

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Rebecca Greally

**Email:**

democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622616

**Date:** Friday, 3 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC** to be held in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF** on **MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2023** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson  
Chief Executive

**To Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC members as follows:-**

**D Bawn (Chair), J Beynon, L Dunn (Vice-Chair), P Jackson, M Murphy, N Oliver, A Wallace, C Taylor, M Robinson and P Ezhilchelvan**



**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 - 8)

Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 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](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. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS** (Pages 9 - 14)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the Committee.
- 5. ADVANCE NORTHUMBERLAND** (Pages 15 - 32)

Members to receive a presentation from the Chief Operating Officer of Advance giving an overview and update on the work they are undertaking.
- 6. WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 33 - 38)

The Committee is asked to review and note the Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 council year.
- 7. 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](#).

Subject	Description
<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

### CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Monday, 13 February at 10.00 am.

#### PRESENT

Councillor D. Bawn  
(Chairman in the Chair)

#### COUNCILLORS

Beynon, J.  
Dunn, E.  
Ezhilchelvan, P.  
Murphy, M.

Oliver, N.  
Robinson, M.  
Wallace, A.

#### OTHER COUNCILLORS

Ball, C.  
Bowman, L.  
Castle, G.  
Dale, A.  
Dodd, R.  
Gallacher, B.

Hunter, I.  
Jones, V.  
Lang, J.  
Nisbet, K.  
Reid, J.  
Richardson, M.

#### CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C

Pattison, W.

Ploszaj, W.

Riddle, J.

Renner-Thompson, G.

Sanderson, G

Seymour, C.

Wearmouth, R.

Portfolio Holder for Community  
Services

Portfolio Holder for Adults'  
Wellbeing

Portfolio Holder for Business

Portfolio Holder for Local Services

Portfolio Holder for Children and  
Young People

Leader

Deputy Portfolio Holder for  
Corporate Services

Deputy Leader

## OFFICERS

Barnes, G.	Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service Manager
Binjal, S.	Monitoring Officer
Bradley, N.	Executive Director – Adults, Ageing and Wellbeing
Elsdon, A.	Service Director - Finance
Greally, R.	Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Kingham, A.	Executive Director – Children, Young People and Education
Masson, N.	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Murfin, R.	Executive Director
Nicholson, S.	Scrutiny Co-ordinator
ONeill, G.	Executive Director – Public Health
Rose, J.	Service Director
Soderquest, P.	Service Director – Housing and Public Protection
Taylor, M.	Executive Director
Willis, J.	Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

### 46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Taylor, A. Watson and R. Wilczek.

### 47. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January 2023, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Robinson declared he had an interest in item 8 and would leave the room whilst it was being discussed.

### 49. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Forward Plan of forthcoming Key Cabinet decisions was reported to the Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan of key decisions be noted.

**50. BUDGET 2023-24 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023-27 FOR THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

Councillor R Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services. Introduced the report to committee, there was a proposal for a 7% increase in rent for Council tenants. The 7% was needed to ensure the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) remained sustainable. There was a need to carry out maintenance on existing stock as well as replenishing stock lost to the right to buy scheme. Without this investment the account would not be sustainable. The Council had implemented a hardship fund to help those eligible to ease the strain of rent increases. It was noted that other housing providers were also raising rents however details had not been confirmed. It was a ring-fenced budget from tenant's rent.

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

- The hardship fund would be given to those who were eligible after an income assessment in accordance with normal Council procedure. There was a protocol that would be followed for contacting eligible tenants and publication of the scheme. Officers were confident the £350,000 set aside would cover the elevation of rent for those that needed it.
- It was confirmed that the Council would be working jointly with partners to deliver affordable housing to help combat the significant challenge with supply and demand across the County. It was important to work with these partners to cover areas of the County where the Authority held no stock. It was highlighted that all stock would be owned by the HRA and would become an asset. The revenue would come back into the account and would then lead back into the budget plan.
- Members acknowledged that there were inflationary pressures which meant that the 7% increase was necessary to carry out the maintenance needed to sustain the housing revenue account.
- The leader agreed that a briefing note be sent to all members to give an update on the Council's progress with affordable housing.
- In the future it was hoped that there would be a policy conference on the housing revenue account to discuss with members how it was run.

**RESOLVED** to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report, subject to consideration of the issues highlighted above.

**51. BUDGET CONSULTATION REPORT**

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services introduced the report to committee. The consultation was used to prepare for future budgets.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Council launched its budget consultation. This was through an online survey tool and was open to anyone wishing to participate, including residents, businesses, partner organisations, Members and staff. The consultation was promoted through a variety of media channels. As the survey was online and open to all, the responses were not a 'statistical sample' of the population and therefore the officers were not presenting the results as representative of the population as a whole. However, the results did provide a useful sense of views across a range of stakeholders, including:

- Residents (97.1% of the responses);
- Local businesses;
- Charities;
- Community Groups;
- NCC staff who are residents;
- NCC Staff who are non-residents;
- Councillors;
- Public Sector.

In total, there were 209 responses to the consultation. The response rate was down on last year's survey and, officers would take time to understand the possible reasons for this and look to increase the response rates for future years.

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

- It was acknowledged that the information from the results was good, but the number of responses needed to be improved. It was acknowledged that incentives may be needed to increase public participation.
- Members were reminded that the Leader and Deputy Leader attending Local Area Council meetings which allowed members the opportunity to comment on the proposed budget. It was acknowledged that questions were answered to the best ability at the time, but figures were still outstanding from the government.
- It was important to ensure the budget met the three priorities of the Council. It was acknowledged that it was important to do a public consultation to gather opinions and get an indication of what was needed.
- It was recognised that it could be beneficial to show the correlation between the consultation results and the policies and budget implemented.
- It was suggested that there be more discussion with members including a policy conference for the budget to ensure all members are involved.
- The Leader thanked the respondents and emphasised the invaluable information

**RESOLVED** to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report

## **52. BUDGET 2023-24 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023-27**

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council, introduced the report to committee. He thanked Jan Willis the Section 151 Officer, Alison Elsdon and all of the finance team for their hard work. The budget promoted the three priorities which were agreed at the policy conference held in January. These priorities were: value

for money, tackling inequalities and supporting businesses. There had been consultation with the public and other stakeholders through online consultations, meetings with Town & Parish Councils and meetings with business leaders.

The Leader highlighted that there would be no cuts to frontline services. The leisure investment programme would continue as would the school programmes. There were broadband programmes that would start and an extensive cycling and walking initiative. Car parking in town centres and the first hour of parking at country parks would remain free.

The administration wanted to tackle inequalities in the County and give children and young people the best opportunities in life regardless of their background. The skills programme in Blyth would allow young people to gain valuable skills needed in industries within the County. There was the Hardship fund to help eligible residents with Council rent. There was also a council tax support scheme that would help eligible residents with Council Tax.

The Authority would continue to work with Advance Northumberland to help support businesses. There was funding from Borderlands and several town deals which were expected to commence soon. The budget illustrated value for money, it would encourage jobs and opportunities and a good quality of life for residents.

The following comments were made in response to members questions:

- It was confirmed that where there had been deletion of vacant posts in services this was due to Officers determining the service could function without them.
- A schedule of the new fees and charges would be shared with members highlighting any changes from the current year.
- It was acknowledged that 1.25% addition to the national insurance had been removed following the Autumn budget statement. The employer contribution to the pension fund was also decreasing, both of which had been reflected in the budget.
- The report addressed the robustness of the budget and members were assured that if there were any risks to the Authority the budget would not have been brought forward. The Authority held reserves for any uncertainty that may occur. There were unusable reserves that the Authority was required to keep for accounting purposes.
- Members were informed that the Council was working with all academies and maintained schools to invest money into the school system. It was noted that the Council was the owner of the freehold that the academies were built on.
- The Authority was waiting for the final sign off from Government of funding for the Northumberland Line but the Leader was confident that the project would go ahead and there had been a commitment from Government. Assessments had been carried out and the Authority was aware of what impact the Northumberland Line would make on the area.
- The increase in Council Tax was necessary to ensure there was no damage to Council Tax base. The cumulative impact of a lower increase would have been significant in the future.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet be advised of members' comments as highlighted above.

**53. COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT HARDSHIP SCHEME 2023-24**

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, the deputy leader and portfolio holder for corporate services introduced the report to committee. The Council was mindful of the current cost of living crisis that the residents of Northumberland were facing, as well as the significant inflationary pressures that the local authority was also experiencing.

The Hardship Scheme payment of up to £175 would be applied to the council tax bills of working age Council Tax Support claimants after all other discounts and after the Government's mandatory Council Tax Support Fund scheme of £25 which would reduce the bills of all Council Tax Support claimants.

The following comments were made in response to members questions:

- It was confirmed that those who were not in receipt of council tax support would receive the £17.21 discount to the Council Tax bill.
- Those who were eligible would receive up to £175 plus £25 provided by the Government in the form of a hardship payment.
- It was acknowledged that the hardship scheme was for one year only to reflect the households need for immediate help with the cost of living.
- It was confirmed that the council tax hardship scheme was more beneficial than freezing council tax as it targeted help to those who needed it most as well as protecting the council tax base from permanent damage. The cumulative impact of not raising the council tax base would be significant.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet be advised of members' comments as highlighted above.

**54. REVENUES AND BENEFITS POLICY**

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services introduced the report to committee.

Two policy changes were highlighted to committee. There was a hope to implement a premium for empty homes across the County after one year rather than two and to implement a council tax premium for second homes across the County from 2024/25. Both measures would be subject to the levelling up and regeneration bill receiving royal assent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. It was something that the Authority felt needed to be done to reflect a pressing need in the County. Second homes were an increasing issue in the County and the Cabinet had agreed to implement the increase once the bill had gone through Parliament.

**RESOLVED** to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report.

**55. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received an update on its Work Programme for the 2022/23 council year.

**RESOLVED** that this information was noted.

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## FORWARD PLAN OF FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS MARCH TO JULY 2023

DECISION	PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATE	CABINET DATE
<p><b>BEST: Delivery Partners Resourcing</b></p> <p>On 17th January, Cabinet approved the Business Case for the Strategic Change Programme to be delivered across the Council over the period Feb 2023 – March 2025. 'BEST' is the new identity for the programme of works formerly identified as the 'Strategic Change Programme'.</p> <p>The BEST: Delivery Partners Resourcing Report seeks approval of the key decision to proceed with the Tendering and Procurement of Delivery Partners who will be engaged to support the design and delivery of projects.</p> <p>(R. Wearmouth/Kelly Gardner, Senior Service Director and BEST Programme Director- 07971008878)</p>	<p>Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC 3 April 2023</p>	<p>14 March 2023</p>
<p><b>Director of Education Final Report</b></p> <p>The Director of Education Annual Report presents a self-evaluation of where NCC Education are as a result of work delivered during 2021-22 and also seeks to demonstrate aspirations for the future across all areas of education and related supporting functions. (G. Renner Thompson/A. Kingham - 01670 622742)</p>	<p>FACS OSC 2 March 2023</p>	<p>14 March 2023</p>
<p><b>Energising Blyth – Strategic Sites Strategy</b></p> <p>The report will provide an update on key acquisitions to support delivery of capital developments in Blyth as part of the Future High Street and Town Deal Funded Energising Blyth Programme (Confidential report) (W.Ploszaj/ M.Turner - 07810 756551)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>14 March 2023</p>
<p><b>Financial Performance 2022-23 - Position at the end of December 2022</b></p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2022.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>14 March 2023</p>

(R. Wearmouth/K. Harvey - 01670 624783)		
<p><b>Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022</b></p> <p>The report provides Members with the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2026 for review and agreement (C. Horncastle/J. Stewart - 07771 974 112)</p>	<p>Communities and Place OSC 5 April 2023</p>	14 March 2023
<p><b>Market Sustainability Plan for adult social care</b></p> <p>To seek approval for the Market Sustainability Plan which the Council is required to submit to the Department of Health and Social Care as a grant condition. (W. Pattison/S. Corlett – 01670 623637)</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing OSC 4 April 2023</p>	14 March 2023
<p><b>Permission to Award the Integrated Sexual Health Contract</b></p> <p>To seek permission from Cabinet to award the contract of Integrated Sexual Health Service in Northumberland. This service will be commissioned using the public health ring fenced grant. The grant conditions state that Local Authorities must provide sexual health services for its population. The contract is for 4 years. (W. Pattison/ John Liddell - 07929 775559)</p>	NA	14 March 2023
<p><b>School Transport Review Outcome Options</b></p> <p>At SLT on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 the full range of recommendations resulting from the system wide review of home to school transport were shared. In response to this, SLT requested a further paper to provide a summary with greater detail on the range of options considered during the review on where the transport service best sits within Northumberland County Council. This report provides the options as requested for evaluation and alongside this request's approval for the specific initiative to establish NCC delivered Independent Travel Training provision using start-up funding from the Council Transformation Fund (G. Renner Thompson/N. Dorward – 07811 020 806)</p>	<p>FACS OSC 6 April 2023</p>	14 March 2023

<p><b>The Link (Bridge Street Improvements)</b></p> <p>This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval of the Outline Business Case and other key decisions regarding the development and delivery of The Link project. The Link will improve the highway and public realm along Bridge Street which is one of the main vehicle and pedestrian routes into the town centre. It will improve connectivity and provide a greatly improved walking and cycling link between the town centre and the quayside. The project will support Blyth's vision to be a Connected, Vibrant and Clean Growth Town (W. Ploszaj/Lara Baker - 07919 217457 )</p>	N/A	14 March 2023
<p><b>Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2022-23 - Position at the end of December 2022</b></p> <p>The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2022-23 (R. Wearmouth/ M. Calvert - 01670 620197) Confidential report</p>	Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC 3 AMarch 2023	14 March 2023
<p><b>Update of Transport Asset Management Plan Policy and Strategy</b></p> <p>To seek Cabinet approval for the updated Transport Asset Management Plan, Policy and Strategy following it's periodic review, to take account of continued developments in asset management approaches and best practice including an increasing focus on the impact of climate change and prioritisation of active travel and minor amendments to the resilient road network. (J. Riddle/D. Laux - 01670 623763)</p>	N/A	14 March 2023
<p><b>Update on projects funded from the Public Health ring-fenced grant reserve to improve health and reduce health inequalities</b></p> <p>This report updates on the progress of projects previously approved by Cabinet to receive investment from the ring-fenced public health grant reserve for public health interventions to improve health and reduce health inequalities, for Cabinet to note the progress of the nine projects with approved investment from the ring-fenced public health grant reserve</p>		14 March 2023

(W. Pattison/J. Brown - 07796 312409)		
<p><b>Governance of Council Companies</b></p> <p>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>	<p>Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC TBC</p>	11 April 2023
<p><b>Leisure Programme Update</b></p> <p>To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme (J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463)</p>	N/A	11 April 2023
<p><b>Service Charges in Sheltered Accommodation</b></p> <p>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><b>Social Housing Regulations Bill</b></p> <p>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>	<p>Communities and Place OSC 5 April 2023</p>	11 April 2023
<p><b>Financial Performance 2022-23 – Position at the end of March 2023 (Provisional Outturn)</b></p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 March 2023 (provisional outturn)</p>	N/A	9 May 2023

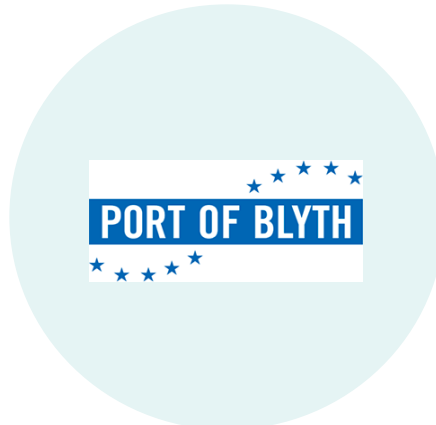
(R. Wearmouth/K. Harvey - 01670 624783)		
<p><b>Outcomes of Phase 2 Consultation about Education in Berwick Partnership</b></p> <p>This report sets out the feedback received from stakeholders arising from Phase 2 of informal consultation with stakeholders in the Berwick Partnership area and other relevant 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><b>Leisure Programme Update</b></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><b>Leisure Programme Update</b></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

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# Advance Northumberland Presentation to Scrutiny Committee

## March 2023

# Developments





# What we do

Advance Northumberland Developments have a skilled and experienced team with a proven track record of successful completed projects.

*...with a pipeline of £150m of committed projects running to 2025*

- Project Management
- Budget and Programme Control
- Procurement
- Planning and Regulatory advice and support
- Public Consultation
- Design Management
- Progress Reporting
- Risk Management
- Contract Administration
- Claims
- Funding Business Case support
- Due Diligence
- Quality Control
- Third Party Developer
- Technical Support

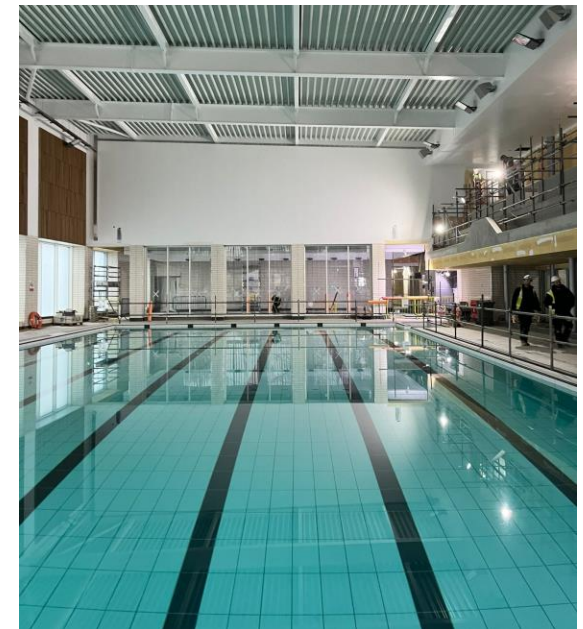


- Infrastructure
- Marine
- Leisure
- Entertainment
- Retail
- Commercial
- Residential
- Regeneration
- Restoration

# Current Highlights

Delivered new Leisure Centres in Berwick and Newbiggin - with Morpeth to follow

We have appointed and managed the design teams and build contractors and are currently proving project management and quality management services for the construction phase.

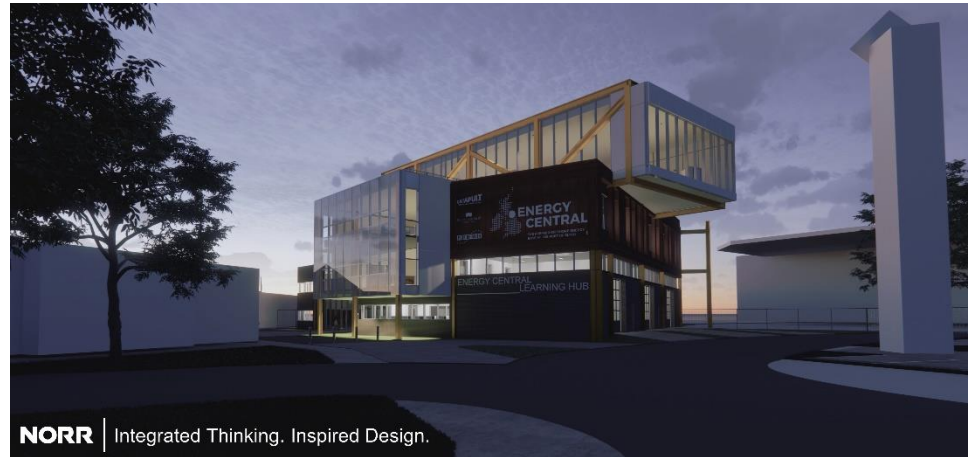


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# Current Highlights

Project Management and Quality Management services for the two flagship projects in the programme:

- **Energy Central Learning hub**
- **Culture Centre and Market Place**
- Working closely with the EB Programme team to manage the design process and support stakeholder consultations and business case development.
- Manage construction stage and handover





# Current Highlights

Borderlands funded £17m redevelopment of  
Maltings Theatre and Cinema  
Includes Pop up cinema at Berwick Barracks

- Develop brief with Maltings Trust
- Procurement and management of design teams
- Close working with English Heritage on Berwick Barracks
- Management of RIBA design competition at New Maltings
- Manage Construction and handover stage



# Housing Regeneration

Place making –  
consultation is key.

Prosperity: Creating  
new Jobs: 40-50  
directly employed  
house building  
jobs, training  
opportunities and  
supports to 100's of  
jobs in  
Northumberland

Sustainable  
Development:  
Delivering Quality  
Homes and  
delivering positive  
Change to a  
locality. Zero  
carbon initiatives

Investment in  
housebuilding:  
supporting local  
SME's, with £34m  
invested to date in  
North East based  
companies

Improving Lives:  
Delivering Quality  
Homes – new  
affordable homes





# Current Highlights

- Built 417 houses in Northumberland
- 117 in the last 12 months,—including the delivery of 107 affordable homes since formation.
- These housebuilding activities alone invest c£16.35m in locally based SME's annually
- Current active developments include: Alnwick, Blyth, Choppington, Ellington and Wooler.

Planned starts for 2023 include further phases at Ellington & Choppington, with new sites in Bellingham, Berwick and Newbiggin-by-the-sea.

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Ascent Homes





# Allerburn Manor, Alnwick

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# Wooler – Rural Schemes



Ascent Homes

11 New Affordable Units for NCC in a rural location  
70+ Private Sales







# Wooler – Rural Schemes

# Estate Management



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Commercial decision-making process delegated to Estate Management Team

- Increase Occupancy
- Maximise income
- Reduce Expenditure
- Fit for Purpose
- Diverse
- Statutory compliant
- Robust R&M processes
- Capital Programme
- Increase Tenant Satisfaction
- Improve on tenant interaction
- Efficiency and effectivities of dealing with tenants/ customers.
- R&M of property
- Finance resources within other parts of business to assist overall regeneration objectives.

# Current Highlights

***Provide good quality Residential & Commercial property for residents and businesses of Northumberland to live and work***

***Profit for purpose model - profits redistributed back into Company/Shareholder***

- Proactive work by Commercial team, which has seen a saving of £95k made in 2022 on the Rates bill
- Electric charging facilities installed across the commercial portfolio. New quickfire charging points installed at Wansbeck Workspace and Ashington Workspace as part of the works
- Provide rental accommodation tenancies across Northumberland for 1,245 tenants
- Provide business accommodation for over 616 businesses across Northumberland

**•Current Estate Comprises:**

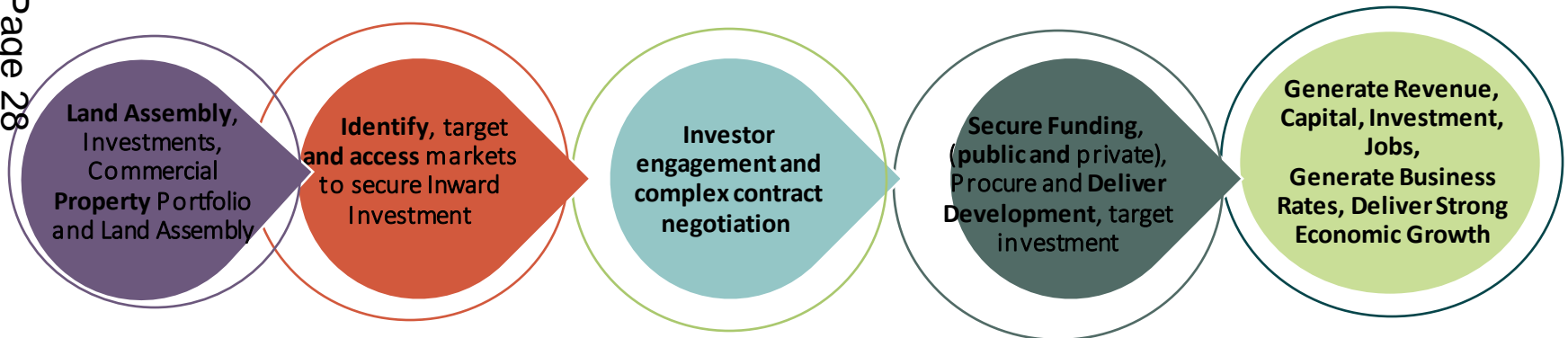
- 164,336 sqm of Commercial and Industrial Properties
- 1,206 Acres of land
- 1,157 Residential Properties
- Asset Value of Estate - £244.0 million



# Economic Growth and Investments

- Acquired and developed the Advance Northumberland portfolio of income producing assets that generates the revenue to drive the business
- Working with and on behalf of NCC to support businesses across the county
- A pivotal role in attracting and securing significant inward investment, creating new jobs, new locations and providing opportunities for economic growth
- Delivering commercial development in strategic employment locations and key towns throughout the county.

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# Current Highlights

- Secured Inward Investment at NEP1 which will be home to a gigafactory and JDR's wind farm cable factory, which will bring thousands of new jobs to the area
- Agreed the sale of land for Northumberland College's new campus
- Bedlington Town Centre Regeneration including retail and apartments
- Ashwood Business Park development, regeneration and infrastructure - including new investment and services (petrol station, Subway and Starbucks drive thru)
- Portland Park and Retail

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# Current Highlights – Business Support Services

- The **Rural Design Centre Innovation Project** provides support to innovators, entrepreneurs and SMEs in **bringing new products and services to the market** which address challenges faced by rural communities, businesses and residents.
- **Business Northumberland** programme provides SMEs with access to **digital skills training, digital marketing support and high growth business coaching** to help clients to increase business resilience as well as unlocking opportunities for growth and job creation.
- Northumberland's **Inward Investment and Strategic Account Management (SAM)** - target and support new investors linked to key sectors. Working with large and medium sized businesses across the County to **unlock growth, investment and jobs**.
- **Rural Business Growth Service** provides direct support for SMEs in rural Northumberland looking to access finance. Support includes business planning, investor readiness and access to finance including a grant fund to support capital investments in rural businesses.

To date:

**2.900** businesses have been supported

**895** events delivered across Northumberland

attended by **6,435** delegates

**500** rural businesses registered to the rural support programme

# Draft Financial Position 2021-22\*

Profit & Loss	2021-22	2020-21
Revenue	£42.2m	£34.5m
Operating Profit	£14.2m	£17.5m
Profit before Tax	£19.9m	(£12.9m)
Total Comprehensive Income	£19.8m	(£17.1m)

Balance Sheet	2021-22	2020-21
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£336.9m	£316.0m
Long Term Creditors	(£303.4m)	(£302.2m)
Net Assets	£22.6m	£2.8m

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\*These values are draft and subject to final audit sign off

# Any Questions?



# Northumberland County Council

## Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2022-2023

**1. Terms of reference:**

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Council's Annual Budget and Budgetary Management via the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- (2) To review the state of Northumberland and the County Council's activity in delivering its Corporate Plan.
- (3) To maintain an overview of the Council's performance management arrangements; highlighting areas of poor performance and monitoring recovery delivery plans.
- (4) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the Council and Advance Northumberland.
- (5) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
  - Corporate Services: Organisational Development, Health and Safety, ICT Strategy, Corporate Governance, Financial Services, Procurement Strategy, Risk Strategy, Shared and Traded Services
  - Partnership development coordination with local organisations
  - Relationships with external bodies
  - Regeneration and Economic Development
  - Strategic Transport Network and Infrastructure
  - Employability, Skills, and removing barriers to work
  - Capital Programme and Asset Management
  - Support to VCS organisations and the Council's relationship with town and parish councils.

Northumberland County Council  
Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

3 April 2023

**BEST: Delivery Partners Resourcing**

This report will seek approval to proceed with the Tendering and Procurement of Delivery Partners who will be engaged to support the design and delivery of projects. (BEST is the new name for the Strategic Change Programme). The Committee will review the Cabinet decision and consider "next steps".

**Trading Companies' Financial Performance**

To consider this quarterly update.

Northumberland County Council  
Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2022-2023

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	11 July 2022	<b>Annual Workforce Report</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> members agreed to note and support the recommendations in the report.	The Committee will continue to receive annual updates.
2.	11 July 2022	<b>Debt Recovery Update</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted.	A further update will be presented to the Committee in December.
3.	11 July 2022	<b>Green Homes Grant</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted.	No further action required at this stage.
4.	11 July 2022	<b>Advance Northumberland Ltd and its subsidiaries– Request for Reserved Matter Approval</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report on the condition the following are included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With regards to the Shareholder Representative Role Profile, the wording be amended to provide greater clarity on the role the Shareholder Representative should carry out at board meetings. Members suggested the wordings to be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. <i>To attend and play an active role at board meetings of the Company whilst recognising the authority to make decisions lies with the board of the Company.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The Committee would like a further report in 6 months, if appropriate, to review the implementation of the proposed new Articles of Association and the Shareholder Representative Role Profile.</li> </ol>	Cabinet approved the comments made by the OSC when it determined the report on 12 July 2022.

5.	11 July 2022	<b>Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2021-22 – End of March</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive quarterly updates.
6.	10 October 2022	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the recommendations be supported.	Cabinet considered the Committee's comments when it determined the report on 11 October 2022.
7.	10 October 2022	<b>Broadband Connectivity</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.
8.	10 October 2022	<b>Budget Consultation</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted and suggestions be examined for inclusion in the Budget Consultation 2022/23.	The Committee will receive details of the outcome of the consultation as part of the budget setting process in February.
9.	10 October 2022	<b>Covid Grants and Financial Assistance to Business</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted.	No further action required at this stage.
10.	10 October 2022	<b>Trading Companies' Financial Performance</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted	The Committee will continue to receive quarterly updates.
11.	12 December 2022	<b>Budget 2023-24 and MTFP 2023-27</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted.	The Committee consider the budget proposal in February.
12.	12 December 2022	<b>Council-owned Company Governance Framework</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report, subject to consideration of the issues highlighted.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
13.	12 December 2022	<b>Debt Recovery Update</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive regular updates.
14.	12 December 2022	<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive regular updates.

15.	16 January 2023	<b>Strategic Change Business Case</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report, subject to consideration of the issues highlighted above.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
16.	16 January 2023	<b>Trading Companies' Financial Performance</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information in the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive quarterly updates.
17.	13 February 2023	<b>Budget 2023-24 and MTFP 2023-27 for the Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report, subject to consideration of the issues highlighted.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
18.	13 February 2023	<b>Budget Consultation</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
19.	13 February 2023	<b>Budget 2023-24 and MTFP 2023-27</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet be advised of members' comments.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
20.	13 February 2023	<b>Council Tax Discretionary Discount and Council Tax Hardship Scheme 2023-24</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet be advised of members' comments.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.
21.	13 February 2023	<b>Revenues and Benefits Policy</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report.	The Cabinet considered the Committee's views prior to determination of the report.