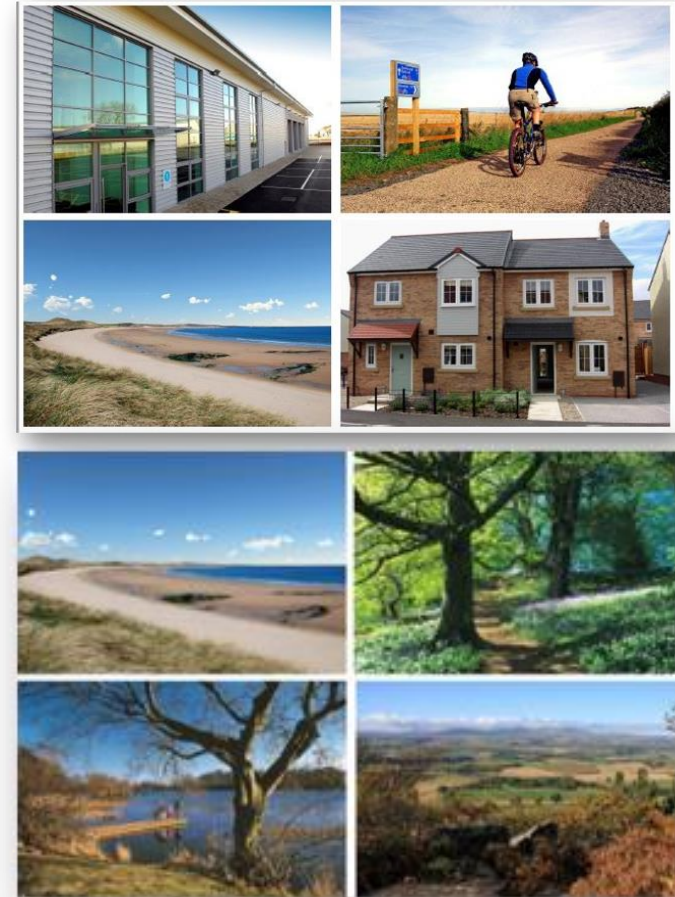
Planning Obligations in Northumberland

The planning obligations reported on in this Infrastructure Funding Statement, were collected under the provisions of the Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework and associated Supplementary Planning Documents.

Detailed guidance on Section 106 agreements is provided in national Planning Practice Guidance. The following summarises the basics:

- Section 106 agreements are used to mitigate the impacts of development and make it acceptable in planning terms;
- Section 106 can only be used where they meet certain legal tests. That is that the obligations must be:
 - A. necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
 - B. directly related to the development; and
 - C. fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development;
- Section 106 obligations can include:
 - Requirements for parts of a development to be used in certain ways, for example for affordable housing; Requirements for certain works to be undertaken or for other requirements and/or restrictions on the form of the development; or
 - Financial contributions to address the impacts of development (the focus of this IFS).

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Section 2

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Details the total amount of money under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.

A. The total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered during the reported year is **£13,674,643.51**.

This figure does not consider indexation (inflation/deflation) that may be applied when the money becomes due.

B. The total amount of money received from planning obligations during the reported year was **£4,631,842.89**

C. The total amount of money received prior to the reported year that has not been spent is £7,699,318.41

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Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 3

Please note, amounts shown in this report are maximum amounts and the final contribution paid can vary and is dependent on viability, phasing of the scheme and submission of any reserved matters which could alter the final payment. The reader should also be aware that proposed developments may never commence or can change during time. Trigger points for payments may never be realised for a variety of reasons.

Section 2 cont....

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Details the total amount of money under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.

D. During the reported year the following non-monetary contributions have been agreed under planning obligations

i) The total number of Affordable Housing units to be provided is 167.

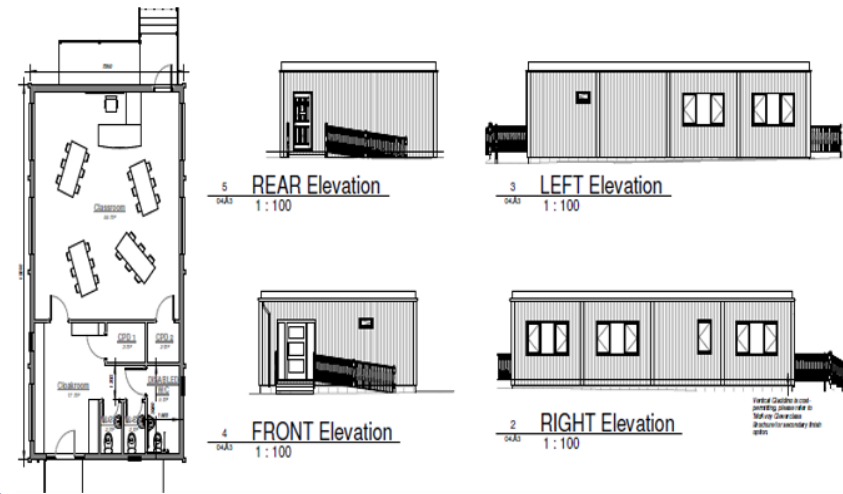
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The following Education provisions have been agreed under S106 agreements: Total school places 193.

Type	
Primary School	127
Secondary/High School	63
Special Education Needs (SEN)	3



Temporary modular school building



Section 3

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Details the money from planning obligations spent and committed in the financial year and the money not yet spent.

E. The total amount of money from planning obligations allocated towards infrastructure during the reported year was £7,001,792.65 Of this amount £6,049,521.80 was not spent during the reported year.

F. The total amount of money from planning obligations spent during the reported year was £1,500,645.06 Of this amount £980,048.00 was spent by a third party on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

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Committed Funds

Affordable Housing

The Council have received 5 applications for funding for Affordable Housing schemes seeking a combined total of £2.2M

G. The items in the table have had money allocated towards them during the reported year with unspent allocations:
Please note expenditure of contributions are often time limited and many projects require several months and in some cases years for the schemes to be implemented. Awards are closely monitored to ensure funds are spent in accordance with the legal agreements.

Infrastructure	Allocated
Education 2021-22	£105,600.00
Ecology 21/22	£224,166.96
Newbrough and Warden Sportsfield Association	£20,835.00
Hexham TC - Sele Skatepark	£81,000.00
Cambois Rowing Club	£9,467.00
Education 22/23	£1,579,828.41
Education 23/24	£1,400,799.00
Affordable Housing 2022/2023	£574,943.00
Affordable Housing 2023/2024	£301,085.03
North Healthcare 2022/2023	£179,399.64
SE Healthcare 2022/2023	£359,886.00
West Healthcare 2022/2023	£17,400.00
SE Highways 2022/2023	£378,974.57
North Highways 2022/2023	£436,400.00
Ecology 2022/2023	£293,172.00
Ecology 2023/2024	£68,881.19

Section 3 cont...

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Details the money from planning obligations spent and committed in the financial year, and the money not yet spent.

H. In relation to money which was spent by Northumberland County Council during the reported year:

i. The items of infrastructure that planning obligation money has been spent on and the amount spent are shown in the table:

Infrastructure	Spent	Date Spent	Spend Description
Corbridge Tennis Club	£36,642.00	8-Apr-21	*Includes Third Party spending
NCC Maintenance of open space	£4,000.00	31 March 2009 to 01 April 2021	
Bethall Beadnell	£2,300.00	31 March 2015 to 01 April 2021	
Cramlington Town Council	£10,638.00	2-Aug-21	*Includes Third Party spending
Tynedale Cricket Club - ground works	£18,663.00	6-Oct-21	*Includes Third Party spending
Highways TRO Priory Gardens	£3,000.00	6-Aug-21	
Broad Road SEahouses	£3,120.00	31 March 2019 to 01 April 2021	
Bernicia Rosebrough	£899,011.00	8-Oct-21	*Includes Third Party spending
Highways The Bunker	£35,000.00	28-Jul-21	
Stakeford and Bomardsund Cricket	£15,094.00	18-Mar-22	*Includes Third Party spending
WilloughbyBank POS	£28,595.85	13-Oct-21	

ii) The amount of planning obligation money spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure which that money was £0.00

iii) The amount of planning obligation money spent in respect of administration of planning obligations and monitoring in relation to the delivery of planning obligations during the reported year was £17,240

I. The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year is **£10,830,516.24**

Section 4

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Details the money agreed and spent from Section 278 Agreements

Some development schemes require a contribution towards highway improvement works (in addition to any Section 38 or Section 278 agreements.) Examples of highway obligations can include, contributions towards the cost of installing Road Traffic orders, speed restrictions, new roundabouts, or improved pedestrian crossing. Photographs here show an improved pedestrian scheme in Blyth.

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Highway Infrastructure

- **Section 278 Matters**

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 4

- The following matters are agreements entered into during the reported year in respect to Highways Agreements under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980. Totaling **£3,485,334.18**

- Please see the allocation and bond sums as described below.

Site:	Planning Ref:	Bond Sum
Pr Stamlington - Beacon Lane	15/01898/DISCON 10/S/00473/FUL	£2,558,698
Gr Fineshaugh (Woodland Rise), Corbridge Road, Hexham	15/02221/REM 13/01208/OUT	£70,000
Bedlington - Choppington Road	16/04731/OUT	£182,648
Land North East of Pegswood First School, Pegswood	19/02747/FUL	£105,000
Land North East Of Tesco Alemouth Road Hexham Northumberland	19/00277/FUL	£214,809
Acklington, Land North West of Acklington Drive	18/00560/OUT, 20/03673/REM	£354,179

Section 5

Conclusions

The money agreed, received and spent under Planning Obligation agreements can be seen to make a valuable contribution to securing infrastructure and mitigation measures, which can support development, benefit local communities and support the provision of local infrastructure in Northumberland.

The Council will work, with stakeholders, to ensure that contributions which have not yet been allocated or spent, are appropriately and effectively delivered.

The Council will also work to continually improve the systems in which planning obligations operate, such as the mechanisms by which planning obligations are agreed, how they are allocated and how they are monitored. In respect of the latter, it should be noted that the Council has recently introduced fees for monitoring to ensure effectiveness of processes and procedures. Monitoring fees will similarly be reported in future Infrastructure Funding Statements.

FUTURE PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

Future income from planning obligations is difficult to predict. At this point in time the Council considers it cannot provide an estimate. This is in part on account of a changing Development Plan context. The Council will however look to introduce forecasting in future Infrastructure Delivery Plans.

FUTURE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Pending potential national reforms to the Community Infrastructure Levy, should such a charge be introduced in Northumberland, future iterations of the Infrastructure Funding Statement will include details of the Levy collected and how it has been allocated and spent. It will also project likely future Levy income over the next financial year.

OUR FEEDBACK

Community and stakeholder understanding and engagement in developer contributions is a key objective. If you have any comments on the usability of this document or if there are matters you would like to see addressed in future versions of the Infrastructure Funding Statement, to enhance transparency, please contact the Council's Planning Department.

Section 5 cont.

Spending Priorities

Developer contributions will be used to deliver strategic policies including:

Affordable Housing - Supporting the delivery of affordable homes is a priority for the Council. Evidence shows that many households in Northumberland cannot afford market housing. New development will be required to provide a proportion of affordable housing, usually on-site as part of new development.

Coastal Mitigation Service – Increased recreation-related disturbance on the coast is a particular concern because most of the Northumberland coast is designated as SSSI on account of its nationally important bird populations; and much of it is also designated as SPA and 'Ramsar Site' (because of the international importance of some of these populations). In order to ensure that effective mitigation can be provided to address this problem, the Council has introduced the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service. This is a developer-funded wardening service to protect the coastal environment (see Appendix).

Education provision – new housing generates additional pupils. Where there are capacity constraints at nearby schools it may be necessary to secure developer contributions towards expanding capacity and creating additional pupil places.

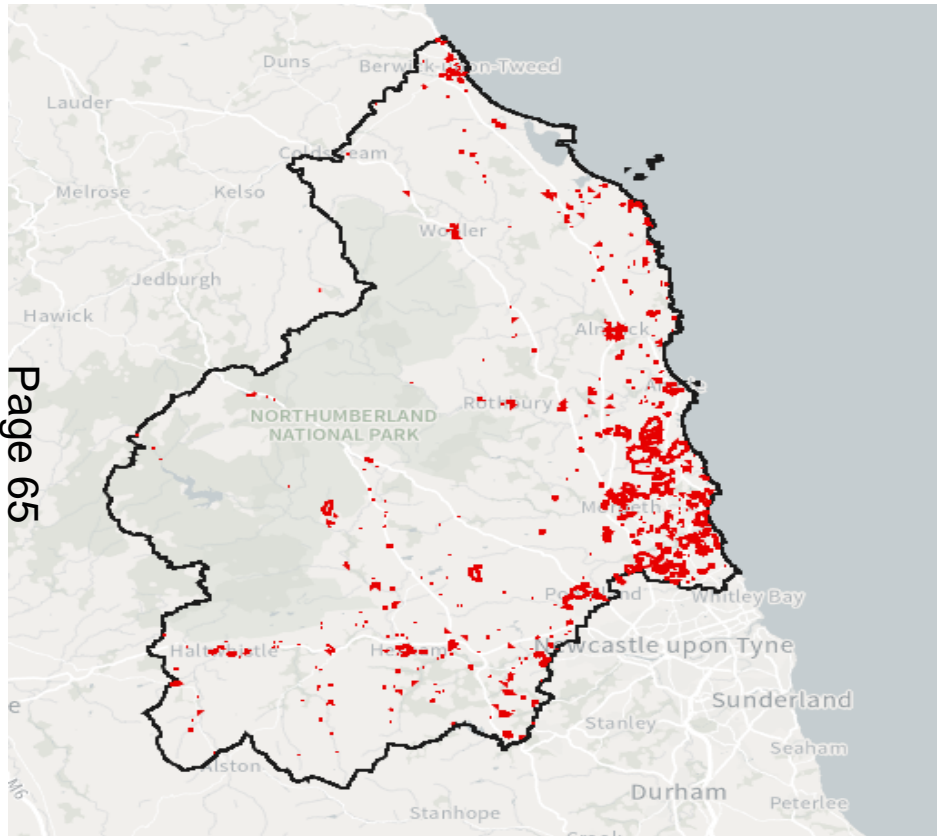
Healthcare provision – there are known capacity constraints in some parts of the County in respect of primary health care such as GP practices. Where appropriate and necessary, developer contributions will be sought to address the additional needs generated by new development.

Open space and sport and play - the provision of open space, sport and play varies across the County. Where appropriate, developer contributions will be sought to address provision. In the most part this will target improvements to existing provision, for example to improve quality or accessibility.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Northumberland Local Plan was adopted on the 31st March 2022. The Local Plan is the new statutory development plan for Northumberland, alongside all 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. The Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans set out new policies under which future planning obligations will be secured.

Map showing locations of developments with S106 agreements



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Looking for a copy of a S106 agreement?

Please use this link to search our Northumberland map to help locate it.

[Interactive Self-Serve Section 106 Agreement Map](#)

Local Area Committees

- Northumberland's planning committees are broken down into 5 different area committees
- Figures on the following five pages show the total of \$106 funds collected for each local area since contributions were recorded by NCC (circa 2012 onwards to present day)

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND	TYNEDALE (13)	CASTLE MORPETH	CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON and SEATON VALLEY(12)	ASHINGTON AND BLYTH (16)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alnwick (1) ● Alnwick (1) ● Amble ● Amble West with Warkworth ● Bamburgh ● Berwick East ● Berwick North ● Berwick West with Ord ● Longhoughton ● Norham and Islandshires ● Rothbury ● Shilbottle ● Wooler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bellingham ● Bywell ● Corbridge ● Haltwhistle ● Haydon and Hadrian ● Hexham Central with Acomb ● Hexham East ● Hexham West ● Humshaugh ● Prudhoe North ● Prudhoe South ● South Tynedale ● Stocksfield with Broomhaugh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choppington ● Druridge Bay ● Longhorsley ● Lynemouth ● Morpeth Kirkhill ● Morpeth North ● Morpeth Stobhill ● Pegswood ● Ponteland East and Stannington ● Ponteland North ● Ponteland South with Heddon ● Ponteland West ● Stakeford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bedlington Central ● Bedlington East ● Bedlington West ● Cramlington East ● Cramlington Eastfield ● Cramlington North ● Cramlington South East ● Cramlington Village ● Cramlington West ● Hartley ● Holywell ● Seghill with Seaton Delaval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashington Central ● Bothal ● College ● Cowpen ● Croft ● Haydon ● Hirst ● Isabella ● Kitty Brewster ● Newbiggin Central and East ● Newsham ● Plessey ● Seaton with Newbiggin West ● Sleekburn ● South Blyth ● Wensleydale

Local Area Committee Breakdown

North Northumberland

Type	Potential	Received	Spent	Balance	Allocated	Unallocated
Alnwick Town Centre & Public Transport	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£-	£20,000.00	£-	£20,000.00
Affordable Housing	£2,976,970.00	£2,435,482.00	£1,326,294.00	£1,109,188.00	£1,109,188.00	£-
Community Facilities	£298,966.35	£226,966.35	£183,837.85	£43,128.50	£-	£43,128.50
Ecology	£1,716,599.77	£411,151.23	£46,260.38	£364,890.85	£347,185.58	£17,705.27
Education	£5,146,272.00	£990,972.00	£-	£990,972.00	£990,972.00	£-
Sport & Play	£674,120.00	£419,120.00	£134,074.92	£285,045.08	£138,200.00	£146,845.08
Healthcare	£1,669,496.60	£569,096.60	£-	£569,096.60	£507,493.60	£61,603.00
Highway	£488,400.00	£330,400.00	£24,500.00	£305,900.00	£305,900.00	£-
Pre 2009 funds carried forward from former Councils	£291,379.00	£256,795.00	£191,980.00	£64,815.00	£37,160.00	£27,655.00
Other	£32,000.00	£25,000.00	£-	£25,000.00	£-	£25,000.00
Recycling	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£-	£-	£-
General Sport	£420,612.00	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-
Transport	£123,000.00	£123,000.00	£110,000.00	£13,000.00	£-	£13,000.00
Total	£13,860,315.72	£5,810,483.18	£2,019,447.15	£3,791,036.03	£3,436,099.18	£354,936.85

Local Area Committee Breakdown Tynedale

Type	Potential	Received	Spent	Balance	Allocated	Unallocated
Historic Kilns Restoration	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	£-	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	£-
Affordable Housing	£1,173,539.00	£787,187.50	£250,000.00	£537,187.50	£531,000.00	£6,187.50
Ecology	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£-	£10,000.00	£-	£10,000.00
Education	£198,000.00	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-
Play	£1,819,099.29	£1,584,215.32	£1,300,155.41	£284,059.91	£88,094.00	£195,965.91
Sport	£2,015,789.00	£1,887,810.00	£1,615,376.97	£272,433.03	£216,857.90	£55,575.13
Healthcare	£172,536.00	£17,400.00	£-	£17,400.00	£17,400.00	£-
Highway	£38,000.00	£38,000.00	£38,000.00	£-	£35,000.00	-£35,000.00
SUDS	£83,188.00	£83,188.00	£83,188.00	£-	£-	£-
Open Space	£36,000.00	£36,000.00	£15,000.00	£21,000.00	£21,000.00	£-
Total	£5,606,151.29	£4,503,800.82	£3,301,720.38	£1,202,080.44	£969,351.90	£232,728.54

Local Area Committee Breakdown

Castle Morpeth

Type	Potential	Received	Spent	Balance	Allocated	Unallocated
Affordable Housing	£5,426,635.64	£3,635,796.03	£1,991,835.57	£1,643,960.46	£1,643,960.46	£-
Community Facilities	£63,500.00	£63,500.00	£37,500.00	£26,000.00	£26,000.00	£-
Ecology	£214,395.96	£36,873.44	£-	£36,873.44	£24,390.00	£12,483.44
Education South	£3,134,374.80	£1,212,493.00	£277,373.85	£935,119.15	£935,119.15	£-
Healthcare	£344,521.24	£152,342.04	£-	£152,342.04	£152,342.04	£-
Highways	£535,813.00	£535,813.00	£173,523.60	£362,289.40	£362,289.40	£-
Minerals and Waste	£338,280.86	£338,280.86	£205,831.11	£132,449.75	£99,723.94	£32,725.81
Recycling	£21,070.00	£21,070.00	£21,070.00	£-	£-	£-
	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£-	£-	£-
Transport	£1,308,000.00	£888,000.00	£488,580.60	£399,419.40	£381,419.40	£18,000.00
Total	£11,396,591.50	£6,894,168.37	£3,205,714.73	£3,688,453.64	£3,625,244.39	£63,209.25

Local Area Committee Breakdown

Cramlington Bedlington and Seaton Valley

Type	Potential	Received	Spent	Balance	Allocated	Unallocated
Affordable Housing	£1,185,686.00	£1,185,686.00	£1,013,011.00	£172,675.00	£172,675.00	£-
Planning Co-ordinator	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Community Facilities	£30,000.00	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£-	£-	£-
Community Sport	£1,715,996.00	£458.00	£458.00	£-	£-	£-
Ecology	£2,329,697.61	£159,590.21	£63,442.61	£96,147.60	£67,905.00	£28,242.60
Education	£8,985,488.00	£987,500.00	£-	£987,500.00	£987,500.00	£-
Sport	£401,733.20	£318,913.20	£278,271.98	£40,641.22	£10,000.00	£30,641.22
Healthcare	£786,000.00	£197,250.00	£-	£197,250.00	£197,250.00	£-
Highways	£937,400.00	£797,900.00	£184,471.29	£613,428.71	£606,428.71	£7,000.00
Pre 2009 funds carried forwarded from former Councils	£26,580.00	£26,580.00	£20,080.00	£6,500.00	£-	£6,500.00
Play	£660,633.90	£428,097.90	£422,021.40	£6,076.50	£-	£6,076.50
South West Sector (SWS) Sport	£863,500.00	£396,750.00	£42,000.00	£354,750.00	£-	£354,750.00
Transport	£22,000.00	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-
Travel Plan Co-ordinator SWS	£116,600.00	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-
total	£18,101,314.71	£4,558,725.31	£2,063,756.28	£2,494,969.03	£2,051,758.71	£443,210.32

Local Area Committee Breakdown

Ashington and Blyth

Type	Potential	Received	Spent	Balance	Allocated	Unallocated
Affordable Housing	£554,539.00	£417,268.00	£100,000.00	£317,268.00	£317,268.00	£0.00
Community Facilities	£397,220.00	£397,220.00	£340,700.00	£56,520.00	£0.00	£56,520.00
Ecology	£1,041,869.00	£353,411.00	£29,400.00	£324,011.00	£322,475.00	£1,536.00
Education	£6,038,015.75	£1,188,928.41	£75,000.00	£1,113,928.41	£1,123,395.41	£-9,467.00
Play	£337,643.90	£336,707.90	£323,315.90	£13,392.00	£0.00	£13,392.00
Sport	£588,412.59	485,308.39	£364,609.13	£120,699.26	£0.00	£120,699.26
Sport General	£656,000.00	0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Healthcare	£717,600.00	£99,300.00	£0.00	£99,300.00	£99,300.00	£0.00
Highway	£1,101,895.53	£434,684.53	£222,500.00	£212,184.53	£212,184.53	£0.00
Pre 2009 funds carried forwarded from former Councils	£46,973.12	£46,973.12	£36,473.12	£10,500.00	£0.00	£10,500.00
Open Space	£13,502.00	£13,502.00	£13,502.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Transport	£243,132.30	£3,132.30	£0.00	£3,132.30	£0.00	£3,132.30
total	£11,736,803.19	£3,776,435.65	£1,505,500.15	£2,270,935.50	£2,074,622.94	£196,312.56

APPENDIX Space for Shorebirds – Coastal Mitigation Service

The Northumberland coast plays host to an amazing array of birdlife. Nearly all of the Northumberland coast is protected because of the nationally and internationally important bird populations that live there, including a wide range of migratory and wintering waders and breeding tern species.

Wading birds such as turnstone and purple sandpiper live on our rocky shores, finding their food and safe places to roost. Human recreation can however interrupt their normal behaviours causing them to fly away, costing them energy reserves that can be hard replace during the cold dark winter months. These birds fly north in late spring to breed on arctic tundra and coasts in order to raise their families.

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Space for Shorebirds is the public facing name of Northumberland County Council's Coastal Mitigation service. This is a wildlife ranger service that is funded by developer contributions to address the impact of increased visitor pressure on coastal bird populations arising from housing and tourism development. The focus of Space for Shorebirds is education and engagement to increase awareness of bird populations and asking people to give the birds space in order to reduce disturbance. We do this primarily by having a physical presence at the coast talking to beach users about the birds and by extensive use of social media.



Map showing contribution Areas

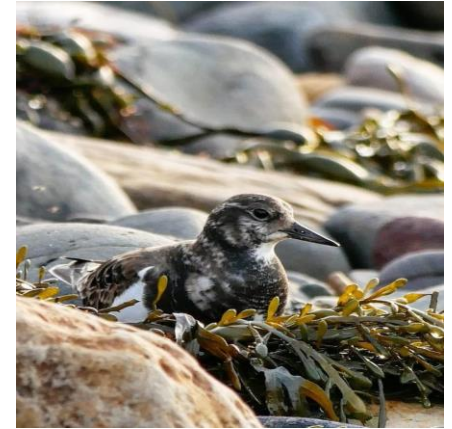
APPENDIX Space for Shorebirds - Coastal Mitigation Service

During the year to April 2022 the service also developed more relationships with parish magazines, where we provide articles and bird photographs to the magazines and they kindly include our text, helping us to reach other parts of the community that aren't active on social media. Partnership working is a feature of Space for Shorebirds and during the year rangers worked with Coast Care (volunteering charity), the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership, Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership, Northumbria Police and landowners whose assistance is vital during the breeding bird season.

The year to April 2022 was the first year following covid when the rangers were able to offer a full Shorebirds for Beginners events calendar, including events such as guided walks. In total 10 events were held and 83 people in total attended.

The feedback from the events has been inspiring, and several people new to shorebirds have gone from these sessions to volunteering with Coast Care, then in turn have become involved in supporting our breeding season work by undertaking surveys and carrying out nest watch duties.

A small sample of feedback from Shorebirds for Beginners events: "What a fantastic morning. Thanks to Richard and Katherine for the lovely weather, great birds and really interesting explanations" "Absolutely lovely morning, really interesting & Richard & Katherine were both so kind and welcoming. Such an important thing to learn about our birds and how our actions walking along the coast can impact them.



Top: Turnstone at Seaton Point
Bottom: Ringed plover chick at Embleton

APPENDIX Space for Shorebirds



Shorebirds for
Beginners Event at
Newbiggin

Purple Sandpiper at Stage
Rock, near Bamburgh



Colin the dog ranger with
Katherine the ranger

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Rangers
& volunteers
undertaking pirri
pirri burr control



APPENDIX A Case Study: Affordable Housing

Longstone Manor, Acklington Road, Amble

Home Group Limited are a national Registered Provider who provide quality affordable housing units to local communities. The site already had planning permission for a scheme which was providing 15% affordable homes, however, it was identified that Amble needed more newer affordable housing units for rent which were not provided on the other developments. Home Group Limited applied for £1,367,500 to provide **an additional 45 affordable units onsite** which would help meet the current demand for the area. This was made possible and viable by assisting Home Group with funding from the housing developer fund. A key factor in providing the grant was 2 larger 4-bedroom family homes which are difficult to obtain on the mainstream housing developments.

Longstone Manor is situated on the edge of Amble and is currently being developed by Persona Homes (Home Group private developer site). The development will be built out over the next 5 years so the units will provide a good supply of affordable units for the future.

The breakdown in house and tenure types is as follows:-

Rented units

- 2 x 2-bedroom units
- 15 x 3-bedroom units
- 2 x 4-bedroom units

Shared ownership

- 12 x 2-bedroom units
- 14 x 3-bedroom units



APPENDIX

A Case Study: Education

Where a new housing development is forecast to create a demand for school places in excess of those available in the catchment area of the development, the local authority will seek an education contribution from developers that reflects the likely costs of the additional places required.

The LPA carry out a consultation with the Education department on all major planning residential applications of 10 or more houses. A contribution will always be sought where a school's actual pupil population is at 95% or more of its maximum capacity.

Since the introduction of the Council's Education infrastructure Contribution Policy in September 2017, almost 200 consultation responses have been issued. To date 95 legal agreements have been agreed and signed which include a contribution for Education provision with an expected overall total in the region of £17m*.

*Note, that the expected amount of contributions is subject to change and can be reduced significantly if a scheme is amended, expires, or re-negotiations based on viability or changes in the reserved matters stage.



New school approved for Seaton Delaval

To date **£3,995,127** has been paid through developer's contributions for Education provision in Northumberland.

APPENDIX

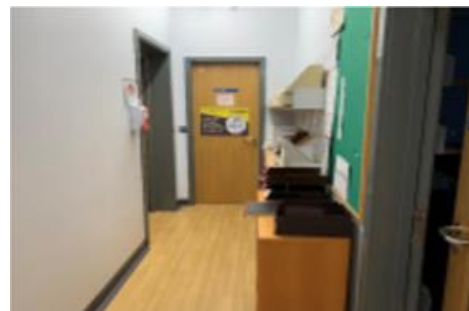
A Case Study Healthcare

GP's can increase their capacity by investing in a number of Infrastructure improvements. Some of these will involve constructing completely new GP buildings, physical space with extensions or alterations, but other possible uses of S106 funds could involve technology or equipment to reduce consultation times, thus allowing more patients to be seen.

S106 funding has recently been used to carry out some internal modelling works at Guidepost Medical Health Centre, North Parade, GuidePost, Choppington, NE62 5RA

This work to the Surgery was to expand patient capacity and services at the Health Centre.

Building Work was carried out to change the existing admin and office space to create additional consulting room.



APPENDIX

A Case Study: Sport and Play

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MUGA
Multi Use Games Area

MUGA - Tedder Place Longhoughton Northumberland

£40,000 S106 funds were match funded with contributions from the RAF Benevolent fund and Parish Council to provide a scheme costing £95,000



APPENDIX A Case Study: Sport

Barnesbury Cycling Club were about to give up on their dream of a Regional Standard BMX Track in Bedlington and ditch their amazing fund-raising efforts as they struggled to get the final part of their required funding. The Council advised them £10,000 was available for them to apply for through the Developers Fund for Sport and Play.

The Club successfully applied and used this money to secure other match funding for a scheme worth £121,000. So great value for \$106 money

The club has appointed specialist track builders Clark & Kent Contractors Ltd – who built the track for the London 2012 Olympic Games – to build the 250-metre track, which will feature a challenging range of obstacles, including

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step-ups, doubles, triples, rollers and banked corners. Barnesbury Cycling Club, said: “We have a good number of members taking part in BMX races at regional and national level, and realised that with the North East’s only other active competition-standard track currently able to stage Regional standard race events, located down in Hartlepool, we needed to be able to offer better facilities closer to home to help riders compete. As well as making a big difference for competitive BMX riders, it will also provide a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages across our local communities to try out a new sport”.

Who knows another Olympic Champion may come from Northumberland!



Glossary

IFS – shorthand for Infrastructure Funding Statement (this document).

Planning Obligation - Planning obligations are legal obligations entered into to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. Planning obligations are also commonly referred to as 'section 106', 's106', as well as 'developer contributions'. (A Planning Obligation can also be via a 'unilateral undertaking', entered into by a person with an interest in the land without the local planning authority.) Obligations can only be sought where they are directly related to the development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development, and necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

Section 106 Agreement – Section 106 Agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 between a Local Planning Authority and applicants for planning permission/developers.

Section 278 agreement - Section 278 Agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Highways Act 1990 between Local Highway Authorities and Developers. Section 278 agreements are required to secure alterations or improvements to the highway.

Section 38 agreement – Section 38 agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Highways Act 1990 between Local Highway Authorities and Developers. Section 38 agreements are required when the highway is offered for adoption as a public highway.

CIL or Community Infrastructure Levy – The Community Infrastructure Levy, is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development. The levy only applies in areas where a local authority has consulted on, and approved, a 'charging schedule'. To date, Northumberland County Council is not a charging authority i.e. there is currently no Community Infrastructure Levy charge in Northumberland. Should the Levy be introduced, details of the money collected and how it is spent will be reported in future versions of the Infrastructure Funding Statement. The Community Infrastructure Levy can also be described as a type of 'developer contribution'.

Glossary

Local Plan - A Local Plan, also referred to as a development plan or development plan document, is at the heart of the planning system, with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan - (Sometimes referred to as **IDP**) An Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies the likely infrastructure requirements of an area, associated with development. In Northumberland, the current Infrastructure Delivery Plan covers the plan period, up to 2036. The Plan is the output of engagement with infrastructure providers to identify current infrastructure capacity, and to determine likely future infrastructure requirements based on the Local Plan. Focussing on strategic infrastructure requirements, the IDP seeks to identify completed, committed, and planned investment across physical, social and green infrastructure types. Where possible the IDP identifies where funding for infrastructure will come from. It also identifies where there are funding gaps.

Agreed – Contributions that have been agreed within a signed legal document. These contributions have not yet been collected. The collection of contributions is usually triggered at certain points of development, or upon commencement of development. If the planning applications are not implemented, the contributions will never be received.

Received – Contributions received, either monetary or non-monetary, by Northumberland County Council

Allocated – Contributions that have been received and allocated to a specific use or project.

Spent/ Delivered – Monetary or non-monetary contributions that have been spent / delivered.

Transferred - Monetary or non-monetary contributions are frequently transferred from the Council to a third party which then delivers the contribution.

Glossary

This Financial Year or This reported year - unless stated otherwise, this refers to the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Affordable Housing - affordable housing is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers). It must also comply with a specific definition of affordable homes (being either: affordable homes for rent, starter homes, discounted market sales housing, or other affordable routes to home ownership)

Further Reading



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Please find the links to useful resources and contact details regarding data and information throughout this report;

To view the latest table showing all S106 financial contributions held and received by the Council. See [Section 106 Contributions Table](#)

To apply for Affordable Housing monies, please refer to the Affordable Housing protocol guidance and application form on the [Affordable Housing web page](#).

To apply for Sport and Play monies please refer to the [Funding for Sport and Play web page](#).

Looking for a copy of a S106 agreement? Please use this link to search our Northumberland map to help locate it.

[Interactive Self-Serve Section 106 Agreement Map](#)

We appreciate all feedback from customers on the provision of this information. If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please complete the form below. We will aim to respond to your comments/questions within 20 working days.

[Section 106 Feedback](#)

Alternatively, If you have any enquiries regarding any of the information in this document, please contact s106instruction@northumberland.gov.uk

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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2022-2023

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

Food Recycling Pilot
Woodhorn Charitable Trust

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

26 April 2023

Library Service Strategy 2021-26

To update the Committee on the implementation of the Strategy.

Northumberland Infrastructure Funding Statement

To consider the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement in respect of Section 106 Agreements.

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2022-2023

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	1 June 2022	Development of the Potland Burn Biodiversity Net Gain Site	RESOLVED that the Committee: 1. Supported the recommendations in the report. 2. The report and presentation be recommended for inclusion within the work programme for the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council with an invitation to Ashington Town Council and Pegswood Parish Council to involve them in the discussion.	No further action required as this time.
Page 88	29 June 2022	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2022/25	RESOLVED that the Committee: 1. Supported the recommendations in the report. 2. The protocol for the setting of EVCP tariff be considered by Communities & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting. 3. Encourage members to undertake the climate change training.	The Committee be consulted prior to the setting of the EVCP Tariff.
3.	29 June 2022	Northumberland Waste Management Strategy – Proposed Food Waste Recycling Pilot Schemes	RESOLVED that the Committee: 1. Supported the recommendations in the report. 2. Consider involvement by local schools in the home compost bin trial. 3. Receive an interim report on the home compost trial in Autumn 2022 with a final report on the kerbside collection in the summer of 2023.	The Committee to receive an update on the trial before the end of the year.
4.	31 August 2022	Fleet Replacement Update	RESOLVED that the work undertaken to deliver a challenging fleet replacement programme during 2021/22, be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive this as an annual update.

5.	31 August 2022	Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan 2022/23	RESOLVED that: a. Cabinet be advised that the Communities & Place OSC endorses the recommendation in the report. b. The Cabinet be recommended to request that the Government makes the displaying of food hygiene ratings at food business premises mandatory.	Cabinet considered the OSC's comments when it determined the report on 21 September 2022.
6.	5 October 2022	Endorsement of the Northumberland Destination Management Plan 2022-2032	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Communities & Place OSC supported the recommendation contained in the report.	Cabinet considered the OSC's comments when it determined the report on 11 October 2022.
7.	5 October 2022	Storm Arwen, Community Resilience Update	RESOLVED that (a) The report be received. (b) The Communities and Place OSC continues to support the concept of community resilience within Northumberland.	The Committee will consider the Storm Arwen recommendations in respect of Adult Care at the January meeting.
Page 89	26 October 2022	Active Northumberland Annual Outcome Report 2021-22 including Service Plan Successes 2021-22	RESOLVED that that Active Northumberland's Annual Outcomes Report 2021-22, be received.	The Committee will continue to receive annual reports of the performance of Active Northumberland.
9.	7 December 2022	Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff Setting Methodology	RESOLVED that that the report be received.	No further action is required at this stage.
10.	7 December 2022	Corporate Feedback Performance 2021/2022	RESOLVED that the report be received.	The Committee will continue to receive annual reports on Corporate Feedback.
11.	11 January 2023	Storm Arwen Review – Adult Care	RESOLVED that the update be received.	Further monitoring of the Adult Care recommendation will be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing OSC.
12.	11 January 2023	Tree and Woodland Strategy	RESOLVED that the information be noted and consideration be given to inclusion of the issues raised in the Tree Management Policy.	The final draft of the Strategy be presented to the Committee in Summer 2023.

13.	8 March 2023	Utility Companies on the Highway	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action is required at this stage.
14.	8 March 2023	Update on Recruitment and retention of On-Call Firefighters	RESOLVED that: a) The contents of the report be noted. b) The committee supported the efforts being made by the Fire and Rescue Service to improve recruitment. c) A report on issues to be implemented to address contamination be added to the work programme.	A further report on the issues raised, particularly around contamination be presented to the Committee.