



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Jackie Roll

**Email:** Jackie.roll@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622603

**Date:** 28 June 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held in **COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2022** at **3.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

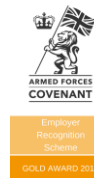
Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To County Council members as follows:-**

**Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>.**



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
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## **AGENDA**

### **PART I**

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **2. MINUTES**

(Pages 1  
- 42)

Minutes of the following meetings of County Council, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, signed by the Business Chair and sealed with the Common Seal of the Council:-

- (1) Wednesday 4 May 2022 (annual meeting) (see pages 11-28)
- (2) Wednesday 8 June 2022 (extraordinary meeting) (see pages 29-42)
- (3) Tuesday 21 June 2022 (extraordinary meeting) (see pages 43-52).

#### **3. DISCLOSURES 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 an 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. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BUSINESS CHAIR, LEADER OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE.**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY) TO DATE OF MEETING.**

**6. QUESTIONS**

QUESTIONS to be put to the Business Chair, a member of the Cabinet or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee, in accordance with the Constitution's Rules of Procedure No.9.

**7. REPORT OF THE INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

(Pages  
43 - 52)

**Report of Governance Review Task and Finish Group – Progress Update**

At its meeting of 8th June 2022, Council considered a report by the Leader and Deputy Leader on the Solace Independent Governance Review (The 'Caller Review'). Following this, Council agreed to form a Cross-Party Steering Group on a task and finish basis, to consider the Council's response to the 'Caller Review' and its recommendations. The Task and Finish Steering Group reported back to the County Council on 21st June 2022 (report of the Leader and Deputy Leader). The report on 21st June set out an Initial Plan of Action to implement the Caller Review recommendations. Council considered and agreed the initial Plan of Action and agreed to receive a further report setting out a more detailed timetable and assessment of resources required. This Report sets out the next version of the Action Plan with target dates, Member and Officer leads as well as resources.

**8. REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER**

(Pages  
53 - 66)

**Registering Interests – Membership of Organisations**

At the meeting of the Council on 4th of May 2022, the Leader of the Council requested advice on the requirement to register membership of the Freemasons and similar organisations. This report sets out the legal position and suggests options for members consideration.

- 9. REPORT OF THE INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (Pages 67 - 76)
- Blyth Relief Road**
- The report provides members with :
- An overview of progress to date on the development of the business case for a new relief road for Blyth which will significantly improve access to the town by all modes.
  - A recommendation for the preferred route alignment to be taken forward to a public engagement exercise.
  - An update on the business case which includes emerging costs, benefits and programme for the scheme.
- This report was considered by Cabinet on 12 April 2022. Cabinet request that full Council endorses sign off by the s151 Officer of the Outline Business Case, noting the required County Council match funding commitment and future approval gateways as set out in paragraphs 13 to 15 of the report.
- 10. STORM ARWEN SCRUTINY REVIEW** (Pages 77 - 112)
- To report the outcomes of the review conducted by the Storm Arwen Task and Finish Group.
- 11. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES MANAGER** (Pages 113 - 116)
- Independent Members of the Audit Committee**
- The purpose of the report is to seek Council's agreement to extend the appointment of the independent co-opted members, currently serving on the County Council's Audit Committee.
- 12. CABINET MINUTES** (Pages 117 - 146)
- TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON:-
- (1) Tuesday 12 April 2022
  - (2) Tuesday 26 April 2022
  - (3) Tuesday 10 May 2022
  - (4) Tuesday 7 June 2022
- 13. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES** (Pages 147 - 192)
- (1) Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC
  - (2) Family and Children's Services OSC
  - (3) Communities and Place OSC

- (4) Health and Wellbeing OSC
- (5) Health and Wellbeing Board
- (6) Audit Committee

**14. DELEGATED DECISIONS**

(Pages  
193 -  
194)

To note the Delegated Decisions taken since those reported to County Council on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

**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.