



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Jackie Roll

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

**Tel direct:**

**Date:** 9 May 2023

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, 17 MAY 2023** at **3.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson  
Chief Executive

To County Council members as follows:-

C Ball, D Bawn, J Beynon, L Bowman, S Bridgett, D Carr, E Cartie, G Castle, T Cessford, T Clark, A Dale, W Daley, L Darwin, S Dickinson, R Dodd, C Dunbar, L Dunn, P Ezhilchelvan, D Ferguson, B Flux (Chair), J Foster, B Gallacher, L Grimshaw, C Hardy, G Hill, C Horncastle, C Humphrey, I Hunter, JI Hutchinson, P Jackson, V Jones, D Kennedy, J Lang, S Lee, M Mather, N Morphet, M Murphy, K Nisbet, N Oliver, K Parry, W Pattison, W Ploszaj, M Purvis, J Reid, G Renner-Thompson, M Richardson, J Riddle, M Robinson, G Sanderson, A Scott, C Seymour, A Sharp, E Simpson, G Stewart, M Swinbank, M Swinburn, C Taylor, T Thorne, D Towns, H Waddell, A Wallace, A Watson, J Watson, R Wearmouth and R Wilczek



**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. TO ELECT A PERSON TO PRESIDE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

**2. TO ELECT A PERSON TO ACT AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**4. MINUTES**

(Pages 1  
- 14)

(i) Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Wednesday 22 March 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record (see pages 9-18).

(ii) Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of County Council held on Wednesday 22 March 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record (see pages 19-22).

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR, LEADER OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

**6. 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 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.

## **7. TO RECEIVE THE NAMES OF CABINET MEMBERS**

To receive the names of the Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet appointed by the Leader.

## **8. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

(Pages  
15 - 40)

### **Establishment of Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs**

To make arrangements for the discharge of the non-executive functions of the County Council through the appointment of committees, to appoint members to those committees in accordance with the proportionality of the Council, to agree their terms of reference as set out in the Constitution, and to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs (see APPENDIX A and B to the rear of the agenda).

## **9. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

(Pages  
41 - 44)

### **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023-24**

Council is asked to agree its nominations to outside bodies (see pages 23-26).

## **10. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES**

(Pages  
45 - 52)

### **Timetable of Meetings for 2023-24**

To seek Council's approval of the annual timetable of meetings for 2023-24 (see pages 27-30).

**11. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 53 - 84)  
**Corporate Plan 2023-26**

This Report presents the Council's Corporate Plan for 2023-2026. The Plan builds on the progress from the previous Corporate Plan and presents a refreshed vision, and three Council priorities. This refresh takes account of the changing operating context and the recommendations of the Independent Review of Governance ('Caller Review') which reported to Full Council in June 2022. Moving forward, the three Priorities in the Plan will set the context for the Council's Budget and Medium-Term Financial planning process. Service planning, the performance framework, and staff appraisal process will all contribute to achieving the priorities (see pages 31-36).

**12. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 85 - 106)  
**Review of the Effectiveness and Function of Local Area Councils (Committees)**

A review and detailed analysis has been undertaken by the Local Area Councils (Committees) Chairs and Vice Chairs. This has examined the role, context and operational issues arising in discussions about how to enhance the effectiveness and function of the Local Area Councils (Committees), with an overarching goal of stimulating greater public engagement. The report summarises the recommendations of the review and sets out a suggested series of changes that cover both "business as usual" refinements, as well as some more substantive changes (see pages 37-58).

**13. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 107 - 694)  
**Review and Redraft of the Constitution 2023**

1. For Council to adopt the Council's redrafted Constitution.
2. To note the 2022/23 Constitution and Scrutiny review work programme and the Member and officer engagement sessions that have taken place since late autumn last year.
3. To note the recommendations from the Constitution Working Group (CWG) and Scrutiny Leads/Chairs that took place during the review and redraft.
4. To note the continued remit of the Constitution Working Group of on-going oversight over the Constitution in conjunction with the Council's Monitoring Officer.
5. Following the approval and adoption of the redrafted constitution,

Members are requested to note the implementation work programme, the proposed sequence of change, and embedding, of the redrafted constitution as set out in paragraph 11 of the report (see pages 59 - 76).

**14. ANNUAL REPORTS**

(Pages  
695 -  
720)

To receive and consider the following annual reports (enclosed as APPENDIX C to the rear of the agenda):-

- (1) Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- (2) Standards Committee
- (3) Armed Forces Forum

**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.