



# Northumberland

## County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Heather Bowers

**Email:**

Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622609/07873 700 976

**Date:** Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE** to be held at **CRAMLINGTON VOLUNTARY YOUTH PROJECT, MIDDLE FARM SQUARE, CRAMLINGTON, NE23 1DN** on **WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2023 at 6.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson  
Chief Executive

**To Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee members as follows:-**

**L Bowman, E Chicken, W Daley, C Dunbar, P Ezhilchelvan, D Ferguson, B Flux, S Lee (Vice-Chair), M Robinson, M Swinburn (Chair), C Taylor and R Wilczek (Vice-Chair (Planning))**



**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  
- 6)

Minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee held on 21 June 2023 as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required where a matter arises at a meeting;

- a. Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.
- b. Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.
- c. Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.
- d. Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.
- e. Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other 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. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

To reply to any questions received from members of the public, which may be received in writing in advance of the meeting or asked at the meeting. Questions can be asked about issues for which the Council has a responsibility. If questions are received in advance of meetings it will increase the likelihood of an answer being provided at the meeting. (Public question times take place on a bimonthly basis at Local Area Committee meetings: in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.)

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

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

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

And/or:

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

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which, for whatever reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact

details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly available.

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

## 5. PETITIONS

This item is to:

- a. **Receive any new petitions:** to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner is entitled to briefly introduce their petition by providing a statement in writing, and a response to any petitions received will then be organised for a future meeting;
- b. **Consider reports on petitions previously received:** No report to consider.
- c. **Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** No updates to consider.

## 6. CRAMLINGTON VOLUNTARY YOUTH PROJECT

To receive a presentation from Claire Gascoigne - Senior Youth Development Coordinator about future plans and the benefits of the Community Chest.

## 7. DOMESTIC ABUSE

To provide an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Northumberland local response, including details of the new model of service provision.

## 8. LOCAL BUS BOARD

The report requests the Local Area Committee's nomination for the Northumberland Local Bus Board. The Cabinet report and Appendix 2 related to the terms of reference are also attached for information.

(Pages 7  
- 20)

## 9. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

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

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

## 10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members are asked to confirm if they wish to remain as appointees to the outside bodies which were agreed by the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Council on 18 May 2022 as follows:-

Astley Park Management Committee	Les Bowman
Beaconhill Community Association	Barry Flux
Cramlington Community Association	Mark Swinburn
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	Barry Flux Wayne Daley
East Hartford (and District) Community Association	Barry Flux
New Hartley Community Association	David Ferguson

## 11. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages  
21 - 26)

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

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee is Wednesday 23 August 2023. (Planning only).

## 13. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider such other business, as in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>			
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>			
<b>Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):</b>			
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

## Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

**"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest"** means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

**"Partner"** means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

### Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

### Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

### Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
  - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
  - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
  - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.



## Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

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

	<p>where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</li> <li>ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</li> </ul>
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\* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

## **Table 2: Other Registrable Interests**

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
  - i. exercising functions of a public nature
  - ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
  - iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 5.00 pm

#### PRESENT

M Swinburn (Chair) in the Chair

#### MEMBERS

L Bowman  
E Chicken  
B Flux

S Lee  
M Robinson  
C Taylor

#### OFFICERS

H Bowers  
M Bulman  
R Murfin  
J Murphy  
M Patrick  
A Wall  
T Wood

Democratic Services Officer  
Solicitor  
Director of Housing & Planning  
Planning Area Manager  
Highways Development Manager  
Environmental Health Officer  
Principal Planning Officer

Public: 4. Press: 1

#### 01. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

**RESOLVED** that the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee as agreed by Council at the meeting on 17 May 2023 be noted.

The Chair referred to the error of membership in the table relating to Councillor Lee who should be listed under the Independent Group.

#### 02. PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS

The Chair advised those present of the procedure to be followed at the meeting.

### **03. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daley, Dunbar, Ezhilchelvan, Ferguson and Wilczek.

### **04. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Council held on 16 May 2023 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair with the following amendments:

To note Councillor Christine Taylor's attendance.

The last paragraph on page 8 should state *"Mr Gribbin explained that some streets in Cramlington/Seaton Valley and Blyth had not been cleaned as there was no dedicated large sweeping machine"*.

Councillor Robinson referred to a request for a further report following an issue raised under Public Question Time. The Chair explained that the item would be followed up and discussed with the individual concerned and referred to the email from the Director of Local Services where it had not been thought appropriate for individual complaints relating to a specific property to be the subject of a report to the Local Area Committee. The Chair would, if possible, share the information with members.

Councillor Lee referred to a comment regarding blocked gullies in Cramlington and clarified that he had raised the issue of an ongoing blocked gully on the B1326 at the hospital roundabout, which made it difficult for pedestrians to walk on the pavement without getting drenched by passing vehicles. He also raised the issue of the pedestrian bridge over the A189 Spine Road no longer having pedestrian access as the pavement leading to it had been fenced in, forcing on to the road.

### **05. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The report requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**06. 23/00584/OUT**

Outline planning application (all matters reserved) for 99 dwellings. Land south of Plant Based Valley, Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.

Tamsin Wood, Principal Planning Officer provided two updates:

- 1) Paragraph 7.23 in the report should be omitted but this would no bearing on the conclusion.
- 2) A further letter of objection had been received which had set out similar concerns that the industrial site could not function adjacent to an residential housing site.

The Officer continued to introduce the report with a PowerPoint presentation.

Nigel Hall, resident, addressed the Committee and raised the following:

- He lived closed to the site and had followed the development since it had been purchased by the developer.
- There was no merit in building 99 houses on the NHS site which would jeopardise jobs
- The application would bring confrontation with two opposing developments
- The NHS Centre worked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including bank holidays
- The development was not feasible
- Seaton Delaval needed local employment nearby
- A good industrial site was being ruined and there was no merit in the planning application
- Loss of employment and apprenticeships

Richard Lanyan addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant in support of the application:

- He was the business partner of the Applicant, Duo Renovations Ltd and had a long association with the site dating back to 2019 when the whole complex of land and buildings had been acquired.
- Coty had unexpectedly shut down the factory having acquitted the business from Proctor & Gamble the preceding year with job losses.
- He had been instrumental in facilitating the move by the NHS to the site in 2020 and the subsequent sale in 2021.
- The success and growth of the NHS commercial hub was a very significant and positive benefit to the region and he was pleased to have been an enabler and played a small part in that process.
- To underline the commitment and support to promote and facilitate employment, the applicant had gone out of their way at the point of

sale to ensure the expansion of the NHS hub was protected under the terms of title transfer

- Protection was catered for under the terms of the legal title transfer and this could be verified by officers who had been provided copies of the transfer document which not only specifically safeguarded and future proofed the main access to the site, but also ensured that continued planning support from Duo as a neighbouring landowner for all future NHS operations on the factory site.
- Before the factory site was sold to the NHS, planned residential proposals for the retained land were openly shared with the NHS on the understanding both parties would be supportive of one another. The NHS had also been offered the ability to purchase the land at the time, which had not been taken up.
- Being mindful of the NHS future plans for their site, over the last 2 years, considerable time, effort and resources had been spent to work with and engage with the NHS professional team. Two years on, the detailed NHS plans were still not finalised but dialogue was being continued.
- In an earlier open written representation on the site dated 23 June 2021, Lichfields Planning Consultants acting on behalf of the NHS stated that they had no objection in principle to the development of the adjacent site for housing.
- The current application being determined was an outline application supported by detailed transport access plans and flood risk assessments which had been scrutinised and approved by the respective statutory bodies.
- The application simply established the principle of residential use on the site with all matters reserved. Reserved matters would ensure protection and mutual compatibility, not only with the NHS hub, but the community in Seaton Delaval.
- The application did not, in any way, inhibit the growth of the NHS hub on their site and he hoped that the background facts outlined would allay a concern raised when considering a previous detailed application in October last year.
- The outline application would provide a framework, not only to provide much needed new homes and living accommodation, but also deliver additional economic and social benefits to the community and local economy.
- If permission was granted, it would create the foundation for investment in meeting future housing targets and provide a varied mix of affordable accommodation and generate significant financial investment through the Section 106 system.
- Despite changing their position, he explained that from the start of the journey that the NHS were always aware and initially supportive of the housing plans which is why the legal framework was put into place at the point of sale. In addition, there was already established housing on two sides of the NHS hub.

- The outline application had been designed to accommodate the growth of the NHS hub and would accord with all modern planning and environmental safeguards.
- There was no doubt in his mind that the application would further improve the fabric and environment of the immediate community as well as bringing clear economic benefits and asked the committee to vote in accordance with the recommendation of the planning officers.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee the following information was provided:-

- There was no outline detail as yet for the entrance/exit to the site, which would come forward with the assessed matters. A transport assessment had been submitted and officers were satisfied that the site access could accommodate the number of vehicles entering and exiting the residential development.
- Given the NHS hub was already on the site, ranges of impacts and noise disturbance would need to be looked at what was proposed. Public Protection had examined the noise and business activity. There were already residential units on two sides of the business and the conclusion from Public Protection was that the scheme could be supported, subject to the conditions in the report and reserved matters. If members decided to go against the advice of Highways and Public Protection, considerable weight and evidence would have to be given with compelling reasons for refusal.
- The affordable housing target across the county was 17% but the local plan had identified the site within a low value area, where 10% of dwellings should be affordable homes.
- The new Local Plan made provision for both housing and employment land and parcels of land, “white land”. The application had to be looked at purely on its merits and members should consider the acceptability of the proposal.
- Condition 12 would secure a noise barrier prior to the commencement of the development with an acoustic fence of a minimum of 1.8 metres to absorb noise.
- There was no reason why there would be light pollution in the evening as the lights were angled towards the NHS site.
- Public Protection were of the opinion that light was not an issue and there was no requirement for mitigation.
- There were 4 objections to the proposal, 2 of which had been from the same person. The site had lain dormant for years and the material issues which had been raised had been looked at.
- It was possible to grant planning permission but it was the decision for the land owner. There had been no competing scheme for this piece of land. The starting point should be the weight of the Local Plan and material consideration and statutory consultees.
- From the information provided there was a dual right of access over the private land but this was not a matter for the committee to debate.

- The developer would have to prove land ownership and have roads to dedicate as public highway.
- The SHLAA was now historic and had been superseded by the new Local Plan which had designated this piece of land as “white land”.
- If the outline application was approved, the company would establish further details.
- Public Protection would have to agree final details in relation to mitigation, design and physical matters in relation to light or noise pollution.

Councillor Flux proposed that the application be granted in line with the recommendations in the report and the changes referred to by the Principal Planning Officer. This was seconded by Councillor Lee.

In debating the application, Members referred to noise and disturbance to residents, detriment to the operation of the NHS hub and issues regarding access to the factory sites; issues on transport and access to the factory and car parking issues; light and noise pollution; residents’ complaints about noise.

On summing up, Councillor Flux stated that it would be the choice of potential purchasers whether they wished to purchase a property on the site. He had supported the previous application and would support this application. He understood the arguments made but members had to consider the information presented before them.

Upon being put to the vote the results were as follows: -

**FOR: 3; AGAINST: 1; ABSTENTION: 3.**

**RESOLVED** that the application be granted permission subject to the conditions and reasons in the report, and the update from the Planning Officer.

**07. APPEALS**

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**08. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 19 July.

**CHAIR** .....

**DATE** .....





## Northumberland County Council

### CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON & SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

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#### NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL BUS BOARD

**Report of:** John Riddle, Cabinet Member for Improving our Roads and Highways

**Lead Officer:** Stuart McNaughton, Strategic Transport Manager

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#### **Purpose of report**

To agree the Local Area Committee's nomination for the Northumberland Local Bus Board.

#### **Recommendations**

**This Local Area Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Nominate a member of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee to act as the area's representative on the Northumberland Local Bus Board.**

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

The Local Bus Board will help deliver on the 'Driving Economic Growth' priority within the Corporate Plan through helping to deliver a connected county by improving the bus network across Northumberland.

#### **Key issues**

- 1. In May 2023, NCC Cabinet noted the decision of the North East Joint Transport Committee to make an Enhanced Bus Partnership for the region. The cabinet report is appended to this report**
- 2. The Enhanced Bus Partnership incorporates a package of regional and local bus schemes including:**

- a. New ticketing products, which will enable cheaper, simpler, multi modal and multi-operator fares, with the aim of attracting more bus passengers to the network;
  - b. New services and improved services, delivering new routes to connect communities and improving frequencies and operating hours for existing services. Funding for service improvements in Northumberland is expected to total £7.8m and be spent by 31 March 2025.
  - c. Improved reliability and speed of buses through Bus Priority Infrastructure and Intelligent Transport Systems Investments, allowing users to rely on buses and attracting more people to use their local services.
  - d. Investment focused on connectivity in rural areas.
  - e. Funding to update outdated bus stops in the county to correct safety or accessibility issues that may be barriers to travel; and
  - f. Ensuring services run as a cohesive network, including branding and enhanced passenger information. This will be in the form of a new website and app as well as additional staffing and online information.
3. Once funding is received, the council will begin to deliver a range of schemes to improve bus patronage, modal share, performance, and customer satisfaction.
4. As part of the delivery of the Enhanced Bus Partnership, local transport authorities have been asked to establish Local Bus Boards. The aim of the Local Bus Board is to allow representatives from across Northumberland to meet with bus operators to increase understanding between the parties involved, specifically but not limited to, reporting and discussion of forthcoming bus service changes in Northumberland.
5. The Local Bus Board would seek to improve working arrangements for the discussion of bus service reliability, service improvements, highways infrastructure measures, fares initiatives and information to the public.
6. Draft Terms of Reference for the Northumberland Local Bus Board (NLBB) are appended to this report. In summary:
  - a. The NLBB is not a public meeting and will not be a decision-making body
  - b. The ordinary frequency of meetings will be four times per year and will be chaired by the relevant portfolio holder.
7. Also set out in the Terms of Reference is the proposed membership of the NLBB and this includes a representative from each of the Local Area Committees. To that end, this report requests a nomination from this LAC to act as the local representative of the NLBB. On receipt of nominations from across the LACs, the first Local Bus Board will be arranged for the autumn.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy</b>	This approach will provide ongoing support to transport providers and support the economic recovery of the region, as well as supporting the Council's strategic objective of connecting people by provided access to education, employment, and social activities.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None.
<b>Legal</b>	None.
<b>Procurement</b>	None.
<b>Human Resources</b>	None.
<b>Property</b>	None.
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	None.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	None.
<b>Wards</b>	All Wards

### **Background papers**

[May 2023 Cabinet Report - North East Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)  
[Northumberland Local Bus Board - Draft Terms of Reference](#)

### **Report sign off**

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Stephen Gerrard
Executive Director of Transformation and Resources	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Simon Neilson
Portfolio Holder for Improving our Roads and Highways	John Riddle

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# Northumberland

## County Council

CABINET

TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2023

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### NORTH EAST BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**Report of:** Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council

**Lead Officer:** Janice Rose, Interim Director of Regeneration

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#### **Purpose of report**

To outline the implications of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Northumberland bus services and infrastructure.

#### **Recommendations**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1) Note the decision of the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, acting together through the North East Joint Transport Committee to make an Enhanced Bus Partnership for the region;**
- 2) Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 officer), to accept the funding for bus service improvements, once confirmed, from Transport North East; and**
- 3) Authorise the creation of a Northumberland Local Bus Board as set out in Appendix 2.**

#### **Key issues**

The North East Joint Transport Committee on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 agreed to formally make an Enhanced Bus Partnership. This is a key step in unlocking Bus Service Improvement Plan funding of £163.5million for the region. This funding is for financial years 2023/24 to 2024/25 with £73.5m for capital investment and £90.0m for revenue investment.

Revenue funding will be used, in part, to implement a range of new ticketing products, which will enable cheaper, simpler, multi modal and multi-operator fares, with the aim of attracting more passengers to the network. Proposed fare products specific to Northumberland residents include:

Product	Price
Under 22 singles	£1
Under 22 regionwide day ticket (multi modal)	£3
Northumberland adult day ticket (multi-operator)	£5

Further revenue funding will be used to procure new services and improved services, delivering new routes to connect communities, and improving frequencies and operating hours for existing services. Funding for service improvements in Northumberland (subject to confirmation) is expected to total £7.8m.

Overview of the Enhanced Partnership and associated Bus Service Improvement Plan funded initiatives will be facilitated by the creation of a regional Bus Board together with a requirement to establish a Local Bus Board at a Northumberland level. The Local Bus Board would not be a decision-making body but would seek to improve working arrangements for the discussion of bus service reliability, service improvements, highways infrastructure measures, fares initiatives and information to the public.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The National Bus Strategy was published by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 15 March 2021 and set out central government's vision and the opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers, through ambitious and far-reaching reform of how services are planned and delivered.
2. The North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) bid responded to the National Bus Strategy and was published in October 2021. The BSIP committed the region to the establishment of an Enhanced Partnership (EP) plan and scheme. An EP is a statutory partnership between Local Transport Authorities (LTA's) and their local bus operators and sets out how they will work together to deliver BSIP outcomes, An EP consists of two parts:
  - An EP plan – a high-level vision and objectives for bus services in the local area and closely follows or replicates relevant sections of the BSIP, setting out a clear vision of the improvements to bus services that the EP is aiming to deliver; and
  - One or more EP schemes – an accompanying document which sets out the requirements that need to be met by local services that stop in the EP area and precise detail of how the BSIP vision and objectives will be achieved, including any commitments made by the local authority or standards to be met by bus operators.
3. Making an EP is an essential step in unlocking the regions BSIP funding, failing to do so would limit the region's ability to fund and deliver improvements to bus services needed in the region. This investment is hugely important to the region and a failure to deliver an EP, and therefore BSIP, will be a missed opportunity in terms of the economic, health, social and environmental benefits they will bring.
4. An EP plan and an EP scheme have been developed by Transport North East (TNE) in partnership with LTA's and bus operators and the content of these documents have been agreed with the DfT. The partnership involves continuous engagement with all parties working together to deliver the ambitions set out in the BSIP and EP Plan, and the EP Scheme sets out obligations on local authorities and local bus operators. To that end, a North East Regional Bus Partnership Board (Partnership Board) has been established to oversee the North East EP. This Partnership Board includes representation from Northumberland County Council (NCC) Stuart McNaughton, Acting Head of Economy and Regeneration.
5. On 2 March 2023 the Leader of the Council took the delegated decision as agreed by Cabinet on 10 May 2022 and authorised Northumberland County

Councils participation in the making of an Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme.

6. Following approval by the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) on Tuesday 21 March 2023 it was agreed to make the EP. This is a key step in unlocking confirmed regional BSIP funding of £163.5million. This funding is for financial years 2023/24 to 2024/25 with £73.5m for capital investment and £90.0m for revenue investment. Once funding is received, we will begin to deliver schemes which work towards the BSIP Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to improve bus patronage, modal share, performance, and customer satisfaction. The package of regional and local schemes include:

- New ticketing products, set out in the table, which will enable cheaper, simpler, multi modal and multi-operator fares, with the aim of attracting more passengers to the network;

Product	Price	Proposed Implementation
Under 22 singles	£1	May 2023
Under 22 regionwide day ticket (multi modal)	£3	May 2023
Northumberland day ticket (multi-operator)	£5	July 2023
County Durham day ticket (multi-operator)	£4	July 2023
Tyne & Wear day ticket (multi-modal)	£6	July 2023
Two-Zone day ticket (multi-modal)	£6.50	July 2023
Regionwide day ticket (multi-modal)	£6.80	July 2023

- New services and improved services, delivering new routes to connect communities and improving frequencies and operating hours for existing services. A key requirement of the funding identified sustainability as a key factor when planning interventions. To that end officers have worked extensively with operators to identify a package of interventions that have the highest likelihood of being commercially viable after the funding has ended. These interventions will form the initial phase of work. Notwithstanding these interventions, additional funding will be available to implement a package of bus service enhancements identified locally following engagement with Elected Members and Town and parish Councils. Funding for service improvements in Northumberland subject to confirmation is expected to total £7.8m to be spent between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2025. Details of the current bus network is set out in Appendix 1;



- Improved reliability and speed of buses through Bus Priority Infrastructure and Intelligent Transport Systems Investments, allowing users to rely on buses and attracting more people to use their local services. Many of these schemes are targeted in Tyne & Wear, but Northumberland bus users will benefit because of improved journey times to Newcastle and further afield;

Northumberland Highway Schemes	Description
Blyth A189 Southbound to A193 Eastbound bus lane.	Widen carriageway to provide additional bus lane to facilitate bus movement through A189 roundabout.
Cramlington Low Main Place to B1326 right turn bus lane.	Widen Road and signalise junction to facilitate right turn bus movement and provide new left turn entrance to supermarket car park in advance of junction to ease volume of traffic moving through junction.
Cramlington Dudley lane southbound bus lane at A1171 roundabout.	Widen Southbound carriageway to provide addition bus lane to facilitate bus movement through A1171 roundabout.

- Investment focused on connectivity in rural areas such as ‘on demand’ ‘demand responsive transport’ and small ‘pocket park and ride’ sites;
  - Funding to update outdated bus stops in the county to correct safety or accessibility issues that may be barriers to travel; and
  - Ensuring services run as a cohesive network, including branding and enhanced passenger information. This will be in the form of a new website and app as well as additional staffing and online information. A Code of Conduct and Bus Passenger Charter have also been agreed, ensuring that bus users and bus operators work together ahead of network changes and passengers can come to expect consistent standards throughout the network.
7. The making of the EP Plan and EP Scheme, set out an intention to formalise a governance structure to oversee the operation of the EP. A Partnership Board has been established and has been meeting in shadow form. LTAs are being asked to establish Local Bus Boards. Cabinet is requested to give approval for the creation of a member led Local Bus Board for Northumberland as set out in Appendix 2.
  8. The aim of the Local Bus Board is to allow representatives from across Northumberland to meet with bus operators to increase understanding between the parties involves, specifically but not limited to, reporting and

discussion of forthcoming bus service changes in Northumberland. The Local Bus Board would seek to improve working arrangements for the discussion of bus service reliability, service improvements, highways infrastructure measures, fares initiatives and information to the public.

9. All relevant actions within the EP Scheme and EP Plan will be funded through the BSIP award, or are costs already met by Northumberland County Council. It should be noted that the EP Scheme contains a measure requiring Northumberland County Council to maintain their supported services and concessionary travel budget at the actual spend of financial year 2022/23 for the duration of the EP.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy</b>	This approach will provide ongoing support to transport providers and support the economic recovery of the region, as well as supporting the Council's strategic objective of connecting people by provided access to education, employment, and social activities.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The North East's BSIP set out an ambitious request for Government funding for the delivery of measures relevant to bus services. Entering an EP is a requirement to receive ongoing Government funding for bus services. Future reports will be brought to Cabinet for decision making if the EP requires any financial support from the Council for specific schemes.
<b>Legal</b>	The overarching principle of the EP is that there are no decision-making powers aligned to the any of bodies which will make up the governance structure of the EP; and that these bodies should be focused on building consensus as to the best way to proceed on issues. Once consensus is reached on a matter, if a decision is required by, for an example, a Local Authority, the matter must be passed forward to that the Local Authority for a decision to be reached through that Local Authority's established governance.  The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions reserved to Full Council.
<b>Procurement</b>	New/enhanced services will be contracted in accordance with existing procurement arrangements
<b>Human Resources</b>	None

<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>	(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of the EP will assist in reducing social exclusion by improving access for the young, elderly, unemployed/low waged and people with disabilities.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The main risk associated with the programme is that any significant underspend or failure to deliver schemes that have external funding linked to them may lead to a loss of that funding and jeopardise the potential to secure additional funding in future years.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Proposals within the BSIP, to be developed through the EP, will assist in improving safety and security for the travelling public
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	None
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	The EP will be a crucial element in providing a sustainable transport system capable of supporting Northumberland's environmental, social, and economic objectives. It seeks to reduce car dependence and increase sustainable travel, thereby contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Improving opportunities for sustainable travel through improved bus services will encourage more activity and benefit health by improving air quality.
<b>Wards</b>	All wards

**Background papers:**

- [National Bus Strategy](#)
- [National bus strategy: bus service improvement plans – guidance to local authorities and bus operators](#)
- [Bus Partnership & Scheme – Report to Cabinet – May22](#)

## **Report sign off**

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

	Full Name of Officer
Interim Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Resources and Transformation (S151 Officer)	Jan Willis
Interim Executive Director for Regeneration	Janice Rose
Chief Executive	Helen Paterson
Council Leader	Glen Sanderson

## **Report Author**

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## **Appendix 2: Northumberland Local Bus Board – Draft Terms of Reference** (to be agreed at first meeting of the Bus Board)

### **1. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the Northumberland Local Bus Board is to allow representatives from across the county to meet with officers and bus operators (where necessary) to discuss and understand forthcoming alterations to the bus network and consider any planning work that is being carried out at both local and regional levels. Discussions may include changes to routes and timetables, punctuality, reliability, highway infrastructure, fares initiatives and public information.

### **2. Frequency and Conduct of Meetings**

The Northumberland Local Bus Board will not be a public meeting. Attendance at Board meetings will be by invitation only and is expected to include:

- the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services
- a representative from each of the four Local Area Committees
- the Head of Economy and Regeneration
- an officer from the Local Services Transport team responsible for contract management and compliance
- a representative from the Northumberland Disability Partnership
- a representative from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC)
- a representative from Transport Focus/Confederation of Passenger Transport
- representatives of one or more local bus operators where this is deemed necessary to address specific discussion points

The Board is not a decision-making body.

Meetings will be chaired by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services unless otherwise directed by the Cabinet Member.

The agenda for each meeting will be prepared by an officer from the Strategic Transport team in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services. A meeting note will be prepared and circulated to all attendees.

The ordinary frequency of meetings will be four times per year. It is recognised, however, that it may be necessary to arrange meetings at short notice (for example, to respond to Government announcements and associated funding opportunities). Any requests for additional meetings should be approved by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services.

Task and finish groups may be set up. These will act within the remit specified by the Board and a written report of their activity will be provided to the next meeting of the Board.

### **3. Procedure for reporting Bus Service Changes**

The standard procedure for reporting forthcoming commercial bus service changes will be:

- An officer from the Strategic Transport team will provide a written report to the Board containing, as a minimum, commentary of any proposed changes including revisions to routes, frequencies, hours of operation and the types of vehicles used as well as their date of introduction (in accordance with the required registration process).
- These changes will be circulated to board members by e-mail and if they wish to comment they should do so by reply within seven days. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services will arrange for a written response to be sent to bus operators' representatives (where necessary), setting out the Board's comments and requesting a response within seven days.
- Bus operators' representatives will then provide a written response to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services, which will be circulated by e-mail to the Board for further discussion.

#### **4. Procedure for reporting matters by the Cabinet Member and attendees**

The procedure for the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services to raise other matters will be:

- The Authority will provide a written report to bus operators' representatives on the matter unless the urgency of it means it must be raised verbally at the meeting.
- The bus operators' representatives will provide a written or verbal response as appropriate to be discussed by the Board. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services will then agree a written response to be sent to the bus operators' representatives setting out the Board's comments and requesting a response to be provided by the next meeting of the Board.
- The bus operators' representatives will then provide a written response to the Board to be discussed at the next available Board meeting.

Should other Board attendees wish to raise a specific matter for discussion, they should make a request to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services, asking the Cabinet Member to consider raising the matter via the procedure above.

#### **5. Review of Terms of Reference and Membership**

The Terms of Reference and membership of the Board will be reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Local Services.

# **Northumberland County Council**

## **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee Work Programme 2023-24**

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**UPDATED: 11 July 2023**

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Agenda Item 11

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme.
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Committees, or through the Panel of Local Area Committee Chairs for countywide applications.



- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.

## **ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED**

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

**To be listed:**

Northumberland County Council  
Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee  
Work Programme 2023-24

19 July 2023

- Petitions (if any)
- Community Chest Grant (presentation)
- Update on Domestic Abuse
- Local Bus Board
- Local Services Update
- Appointment to Outside Bodies

23 August 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

20 September 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way
- Family Hub Offer
- Local Services Update
- Member's Local Improvement Schemes

18 October 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

22 November 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way
- Local Services Update
- Members' Local Improvement Schemes

20 December 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

Northumberland County Council  
 Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee  
 Monitoring Report 2023-24

Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
19.07.23	Community Chest Grants		
	Update on Domestic Abuse		
	Local Bus Board		
	Outside Bodies		

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