

Northumberland County Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Apologies were received from Councillors Renner Thompson and Watson.
A2	MINUTES	RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Tuesday 10 October 2023, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
A4	REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	<p>North East Devolution</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) the content of the report be noted;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree in principle that the Council should consent to the making of the order;</p> <p>(c) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to issue the Council’s formal consent to the Secretary of State when requested;</p> <p>(d) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the terms of the side agreement regarding the support arrangements associated with these proposals; and</p> <p>(e) the Chief Executive be authorised to take all other steps necessary to implement these proposals.</p>
A5	REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	<p>Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="840 456 2076 671">(a) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 is a key element of the Council's wider Environmental Policy Statement, which commits the Council to strengthen the work being undertaken to maintain, protect and enhance the environment through a broad range of policies and activities, including active travel, nature recovery, planning, procurement, public health/disease control and general environmental services provision; <li data-bbox="840 715 2007 855">(b) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan will include a focus on greenhouse gas reduction and climate change resilience through nature in collaboration with the Council's strategies for wider ecology and biodiversity issues; <li data-bbox="840 898 2033 967">(c) Cabinet agree to restate the Carbon Neutral target for the county by 2030 and clarify that it refers to carbon dioxide only; <li data-bbox="840 1010 2076 1150">(d) Cabinet agree a new target to work with Government and other key stakeholders to achieve net-zero for all greenhouse gases for the county of Northumberland by 2040, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26; <li data-bbox="840 1193 2033 1299">(e) Cabinet agree that the local and regional adaptation response to the risks and impacts of a changing climate be included in the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26; <li data-bbox="840 1342 2063 1410">(f) Cabinet agree a new target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action

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		<p>Plan 2024-26;</p> <p>(g) Cabinet agree that the scope of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 continues to only include direct, territorial emissions (i.e. those produced in Northumberland) as its focus for projects but that it should do more to raise awareness amongst stakeholders of scope 3 (indirect) emissions (i.e. those produced outside of Northumberland) and how they can be reduced; and</p> <p>(h) Cabinet agree the core structure of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 including a commitment to set out a strategy for planning in relation to the climate change targets.</p>
A6	REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet accept the document attached to the report as a record of the Council’s first consideration of actions the Council can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in accordance with S.40 (1C) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended, which will then be used by Officers to develop an implementation plan.</p>
A7	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<p>Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme</p> <p>RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to be adopted as the Council’s local scheme for 2024-25.</p>
A8	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR	<p>Corporate Feedback Performance 2022/2023</p>

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	CORPORATE SERVICES	RESOLVED that the findings of the report on complaint handling within the authority be noted.
A9	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<p>Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2023-24</p> <p>RESOLVED that progress against the three Corporate Priorities as summarised in the report be noted.</p>
A10	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>Kyloe House CCTV Upgrade</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the receipt of the capital grant of £0.221 million from the Department for Education (DfE); and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the funding and spend.</p> <p>Replacement of Boating Pontoon in Wansbeck Riverside Park</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposed spend on the Boating Pontoon and amend the Capital Programme in 2023-24. Note that the project will be wholly grant funded under an agreement with Cambois Rowing Club.</p> <p>Highways Laboratory Expansion</p>

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		<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the expenditure of the £0.615 million which is already included in the MTFP under Highways Laboratory Expansion project; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet note that a portion of the allocation will be slipped into financial year 2024-25. This is currently anticipated to be 50% but will be dependent on the date of approval.</p> <p>North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the agreement for the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) to release BSIP capital funding to assist scheme promoters with development of the programme;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the BSIP capital funding to develop the “Bus Priority Infrastructure – Tranche 1” programme; and</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include £0.121 million funding from Transport North East (TNE) to enable development of the BSIP Tranche 1 programme.</p> <p>Parks Enhancement Capital Programme</p> <p>(1) Cleasewell Hill Park</p>

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		<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Approve capital expenditure of up to £0.240 million for the refurbishment scheme at Cleasewell Hill Park;</p> <p>(b) Approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.200 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.040 million contribution from Choppington Parish Council which has been agreed in principle subject to formal approval; and</p> <p>(c) Note that if funding of £0.040 million from Choppington Parish Council is not received works will be scaled back and expenditure will be limited to £0.200 million.</p> <p>(2) Gallagher Park</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.019 million for car park repairs, overflow provision and fencing at Gallagher Park; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.010 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.009 million from Cllr Robinson, Cllr Taylor, and Cllr Wilciezk’s Members’ Local Improvement Scheme funds.</p> <p>(3) Plessey Woods – Bouldering Park</p>

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		<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.159 million for Plessey Woods Bouldering Park; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.088 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme, £0.067 million from Section 106 contributions and £0.005 million from Cllr Robinson’s Members’ Local Improvement Scheme funds.</p> <p>Strategic Regeneration Investment</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet accept grant funding to establish the Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme as follows, noting that the establishment of the programme and projects below was previously agreed by Cabinet in February 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept grant funding of £4.810 million including £2.000 million capital and £2.810 million revenue for the Northumberland Small Business Service (NSBS). • Approve the addition of the £2.000 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report. • Accept grant funding of £3.510 million including £1.543 million capital and £1.967 million revenue for the Rural Asset Multiplier Programme (RAMP).

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the addition of the £1.543 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report. <p>(b) Cabinet approve the below projects and the reallocation of capital funds of £0.600 million in 2023-24 from the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2). The Strategic Regeneration Projects budget will reallocate £0.600 million to the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) project in 2024-25. Note that the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) does not require the funds in 2023-24 due to slippage in the project delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.500 million in 2023-24 for Hexham HSHAZ Public Realm Scheme. • Approve the creation of a new capital project in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway and approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.050 million in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.010 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Royal Border Bridge Floodlighting Scheme. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 to finalise the successful Rural Business Growth Service project. • Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Alwick Cobbles Streetscaping scheme. <p>Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot</p>

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		<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve the proposed spend of £2.550 million for the Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot and note the funding of £2.550 million from the national Nature for Climate (NfC) fund; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional £2.550 million (2023-24 £1.500 million and 2024-25 £1.050 million) in the capital programme.</p>
A11	REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTHY LIVES	<p>Delegate Authority to Award Leisure Contract</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities in consultation with the Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services, the Deputy Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives, the Director of Law and Corporate Governance and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources to award and enter into a contract for the Northumberland Community and Wellbeing Service with the preferred bidder.</p>