

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** LMB

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**Tel direct:** 01670 622613

**Date:** 8 November 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE** to be held in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH** on **WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022** at **10.00 AM**.

Yours faithfully

Rick O'Farrell  
Interim Chief Executive

**To County Emergency Committee members as follows:-**

**S Bridgett, S Dickinson, B Flux, C Horncastle (Chair), G Sanderson (Vice-Chair),  
A Sharp, E Simpson and R Wearmouth**



**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. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Members: 8 Councillors (4:2:1 Ind Gp, 1 Min Gp)**

**Quorum - 3**

**Chair: C.W. Horncastle**

**Vice Chair: H.G.H. Sanderson**

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Green Party</b>	<b>Ind Nor Groupe</b>
B. Flux	S. Dickinson	S. Bridgett	A. Sharp		
C. Horncastle	E. Simpson				
G. Sanderson					
R. Wearmouth					

#### Terms of Reference

- (1) To function under emergency legislation and to deal with such matters concerning the Council's civil contingencies functions as may be referred to them by the Council.
- (2) To reconvene when called upon either before, during or after a significant incident or emergency whereby the County Council may be required to respond beyond its normal day to day capabilities.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### 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. STORM ARWEN, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE UPDATE REPORT**

(Pages 1  
- 4)

To receive an update on progress about the Community Resilience workstream prior to the winter and in line with the recommendations from the Storm Arwen Review Task and Finish Group. A copy of the report submitted to the Communities and Place OSC on 5 October 2022 is provided for Members' information. Helen Hinds, Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead, will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

#### **5. FLOODEX 22 NATIONAL EXERCISE**

A training session will take place following the meeting to explore the role of the County Emergency Committee as part of the response to FloodEx 22, a national exercise based on an east coast flooding scenario taking place the same day.

#### **6. 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.

### **PART II**

It is expected that matters included in this part of the Agenda will be dealt with in private. Reports referred to are enclosed for members and officers only, coloured pink and marked "Not for Publication".

## 7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is invited to consider passing the following resolution:

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</b>
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 8 | 3 - Information relating to (the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because of the importance of ensuring that the Council is able to make use of commercially sensitive information shared by care providers, and because of the need to ensure that the fairness of the forthcoming procurement process is not compromised. |
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## 8. MINUTES

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Minutes of the meeting of the 24 September 2020, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

(Pages 5  
- 10)

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



	(b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* ‘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

<p>You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority</li> <li>b) any body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. exercising functions of a public nature</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- 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)



## Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE : COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 5 OCTOBER 2022

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Storm Arwen, community resilience update report

**Report of** - Helen Hinds, Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Colin Horncastle – Community Services

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### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to provide Community and Place OSC an update on progress about the Community Resilience workstream prior to the winter and in line with the recommendations from the Storm Arwen review task and finish group.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee received the report and continues to support the concept of community resilience within Northumberland.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This work is linked to the key aims of the corporate plan 2021-24 in that its overarching aims are to support and protect our residents and, to continue providing services to communities during times of significant disruption.

### **Key issues**

1. The Community and Place OSC Storm Arwen report included 28 recommendations. Eight of those are directly related to community resilience. These include:
  - a. Working with utility companies (NPg, SPEN, NWL and BT) on the community resilience project
  - b. Northumberland Communities Together to retain the Community Support Officers and embed them in the Council response structure
  - c. The County Emergency Committee to test and review the community resilience project annually
  - d. The Council to host annual winter preparedness sessions to include town and parish councils.
  - e. The council to prepare an Emergency Comms plan (to be covered in a separate report).
2. The Civil Contingencies Team continue to work with the NPg, SPEN and NWL through both day-to-day engagement and via the tactical coordination group in the case of

specific incidents e.g., the recent heatwave. NPg have been proactive in working with the Civil Contingencies Team to preidentified community buildings that might be suitable to receive a portable generator in event of a loss of power. NPg have also done a soft launch of their up-and-coming Foundation, which consists of £7.5 million for energy resilience projects at the community level. The official launch is expected later in the year.

3. NPg, SPEN and NWL are all members of the Northumberland Community Resilience stakeholder group, which met for the first time on 12 August 2022. Other members of the group including, Northumberland Communities Together, Community Action Northumberland (CAN), Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC), Northumbria Police and Northumberland Fire and Rescue service. The group is focusing on the development of Community Response Hubs and how the various agencies can support them.
4. Unfortunately, engagement with BT at the local level has been harder to achieve, although Guy Opperman's office has had conversations with them and with DCMS.
5. Colleagues from Northumberland Communities Together and the Civil Contingencies Team have been working together closely on the development of the Community Resilience Project, focusing in the first instance on a network of Community Response Hubs across the County. This partnership is helping to bring together some of the work on community resilience with the existing work on both warm hubs and the learning from development of community hubs, with the intention of supporting asset-based community development and emergency planning year-round. The Community Support Officers have been extended till December 2022 and a further proposal has been developed as part of the inequalities work to have them retained and assist with Community Based Development and Societal Resilience.
6. The Community Resilience project has not yet been tested by the County Emergency Committee.
7. September is preparedness month and Northumberland County Council have been taking part in the 30days 30ways UK social media campaign. This is the first year that Northumberland have taken part in the campaign with a different theme for each day of the month. As part of this a community resilience event has been planned for 29 September. Parish councils and community groups have been invited to attend an interactive event with the opportunity to share experiences and learning.
8. In addition to the above the Civil Contingencies Team have also been visiting individual and groups of parish councils as requested. By the time of the OSC meeting the team will have visited 19 parishes (some more than once), has communicated with others, has plans with visit at least one more and will be helping facilitate a local exercise later in October. This is in addition to the work that NCT and others are doing in connection with Warm Hubs (Community Action Northumberland) and Warm Places and Spaces.

## **Background**

After the disruption caused by Storm Arwen across the County, Northumberland County Council agreed to conduct a review of the implications of the Storm. A task and finish

group of the Communities and Place OSC was convened. This group met on five occasions to hear evidence from colleagues and partners. They also received and considered 87 written submissions from residents, businesses, town and parish councils, county councillors, an MP, the military, voluntary sector and BT Openreach.

At the end of the evidence gathering a report was produced with 28 recommendations. The report was presented to the Council meeting on 6 July 2022 where it was received positively and accepted unanimously. The application of lessons identified from incidents also contribute to Northumberland County Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

### **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	This project has overlaps with the warm spaces and places network.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Using existing community assets when responding provides a pragmatic and value for money operational response. Much of the funding for upfront investment in community response hubs has been met through grants outside of the Council.
<b>Legal</b>	Statutory provision via the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	Delivered through existing resources in the Civil Contingencies Team and Northumberland Communities, together with partners.
<b>Property</b>	Use of existing community buildings
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Providing a framework for community/local response improves access to support for everyone in the community in a time of crisis, in particular the more vulnerable, less mobile residents of Northumberland.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The project will assist in providing a framework to ensure an appropriate community response is put in place if and when needed.
<b>Crime Disorder &amp;</b>	Working in partnership with Northumbria Police
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	The aim of this project is to provide a consistent framework so residents and visitors to Northumberland receive a safe and robust response in emergencies.

<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Empowering individuals and the community to respond quickly and appropriately to incidents when needed is shown to reduce the impact on individuals' physical and mental wellbeing.
<b>Wards</b>	All

**Background papers:**

Communities and Plan OSC, report of the Storm Arwen Task and Finish Group, 6 July 2022

[06.1 Report of the Storm Arwen Task and Finish Group.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

**Report sign off.**

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Philip Hunter
Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Colin Horncastle

**Author and Contact Details**

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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