

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Rebecca Greally

**Email:**

Rebecca.Greally@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622616

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 November 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL** to be held in **ASHINGTON JW RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, ELLINGTON TERRACE, ASHINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE63 8TP** on **WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022** at **4.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

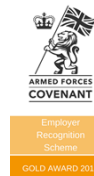
Rick O'Farrell  
Interim Chief Executive

**To Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council members as follows:-**

**J Lang, E Cartie, B Gallacher (Vice-Chair (Planning)), L Grimshaw (Chair), K Nisbet, K Parry, M Purvis, J Reid, E Simpson, C Ball, D Carr (Vice-Chair), C Humphrey, W Ploszaj, M Richardson, A Wallace and A Watson**



**Rick O'Farrell, Interim 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  
- 8)

Minutes of the meetings of Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 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 Registrable Interest or Non Registrable 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](mailto: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. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

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

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

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

And/or:

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

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which for whatever

reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

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

Democratic Services will confirm the status of the progress on any previously requested written answers and follow up any related actions requested by the Local Area Council.

## 5. PETITIONS

(Pages 9  
- 24)

This item is to:

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

**(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:**

- i. Petition regarding South Beach Library, Blyth
- ii. Petition requesting a dog ban on the playing field at Hirst Park, Ashington.

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

## 6. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

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

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

## 7. NORTH OF TYNE MAYOR

The North of Tyne Mayor will provide committee with an update of the work they have undertaken in the area.

**8. NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK**

The Northumberland National Park will provide committee with an overview of the work they are undertaking.

**9. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages  
25 - 30)

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

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 December 2022 (planning only).

**11. 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.

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>			
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>			
<b>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):</b>			
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>		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](#).

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
<b>Sponsorship</b>	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.
<b>Contracts</b>	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.
<b>Land and Property</b>	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.
<b>Licenses</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	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.
<b>Securities</b>	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"> <li>i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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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)

# Agenda Item 2

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council** held on **Wednesday, 12 October 2022 at 4:00 pm** in **Ashington JW Rugby Football Club Ltd, Ellington Terrace, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8TP.**

#### PRESENT

Councillor L Grimshaw (Chair)

#### MEMBERS

C Ball	K Parry
D Carr	W Ploszaj
B Gallacher	M Purvis
C Humphrey	M Richardson
J Lang	E Simpson
K Nisbet	A Wallace
	A Watson

#### OFFICERS

R Greally	Assistant Democratic Services Officer
P Jones	Service Director – Local Services
R Wealleans	Neighbourhood Services Area Manager
K Westerby	Highways Delivery Manager

2 Members of the public were in attendance

#### 01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSCENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor E Cartie.

### 03 MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council meeting held on Wednesday 13 July 2022, as circulated, be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 04 PETITIONS

(a) Members were informed that two e-petitions had recently opened titled; petition to reopen South Beach library and Banks Development petition.

(b) Members were reminded that an update would be received regarding the make Hirst park a dog free area petition. An update was requested by members regarding the dogs must be kept on a leash on Newbiggin promenade petition which would be looked into.

### 05 LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

R. Wealleans, Neighbourhood Service Area manager, gave the following overview:-

#### **Grass Cutting:**

- Grass cutting is coming to the end and remains on target to achieve required number of core cuts in all areas
- We have seen some challenging periods this year due to long spells of very warm and dry weather. This ultimately led to a decision to suspend grass cutting in some areas following assessment and observation of limited growth or browning. Not cutting these areas allowed the grass to recover and for expected visual standards to return.
- We are currently on cut 12 in Blyth and finishing off cuts 10/11 in the following areas: Ashington, Newbiggin, Sleekburn and Cambios.

#### **Street Sweeping:**

- We are working through our normal schedules but will move to leaf hotspots this month
- A usual, please bring any areas in need of sweeping or issues with leaf fall to our attention.

#### **Winter Works**

- We are starting to think about our winter works schedules, we have our routine annual maintenance commitments but welcome early requests from members on any areas which you consider require attention over this coming winter.

#### **Weeds and Weed Trial**

- Weeds this year have proved to be a concern in all areas of Northumberland with particular attention needed to the high

*Chair's Initials.....*

*Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council, 12 October 2022*

residential areas the second spray is ongoing throughout the area with the use of additional staff using the weed ripping equipment.

**Waste:**

- Other than a few minor vehicle breakdowns and staffing shortages, Residual, Recycling and Garden waste collection services are all operating well.
- Income from garden waste has exceeded target.
- Income from commercial waste and bulk collections have also exceeded targets.
- Teams will continue to review existing collection rounds in order to cope with ongoing housing growth as well as continued growth in take up of the garden waste service.
- Bottle recycling facilities continue to receive extra collections due to increased use; this trend has continued post covid.
- Demand for bulky waste collections remains high, extra slots have been created and covered by deploying extra resource when needed.
- Domestic waste tonnages remain higher than normal, various operational adjustments have been made to cope with the demand, but the situation remains a significant challenge for the service.

**Other information to make the LAC aware of**

- Verge cutting has been completed county wide, this was achieved within the target period of June & July.
- The kerbside food waste trial has been delayed due to supply chain issues (vehicle supply) however, the trial is now scheduled to start in November.

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

- Officers confirmed they would check the grass cutting schedule to make sure all grass cutting was finished.
- Officers acknowledged that the green waste trial had a cut off but this was needed to sustain the service.
- Members raised concerns with overgrown brambles and hedges in areas which Officers noted and would follow up. Members acknowledged that removal of brambles had to be carefully investigated to preserve diversity. There was also the need to confirm ownership of land before removing any brambles which would take time.
- It was confirmed to members that when the Authority adopted green spaces from developments a capital lump sum was given to the Authority to take on the land adoption licensed agreement. This was the preferred type of agreement as it reduced the likelihood of dual standards. This adoption was separate to the adoption of highways from developers.

- Members acknowledged that the local plan working group look at green spaces as part of the local plan and local plan was agreed by Councillors. Residents on new housing developments had paid maintenance fees.
- There was a request from members for officers to carry out a survey on ash trees on North Seaton Road. Officers confirmed they would look into it and explained there was an opportune time for this survey which would be early spring.
- Officers assured members that the new reporting system would allow members to keep track of progress and it would be kept up to date to reflect the work undertaken.
- Members asked for the speed of weed sprayers to be reviewed to ensure all weeds were being sprayed.

K. Westerby, Highways Delivery Manager, gave the following overview:-

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

Gully emptier is fully deployed dealing with reported issues and cyclic maintenance.

### **Larger Tarmac Patching**

Larger Tarmac Patching has been carried out in the following locations:

- A189 Spine Road
- Links View, Blyth
- Coniston Road, Blyth
- Ariel Street, Ashington
- Dukes Gardens, Blyth

### **Drainage Improvements:**

Drainage Improvements have been carried out in the following areas:

- Additional Gully Tanker deployed (Storm Arwen)
- A197 Ashington R/A
- Milburn Road, Ashington (Drainage Survey)

## **LTP - Carriageway Resurfacing**

Footway and Carriageway LTP Resurfacing have been carried out the following areas:

- Princess Louise Road, Blyth (Speed humps booked in early Oct)
- Unity Terrace, Cambois
- 4th Avenue, Ashington (Prep)
- Woodhorn Road, Newbiggin (Start 26th Sept)

### **Micro/Surface Dressing**

- Shearwater Way, Blyth
- Rotary Park Way, Ashington

## **Regeneration Scheme**

- Bowes Street, Blyth – Started Monday 10/01/22 (48 Weeks). Phase 1 complete. Works progressing on Phase 2 (Bowes/Wanley Street)
- Waterloo Road, Blyth – Complete

## **Other Work**

- DVC's (Section 184) – NCC continue to deliver
- Woodhorn Road, Newbiggin – Refuse Island

## **Winter Maintenance**

Winter Services observation started on the 1st October 22.

Full Winter Services starts on the 31st October 22

Over the summer we have been working with Vaisala our Weather Station and Bureau provider to upgrade and add additional weather stations countywide. We will also be deploying a number of embedded road sensors. These will all be coming on line over the next few weeks ahead of full deployment on the 31st October.

More info will be given to LAC's in November's Winter Resilience Report.

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

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*Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council, 12 October 2022*

- Officers confirmed the routes for resurfacing had been amended to try and reduce the amount of adhoc repairs unless there was an imminent threat to life.
- There were a number of member's schemes members requested update from including; Woodhorn Road safety scheme and road development between Hodgsons road and Durban street. Officers confirmed they would get an update to members.
- Officers confirmed they were trialing a reporting system for members to receive more up to date details regarding the LTP and members local schemes. It was hoped that this would improve direct contact with elected members. The system would have a diary and show a timeline of the reported item. This was welcomed by members who had raised concerns regarding the suitability of the members scheme process.
- Members noted that different member schemes had to go through different avenues depending on an array of things including if further evidence needed to be gathered but officers acknowledged members frustrations regarding timescales with some schemes.
- There were a number of defects reported to officers including; signage at grand street corner and resurfacing at Percy road which would be chased up. Officers confirmed that there would be phased resurfacing but would confirm with members regarding areas; Eider Close, Mallard Way and Heron Close.
- Officers confirmed that the Authority had a new contract with Newcastle City Council for street lighting and any issues were reported directly to them.
- Members noted that there was a three month wait for speed survey requests but members should receive the details from the surveys once completed.
- Members hoped there would be collaborative work with network management and street works to ensure joined up work would take place for new broadband being installed. It was also hoped that there would be collaborative work between services to help with speed calming measure in Blyth and the new Blyth relief road.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **06 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

P. Jones, Service Director – Local Services and K. Westerby, Highways Delivery Manager, gave a presentation to the committee. The presentation gave member an overview of the service. It outlined the laws the service must abide by as well as the processes that are followed. It also showed members the service current performance and budget along with the innovative new systems to help improve the service.

The following comments were made in response to members questions:-

- All members welcomed the new fix my street app and felt the new reporting system would be greatly beneficial to running the service efficiently.



- Officers confirmed that there were 11 area managers each with a team of 2 for the Authority.
- It was confirmed that external contractors were used by the Authority depending on the demand. However, the Authority was reducing the use of external contractors.
- Members suggested that the managers should move area in the Authority to allow for fresh eyes to do TAMP inspections. The officers took this suggestion on board.
- Members welcomed the idea of apprentices and the succession plan in the service. It was hoped the Authority would help support the apprentices so eventually they could go out and do inspections on their own.

**RESOLVED** that the information in the presentation be noted.

**07 LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED** Members noted the update and the plan.

**08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 4.00 p.m.

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE: ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 2022

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### **Petition Regarding South Beach Library, Blyth**

**Report of:** Nigel Walsh, Interim Service Director

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Jeff Watson, Cabinet Member for Healthy Lives

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#### **Purpose of report**

To acknowledge and respond to the petition and update the Local Area Council on progress made in addressing the issues raised.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members:

1. Note the petition received requesting the reopening of South Beach Library
2. Note the steps being taken to reprovide Library Services following the pandemic to provide a more accessible, improved community resource.

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

The Northumberland County Council (NCC) Corporate Plan 2021-24 has identified the core strategic priorities and supporting key organisational actions of which the following are particularly relevant to the Library Service.

1. **Living** - Evidence confirms the therapeutic value of reading for pleasure, with Libraries offering a lifetime's free supply of reading resources available to all. Library staff are a consistent presence offering support through reading in a space that is safe and free to use; provide a wide range of information and signposting

which supports public health and wellbeing priorities as well as a programme of events and activities that promote wellbeing through social inclusion.

2. **Connecting** - Libraries offer social support networks and information to support residents of Northumberland to seek advice/support within our communities. Libraries offer the space and support to facilitate social support networks through their activity and events programme. They provide supported access to information and signposting that enables residents of Northumberland to obtain advice and support, often within their own community, at the point of need.
3. **Thriving** - Libraries provide support and access to digital learning and skills for those seeking employment; access to space, resources, and expert knowledge for use by existing business owners and potential entrepreneurs for group or individual activity which directly contributes to economic growth and regeneration of communities.
4. **Learning** - Libraries play a significant role in the development of speech, language, and literacy skills (and in turn, in confidence and creativity) with activities such as Storytimes and the Summer Reading Challenge established across the county for children and families. Along with support for reading and creative writing groups of all ages, Library staff will support individuals who wish to pursue their own studies with access to resources and signpost to communities of interest, e.g., local and family history societies.

## **Key Issues**

### **1. The South Beach Library Building**

1.1 South Beach Library is accommodated in a purpose-built single room facility that adjoins the Community Centre (NE24 3RJ) which is run by the Residents Association. The Library and Community Centre are located centrally within the South Beach Estate, near the Bede Academy (South), local shops, the scout hut, and a public house.

1.2 The Council was granted a ground lease from Lord Ridley for the construction of the Library. The lease is for 75 years commencing 25 June 1991. Use of the property is restricted under covenant for the purpose of Public Library provision.

1.3 Any change of use from Public Library provision would require property owner consent. NCC Property Services have indicated that this could be possible however further investigation will be required if this is a consideration.

1.4 The Council has an annual licence agreement with the adjoining Community Centre to enable library staff to have use of their toilets and welfare facilities accessed via a connecting door between the two sites.

### **2. Service Status**

2.1 Pre-pandemic, South Beach Library was open for 4 hours per week. No staffing

budget is specifically allocated to the site so resource is drawn from other libraries to support the limited operating hours.

2.2 During Covid the Library closed in line with government guidance. To continue to support the local Library users a *Doorstep Delivery Service*, which enabled Library members to receive a regular delivery of reading material, commenced. This service was offered to the South Beach Library community with over 100 books being delivered to residents between September 2020 and December 2021. This service continues to the current day.

2.3 Emerging from pandemic the Library Service has reinstated, where possible, business as usual operating arrangements across the extensive countywide library network of 30 sites. As a result of vacancies and unplanned staff absences in the service, a complete return to pre pandemic operating hours has been problematic and consequently South Beach is yet to reopen.

2.4 A designated 'Hub Library' is located in Blyth Town Centre. Characteristics of a Hub Library include:

- Providing a flexible and welcoming community space for group and individual activities such as storytimes, family learning, group and individual study, reading and writing groups
- Convenient town centre positioning with convenient access from a local transport hub
- Access to IT offering support to use different devices, including their own, to residents who have little/no IT skills and/or no access to IT at home for their own purposes including job searching, benefit applications and keeping in touch.
- An events and activities programme that supports the delivery of the Universal Offers in line with local priorities and national initiatives
- A variety of study spaces for those who lack the space and resources at home
- Local studies resources for loan and reference with a focus on the specific local area
- The full range of books and resources for loan

### **3. Previous Community Engagement and Feedback**

3.1 During the Library Service consultation exercise which ran from December 2019 to March 2020, an information drop in session was held at each Library. At the South Beach event, a small number of regular Library users attended on 10 January 2020. From this session it was established that the priorities of those who attended focused on preserving service provision and to encourage children and young people to use the Library. This feedback was noted as part of the overall consultation exercise.

### **4. The Petition**

4.1 On 5 September 2022, Northumberland County Council formally received a petition from residents of the South Beach Estate. The petition has 645 signatories and requests the following options be considered:

- *That the South Beach building reopens as a Library.*
- *That the South Beach building reopens as a Library and provides space for small clubs and groups to use this space for their own community purposes.*

## **5. NCC Activity Following Receipt of the Petition**

5.1 In response to receiving this petition, Nigel Walsh, Interim Service Director, together with Library Service leadership, met with three South Beach resident representatives on site on 20 September 2022 to discuss their concerns, and ambitions, further. During this meeting, residents reaffirmed the wish of the community to see the South Beach site reopen for a defined timetable which extended beyond the pre pandemic 4 hours per week, and to incorporate community groups and activities within the site. Representatives were pragmatic in their stance and expectations, and embraced the concept of a Library Service / volunteer / community group collaboration being formed to realise this vision.

## **6. Future Provision of Library Services on South Beach**

6.1 There is shared ambition between NCC and the resident representatives to re-introduce Library Services for the South Beach area, and an acknowledgement that provision would preferably extend beyond the previous four hours.

6.2 Given the current resource pressures, and the operational constraints of the current building, options are currently being considered for reprovision of Library Services. A potential collaborative model involving local community partners and residents could enable a wider range of service to be provided beyond the current four hours.

6.3 Residents are actively engaged with NCC officers and visits to Libraries managed in collaboration with local community partners, and volunteers, are being coordinated to inform future discussion.

6.4 The management of the Community Centre are also engaged with NCC officers to ensure that any potential future operating model brings the maximum benefits possible to the local community. This is essential due to the physical restrictions, and dependencies, of the Library site and the current agreements in place.

6.5 It should be noted that interest has also been expressed from wider community stakeholders in the future use of the Library building. Decisions on the agreed future model of operation for Library Services will be taken in the context of available resources, sustainability, timescales and the potential for realising maximum benefit for local residents.

## **Background**

## 7. National Context

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

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

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

7.3 The DCMS also highlight that Library Services contribute to seven outcomes critical to the individuals and communities in their areas:

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

### Implications

<b>Policy</b>	Libraries are uniquely placed to help the Council and its partners deliver objectives linked to community cohesion, health and wellbeing, economic growth, promoting independent living or increasing life chances.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None at this stage.
<b>Legal</b>	Library Authorities have a statutory duty under the <a href="#">Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964</a> 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area (section 7). In providing this service, councils must, among other things:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage both adults and children to make full use of the Library Service</li> <li>• lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement</b>	None at this stage
<b>Human Resources</b>	None at this stage
<b>Property</b>	None at this stage
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes No N/a	<p>Any future re-provision will be based on increasing the accessibility and scope of services provided. The self-completion element of the Library Consultation (2020) asked for demographic information from respondents related to the protected characteristics.</p> <p>Libraries provide safe spaces in the heart of their communities and provide many services targeting people who are living on a low income, people who are lonely, unemployed, or elderly, and people with long term medical conditions or disabilities.</p>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None at this stage
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Libraries provide opportunities which foster community engagement and cohesion whilst offering diversionary activity.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	<p>The Library Service is actively engaged with local residents regarding the issues raised.</p> <p>Libraries are trusted spaces, free to enter and open to all. In them, people explore and share reading, information, knowledge and culture.</p> <p>The Libraries Consultation (2020) which informs library strategy was widely publicised in Libraries, via council channels, media and social media and youth council etc. A total of 5,068 respondents completed the self-completion survey; of these over 1,400 responses were received as paper copies, with the rest online. Information drop-in sessions were held at all 30 Libraries across the County for people to find out more about the consultation. Telephone interviews conducted with residents to provide more in-depth views on factors driving some of the key findings from the self-completion survey.</p>
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None at this stage
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Positive impacts for users and potential volunteers would be realised.



<b>Wards</b>	South Blyth
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**Report sign off**

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

	<b>Full Name of Officer</b>
Monitoring Officer / Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Maureen Taylor
Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Jeff Watson

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 Karen Lounton – Interim Head of Service      [karen.lounton@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:karen.lounton@northumberland.gov.uk)

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# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE : **ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL**

DATE: **16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

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### **Petition requesting a dog ban on the playing fields at Hirst Park, Ashington (2<sup>nd</sup> report)**

**Report of:** Paul Jones, Director of Local Services

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr J Riddle, Environment and Local Services

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#### **Purpose of report**

An earlier report was brought to the Committee in April. This follow up report is to provide further data, context and options in respect of dog fouling at Hirst Park's playing fields and the petition received early in 2022.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that members consider the report and:

a) note that a dog control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is already in place that bans dog fouling of land across the whole of publicly accessible land in Northumberland and acknowledge that enforcement action can be taken against dog owners at Hirst Park who do not clean up after their dogs;

b) consider whether the Council should commence a six-month evidence gathering period to determine whether dog fouling/dog control problems at Hirst Park are such as to determine whether the introduction of a new PSPO dog exclusion zone at the Park is both necessary and proportionate;

c) note that the Council's capacity to enforce rules on dog fouling and dog control are limited, and that, unless increased resources can be directed to enforcement, dog fouling by irresponsible owners will tend to continue at sites where existing rules are not followed;

d) support the installation of additional signage at Hirst Park reminding dog owners of the penalties for not picking up and asking residents to report details of irresponsible owners to the Council's Animal Welfare Team and Environmental Enforcement Team;

and

e) support the increased promotion of positive behaviour among local dog owners by running Green Dog Walking events at Hirst Park and by providing information and raising awareness through the Friends of Hirst Park Facebook page.

## **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the “We want you to love where you live” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2020-2021.

## **Key issues**

- 1.1 Hirst Park is one of a number of cherished local parks owned and managed by Northumberland County Council. The park has recently undergone significant capital improvement with funding and support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ashington Leisure Partnership and Ashington Town Council.
- 1.2 The football pitches at Hirst Park are of significant historic importance, having been home turf for local football legends Jackie Milburn and Jack and Bobby Charlton. The pitches are currently home to Ashington Town Football Club who field numerous youth teams including under 10's, juniors and girls teams.
- 1.3 Hirst Park is popular with dog owners who regularly walk and exercise their dogs in the park. The playing fields offer dog owners a more open setting than is the case in the more formal areas of the park.
- 1.4 A dog control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the whole of all publicly accessible land in Northumberland. Enforcement Officers are already able to impose penalties on dog owners at Hirst Park who do not pick up after their animals.
- 1.5 Six months of evidence gathering of park environmental quality surveys together with additional enforcement patrols would be needed as a minimum to determine whether the application of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to ban dogs from the area enclosing the playing pitches at Hirst Park can be evidenced as necessary and proportionate.
- 1.6 Banning dogs from an area of public open space would exclude from that area the majority of dog owners who act responsibly and clear up after their dogs.

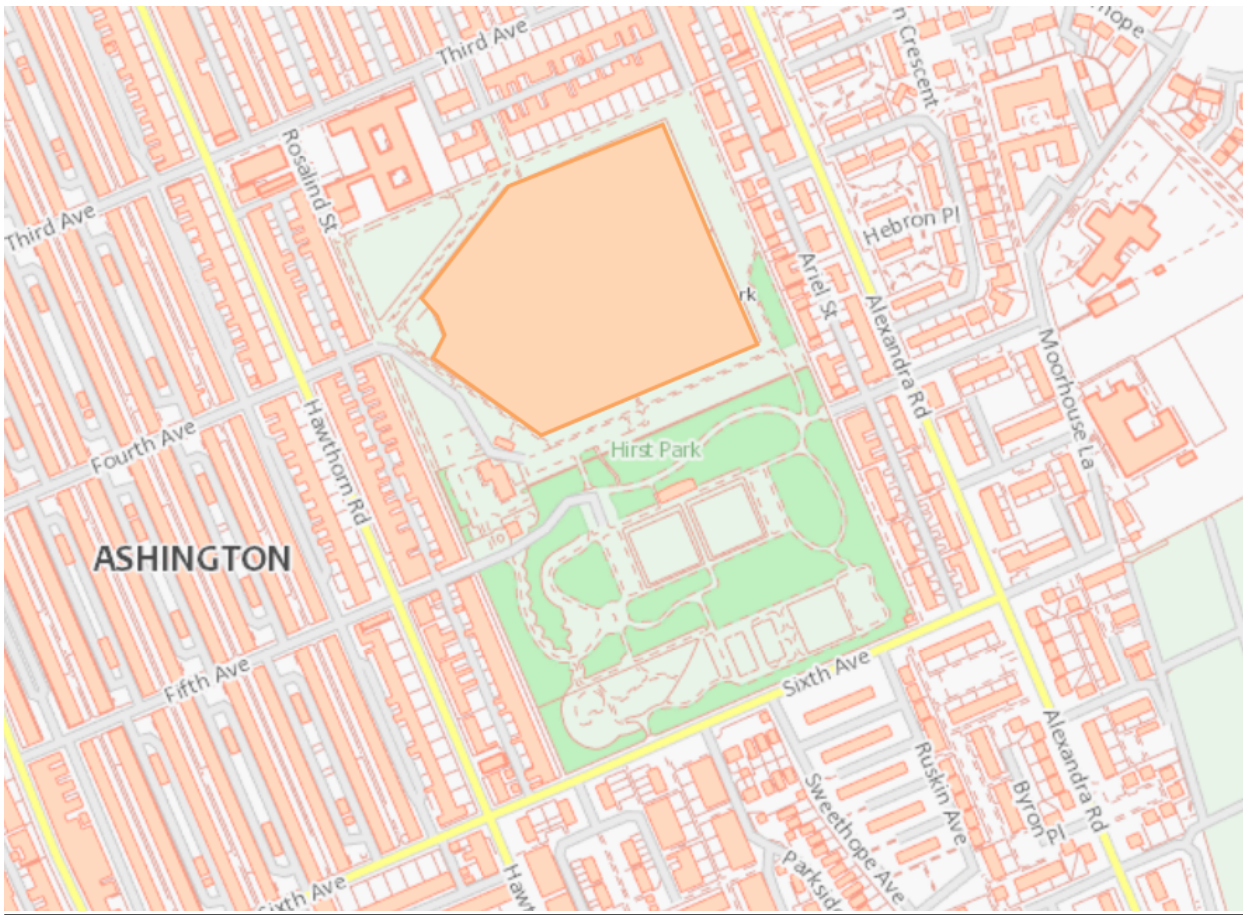


Fig 1: Hirst Park with playing field area shaded orange.

## **Background**

- 2.1 Whilst most dog owners pick up after their dogs, some owners continue to allow their dogs to foul on and around NCC green spaces, parks and other sites. At Hirst Park there continues to be a significant amount of dog faeces on the playing fields.
- 2.2 The playing fields at Hirst Park are used by Ashington Town Football Club who field a number of teams, including teams of younger players. The continuing presence of dog faeces on the playing surfaces is of considerable concern to the football club as it presents a safety risk to players who can come into close contact with dog waste whilst playing or training. To reduce the risk of exposure, the club (like all other clubs playing on open sites) conduct an inspection of the playing surface prior to use in order to identify and remove dog waste. Representatives of Ashington Town Football Club retrieve an average of 35 deposits of dog faeces per weekend.
- 2.3 A request for an e-petition was received by Northumberland County Council on 17th January 2022 and an e-petition entitled 'Make Hirst Park Playing fields a no dog area' was opened for signatures on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. The statement accompanying the petition was as follows:

*Over 200 young people between 8 and 17 use Hirst park playing fields every week to enjoy organised grass roots football. Each week coaches pick up over 30 doggy*

*bags full of dog mess before and during games to ensure NFA requirements are met and to keep our young people safe. The lack of respect from dog owners and unwillingness to clean up after their dogs is becoming a major concern. Please make this a no dog area and keep gates locked so the children of Ashington and surrounding areas can enjoy playing football at the heart of Ashington without this hazard.*

The petition closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> February having gained 278 signatures.

- 2.4 During late summer 2022, NCC staff and members of Ashington Town Football Club have provided counts of the amount of dog waste deposited on the playing surfaces and surrounding areas within the perimeter fence. Recorded counts are as follows:

Week 1 – 70  
Week 2 – 57  
Week 3 – 59  
Week 4 – 75  
Week 5 – 70  
Week 6 – 59

- 2.5 Colleagues in Public Protection have provided the data below on the number of dog fouling complaints and fixed penalty notices served at Hirst Park since 2018.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Complaints</b>	<b>FPNs issued</b>
2022 (to date)	0	0
2021	0	0
2020	1	0
2019	3	1
2018	3	3

- 2.6 Enforcement activity is, first and foremost, directed towards areas where complaints are received. Public Protection have not received complaints relating to dog fouling at Hirst Park over the course of the last two years; consequently, visits by enforcement officers which may have taken place have not been recorded (something which does happen when linked to a complaint).

- 2.7 In previous years when complaints generated enforcement officer visits, a number of penalty notices were served.

NCC are currently consulting on the renewal of the dog control PSPO (there is a statutory requirement to review and reconsult every three years on the PSPO which was originally introduced in 2010/11) which imposes a ban on dog fouling across the county, includes a seasonal dog ban at Newbiggin Beach and Blyth Beach and bans dogs from enclosed and equipped children's play areas. The consultation for the renewal of the current PSPO went out to consultation on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. The consultation period ends on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Once renewed, the PSPO will be in place until a further renewal in January 2026.

Because of timing an additional ban for Hirst Park cannot be added to this consultation. If evidenced as necessary (see above) it would require a separate consultation process and could be subject to judicial review.

### 3. **Options for consideration and discussion**

3.1 The following are suggested options for the control of dogs and dog fouling at Hirst Park.

**Option 1** – close the gates in the perimeter fence such that access to and use of the playing pitch area is available only to football clubs, other activity groups and NCC park and maintenance staff.

This option is contrary to a covenant in the site's deeds which states that the whole park 'shall be used as a recreation ground' for the public. Without seeking the release of this covenant we would not be at liberty to unilaterally close off a section of the park.

In addition, to close off an area of public open space would be contrary to the practice of the Council elsewhere, where requests to annex parts of parks and sites are usually refused.

It has been stated that NCC are already able to ban dogs from an enclosed area within a park. This is true of enclosed children's play areas (where a dog ban already applies under the county's current Public Space Protection Order), but this would not apply to the area containing the football pitches at Hirst Park.

Hirst Park's byelaws do not provide for the exclusion of dogs and do not, in any case, encompass the playing fields at Hirst.

**Option 2** – commence six months of evidence gathering of park environmental quality surveys together with additional enforcement patrols to determine whether the application of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to ban dogs from the area enclosing the playing pitches at Hirst Park is evidenced as necessary and proportionate.

In order to impose a PSPO, the requirements set out below (from section 59 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) must be met.

1. *A local authority may make a public spaces protection order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.*
2. *The first condition is that:*
  - a) *activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or*
  - b) *it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.*
3. *The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities—*
  - a) *is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,*
  - b) *is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and*
  - c) *justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.*

The above conditions are generally met for dog fouling and this has enabled the Council to evidence the need for the existing county-wide PSPO that covers dog fouling on publicly accessible land in Northumberland.

A PSPO for the additional restriction of an exclusion of all dogs can only be introduced once evidence has been collected that such an exclusion zone is needed in the terms of the legislation. Exclusion zones are supposed to be exceptional and only introduced where the evidence shows one is needed. So far that evidence does not exist for Hirst Park.

Given that the current PSPO for dog control has already started the consultation process any additional PSO ban at Hirst would require a new PSPO. This would entail a further consultation process which is administration intensive. However, before that occurs evidence would need to be collected that justified it. Public Protection colleagues suggest that should be six months of park environmental quality surveys together with additional enforcement patrols.

Also please note that dog charities monitor the introduction of dog exclusion zones. So, any proposed new exclusion zone at Hirst Park could be subject to judicial review. This again emphasises the need for strong supportive evidence.

A site specific PSPO at Hirst Park would not enable the Council to close the gates around the playing field in order to physically prevent use by dog walkers (see notes on option 1).

Ultimately, the Council's resources available for the enforcement of any PSPO restrictions are limited. Visitors to the park currently disinclined to clean up after their dogs (despite the risk of fines) would be unlikely to adhere to an additional restriction.

**4. Other options to control dog fouling at Hirst Park playing fields.**

4.1 As per the recommendations made in the previous report, the Council could install new and additional signage to advise and warn dog owners of the existing PSPO and invite residents and visitors to submit reports of dog fouling. Council staff could also facilitate or undertake events to raise awareness among dog owners and local residents.

**Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	None.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The cost of installing additional signage can be met through existing budgets
<b>Legal</b>	Enforcement Officers can operate using powers conferred by the existing PSPO



<b>Procurement</b>	None.
<b>Human Resources</b>	Enforcement staff already patrol the area and we will target enforcement activity using intelligence gathered from the community to help identify the routines of regular offenders
<b>Property</b>	The site is owned and managed by the County Council.
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	A ban is likely to encounter strong opposition from stakeholders and stakeholder groups. Local support and information from the community to identify the routines of offenders is invaluable in supporting effective enforcement activity
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Dog fouling on playing pitches brings potential harmful effects on the health and wellbeing of participants and is likely to provide a downward pressure on the number of people taking part in outdoor sport.
<b>Wards</b>	Hirst.

**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	SB
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	JW
Relevant Executive Director	RM
Acting Chief Executive	RM
Portfolio Holder(s)	JR

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**Northumberland County Council  
Ashington and Blyth Area Council  
Work Programme 2022-23**

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.
- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.
- (m) To exercise the following functions within their area:-
  - (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.
  - (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
  - (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
  - (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.

(v) the Council’s role in encouraging wider access for all to the County’s network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

**ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED**

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

**To be listed:**

Northumbria Neighbourhood Police  
DCIA Project

Northumberland County Council  
Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council  
Work Programme 2022-23

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<b>11 May 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Appointments to Outside Bodies</li> </ul>
<b>15 June 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>

<b>13 July 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> </ul>

<b>10 August 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>
<b>14 September 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Highways Progress Report</li> </ul>
<b>12 October 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>
<b>16 November 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• North of Tyne Mayor</li> <li>• Northumberland National Park</li> </ul>
<b>14 December 2022</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>
<b>11 January 2023</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning And Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Homelessness Report</li> <li>• Archaeological finds South Newsham</li> </ul>
<b>15 February 2023</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>
<b>15 March 2023</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> <li>• Local Services Update</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering Services</li> </ul>
<b>12 April 2023</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Rights of Way</li> </ul>

Northumberland County Council  
Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council  
Monitoring Report 2022-2023

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Updates
1.	11.5.22	<b>Make Hirst Park a no dog area petition</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> Members agreed that further investigation was needed to determine the correct course of action. The Officer should work with colleagues and draft a new report to bring to a future LAC meeting.	
2.	13.7.22	<b>Member's Local Improvement Scheme</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted	

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